

Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge (*NWR*) Hunting and Fishing Program for 2025-2026



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide big game and waterfowl hunting opportunities at Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge (refuge) during the 2025-26 refuge hunting season. Hunting opportunities for goose, dove, duck, coot, and merganser are available at Field 1, in coordination with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) as part of the South Shore Management Area (Figure 1). Saltwater fishing opportunities are available in designated areas from September 16 through March 31. The Trustom Pond water body is closed to hunting and fishing.

Similar to last year, the refuge will provide limited, archery-only hunting opportunities for white-tailed deer hunting at Trustom Pond Unit. Hunting is by refuge permit only, with season and weapon restrictions. Hunters will be selected through a lottery drawing. Rhode Island Archery Proficiency Certification is required for all permitted hunters. State safety regulations apply, including safety setbacks.

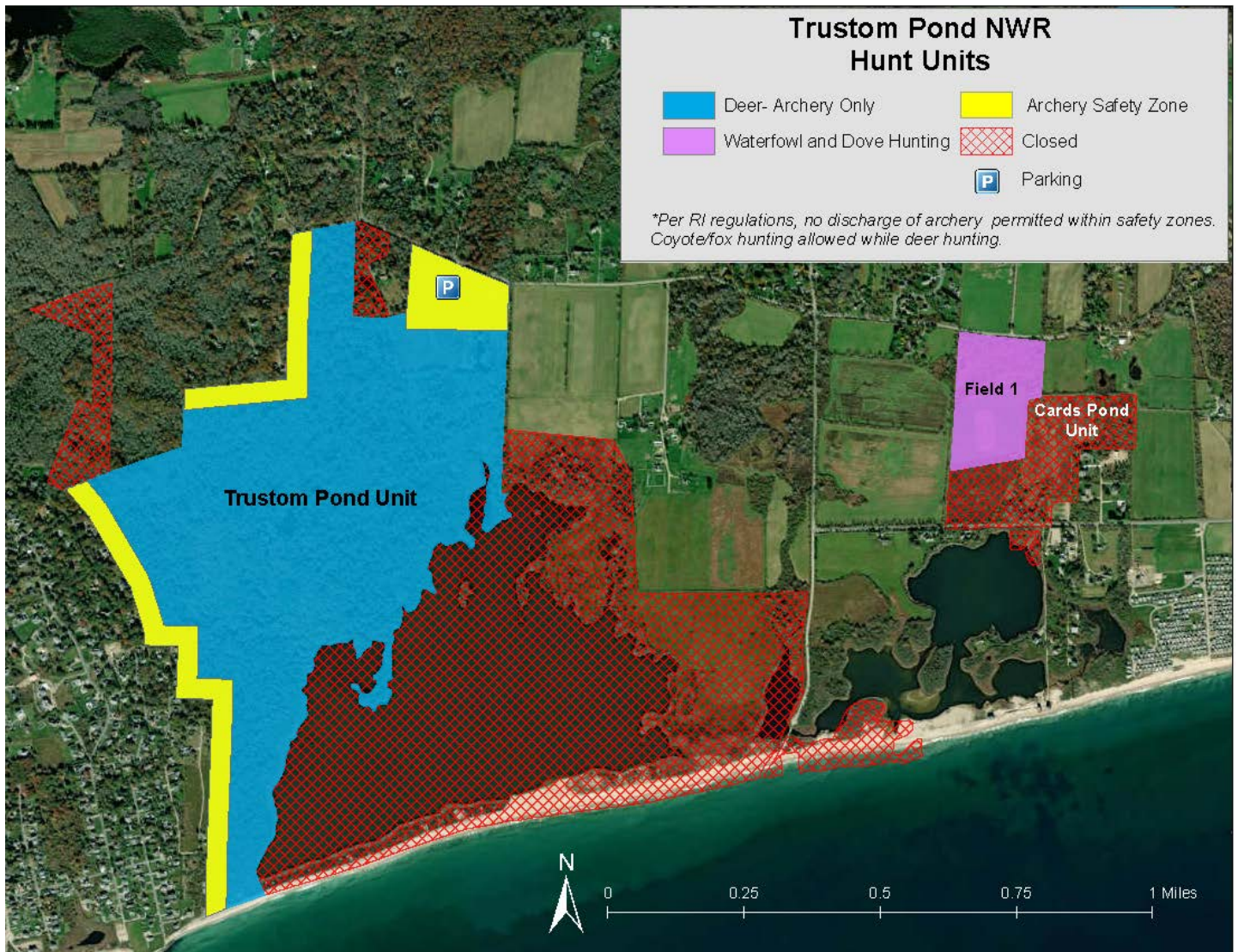
2025 - 2026 Program Details:

- Trustom Pond hunting unit is open to archery-only white-tailed deer hunting.
 - There are two (2), one-week hunting sessions permitted: 10/29– 11/04/2025 and 12/3 – 12/09/2025.
 - Ten (10) hunters will be permitted to hunt during each hunt session.
 - Lottery entries and permits will be available online at rhodeislandpermits.recaccess.com. Hunters may submit one lottery entry and will indicate a preference for hunting session.
 - Cost to enter the lottery is \$5.00. If selected to hunt, the permit cost is \$15.00.
 - Permitted hunters are allowed to take fox and coyote during their deer hunting session.
 - Hunters must use designated parking on the National Wildlife Refuge.
- Trustom Pond NWR will be closed to all other activities during the deer hunting sessions.
- Field 1 is open to goose, duck, coot, merganser, and mourning dove hunting (September – January) consistent with the State seasons.
- No hunting or fishing allowed on the Trustom Pond water body.

Safety measures employed:

- All hunters must have a valid State hunting license, which requires a [hunter education course](#);
- All hunters for deer, coyote, and fox must have a Rhode Island Archery Proficiency Certification;
- The number of hunters is limited by a permit system, with 10 hunters per session;
- No knocked arrows or discharge of archery equipment within, into, or out of hunt safety zones;
- Hunters will be provided maps of safety zones and hunt unit boundaries to aid in navigation;
- The public will be alerted to annual hunting seasons through news releases, website and Facebook postings, and signage on refuge trailhead notice boards;
- Refuge will be closed to all other users during the deer hunting sessions;
- The hunting and fishing program will be monitored and have adjustments made as deemed necessary.

Figure 1. 2025-2026 Trustum Pond National Wildlife Refuge Hunt Units. Hunt map was created using GIS mapping for informational use, not for legal purposes.



Please call the refuge at 401-364-9124 if you have any questions.

