

Cape Henlopen State Park (East)

2024 – 2025 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: 2024-2025,” 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. The permit may be purchased via Digital DNREC or where Delaware hunting licenses are sold beginning in August 2024. Outside vendors charge an additional processing fee. You must have this permit prior to hunting. NOTE:** Once obtained, this registration will be valid for hunters participating in the Delaware State Park Hunting Program at any of the nine Delaware State Parks where hunting is permitted.

It is the hunter’s responsibility to become familiar with each park’s specific rules and regulations prior to hunting.

2. Hunting for deer is permitted in all designated areas in season from September 2, 2024 through February 1, 2025. No firearm hunting for deer is permitted prior to the special **Youth/Non-Ambulatory Disabled Deer Hunt** on November 2, 2024. A tag board is 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 no earlier than 4:30 AM 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 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. Hunters shall not enter the tag board parking lot before 4:00 am.
 - m. 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, 2024 and January 31, 2025.**
 - 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 2, 2024 through February 1, 2025. 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 27 – February 1, 2025 only. **There is no October Muzzleloader Season in the east section of 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.
 - d. **Red fox and coyote may be harvested as incidental take with a muzzleloader while hunting for deer during the January muzzleloader season. Use of calls is prohibited.**
7. Deer Hunting – General Firearm Season
- a. Permitted in the permanent stands PD1, PD2 and 2 – 5 in Area A during the Youth/Non-Ambulatory Disabled Deer Hunt on November 2, 2024, November 15 - November 23, 2024; December 14 - December 21, 2024 Special Antlerless and January 18 - January 25, 2025 seasons. **No gun hunting is permitted until November General Firearms Season in the east section of the park.**
 - b. Shotguns, Muzzleloaders and straight-walled pistol-caliber rifles are permitted for use during General Firearm Seasons in Delaware State Parks south of the C&D Canal.
 - 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 gun seasons is no longer permitted.**
 - d. **Red fox and coyote may be harvested as incidental take with a muzzleloader or shotgun while hunting for deer during general firearm seasons. Use of calls is prohibited.**
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

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.

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