

Delaware Seashore State Park

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 the Delaware Seashore State Park 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 Delaware Seashore State Park Office or at any Delaware State Park where hunting is permitted.
2. 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.
3. Waterfowl Hunting
 - a. Waterfowl hunting, in season, is permitted from November 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024.
 - b. Hunters must hunt from one of 16 designated and numbered blind sites only. No exceptions. Blind sites are located on Rehoboth and Indian River Bays and are designated by brown and white signs. Boat blinds may be used, but must be within 10 yards of the designated blind site sign. Hunting in open water boat blinds must be a minimum of 1500 feet from designated blind sites in accordance with Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife regulations.
 - c. Use of blind sites will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Hunters may build GRASS BLINDS for these sites after August 12, 2023. **The Division of Parks and Recreation is not liable for blinds built on park property.** Vegetation may not be cut from State Park property. *Phragmites* and Chinese Silver Grass (*Miscanthus*) can NOT be used for blind construction.
 - d. **NOTE:** Waterfowl seasons as determined by the Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife and approved by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service. Dates are available in the “Delaware Hunting and Trapping Guide: 2023-2024”.
4. Deer Hunting – Archery/Crossbow Season
 - a. Permitted on Burtons Island Only September 1, 2023 to January 31, 2024.

- b. Archers must hunt from an elevated portable, non-damaging tree stand when firearm hunting is occurring on Burtons Island. Archers are required to wear hunter orange during all firearm seasons.
- 5. Deer Hunting – Muzzleloader Season
 - a. Permitted on Burtons Island Only January 22 - January 27, 2024.
 - b. 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.
- 6. Deer Hunting – General Firearm Season
 - a. Permitted on Burtons Island Only, Youth/Non-ambulatory Disable Deer Hunt November 4, 2023, November 10 – November 18, 2023, December 9 – December 16, 2023 Special Antlerless and January 13 – January 21, 2024 seasons.
 - b. 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 harvest data is an important tool for state natural resource managers. Accurate data is essential to help us manage the deer herd in Delaware State Parks and the State Parks hunting program. All deer harvested on Burtons Island in Delaware Seashore 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:	15
Location Type:	State or County Park
Location Description:	Delaware Seashore 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. Have a safe and successful hunt.

DelawareSeashore2023-24 Updated 6/5/2023