

2020–2021 White-tailed Deer Hunting

Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge



It is time to apply for the 2020-2021 white-tailed deer hunts at Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). Wertheim is a 2,688-acre Wildlife Refuge located on Long Island's south shore that hosts a variety of habitats including woodlands, grasslands, ponds, tidal marshes and bays. Wertheim was established in 1947 for migratory bird conservation, fish and wildlife-oriented recreation, natural resource protection and threatened and endangered species conservation.

Please be aware that the Refuge Hunt Program has changed for the 2020-2021 hunting season! Please read all forms carefully. We look forward to a safe and productive hunting season.

General Information

Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge is located entirely within Suffolk County and the Town of Brookhaven. Approximately 1,600 acres of the Refuge provide habitat for white-tailed deer, while the remainder is primarily open water, salt marsh, buildings and roads. The Refuge population is estimated to be 50 to 60 deer per square mile, depending on the time of year, and deer movement on/off the Refuge. At high densities, deer can over browse the available vegetation degrading habitat for other species, deer-car collisions, and deer browsing in adjacent residential areas become more serious problems. Our goal is to maintain a deer population of 20 to 30 deer per square mile and the ratio of antlerless to antlered deer at 3:1. The Refuge encourages hunters to target does and mature bucks as identified in the DEC's "let them go and watch them grow" initiative found here <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/27663.html>.

Carmans River, Refuge Trails and Visitors Center are **open to the non-hunting public during the archery season**. Extreme caution should be taken when hunting near the river or Refuge trails. Refuge trails and the Visitors Center will be closed to non-hunters during the shotgun season.

The refuge will no longer offer scouting days.

If you need to contact the Refuge office or report a hunting violation, call the hunt phone at 631-291-5860. The number is on your Refuge permit.

Access

Refuge parking lots are located (see map):

Unit 3 North: Smith Road and Probst Drive;

Unit 3 South: Smith Road and Ranch Drive;

Unit 3A: north of Havenwood Drive West on Smith Road;

Unit 5: along Montauk Highway;

Unit 4: access through 360 Smith Road maintenance gate;

Unit 6: access through 360 Smith Road maintenance gate.

Hunt unit 4 is an open unit and has access for Disabled Hunters. If you qualify for and are requesting handicap access you must contact the Refuge office for details, 631-286-0485 ext. 2111.

During the Refuge shotgun sessions, Units 3A and 5 will be available to archery hunting only, as seen on the Hunt Map.

All parking lots are labeled on the attached Hunt Map. Hunters may enter the Refuge no earlier than one hour before the beginning of legal shooting hours and must exit the Refuge no later than one hour after the end of legal shooting hours. If you have a deer down and are not able to get it out of the woods before sunset, you must call the hunt phone at 631-291-5860.

Parking

Although hunters are not assigned a hunt unit, hunters will not exceed the number of vehicles allowed in each designated hunter parking locations. As each unit is managed for a specific number of hunters, every hunter must retrieve a “block” from the “rail” and place on the vehicle dashboard. Once all blocks have been removed from the rail, the parking area is closed. Refuge parking permits must also be displayed face up on the dashboard of your vehicle. At the end of the hunt day, every hunter must return their block to the rail.

Hunters may not block access roads, Smith Road or the entrance gates. Please limit parking and congregating at restrooms, this area is for restroom use only.

Hunters are required to **drive on roads (shared use road and “vehicle access by permit only”) and obey speed limits**. Hunters entering the refuge at 360 Smith Road should also take note of the shared use/pedestrian road to units 4 and 6. Please drive carefully and obey the posted speed limit. No overnight parking.

Additional Regulations

Distribution of bait and the hunting over bait, salt, or any edible attractant is prohibited on the Refuge. Hunters may NOT push or drive deer.

Hunters may not have loaded weapons, including nocked arrows, in the no hunt buffer zone. Only barbless broadheads are permitted during the archery season. Please refer to the current New York State Hunting and Trapping Regulations handbook for more details. Only shotguns firing a single projectile (slugs only, no buckshot) are permitted during firearms season. Muzzleloaders and crossbows are not permitted on the Refuge.

Permitted hunters are not allowed to bring friends or relatives with them during hunt days. However, a non-hunting adult with a valid New York State hunting license must accompany a youth hunter, under age 16, during hunting.

Stands and Blinds

The Refuge encourages hunting from tree stands because it provides a safer shooting angle and better visibility. The Refuge encourages hunters hunting from a tree stand to fasten their safety harness. Hunters must remove their tree stand at the end of their assigned hunt session. The Refuge encourages hunters to demonstrate courtesy by not setting up close to another hunter.

The Refuge does not permit the marking of any tree, trail, or other Refuge feature with flagging, paint, reflective material, or any other substance. Driving or screwing a nail, spike, or other metal object into a tree or hunting from any tree in which such an object has been driven. Hunters may trim branches up to the diameter of a quarter to place tree stands.

Each hunter may only use one portable deer tree stand or ground blind and it may be left on the Refuge during your designated hunt session at your own risk. Hunters must attach clearly legible identification on their stands with their name, address, and phone number. The Refuge will not be responsible for any stolen property. Tree stands must be removed from the hunt unit at the end of the hunt session.

Hunters who choose to hunt in Unit 5 **MUST** hunt from a portable tree stand. Unit 5 is for archery hunters only. If you are unwilling or unable to hunt from a tree stand, please consider this when selecting your hunt unit.

The Refuge encourages hunters to wear fluorescent orange or pink hat, vest and/or coat while hunting.

Harvesting a Deer

If you shoot a deer, you must make every effort to locate it and reduce it to possession. The Refuge encourages hunters to be respectful of the non-hunting public and to be good ambassadors of their sport. Field dressing harvested deer in Refuge parking lots or along Refuge trails is prohibited. Transporting harvested deer uncovered may affect the public perception of ethical hunting. Please be respectful of the non-hunting public.

The bag limit is three deer per hunter on the Refuge. Upon kill, hunters must complete a New York State carcass tag for each deer. **Tags** must be attached to deer after hunters reach their vehicle. If you fail to follow these procedures, you will be in violation of both Federal and State hunting laws. All deer harvested on the refuge must be reported according to NYS harvest requirements within 7 days by phone 1-866-GAME-RPT (1-866-426-3778), online <https://decals.licensing.east.kalkomey.com/>, or NY Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife app.

Important Signs

1.



Prior to 2020-2021 Hunting season, this sign was used to designate the hunt boundary. Hunters are now responsible for knowing where they are at all times in relation to hunting zones and Refuge boundaries. <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/28182.html>

2.



This is a sign with the National Wildlife Refuge System's blue goose symbol. This sign is used to mark the Refuge boundaries.

3.



The “Area Beyond This Sign Closed,” is a Refuge sign that can only be ignored by permitted hunters during designated hunting sessions.

Additional Prohibited Activities

- Littering
- Use of a spotlight or other artificial light may not be used to locate wildlife
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages
- Use of ATVs and/or dirt bikes, or other non-licensed vehicles
- Target practice
- Camping and campfires
- Searching or removing objects of antiquity including arrowheads, pottery or other items
- Searching for or removing plants or animals other than deer from the Refuge
- Pets are not permitted on the Refuge at anytime

While hunting on the Refuge, you are responsible for knowing and abiding by all State, Federal, and Refuge regulations. Know where you are at all times and respect private property.

Application and Permits

All hunters are required to complete the attached application with a \$15 application fee for each application. Hunters must mail the application(s) on or before **September 12, 2020**. Applications postmarked or received after September 12, 2020, will **not** be accepted for the 2020 - 2021 deer season.

Refuge permits will be issued for alternating 1-week sessions starting on November 2, 2020. A single hunt session is defined as beginning on Monday and concluding on the following Sunday.

In addition to the New York State hunting license, all participating hunters must obtain a Refuge permit. Refuge permits are not transferable. The Refuge does not provide New York State carcass tags. Be sure to supply your own NYS tags for the deer you harvest.

Quota Deer Hunt Application Instructions

- Hunters must fill out a form for each hunt type; one for archery and a second for shotgun.
- Number 1: has been completed for you; Name of Refuge: Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge
- Numbers 2 and 3: This information will be used to notify you. Print legibly.
- Number 4: Circle one. If you are applying for both archery and shotgun, you will fill out two forms.
- Number 5: Your date selections are used in the drawing. When your number is selected, if your first preferred week is available, we will issue you a permit for that week. If it is not available, we will issue you a permit for the next available week based on your preferences, Choice 1 through 7. We encourage you to select as many dates as you are available.

For the 2020-2021 season:

Archery Hunt Weeks:

- 11/02/2020 - 11/08/2020
- 11/16/2020 - 11/22/2020
- 11/30/2020 - 12/06/2020
- 12/14/2020 - 12/20/2020
- 12/28/2020 - 1/03/2021

Concurrent Shotgun and Archery Hunt Weeks (Archery in units 3A and 5):

- 1/11/2021 - 1/17/2021
- 1/25/2021 - 1/31/2021

- Number 6: if you are a disabled hunter and requesting an accommodation, please circle "yes". If you qualify for handicap access you must contact the Refuge office for details, 631-286-0485 ext. 2111.
- Number 7: please sign the appropriate line or lines.

Checklist for Mailing in Your Application

In the envelope:

- ___ Quota Deer Hunt Application for each hunt archer and/ or shotgun
 - ___ Check or Money Order for \$15 per application; if you are applying for archery AND shotgun, you can submit one check for \$30 or two checks for \$15 – DO NOT STAPLE
- Payable to:** U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

___ Address envelope to:

Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge
Re: Deer Hunt
340 Smith Road
Shirley, NY 11967

SUBMIT YOUR HUNT APPLICATION NO LATER THAN September 12, 2020.



QUOTA DEER HUNT APPLICATION
National Wildlife Refuge System



Follow instructions in the refuge hunt publication; not all fields may be required. Read and comply with all refuge regulations, including application deadlines.

1. **Name of Refuge:** Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge 2. **Date of Application:** _____

3. **Full Legal Name:** _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Area Code/Phone No: _____

Email Address: _____

4. **Method (circle only one):** Archery Shotgun

5. **Hunt Date Preferences:**

1st Dates: _____

5th Dates: _____

2nd Dates: _____

6th Dates: _____

3rd Dates: _____

7th Dates: _____

4th Dates: _____

6. **Handicap Access (Circle One):** Yes or NO

7. *I have read and understand the refuge hunt regulations and agree to abide by the regulations governing hunting on the refuge.*

Hunter Signature

Print guardian name and signature here
(required for hunters less than 18 years old)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received: _____

Payment Exempt/No Fee

Payment Required

Payment Amount: _____

Payment Type: Personal Check

Cashier's Check

Money Order

Other:

Notes: Check # _____ Money Order # _____

NOTICES

All information you provide will be considered in reviewing this application. False, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations made in the application may be grounds for revocation of the permit and may be punishable by fine or imprisonment (18 U.S.C. 1001).

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Authority: The information requested is authorized by the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act (16 U.S.C. 668dd-ee) as amended and the Refuge Recreation Act (16 U.S.C. 460k – 460k-4).

Purpose: The collection of contact information is to verify that the individual has an eligible permit to hunt on one of the National Wildlife Refuges that is designated for deer hunting.

Routine Uses: The individual's contact information may be used to verify permit status, provide permittees with permit-related information, and monitor waterfowl hunt activities conducted under a permit. More information about routine uses can be found in the System of Records Notice, Permits System, FWS-21.

Disclosure: Providing the information is required as a condition of maintaining a Federal permit under the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act. Failure to disclose the requested information may be sufficient cause for revocation of the permit. If the information indicates a violation of a statute, regulation, rule, order or license, whether civil, criminal, or regulatory in nature, the information may be transferred to the appropriate Federal, State, local or foreign agency charged with investigating or prosecuting such violations.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT

We are collecting this information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501) to provide the refuge managers the information needed to decide whether or not to allow the requested use, and to respond to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act of 1974. The information that you provide is voluntary; however, submission of the requested information is required to evaluate the qualifications, determine eligibility, and document permit applicants. Failure to provide all required information is sufficient cause for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to deny a permit. We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. OMB has approved this collection of information and assigned OMB Control No. 1018-0140.

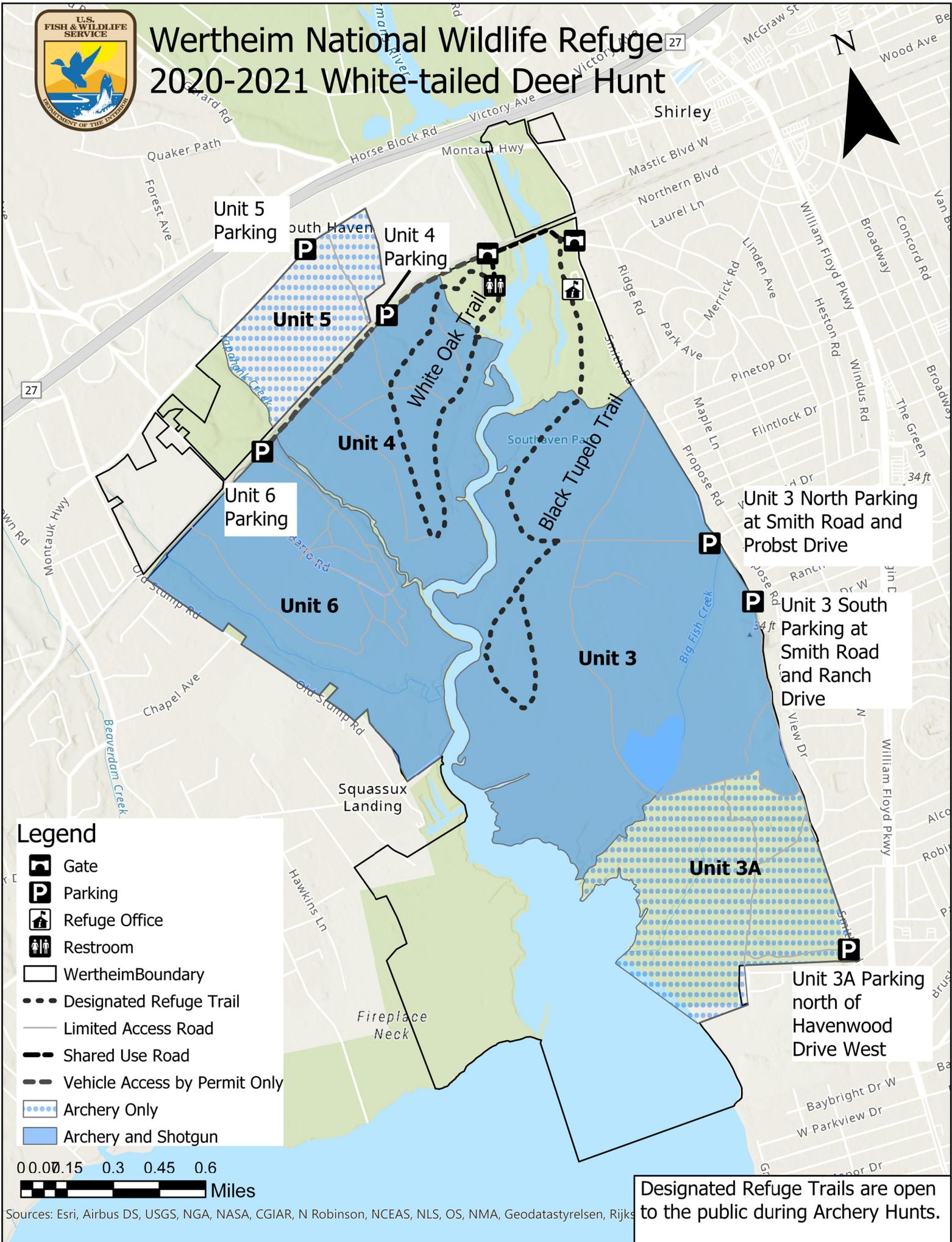
ESTIMATED BURDEN STATEMENT

Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Service Information Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: BPHC, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803, or via email at Info_Coll@fws.gov. Please do not send your completed application to this address.



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Legend

- Gate
- Parking
- Refuge Office
- Restroom
- Wertheim Boundary
- Designated Refuge Trail
- Limited Access Road
- Shared Use Road
- Vehicle Access by Permit Only
- Archery Only
- Archery and Shotgun



Sources: Esri, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodastyrelsen, Rijks

Designated Refuge Trails are open to the public during Archery Hunts.