

Prime Hook

National Wildlife Refuge Island Farms Disabled Hunt Area Regulations 2026–2027



Welcome

Established in 1963, Prime Hook is an important stopover site for migratory birds as they travel the Atlantic Flyway and provides protected breeding habitat for federally and State-listed threatened and endangered species, as well as many neo-tropical migrating bird species. Prime Hook's habitat features include salt marsh, freshwater marsh, ponds, wooded swamps, upland grasslands and forest.

Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32.) We prohibit the use of rimfire or centerfire rifles and all handguns including muzzleloading pistols. The use or possession of buckshot while hunting is prohibited.

Vehicles

Licensed motor vehicles are permitted only on public use roads and trails as shown on the map. ATVs and UTVs are prohibited. Parking is permitted in designated parking area. All State regulations and laws are applicable.

Boats

Boats, canoes, kayaks, etc. are prohibited in Island Farms.

Accessibility Information

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. For more information please contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, <https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eeo/public-civil-rights>.

Hunters with a disability must obtain a certification card from Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC). For information on obtaining this card, call the DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife at 302-739-9912.

Assistants

Disabled Waterfowl hunters may have two assistants (3 people per/blind). Waterfowl assistants may participate in the hunt. The permitted disabled hunter must be present and all hunters in the group must hunt from the same blind. Disabled Deer hunters may have one non-hunting assistant in the blind with them.

Hunting Regulations

Hunting regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting is permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting will be in accordance with applicable State of Delaware regulations subject to the conditions stated below.

Permits

Permits for the Island Farms Unit are only open to disabled hunters and their assistants. The disabled hunter must be present and must possess a DNREC disabled hunter certification card or a Federal Lands Access pass. Blinds are issued via a hunter facilitated drawing at the hunt check station 2 hours before legal shooting time. **Read and sign this brochure, it serves as your permit.** Keep this permit on you while you are in the hunt area.

Hunts offered

Deer: Permits will be available for Archery, the October muzzleloader hunt, November Shotgun hunt, and the state designated non-ambulatory hunt.

Waterfowl: Permits will be available for the September Teal and Resident Canada Goose season, the 2nd and 3rd split of Regular duck, and both splits of late Canada Goose.

Open to Hunting – Deer, ducks, geese, coots. Mute swans may be taken during any open waterfowl hunt. Red Fox and coyote may be taken incidentally while deer hunting.

Swan identification: Mute Swans have orange and black bills with a hump at the back near the eyes. Tundra and Trumpeter swans have all black bills with no hump. Be sure before you shoot!

Prime Hook NWR

Hunting Permit 2026—2027

When signed and carried, this serves as your permit for all Island Farms Disabled Hunt Area hunts and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein. Expires August 31, 2027

Signature (permits are not transferable)

Closed to Hunting – All other species of wildlife not listed above are protected. Protected species include, but are not limited to, snakes, crow, beaver, otter, and muskrat.

Access

Days

Monday - Saturday during designated deer seasons.
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday during designated waterfowl seasons.

There is no Sunday hunting.

Hours

The refuge is open for hunting access from 2 hours before legal hunting time to 1 hour after legal hunting time. Waterfowl hunts conclude at 4 pm. Being on the refuge (including parking lots) between 9:00 pm & 4:00 am is prohibited.

Seasonal Closures

Island Farms unit is closed to all access from February 1st - August 23rd

Guided Hunts

Hunt permit holders may not engage in guiding, outfitting, or advertising for commercial purposes.

Dogs: The use of dogs is permitted to locate, point, and retrieve while hunting waterfowl.

Prime Hook NWR
12322 Turtle Pond Road,
Milton, DE 19968
302-684-8419

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1-800-344-WILD

July 2026



Activity	Season Dates	Harvest	Hunt Areas	Regulation
Deer Hunting	Sept 1 - Jan 30 -Archery Oct 9 - 17 -Muzzleloader Sept 26, Nov 7 Youth/Non-Ambulatory Disabled Nov 13 – 21 Shotgun	State limits apply	Island Farms Disabled hunt area specific blinds	Refuge-issued permit is required in addition to the proper state permit.
Waterfowl Hunting	Sep 1-25 Resident Canada Goose Sep 5 - Sep 12 Sept Teal Nov 25 - Nov 28 Regular Duck Dec 16 - Jan 30 Regular Duck Nov 25 – Nov 28 Canada Goose Dec 23 - Jan 30 Canada Goose	State and Federal limits apply	Island Farms Disabled hunt area specific blinds	State and Federal Waterfowl Stamps required in addition to above.
State hunting regulations and licensing requirements apply to all hunting on the refuge. Shooting hours and methods of take may differ from the state. Signed refuge hunt brochure must be in possession of hunter. Upon request, hunters and their assistants must display for inspection all licenses, permits, game, equipment, weapons, and ammunition, to Federal and State law enforcement officers.				

Youth hunt

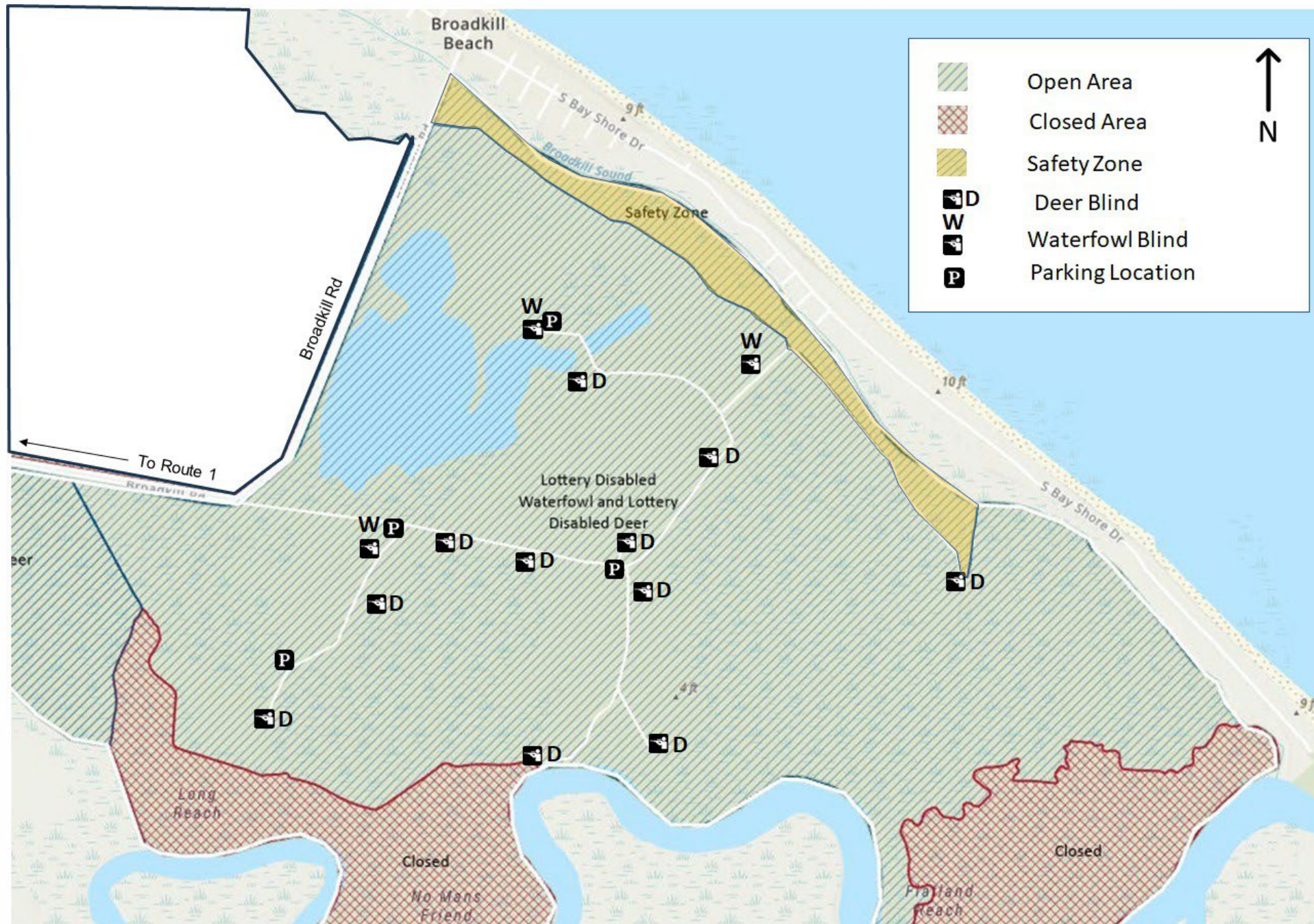
Disabled youth from 10 years through 15 years old may participate in the designated Youth Hunt in the Island Farms Disabled Hunt Area. Youth hunters must be accompanied and assisted by an adult 21 years of age or older. Adult assistants must possess a valid Delaware hunting license or LEN. Adult assistants shall not possess a firearm or other hunting device during the hunt. Hunters 13 -15 years of age must have completed a hunter education course and possess a certification card and must also purchase a Delaware junior hunting license. Adult assistants must remain within 5 feet, maintaining close visual and verbal contact, providing adequate direction to, and can immediately assume control of the firearm from the youth hunter.

Prohibited Activities

By law, recreational activities on national wildlife refuges are prohibited unless expressly permitted. Please check with the office if you have questions.

- Entering hunt areas without possessing authorized hunt permits.
- Hunting and scouting outside designated days.
- The use of rimfire or centerfire rifles and all handguns including muzzleloading pistols.
- The use or possession of buckshot while hunting.
- Use and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or other intoxicating substances while hunting.
- Permanent tree stands, nails, screw-in steps, or other items that penetrate the outer bark of a tree.
- Building or maintaining any structure on the refuge.
- Leaving any property unattended.
- Cutting and damaging vegetation/trees or the use of cut vegetation/trees or organic material as camouflage for any purpose.
- Access to the refuge from private or state property.
- Distribution of bait or hunting with the aid of bait, including any grain, salt, minerals and other substances that are consumed.
- Hunting within 150 yards of any public use facility or hunting in designated safety zones as shown on hunting maps.
- Littering.
- Leaving deer entrails or other waste within 50 feet of any trail, road, or refuge structure.
- Driving or pushing deer.
- Dogs may not be used to hunt or pursue deer.
- Shooting from, across or down any designated refuge road.
- Target shooting or shooting for any purpose other than legal in season hunting.
- Parking in front of or blocking gates.
- Camping and fires.
- Searching for or removal of any natural items such as antlers, skulls, plants, historic, and archaeological features.
- Use of electronic or photographic trail/game monitoring devices.
- Use of drones.





THIS MAP IS FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY. THE BOUNDARY LINES SHOWN ARE APPROXIMATE. FOR BOUNDARY LINE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE REFUGE OFFICE. PLEASE OBSERVE AND ADHERE TO ALL POSTED AREAS. REFER TO REFUGE HUNTING REGULATIONS FOR AVAILABLE HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDING HUNT DATES AND HUNT AREAS.