

Cape Henlopen State Park (West)

2024–25 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: 2024-2025” 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. 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.
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. 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 2024-25 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, 2024 and January 31, 2025.
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 2, 2024 through February 1, 2025.
 - 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 no earlier than 4:30 AM. 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 October 11-19 and January 27– February 1, 2025 seasons.
 - 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. Red fox and coyote may be harvested as incidental take with a muzzleloader while hunting for deer during muzzleloader seasons. Use of calls is prohibited.
8. Deer Hunting – General Firearm Seasons
- a. Permitted in area F ONLY including the, **Youth/Non-Ambulatory Disabled Deer Hunt** November 2, 2024, November 15 - November 23, 2024, December 14 - December 21, 2024 Special Antlerless and January 18 - January 25, 2025 seasons.
 - b. Shotguns, muzzleloaders and straight-walled pistol-caliber rifles are permitted for use during the general firearm deer seasons in Area F section of Cape Henlopen State Park.
 - 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.
 - d. Red fox and coyote may be harvested as incidental take with a shotgun or muzzleloader while hunting for deer during general firearm seasons. Use of calls is prohibited.
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.

CapeWest2024–25 Updated 6/12/2024