

# Cape Henlopen State Park (East)

## 2023 – 2024 Hunting Seasons/Hunting Rules

*Refer to map on other side 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 (East) 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 Office or any other 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 4, 2023. A tag board is now located across from the Ferry Terminal on the south side of the Trail along the old railroad tracks. All hunters using a park stand must pull the tag from the tag board and fill-in information requested on the sign-in/sign-out sheet. All hunters hunting in Area A are now required to complete the information requested on the sign-in/sign-out sheet (except tag number). During gun seasons hunters in Area A must hunt from an elevated portable stand provided by the hunter.
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.
4. Waterfowl Hunting
  - a. Waterfowl Hunting is **permitted** in season **in area A between November 1, 2023 and January 31, 2024.**
  - b. Hunters may NOT construct blinds in this area.
  - c. No waterfowl hunting is permitted in the Gordon’s Pond area.
5. Deer Hunting – Archery and Crossbow hunting
  - a. Permitted in area A in season, from September 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024. Stands 2 – 5, PD1 and PD2 are for the convenience of the hunter and are not mandatory. To hunt from the PD Stands, PD1 and PD2, the hunter must have in their possession a valid disabled hunter card issued by the

Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife.

- b. There is a minimum 50-yard safety zone along all trails, except the Gordon's Pond Trail which has a 100-yard safety zone.
  - c. Four Archery-only Stands A - D located in the Pinelands section of the Park are available to hunters during the regular Archery season. Hunters must hunt from the stands. Ground hunting is prohibited in this area of the park. Hunters wishing to hunt from these stands must park at the designated parking area for Stand A and walk into the park if the main park gate is closed. When the main gate is open hunters using Stand B, C and D may park near the old tennis courts as indicated on the map.
  - d. Archery hunting is permitted during approved firearms seasons as limited by the rules below and other applicable regulations. Note that hunter orange is required during gun seasons.
6. Deer Hunting - Muzzleloader Season
- a. Permitted in area A, but limited to January 22 – January 27, 2024 only. **There is no October Muzzleloader Season in the Park.**
  - b. Muzzleloaders may also be used during General Firearm Seasons (see below).
  - c. Designated stands are for the convenience of the hunter and are not mandatory. However, during gun seasons hunters must hunt from an elevated portable stand, provided by the hunter, at least 10 feet above the ground. Hunting from the ground during guns seasons is no longer permitted.
7. Deer Hunting – General Firearm Season
- a. Permitted in Area A during the Youth/Non-Ambulatory Disabled Deer Hunt on November 4, 2023, November 10 - November 18, 2023; December 9 - December 16, 2023 Special Antlerless and January 13 - January 21, 2024 seasons. **No gun hunting is permitted until November Shotgun Season.**
  - b. Shotguns and Muzzleloaders are the only firearms permitted for use during General Firearm Seasons in Delaware State Parks.
  - c. Designated stands are for the convenience of the hunter and are not mandatory. However, during gun seasons hunters choosing not to use the wooden stands must hunt from an elevated portable stand, provided by the hunter, at least 10 feet above the ground. **Hunting from the ground during guns seasons is no longer permitted.**
8. All deer harvested in the East 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

9. Special Managed Hunt

A special managed antlerless deer hunt will be held in the main part of Cape Henlopen State Park on Tuesday, January 16 and Wednesday, January 17, 2024. Stands will be filled via an in-person lottery held at the Fishing Pier at 5:00 am each morning. For more information visit the Delaware State Parks website - <https://destateparks.com/Adventures/Hunting>.

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.
- Have a safe and successful hunt.