

Delaware Seashore State Park – Thompson Island 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 the Thompson Island Nature Preserve 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 State 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. 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 Seasons
 - a. Archery/crossbow hunting **ONLY** is permitted for deer, in season, Monday through Thursday, December 2, 2024 through January 31, 2025
 - b. Hunting only allowed from the wooden PD Stand or a portable non-damaging tree stand (provided by the hunter), not less than 10 feet above ground level, within the perimeter marked with paint on trees around a central numbered pin. The PD Stand is for use **ONLY** by hunters possessing a Permanently Disabled Hunter card issued by the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife.
 - c. The PD stand and Pin sites will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis using the self-registration tag board system. The tag board is located in the parking lot at the end of Bay Road.
 - d. Bicycles, including E-bikes are not permitted on the trail at Thompson Island.
 - e. 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.
 - f. Hunter orange shall be worn in accordance with Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife regulations during gun seasons.
4. 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:	15
Location Type:	State or County Park
Location Description:	Delaware Seashore State Park

5. Hunting for waterfowl, rabbit, quail and dove is not permitted.

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.
- By hunting in this park, you are a vital part of our “deer management team”. White-tail deer have been shown to ecologically damage their habitat when they reach 20 deer per square mile. In the majority of our parks, the deer herds have much greater densities than this.
- Your harvest information is very important to us. Please submit your data accurately. Have a safe and successful hunt.

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