

Important Visitor Information

Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge Deer Hunt 2024 - 2025

Visitors should be aware that Wertheim will remain open during the archery hunt season. Refuge visitors must remain on public trails at all times and are encouraged to wear orange and/or bright colors while visiting the refuge during the archery hunts (see dates below).

- **Why does the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allow deer hunting?**

At higher population densities, deer can over browse the available vegetation and degrade habitat for other species. Deer-car collisions and deer browsing ornamental plantings in the adjacent residential areas become more serious problems at high deer densities, Wertheim has hosted a public deer hunt since 2005 and has not seen a significant reduction in herd size.

Hunting is one of the six priority public uses designated for National Wildlife Refuges by the Refuge Improvement Act of 1997. Hunting is a traditional form of wildlife-oriented recreation that can also be leveraged as a means to manage wildlife populations. Through an excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition authorized by the Pittman-Robertson Act, hunters also support wildlife and habitat conservation and restoration initiatives. In 2022, over \$1 billion from this program supported millions of acres and miles of outdoor recreation access and wildlife habitat in this country.

- **When will the 2024 – 2025 deer refuge hunts take place?**

Hunting will occur in alternating one-week sessions starting on November 4th. A hunt session is defined as beginning on Monday and concluding on the following Sunday. **Please note that Wertheim will continue to be open to the public during archery (only) hunt sessions, but not shotgun sessions.**

Archery Hunt Weeks for Wertheim and Seatuck refuges:

11/04/2024 - 11/10/2024

11/18/2024 - 11/24/2024

12/02/2024 – 12/08/2024

12/16/2024 – 12/22/2024

Concurrent Shotgun and Archery Hunt Weeks (Wertheim only):

01/06/2025 - 01/12/2025

01/20/2025 - 01/26/2025

- **How will visitors access the refuge during hunt sessions?**

Visitors should continue to park in the headquarters parking lot to visit the refuge and walk on the trails. Refuge visitors should note that limited parking areas are available for **hunters only**. Refuge visitors parking in a designated hunter parking lot without a hunter parking permit on their dashboard will be subject to towing.

- **Where can I obtain a hunt application?**

Hunting information is posted year-round online at <https://longisland.recaccess.com>.