

**Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge
Regulations Summary
Public Deer Hunt 2023**

2023 Deer Season

Youth Hunt: Sat. October 28th, 2023

Regular Hunt: Wed. November 1st-Sat. November 4th

Public hunting of white-tailed deer will be permitted this year in accordance with applicable Federal and State laws and regulations subject to the following special conditions which are specific to hunting on the refuge.

1. Only deer may be taken (incidental coyote/fox take is now allowed with your hunt permit); all other wildlife and plant species are protected.
2. Only shotguns, muzzle loading rifles, and loads authorized by N.J. State law for deer hunting are permitted.
3. Target practice is prohibited.
4. Guns must be unloaded when on public roads and in safety zones areas within 450 feet of parking areas, buildings, residences, or equipment storage facilities.
5. Do not trespass off the refuge. You are responsible for knowing where you are at all times.
6. Fires and camping are not permitted.
7. Vehicles are restricted to public roads and designated

parking areas. Please refer to map. Do not block access roads and gates.

8. Hunters must wear in a conspicuous manner on head, chest, and back a minimum of 400 square inches of solid-color hunter orange clothing or material. Camouflage orange does not qualify.
9. It is unlawful to use or construct a permanent tree stand or install a nail, spike, or other metal object into any tree. Marking a route to your stand using reflective tacks or flagging is not permitted.
10. Other than during the hunt period as specified, entry into the refuge is permitted only in approved public use areas as designated by signs. Scouting is permitted two weeks prior to season opening. Hunters must be in possession of a NJDFW zone 38 deer permit.
11. Your parking vehicle pass must be displayed face up on your vehicle dashboard while hunting.
12. Violation of Federal, State, or specific refuge regulations, shall be cause for immediate revocation of hunting permits.
13. Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.
14. Distribution of bait and hunting over bait is prohibited.
15. **Hunter bag limit is two deer – either one antlerless and**

one antlered or two antlerless.

16. Hunting with a shotgun is NOT permitted in the area of the refuge marked with diagonal lines on the hunting map. Hunting is not permitted from the Wildlife Observation Center blinds, boardwalks, or trails. Boardwalks and trails can be used for transportation.
17. Hunters must read and comply with current refuge deer hunt regulations, season, and hunt map on the deer hunt brochure.
18. Deer hunt drives and hunting on Sunday are **NOT** permitted on the refuge.
19. **Prohibited Activities**
 - Littering
 - Use of a spotlight or other artificial light may not be used to locate wildlife.
 - Baiting or hunting over bait, salt or any consumable attractant.
 - Drives are prohibited.
 - Drive or screw a nail, spike or other metal object into a tree or hunt from any tree in which such an object has been driven.
 - Trimming or cutting vegetation.
 - Use or possession of alcoholic beverages.
 - Use of ATVs and/or dirt bikes.
 - Target practice
 - Camping and campfires
 - Overnight parking

- Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts.
- Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles.

We respectfully request your cooperation to ensure a safe, well-managed hunt. For specific questions, email Visitor Services Manager Jared Green at Jared.Green@fws.gov or call (978) 440-0280.

Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is one of more than 568 national wildlife refuges in the U.S. and its territories. The National Wildlife Refuge System is a national network of lands and waters managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans. Hunting is one of many tools used to responsibly manage wildlife populations. At Great Swamp NWR, harvesting deer maintains a balanced population in harmony with the environment while providing a recreational opportunity compatible with the refuge purpose. Public hunting is permitted on approximately 7,000 acres of the refuge.