

Cape Henlopen State Park (West)

2023–24 Hunting Seasons/Hunting Rules

Refer to map for approximate locations of indicated areas.

1. In addition to the rules and regulations found in the “Delaware Hunting and Trapping Guide: 2023-2024” specific rules that apply to Cape Henlopen State Park (West) are listed below. **Registration of all hunters participating in the Delaware State Park Hunting Program is required. There is an annual \$10 hunting program charge. This charge is waived for Delaware hunters 65 or over.** Hunters may register at the Cape Henlopen State Park or any Delaware State Park where hunting is permitted.
2. Hunting for deer is permitted in all designated areas in season from September 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024. No firearm hunting for deer is permitted prior to the special **Youth/Non-Ambulatory Disabled Deer Hunt** on November 5, 2023.
3. General Park Hunting Rules
 - a. There is **No Sunday Hunting** in Delaware State Parks
 - b. Failure to comply with any state laws, rules, regulations, and/or policies may result in arrest and/or suspension of all hunting privileges in Delaware State Parks.
 - c. Handguns, rifles with straight-walled pistol-caliber ammunition and Sharps rifles are not permitted for deer hunting in Delaware State Parks.
 - d. It is illegal to use or build a nailed or permanent tree stand or ladder. Portable stands must be of a type that will not damage trees. **Unattended stands will be confiscated.**
 - e. **Use of trail cameras** in Delaware State Parks **is prohibited.**
 - f. Driving deer into and/or through hunting areas is prohibited.
 - g. The clearing/cutting of vegetation to form shooting lanes or for any other purpose is prohibited.
 - h. Use of Bait is prohibited in Delaware State Parks.
 - i. Use of buckshot is prohibited in Delaware State Parks.
 - j. Driving motorized vehicles off-road into fields, woods, or along trails is prohibited. No motorized hand carts or ATVs are allowed to recover harvested deer. E-bikes may be used on state park trails that allow bicycles. Bicycles, including E-bikes may not be ridden on paths from state park trails to the deer stand, pin or archery zone. Manual deer carts are authorized for use.
 - k. Park only in designated parking areas (refer to map for approximate locations).
 - l. State Parks are carry-in, carry-out areas. Please take any trash you accumulate with you.
 - m. All hunters must honor the 200-yard safety zone (**100 yards on each side**) along the Junction-Breakwater Trail. This area is heavily used throughout the year by the non-hunting public.
4. Spray Irrigation Area: Sussex County will be permitting deer hunting on lands around the Wolf Neck Wastewater Treatment Plant during the 2023-24 hunting season. For more information contact Sussex County at (302) 855-7700.
5. Waterfowl Hunting
 - a. Waterfowl Hunting is permitted in season in area F. Hunters may NOT construct blinds in this area.
 - b. Waterfowl Hunting in the park is restricted to between November 1, 2023 and January 31, 2024.
6. Deer Hunting – Archery and Crossbow hunting
 - a. Permitted at Archery Pins E1 – E5 in former Archery-only Area E, and areas F and G in season from September 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024.
 - b. Hunters using Archery pins E1 – E5 must hunt from an elevated portable stand not less than 10 feet above the ground within the radius painted on trees around the central pin. Pins are available on a first

come/first served basis. Tags may be pulled from the tag board located in the parking lot on Wolfe Neck Road. Hunters must sign in and out at the tag board when taking and returning tags.

- c. All areas labeled G are Archery/Crossbow ONLY areas. In area G, Archers must hunt at least 100 yards from the Junction-Breakwater Trail.
 - d. Permitted during firearms seasons. Note that hunter orange is required during gun seasons, **including in the archery and crossbow only areas.**
7. Deer Hunting - Muzzleloader Season
- a. Permitted in area F for the January 22– January 27, 2024 season only.
 - b. Hunters must hunt from an elevated portable stand, provided by the hunter, not less than 10 feet above the ground during all gun seasons.
 - c. There is not an October Muzzleloader Season in the Park.
8. Deer Hunting – General Firearm Seasons
- a. Permitted in area F ONLY including the, **Youth/Non-Ambulatory Disabled Deer Hunt** November 4, 2023, November 10 - November 18, 2023, December 9 - December 16, 2023 Special Antlerless and January 13, 15 - January 21, 2024 seasons.
 - b. Shotguns and muzzleloaders are the only firearms permitted for use during the general firearm deer season in Delaware State Parks.
 - c. Hunters must hunt from an elevated portable stand, provided by the hunter, not less than 10 feet above the ground during all gun seasons.
9. All deer harvested in the West Unit of Cape Henlopen State Park must be reported via the on-line or toll-free telephone reporting system as required by the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife. Deer should be reported as follows:

Land Type:	Public
County:	Sussex
Zone:	9
Location Type:	State or County Park
Location Description:	Cape Henlopen State Park

MESSAGE TO ALL HUNTERS:

- Please be careful, discrete and considerate around other park visitors. Understand that many park patrons are NOT hunters and some may feel threatened by your presence. Please show consideration to fellow hunters.

CapeWest2023–24 Updated 6/5/2023