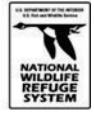


# 2025–2026 White-tailed Deer Hunting

## *Seatuck National Wildlife Refuge*



Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex offers a white-tailed deer hunt at Seatuck National Wildlife Refuge. Seatuck was established on the south shore of Long Island in 1968 for use as an inviolate sanctuary for migratory birds. Part of the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex, this 209 acre refuge provides essential habitat for wintering waterfowl and migrating shorebirds. Seatuck is open to white-tailed deer hunting and is otherwise closed to the public.

### **General Information**

Seatuck National Wildlife Refuge is located entirely within Suffolk County and the Town of Islip. Seatuck is approximately 50 percent wetlands and 50 percent upland. The wetlands are primarily tidal salt marsh, freshwater wetlands, and ponds. The uplands include warm-season grasslands, old fields, shrublands, and woodlands. 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 can increase when population density is high. Refuge staff intend to maintain a deer population of 20 to 30 deer per square mile and a ratio of antlerless to antlered deer at 3:1.

Refuge staff encourage 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>.

Hunting is not permitted within the southern portion of the refuge which is primarily salt marsh (see map). Scouting days will not be offered.

If you need to contact the refuge office or report a hunting violation, call the hunt phone at **631-291-5860**. In case of emergency, hunters should call 911.

### **Access**

A refuge parking lot is in the center of the hunt unit accessible from St. Marks Lane. The parking lot is 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 a hunter has a deer down and is not able to exit the refuge by one hour after sunset, the hunter must call the hunt phone at 631-291-5860.

If a hunter qualifies for and requests handicap access, the hunter must contact the refuge office for details, 631-286-0485.

### **Parking**

Hunters must display the refuge parking permit face up on the dashboard of their vehicle. Hunters may not block access roads or the entrance gate.

Hunters are required to drive on designated roads and obey posted speed limits. No overnight parking. Please drive carefully.

### **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 (NYS) Hunting and Trapping Regulations handbook for more details. Firearms 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 NYS hunting license must accompany a permitted 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 a 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 may also use a game camera. Hunters must attach clearly legible identification on their property with their name, address, and phone number. The refuge will not be responsible for any stolen property. Game cameras, ground blinds, and/or tree stands must be removed from the hunt unit at the end of the assigned hunt session.

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

### **Harvesting a Deer**

Upon shooting a deer, the hunter 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, roads 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.

State regulations determine bag limits on the refuge. Hunters are required to report the harvest of deer within seven (7) days of take. Hunters may report harvest using one of these methods:

- 1) an online game harvest report ([https://decals.east.licensing.app/standalone\\_surveys](https://decals.east.licensing.app/standalone_surveys));
- 2) the toll-free automated reporting system at 1-866-GAME-RPT (1-866-426-3778); or
- 3) the new Game Harvest Mobile App

## Important Signs



This is a sign with the National Wildlife Refuge System’s blue goose symbol. This sign marks the refuge boundaries. Hunters are responsible for knowing their location in relation to hunting zones and refuge boundaries.



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
- Possession of a firearm
- 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, each hunter is responsible for knowing and abiding by all state, federal, and refuge regulations. Know your location and respect private property.

## Hunt Dates:

### Archery Hunt Weeks

11/03/2025 - 11/09/2025

11/17/2025 - 11/23/2025

12/01/2025 – 12/07/2025

12/15/2025 – 12/21/2025

01/05/2026 - 01/11/2026

01/19/2026 - 01/25/2026

### **Application and Permits**

All hunt application materials and permits are available through RecAccess: <https://longisland.recaccess.com>. All hunters must complete the online application with a \$5 processing fee for each application. Hunters must submit the application(s) on or before September 5, 2025. No applications will be received after **September 5, 2025** for the 2025 - 2026 refuge deer hunt season.

On September 10, 2025 email notifications will be sent to those hunters selected in the random drawing. **Selected hunters must secure their refuge hunt permit with payment by September 30, 2025.** Unclaimed permits will be returned to the pool of available permits.

Refuge permits will be issued for the hunt weeks identified above. A single hunt session is defined as beginning on Monday and concluding on the following Sunday.

In addition to the NYS hunting license, all participating hunters must obtain a refuge permit. Refuge permits are not transferable. The refuge does not provide NYS carcass tags. Hunters must supply their own NYS tags for the deer they harvest.

### **Schedule of Hunt Application and Permit Process**

July 14 – Applications available online through <https://longisland.recaccess.com>

September 5 – Deadline for applications

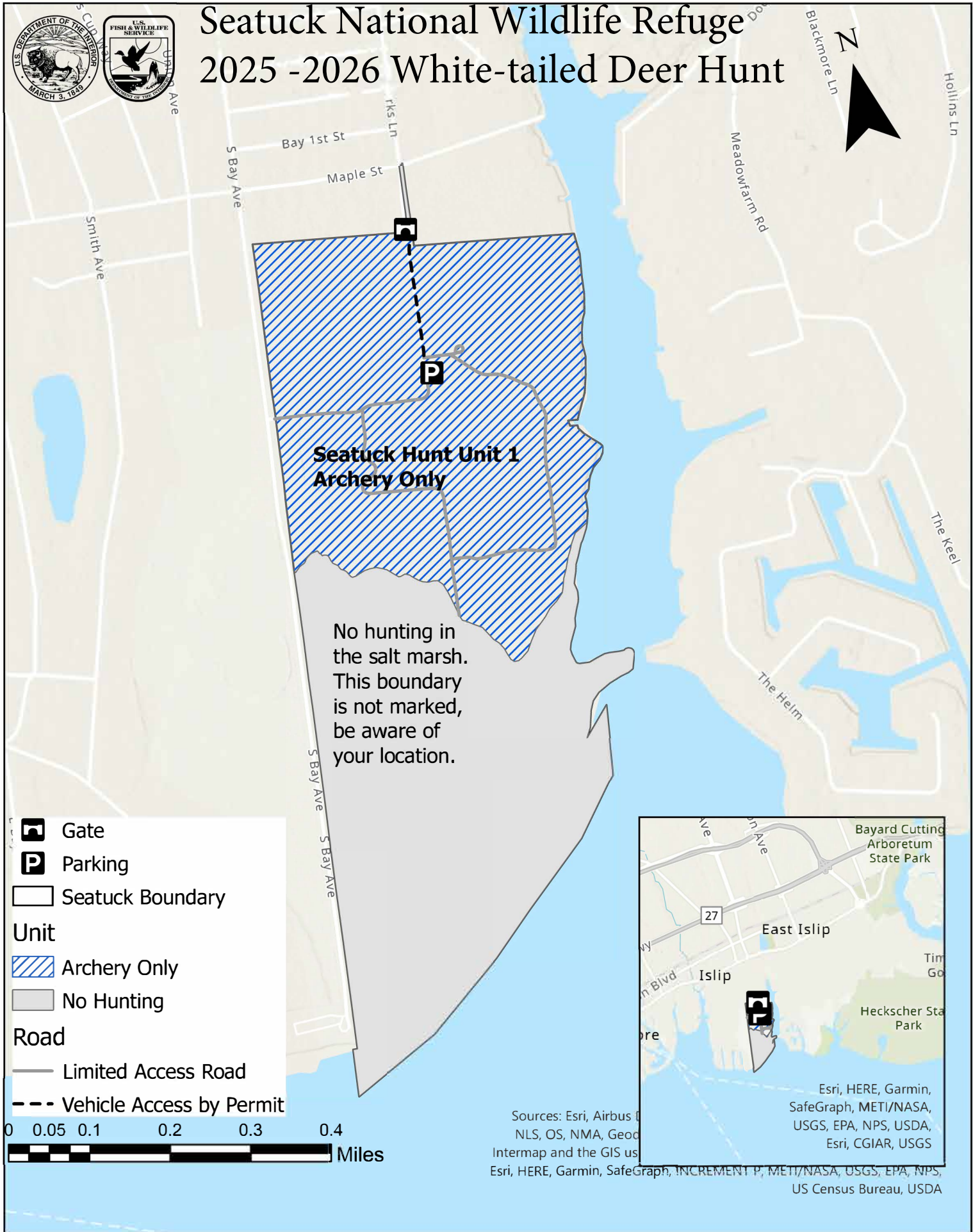
September 10 – Lottery notifications sent to applicants

September 30 – Deadline for applicants to purchase winning permit

October 3 @ 12pm - Release of remaining inventory to public



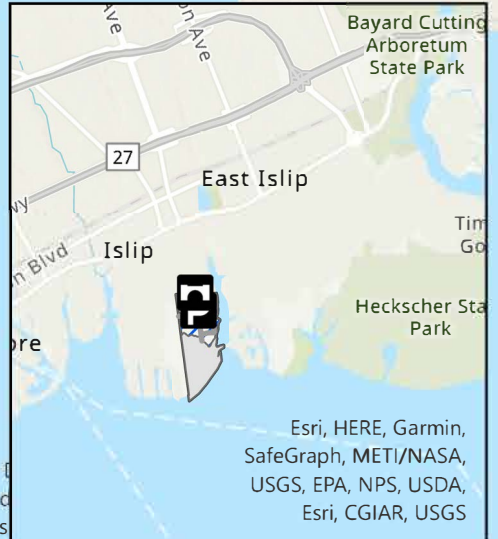
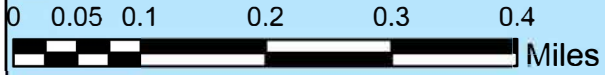
# Seatuck National Wildlife Refuge 2025 -2026 White-tailed Deer Hunt



**Seatuck Hunt Unit 1  
Archery Only**

No hunting in  
the salt marsh.  
This boundary  
is not marked,  
be aware of  
your location.

- Gate
- Parking
- Seatumk Boundary
- Unit**
- Archery Only
- No Hunting
- Road**
- Limited Access Road
- Vehicle Access by Permit



Sources: Esri, Airbus, NLS, OS, NMA, Geod, Intermap and the GIS us, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, Esri, CGIAR, USGS