

# 2016 Waterfowl Hunting In The Lower Bay - Guide for Landowners and Hunters



*Waterfowling on lower Green Bay has been an historically phenomenal resource for the past 100 years or more, at one time rivaling the storied Chesapeake Bay. Waterfowling and human habitation have also historically peacefully co-existed along the shores of the Lower Bay of Green Bay. The purpose of this flier is to provide landowners and hunters with information necessary for them to be aware of the laws governing their conduct, to respect one another's rights, ensure that both hunting and property ownership activities are conducted safely and legally, minimize hunter/landowner conflicts, and reduce the number of related calls to law enforcement officials.*

**HUNTING SEASONS AND HOURS:** The 2016 early Teal season begins at noon 9/1 and then continues from sunrise to 7:00 pm through 9/7. The early goose season runs 9/1 through 9/15. Only Canadian Geese may be taken. The youth duck hunt is 9/17 & 9/18. The regular duck season opens in the south (including the Bay of Green Bay) from 10/01 through 12/4 and includes a five day split. The Goose season opens 9/16 through 12/21. The daily hunting hours are one half hour before sunrise to sunset. There are varying exceptions in these seasons to be noted. For more detailed information, a summary of state and federal hunting laws may be found in the 2016 Wisconsin Migratory Bird Regulations, available at any hunting license outlet or online at [dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/regulations.html](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/regulations.html)

**HUNTING AREAS:** Hunters may lawfully pursue migratory birds while in the waters of Green Bay. This area begins at the water's edge. This includes the waters in front of Bay Beach, the warehouse/marina shoreline, the West Side Industrial Park up through Ken Euers Park (see ordinance map 27.603(1)(b)5.) The definition of "while in the water" in this ordinance is defined as physically standing in the waters of the Bay of Green Bay. The common term used for this is "feet wet". However, while in front of residentially zoned city land, hunters must also comply with Brown County Ordinance 31.02(3), which requires that they must be 100 feet from the established "bulkhead line" that runs along the east shore. Generally speaking, this is the rocky shoreline along the shore of Bay Beach. In most cases, the "feet wet" line is further than 100 feet from the "bulkhead line" **but hunters are cautioned that this may not always be the case. Check before you shoot!**

**RIPARIAN RIGHTS OF LANDOWNERS:** The dry exposed shore, often referred to as the "riparian" area, actually extends the property rights of the owner, who then has control of trespass, and if applicable within the Green Bay City limits. This dry area is subject to changing water levels. **If a shot bird falls on private property, including a riparian area, neither hunters nor their dogs may retrieve it without permission from the landowner.**

**BLINDS:** Hunters can setup blinds 7 days prior to the opening date of the respective season. This is a DNR matter and any complaints or concerns should be called into the local DNR office (See below). Any hunting in or out of an established blind must be done where there is **standing water**. If the blind is less than 500 feet from the shore line it must also be in vegetation that is natural growth. If a blind (or watercraft) is more than 500 feet from shore no vegetation is required.

**FIREARMS AND SHOOTING:** In accordance with WI Statute 167.31, it will not be considered unlawful for a hunter to carry an uncased firearm, within city limits, while complying with WI Statute Chapter 947.01, Disorderly Conduct. However, hunters should exercise due regard for safety of other citizens in and around the area and are encouraged to case their guns while walking to and from the hunting area as a courtesy to adjacent landowners. Inexpensive gun socks and sleeves are available for this purpose. While engaged in shooting, hunters must pay strict attention to the placement of shots in accordance with the city limits. Consider the face of a clock as you stand in the center facing 12:00. Your available targeting area should span from 10:00 to 2:00, thus allowing you a safe down range shot while not endangering other hunters or causing shot spray to fall on private property. While “falling” shot has less energy as gravity pulls it down, it remains a nuisance and may cause property damage. A Disorderly Conduct citation may be issued by Green Bay Police or the Brown County Sheriff’s Department for any hunter who discharges a firearm which results in shot pellets landing within City Limits or private property within Brown County.

### **LANDOWNERS’ RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Please educate yourself by reviewing this flier, consult the 2016 WI Waterfowl Regulations for more information, be able to describe identifying factors and behavior of violators and maintain your observation of the parties involved before you call the authorities with a hunting related complaint.
- There are several rights of way for public access to the water. These areas are generally posted and consist of the extension of the street/road to the water’s edge. WI State Statute, Chapter 30.29(3) allows for the access to launch and land watercraft on public right away. It is an ordinance violation to tamper with or remove signage or to post no-trespassing signs on the public right of way.
- Please respect the rights of hunters to engage in lawful hunting activities. Interference or harassment of hunters, is a violation of Wis. Stat.29.083. This law is enforced by the WIDNR.
- Consider saying “yes” to a courteous request from a hunter to retrieve a downed or crippled bird on your property, in order to assist hunters being able to make every reasonable effort to make the retrieve without delay to prevent the loss of the bird State law requires that downed birds be pursued immediately. Waste of game is a violation.

### **HUNTERS’ RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Please review this flier before you head out to hunt the Lower Bay.
- Be a safe, ethical and courteous hunter at all times.
- Keep your dog under control at all times. If your dog “makes a mess”, pick it up- this includes messes on ANY dry land you don’t own.
- Pick up after yourself in all other ways, including your spent shells if possible. Littering is an ordinance violation. “Pack out what you bring in”
- If a bird lies dead or crippled on dry land, **it maybe private property or within the City Limits. Do not pursue the bird with a loaded firearm under any circumstances, and ALWAYS ask permission to retrieve a downed or crippled bird on private property. If that permission is denied, don’t argue- quietly leave. You may request the assistance of the authorities or DNR Warden to pursue and comply with the retrieval of game law.**

### **WHO TO CALL:**

- To report blind, hunting hours, waterfowl regulations violations (exceeding bag limits, etc.) or hunter harassment, call the Wisconsin DNR Hotline at 1-800-847-9367. Be as descriptive as possible- remember, the warden has to prove the offence in court.
- To report trespass, shot falling on private property or persons, illegal signage, littering, or hunting within City Limits (within 100 feet of the bulkhead line or with “dry feet”), contact the Brown County Public Safety Communications Center at 391-7450. Again, be as descriptive as possible.

*This flier has been prepared as a public service as a result of meetings among The Green Bay Police Department, Green Bay City Attorney’s Office, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, The Green Bay Duck Hunters’ Association, Ducks Unlimited, Inc. the Nicolet Drive Property Owners’ Association, and the East Shore Property Owners’ Association. Special thanks to Green Bay Police Officer Paul Van Handel and DNR Warden Supervisor Christopher Groth. While this flier is based on the latest information available, its contents should not be considered as legal opinions or advice.*

