

Elk Neck State Park Hunting 2025-2026

Rules, Regulations and Policies

1. **A Free Public Hunting Permit is required to hunt at Elk Neck State Park. Every hunter must have their own permit. These permits are NOT transferable.**
2. Hunters are required to visibly display their Free Public Hunting Permit on the dashboard of their vehicle.
3. Park in designated areas only, located in parking spaces adjacent to the sign-in box. Designated parking is indicated by a “P” on the park hunting maps.
4. **All Hunters (and non-hunting companions) must sign in and sign out at the sign-in box at each parking area EVERY time they enter or exit the hunting areas.**
5. Shooting Hours
 - a. ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. **NEW for 2025-2026: Hunters who wound a deer may now legally kill the deer after legal hunting hours as part of the recovery. Hunters must notify the Natural Resources Police by telephone at 800-628-9944 if they suspect they will need to kill a wounded deer they are pursuing after legal shooting hours and must call again when they are finished with the pursuit.**
 - b. Hunters are permitted in the hunting areas 1 ½ hours before sunrise and up to 1 ½ hours after sunset.
6. Hunting is prohibited on all Sundays.
7. It is not lawful to shoot onto, from or across a roadway.
8. Shotguns, rifles and handguns that fire straight-walled cartridges, muzzleloading firearms, air guns and archery equipment may be used to hunt deer during Junior Hunt Day (Saturday, November 15, 2025).
9. **Bow hunters are required to wear fluorescent orange or daylight fluorescent pink during firearm and muzzleloader seasons and Junior Hunt Day:**
 - a. Thursday, October 16 – Saturday, October 25, 2025
Saturday, November 29 – Saturday, December 13, 2025
Saturday, December 20, 2025 – Saturday, January 3, 2026
Friday, January 9 – Saturday, January 10, 2026
 - b. Junior Hunt Day: Saturday, November 15, 2025.
10. All harvested deer must be recorded at the sign-in box.
11. All deer harvested count toward the state bag limits.
12. All State and Federal hunting laws, as well as park regulations, will be strictly enforced.
13. Hunt in designated areas only. Call 410-260-8888 prior to tracking outside of the hunting area.
14. Boundary signs are posted and maps are available on the Elk Neck State Park website at dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/central/ElkNeck/Hunting.aspx. **If you are unsure of a boundary or any rule or regulation, contact the Elk Neck Duty Ranger at 443-252-4258.**
15. Portable tree stands are permitted, but cannot be screwed or nailed into trees. All portable tree stands or blinds must be removed at the end of the day.
16. We ask that you not field dress near trails, parking lots, or any areas used by other park visitors.
17. All deer harvested must be checked in within 24 hours. Visit mdoutdoors.maryland.gov or call 1-888-800-0121.
18. Maryland State Parks are “Trash Free”; all trash must be packed out.
19. The Maryland Natural Resources Police has partnered with Maryland Wildlife Crimestoppers to prevent poaching of our fish and wildlife resources. You can report poaching and wildlife crime while remaining anonymous and be eligible for a cash reward. You can call or text Maryland Wildlife Crimestoppers at 1-443-433-4112 or email mwc.dnr@maryland.gov.
20. **Violating the rules of this program WILL result in citation and loss of hunting permit.**

CARTER PROPERTY

A maximum of 8 hunters can hunt at any given time on a first-come, first-served basis. Each hunter (and non-hunting companions) must sign-in and sign-out on the sign-in sheet and display their Free Public Hunting Permit on their vehicle's dashboard.

- Hunting Dates
 - Bow
 - Friday, September 5, 2025 – Wednesday, February 4, 2026
 - Muzzleloader
 - Thursday, October 16 – Saturday, October 18, 2025
 - Monday, October 20 – Saturday, October 25, 2025 (Antlerless Deer ONLY)
 - Saturday, December 20, 2025 – Saturday, January 3, 2026
 - Firearm (Shotgun or Straight-Walled Cartridge Rifle)
 - Saturday, November 29 – Saturday, December 13, 2025
 - Friday, January 9 – Saturday, January 10, 2026
 - Junior Hunt (for hunters 16 years of age and under). **A maximum of 8 youths will be permitted.** Only hunters with a Junior Hunting License and Hunter Safety Card Number may participate. Each Junior Hunter must be accompanied in the field by an unarmed, licensed adult, age 21 or older. Each Junior Hunter must sign-in and sign-out on the sign-in sheet and display their hunting permits on their vehicle's dashboard.
 - Saturday, November 15, 2025.
 - Primitive Deer Hunt Days
 - Monday, February 2 – Wednesday, February 4, 2026

ROGUES HARBOR and TURKEY POINT (Bow only)

A maximum of 12 hunters at any given time at Rogues Harbor and a maximum of 12 hunters at any given time at Turkey Point are permitted on a first come, first served basis. Each hunter (and non-hunting companions) must sign-in and sign-out on the sign-in sheet and display their Free Public Hunting Permit on their vehicle's dashboard.

- Hunting Dates for Rogues Harbor: Saturday, October 4, 2025 – Wednesday, February 4, 2026
- Hunting Dates for Turkey Point: Saturday, November 1, 2025 – Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Registration:

- All Hunters that plan to hunt at Elk Neck State Park will need to get their Free Public Hunting Permit through mdoutdoors.maryland.gov
 - Hunters must still have their Full Season Hunting License (resident \$35.00; non-resident \$160.00), as well as archery or muzzleloader stamps if applicable (resident \$6.00 each; non-resident \$25.00 each).
 - Hunters are required to display their Free Public Hunting Permit on the dashboard of their vehicle.

About the registration process:

- You can apply for a hunting license and Free Public Hunting Permit online at mdoutdoors.maryland.gov, or at a Licensing and Registration Service Center by appointment only, or through Sport License Agents. For a list of Agents or to make an appointment at a Licensing and Registration Center, visit dnr.maryland.gov/Pages/licensing.aspx.

The future of this hunting program depends on you. Please exercise caution and conduct yourself in an ethical, sportsmanlike manner when in the field.

To Contact the Natural Resources Police, call 410-260-8888.