

# Trap Pond State Park

## 2023–24 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: 2023-2024” specific rules that apply to Trap Pond 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 program charge. This charge is waived for Delaware hunters 65 or over.** Hunters may register at the Trap Pond State Park Office or at any Delaware State Park where hunting is permitted.
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, rifles with straight-walled pistol-caliber ammunition and Sharps rifles 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/salt blocks is prohibited in Delaware State Parks.
  - i. Use of buckshot is prohibited in Delaware State Parks.
  - j. Hunting within 50 yards of any trail is prohibited.
  - k. 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.
  - l. Park only in designated parking areas (refer to map for approximate locations).
  - m. State Parks are carry-in, carry-out areas. Please take any trash you accumulate with you.
3. Small Game Hunting
  - a. Use of archery equipment, .22 caliber rifles and shotguns is permitted for hunting Gray Squirrel, Cottontail Rabbit and Bobwhite Quail in-season, in Zone C, G and Zone I from October 8, 2023 through January 31, 2024 except during ANY deer firearm season.
4. Deer Hunting – Archery/Crossbow Seasons
  - a. Permitted in any area labeled as Zone A and B from September 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024.
  - b. Also permitted in Zones C, D, E, F,G, I, J and T; from September 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024.
  - c. Archery hunting is only permitted from provided wooded stands in Zones C, D and E during firearm seasons.
  - d. Hunters must wear hunter orange when archery hunting during any deer firearm season in all zones including Zone A.
5. Deer Hunting – Muzzleloader Seasons
  - a. Permitted in Zones C, D, E, F, G, I, J and T, October 6 - 14, 2023; January 22 - 27, 2024.
  - b. Hunting in Zones C, D and E is only permitted from the provided wooden stands only during gun seasons. A tag board is located near the Bethesda Church restrooms on Wooten Road. Tags for stands are available on a first-come/first-served basis. Tags may not be pulled before 5:00 am. Place the tag on the dashboard of your vehicle while hunting. Tags must be returned to the board if you vacate the stand for any reason. Please enter the required information on the sign-in/sign-out sheet located in the box on the tag board. Information provided on this form helps us better analyze our state park hunting program.
  - c. Saturday hunting during October will not be permitted on October 7 or October 14 in Trap Pond State Park.
  - d. Muzzleloaders may also be used during General Firearm Seasons (see below).

6. Deer Hunting – General Firearm Seasons
  - a. Permitted in Zones C, D, E, F, G, I, J and T, October 16, 20, 22, 27 28 and 30, 2023, November 10 -18, 2023, December 9 -16, 2023 Special Antlerless and January 13 - 21, 2024
  - b. Hunting in Zones C, D and E is only permitted from the provided wooden stands only during gun seasons. Tags for stands are available on a first-come/first-served basis. Tags may not be pulled before 5:00 am. Place the tag on the dashboard of your vehicle while hunting. Tags must be returned to the board if you vacate the stand for any reason. Please enter the required information on the sign-in/sign-out sheet located in the box on the tag board. Information provided on this form helps us better analyze our state park hunting program.
  - c. There is no gun hunting in Trap Pond State Park prior to the October muzzleloader season.
  
7. Thirteen deer stands are located in Zones C, D, and E (refer to map for locations) to increase hunter safety and convenience. Use of these stands is on a first come/first serve basis and is mandatory during gun seasons. Stand #2 located on the south side of Wooten Road in Area E and #13 on the north side of Pepperbox Road are accessible stands designed for hunters with mobility issues. Tags for stands are available on a first-come/first-served basis. Tags may not be pulled before 5:00 am. Place the tag on the dashboard of your vehicle while hunting. Tags must be returned to the board if you vacate the stand for any reason. Please enter the required information on the sign-in/sign-out sheet located in the box on the tag board. Information provided on this form helps us better analyze our state park hunting program.
  
8. Access - Hunters may not cross private property without permission from the land owner.
  - a. Parking for Area A is located on Wooten Road at the Dog Training Area. **Parking within the main park to hunt is prohibited.**
  - b. Access to Zone G is directly from Arvey Road.
  - c. Hunters must access Zone J directly from adjacent public roads only.
  - d. Access to Zone J on the east side of Hitch Pond Road is only from the forest that is owned by Delaware State Parks. **Do not cross the privately owned fields adjacent to park property for any reason.**
  
9. All deer harvested in Trap Pond 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:	16 (14 for tract on north side of RT 24)
Location Type:	State or County Park
Location Description:	Trap Pond State Park
  
10. Dependent upon ongoing construction, weather, or other factors, one or more areas may be closed. For updated or additional information, contact the park office at (302) 875-5153 or visit the Delaware State Parks website at [www.destateparks.com](http://www.destateparks.com).
  
11. 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. Have a safe and successful hunt.