



Little Forks Conservancy Spring 2024 Turkey Hunting Application

Hunting as a Conservation Tool

Management of game species can simultaneously provide a recreation opportunity and protect the plant life at the Conservancy's nature preserves. When local herbivore populations increase without a natural predator, over-browsing can diminish the biodiversity of plant life and start to affect other organisms using the habitat as well. To practice wise stewardship and to partner with our communities in conservation, the Conservancy allows turkey hunting on two preserves through a permit system.

Nature Preserves Available for Turkey Hunting

Currently, the following two preserves are open to turkey hunting, which is allowable by permit only, within the established zones on the listed dates. All interested hunters must complete an application to be considered for a permit regardless if they are hunting individually or with a group. While there are costs associated with maintaining a large property, the Conservancy does not require a payment to hunt on the property. Instead, hunters are encouraged to donate to the Conservancy or volunteer their time assisting with maintenance of the preserves.

1) Riverview Natural Area: April 20 - May 10, 2024

- **Zone 1: North Zone:** hunters must maintain a minimum of 150-foot buffer from the boundary line, as shown on the map on page 2.
 - Sessions Available: 1) April 20 - 26 or 2) April 27 – May 3.
- **Zone 2: Farm Zone:** completely open from April 20 -May 3 or until crops are planted, at which time hunters will be restricted to filter strip and forestland area (decoys will not be placed on cropland and no turkeys will be shot while on cropland to prevent crop loss).
 - Sessions Available: 1) April 20 - 26 or 2) April 27 – May 3 or 3) May 4 - 10.

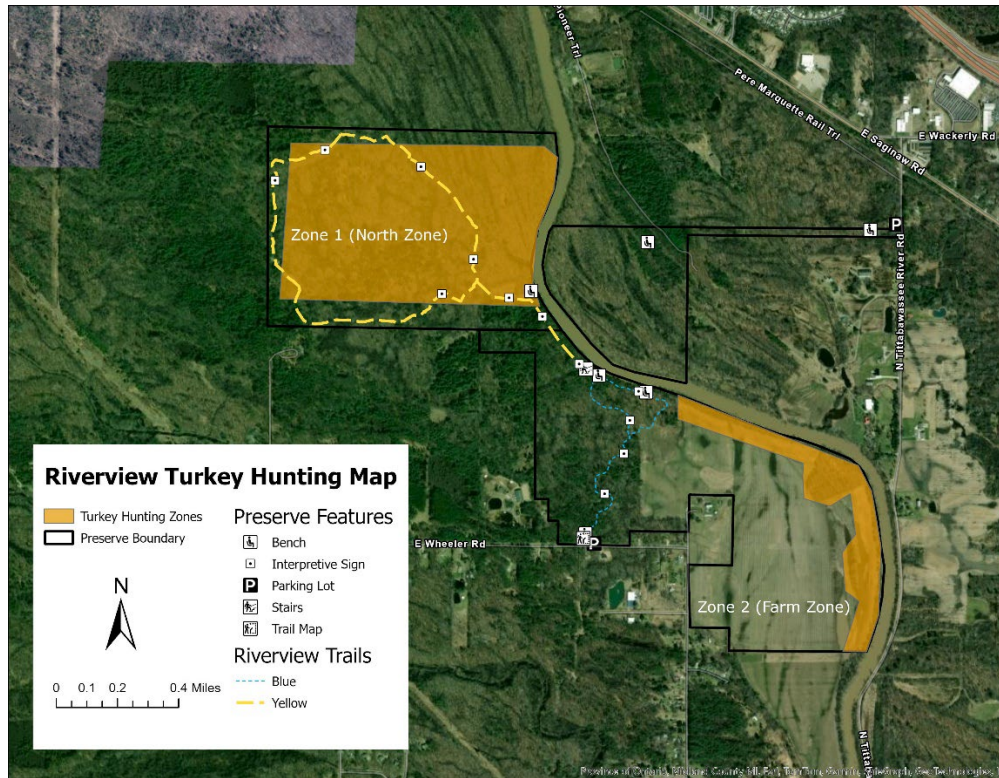
When turkey hunting at Riverview Natural Area, all hunters must park at the Riverview Natural Area parking lot on Wheeler Rd. and walk in (refer to the map).

2) George and Sue Lane Preserve: April 20 – May 3, 2024

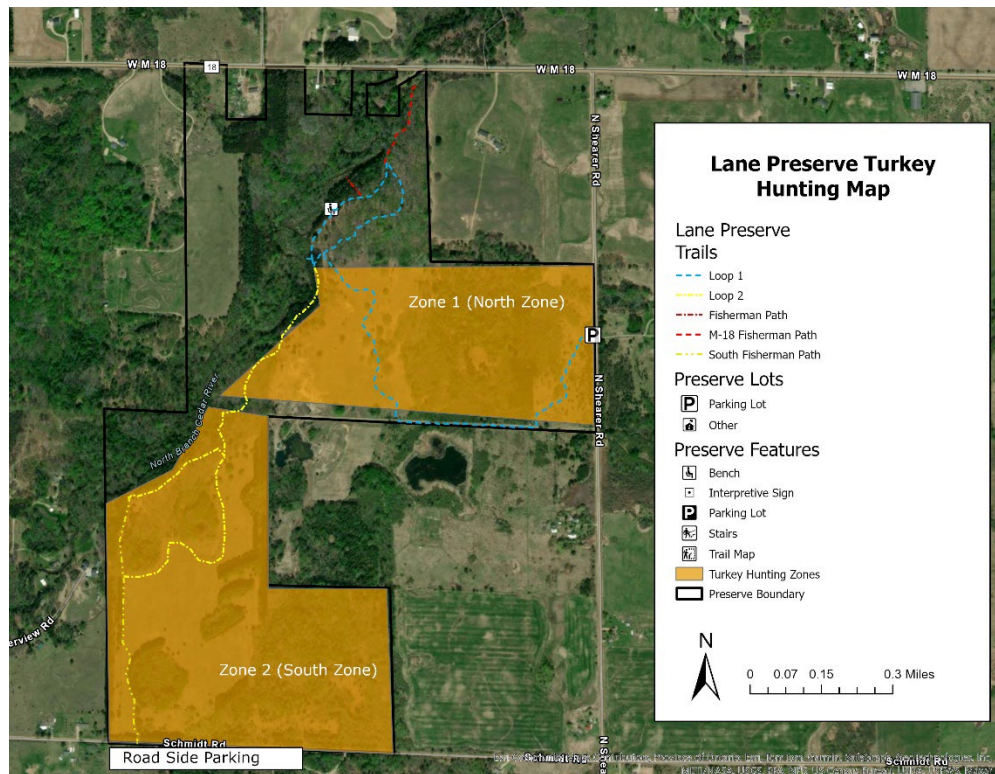
- **Zone 1: North Zone (Shearer Rd. Parking Lot)**
 - Sessions Available: 1) April 20 -26 or 2) April 27 – May 3.
- **Zone 2: South Zone (Schmidt Road Side Parking)**
 - Sessions Available: 1) April 20 -26 or 2) April 27 – May 3.

When turkey hunting at the George and Sue Lane Preserve, Zone 1 hunters must park at the Shearer Rd. parking lot, while Zone 2 hunters must park on Schmidt Rd. (refer to the map on page 2).

Riverview Natural Area 2024 Turkey Hunting Zones



George and Sue Lane Preserve 2024 Turkey Hunting Zones



Little Forks Conservancy Turkey Hunting Rules and Expectations

All hunters must adhere to the following Conservancy rules. Each individual hunter must complete this section as well as the attached hunting waiver (page 4) and application (page 5), before submitting it together (with a photo of your license) with other group members (if applicable). An individual or a group of up to 4 people can apply for a permit for a zone and session. If forming a group, all applications must be turned in together.

1. Hunters must have left the preserve by 11am at the latest to allow for recreation and management activities. Any pop-up blinds must be removed each day.
2. Hunting is only allowed within the designated zones on the provided maps within this application. Hunters must park in the designated parking areas for hunters (see page 1).
3. When walking to and from your hunting spot, all firearms must be kept unloaded. Hunters should walk on the trail system as much as possible when traveling to and from their hunting spot to minimize impact to the natural setting.
4. Always be mindful and aware of preserve neighbors, trails, other hunters, and other preserve users. Hunters must set up and hunt at least 100 feet away from any trail, parking area, bench, sign, or other recreational feature and must not shoot towards the trail or any these features. Hunters must hunt at least 450 feet away from a structure or residence and not shoot towards a structure or residence. Every hunter must follow this rule for any of these items that are included and not included on the provided maps.
5. No cutting of native vegetation is allowed.
6. If hunting the Farm Zone at Riverview Natural Area, hunters will be restricted to the filter strip and forestland area once crops are planted. Once crops are planted, no decoys may be placed on the cropland and no turkeys may be shot on the cropland to ensure no crops are lost.
7. All harvests must be reported to the Little Forks Conservancy within 48 hours of time of harvest by email (info@littleforks.org) or by phone (989-835-4886). Reporting your harvest provides valuable feedback to the Conservancy's turkey hunting management program. Any cleaning of harvested birds must be done off Conservancy property.
8. Hunting activities on Conservancy preserves may be terminated at any time.
9. If granted a permit, all hunters must display a paper copy of their permit on their dashboard.
10. Hunters must follow all hunting rules and regulations set forth by the State of Michigan. The State of Michigan Bag Limit is 1 turkey per hunter.

I, _____,
_____, and _____ have read and agree to
the above rules and understand violation of these rules would lead to revocation of hunting
access for all hunting opportunities with the Little Forks Conservancy.

Signature 1: _____ Date: _____

Signature 2: _____ Date: _____

Signature 3: _____ Date: _____

Signature 4: _____ Date: _____

The Little Forks Conservancy Hunting Waiver



RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY

This Release and Waiver of Liability (the "Release"), executed today (the date below), by "the Hunter" (signed below) in favor of The Little Forks Conservancy ("the Conservancy"), its directors, officers, employees and volunteers.

The Hunter does hereby freely, voluntarily, and without duress execute this release under the following terms:

- 1. Waiver and Release. The Hunter does hereby release and forever discharge and hold harmless the Conservancy and assigns from any and all liability, claims, and demands of whatever kind or nature, either in law or in equity, which arise or may hereafter arise from the Hunter's participation.
2. Assumption of the Risk. The Hunter hereby expressly and specifically assumes the risk of injury or harm in these activities and releases the Conservancy from all liability for injury, illness, death, or property damage resulting from the activities of hunting.
3. Other. The Hunter expressly agrees that this release is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the State of Michigan and that this release shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan. The Hunter agrees that in the event that any clause or provision of this release shall be held to be invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity of such clause or provision shall not otherwise affect the remaining provisions of this release which shall continue to be enforceable.

IN WITNESS WHERE OF, the Hunter has executed this Release as of the day and year written below.

Month Day Year Witness

Name (please print) Signature of Hunter

Emergency Contact Name Relation Phone Number of Emergency Contact

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if Hunter is under 18)

Little Forks Conservancy Turkey Hunter Application

Upon completion, please submit this document in its entirety to the Little Forks Conservancy at info@littleforks.org or 125 McDonald Street Midland, MI 48640.

Name _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Vehicle make/model/year _____

Address _____

Group members (maximum of three other people):

Please indicate the hunting session/season you have a license for, and your preferred zone:

Riverview Natural Area (Midland County)

Session: ___ April 20-26 ___ April 27-May 3 ___ May 4-10 (Farm Zone only)

Zone: ___ North Zone (Zone 1) ___ Farm Zone (Zone 2)

George and Sue Lane Preserve (Gladwin County)

Session: ___ April 20 -26 ___ April 27 – May 3.

Zone: ___ North Zone (Shearer Rd. Parking Lot) ___ South Zone (Schmidt Road Side Parking)

Please indicate that you have attached a photo of your turkey hunting license with this application.

Are you participating in any state apprentice/mentored youth programs?

Yes____ No____

If yes, name of youth participating: _____ (youth must sign a waiver as well)

How often would you be hunting on the property?

Other comments/questions?
