

White Clay Creek State Park

2009-10 Special Hunting Rules

Only deer may be hunted at the park. No other type of hunting is permitted.

Refer to maps for approximate locations of indicated areas.

In addition to the rules and regulations found in the "Delaware Hunting and Trapping Guide: 2009-2010", specific rules that apply to White Clay Creek 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 registration fee. This charge is waived for hunters age 65 or over.** You can register at the White Clay Creek State Park Office.

1. General Deer Hunting Rules

- a. **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.**
- b. For safety reasons, only one adult and only one firearm (shotgun/muzzleloader/bow) is permitted at each stand/post site.
- c. **Note that you must harvest an antlerless deer (preferably a doe) first, before harvesting a buck.** To become 'Buck Eligible' you must have your antlerless deer confirmed by contacting a Park Ranger (302)368-6900, 547-8927, 943-0125, 233-8698, or 388-1110). Archery hunters who harvest an antlerless deer during archery season will be qualified to harvest a buck (by bow or gun) during the shotgun seasons.
- d. **A few of the older wooden stands will be replaced with portable deer stands this year.**
- e. Driving deer into and/or through hunting areas is prohibited.
- f. The clearing/cutting of vegetation to form shooting lanes or for any other purpose is prohibited.
- g. Juveniles under the age 18 must be accompanied by an adult when applying for an archery permit and/or when signing in to hunt during the Shotgun Season's on-site lottery. A parent or guardian is to be available (by telephone) the entire time the juvenile is hunting. Hunters under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian at all times while hunting (only one firearm per stand).
- h. When tracking a wounded deer, hunters must use every physical effort to recover the deer. When tracking a wounded deer, hunters must keep arrows in their quiver or keep shotgun action open and unloaded; muzzleloaders must have percussion cap or primer removed. DO NOT shoot at a deer that you, yourself, did not wound. If you observe a wounded deer, contact a Park Ranger.
- i. When field dressing a deer, hunters should be courteous to other hunters and park visitors. The deer should always be dressed well off any trails and out of public view.
- j. Please take your trash, soiled field dressing apparel, shell casings, etc. with you when you are finished hunting for the day.
- k. The consumption of alcoholic beverages prior to hunting and the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.
- l. **There will be no handgun season, or use of handguns, in Delaware State Parks (handguns prohibited).**

2. Archery Deer Hunting Seasons –

Regular Season: October 19, 2009 – November 12, 2009

Locations: Preserve Section: Stands #1 – 3, #7 – 19

Possum Hill Section: Stands #22 – 25, #28 – 30, Archery Only Pin J, (Note Stand #27 is Shotgun Only),

Carpenter Section: Stands #5, 34, 35, 37, and Archery Only Pins: A–I and K

Judge Morris Section: Archery Only Pins: L – V

Judge Morris Estate – Special Archery Seasons

October 19 – November 21; December 17, 18, and 19, 2009

January 16, 2009 – January 23, 2010 at Archery Pins (L through V)

There will be No Shotgun Hunting at Judge Morris this year.

Archery Rules

- a. Registration for the White Clay Creek State Park Deer Archery Program is required. Register at the White Clay Creek State Park Office. Call the park office for details, (302) 368-6900. Hunters **must** register for archery hunting at the White Clay Creek State Park Office. **Note: Archery registration ends on October 18, no exceptions.**
- b. Archery hunting is permitted only from elevated stands or from a portable non-damaging (without screw pegs) tree stand, or on the ground. Hunting must be within the painted radius around each elevated stand/pin.
- c. A daily on-site lottery for permanent stand and pin assignments will be held at 5 a.m. during the first week of the season. At all other times stands will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis using the self-registration tag board system. The *(over)*

lotteries and self-registration will take place at the Possum Hill parking lot on Smith Mill Road. The self-registration tag board is located in the Possum Hill parking lot. Hunters must sign in and out there, and pick up their stand tag at the bulletin board in the lot. The tag must be placed on the dashboard of the hunter's vehicle and be visible at all times when hunting.

- d. When leaving the area for any reason (e.g. lunch, work, coffee, deer kill, etc.), hunters must sign out and return the tag to the bulletin board.
- e. Hunters that fail to sign out and return the tag to the bulletin board when leaving the area or that have another person sign in and pick up a tag for them will lose their hunting privileges for the rest of the season.
- f. The archery-only stations or 'pins' (Stations A-V) will be open for archery hunting during both the archery season listed above and during legal shotgun seasons, in accordance with all applicable regulations. Each of these stations is indicated by a labeled post. Hunting is permitted from a portable stand within a painted radius around the labeled post.
- g. During shotgun seasons, archery hunters wishing to hunt from the archery-only stations must check in at the shotgun lottery area in the Carpenter Recreation Area parking lot. This can only be done at either the morning or afternoon lottery drawings.
- h. Archery hunters must take one antlerless deer from White Clay Creek State Park during the 2009-10 Season before they may take an antlered deer, by any means, during any shotgun season.

3. Shotgun Deer Hunting Seasons

Seasons: November 13 - November 21, 2009

December 17, 18, and 19, 2009 – Special Antlerless Season

January 16 - January 23, 2010

Locations: Preserve Section: Stands #1 – 3, #7 – 19

Possum Hill Section: Stands #22 - 25, 27 – 30

Carpenter Section: Stands #5, #32 - 40, HA (Handicapped Accessible)

Judge Morris Section: (Archery Only; Closed to Shotgun Hunting in 2009-10)

Regular Shotgun Season Rules

- a. Stands will be assigned by an on-site lottery each day of the hunt at the Carpenter Recreation Area two hours prior to legal shooting time on the day of the hunt and again at 12:00 noon on the day of the hunt.
- b. Hunters must take one antlerless deer from White Clay Creek State Park during the 2009-10 Season before they may take an antlered deer.
- c. Hunting at White Clay Creek State Park is for wildlife management. Hunters are encouraged to shoot multiple antlerless deer provided that hunter already has the necessary number of antlerless deer tags in possession. Antlerless tags are available at the park office or at the lottery drawings.
- d. Use of muzzleloaders is permitted during the Shotgun Seasons. There are no Muzzleloader Seasons in White Clay Creek State Park.
- e. Hunters are required to hunt from their assigned elevated deer stand. All hunters picked for a stand in the morning must hunt in the morning and remain in their stand until 9 a.m. Afternoon hunters must be in their assigned stand by 3 p.m.
- f. When shotgun hunters are finished hunting for the day, they must return their daily hunting permit to the permit box in the Carpenter Recreation Area parking lot. Daily permits must be filled out completely before returning them.
- g. **Possession of a loaded firearm, except while lawfully hunting from an assigned deer stand, is prohibited.** Crossbows are prohibited with the exception of hunters possessing a Handicapped Crossbow Hunting Permit.

4. Special Mid-week Managed Hunt (Antlerless Deer Only)

- a. Several additional stands will be added immediately before this hunt and removed immediately after. Sites for these stands are not located on the maps.
- b. Louviers (Deerfield) Managed Hunt Date; January 6, 2010. This is the only managed hunt date for this year.
- c. This date will be assigned by an on-site lottery the day of the hunt at the Carpenter Recreation Area two hours prior to legal shooting time on the day of the hunt and again at 12:00 noon on the day of the hunt.

Dependent upon ongoing construction, weather, or other factors, one or more areas may be closed. Hunters are encouraged to carry a cell phone while they are scouting, hunting, and tracking. For updated or additional information, contact the park office at (302) 368-6900 or visit the Delaware State Parks website at www.destateparks.com. The White Clay Creek State Park office is located at the intersection of Chambers Rock Road and Thompson Station Road. Park office hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please immediately report any medical emergencies, hunting accidents, or violations of any hunting laws, rules, or regulations to a Park Ranger, the park office, or by calling the DNREC dispatch center at 302-739-4580 or 1-800-523-3336.

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