

# Delaware Seashore State Park - Fresh Pond Tract 2024 – 2025 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 the Fresh Pond Tract 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. 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.
3. Deer Hunting – Archery/Crossbow Season
  - a. September 2, 2024 –February 1, 2025.
  - b. **Note the areas marked Zone A & C on the map are Archery/Crossbow Only areas.** Self-registration is by Zone and is on a first-come, first-served basis.
  - c. In Hunting Zone B, self-registration for stands #1 -10 is on a first-come, first-served basis. Stand #1 is for use **ONLY** by hunters possessing a Permanently Disabled Hunter card issued by the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife.
  - d. Hunters must sign in and sign out on the registration board at the parking lot off Hickman Road.
  - e. These stands are for your convenience and are not mandatory. Archery hunters may hunt from a portable stand or from the ground throughout the zone so long as it is not within 50 yards of a trail or road.
  - f. **There is no archery/crossbow hunting in Zone B during gun seasons.**
  - g. **Note the 50 yard Safety Zones along the trails throughout the park as well as near occupied dwellings.**
4. Deer Hunting – Muzzleloader and General Firearm Seasons

- a. **Due to increased park use by the public, the first gun season will begin with the November Shotgun Season. As a result, the October Antlerless Shotgun dates and the October Muzzleloader Seasons are closed.**
  - b. Open during permitted seasons from designated stands #1-10 only, November 15 – November 23, 2024, December 14 – December 21, 2024 (Special Antlerless), January 18 – January 25, 2025 and January 27 –February 1, 2025 (Muzzleloader).
  - c. Self-registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Hunters must sign in and sign out on the registration board re-located to the Hickman Road entrance. Sign-in sheets and tags will be distributed at 5:00 am during shotgun season. Stand #1 is for use ONLY by hunters possessing a Permanently Disabled Hunter card issued by the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife.
  - d. Hunting is prohibited within 50 yards of any park trail. The clearing/cutting of vegetation to form shooting lanes or for any other purpose is prohibited.
  - e. Shotguns, muzzleloaders and straight-walled pistol-caliber rifles are permitted for use during the general firearm deer seasons.
  - f. Red fox and coyote may be harvested as incidental take with a muzzleloader while hunting for deer during the January muzzleloader season, and with a shotgun or muzzleloader during general firearm seasons. Use of calls is prohibited.
5. All deer harvested in the Fresh Pond Unit of 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:	17
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.
- Please show consideration to fellow hunters.
- Have a safe and successful hunt.

*DSSPFreshPond2024-25 Updated 6/5 12/2024*