U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Block Island National Wildlife Refuge *(NWR)*
Hunting and Fishing Program 2026-2027



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide hunting opportunities at Block Island National Wildlife Refuge (refuge) during the 2026-27 refuge hunting season. White-tailed deer hunting opportunities are available at Beane Point, Sandy Point, Grove Point, and Wash Pond hunting units, with some season and weapon restrictions (Figure 1). Wash Pon ! Unit is open to migratory bird hunting (ducks, coot, and merganser). State safety regulations apply. Hunting is not allowed in safety zones. Saltwater fishing opportunities: anglers may saltwater fish from refuge shorelines in accordance with State fishing regulations.

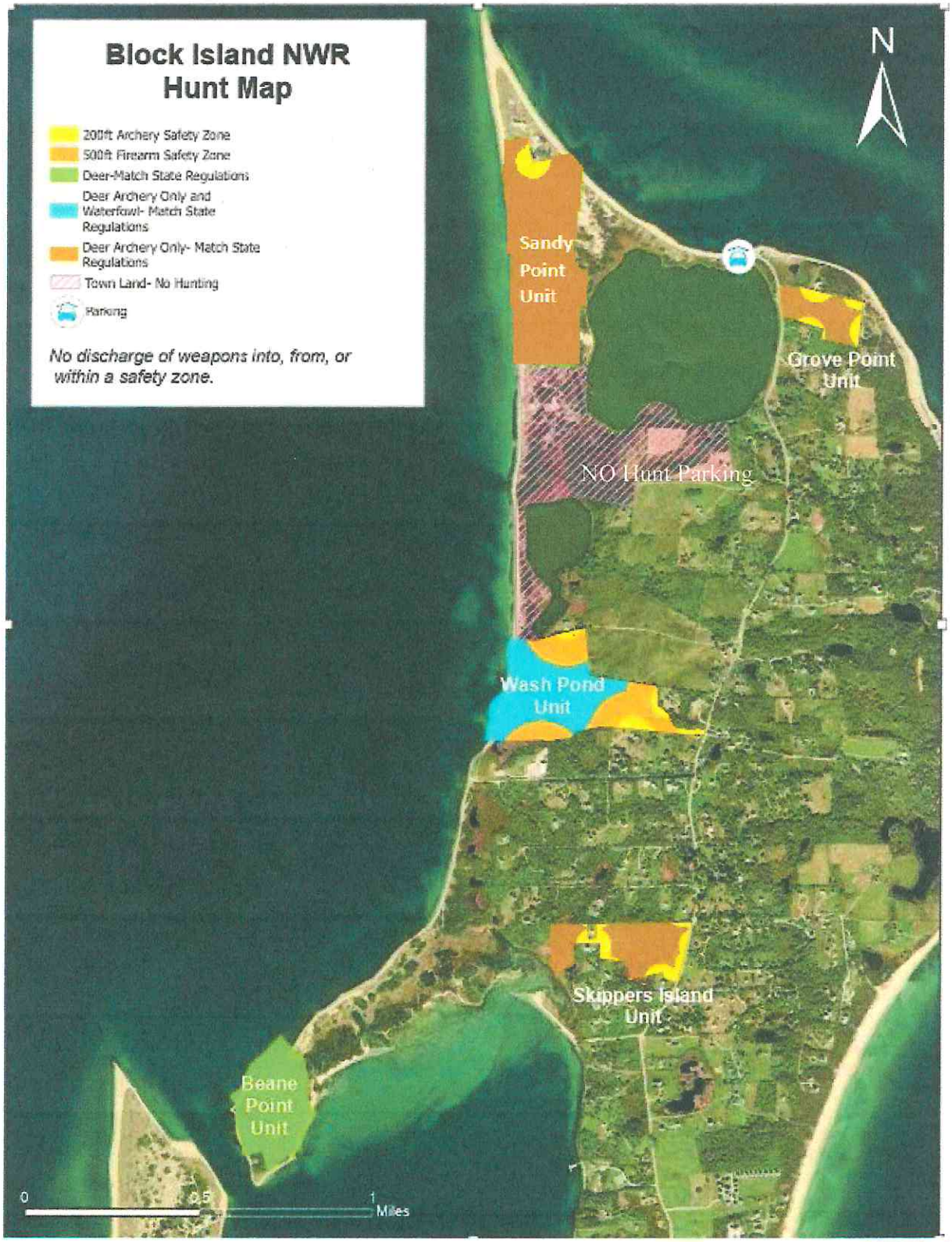
2026-2027 Program Details:

- Beane Point Unit matches State regulations for hunting deer (October – February), which reflects seasons established by the Town of New Shoreham, and prohibits hunting on weekends.
- Sandy Point, Grove Point, Wash Pond, & Skippers Island Units are open for archery only deer hunting, matching the State archery season (October – February), which reflects seasons established by the Town of New Shoreham, and prohibits hunting on weekends. **Archery proficiency certification is required.**
- Wash Pond Unit is open during the State migratory bird hunting season for ducks, coot, and mergansers (October – January).
- Hunters must download, sign, and carry a refuge hunting brochure for each season to serve as written permission to access refuge units.
- Hunters are encouraged to check in with the Town of New Shoreham police department prior to hunting.

Safety measures employed:

- All hunters must have a valid State hunting license, which requires a hunter education course;
- All hunters in the deer archery season, must have an archery proficiency certification;
- No discharge of archery equipment within 200 feet of a dwelling;
- No discharge of firearms within 500 feet of a dwelling;
- No discharge of a weapon from or across a road;
- State seasons reflect Town of New Shoreham limits on weekend hunting;
- Hunters are encouraged to check-in with the Town of New Shoreham Police Department before hunting;
- Hunters will be provided maps of safety setbacks and hunt unit boundaries to aid in navigation;
- The public will be alerted to annual hunting seasons through news releases and website/ Facebook postings;
- Refuge visitors are recommended to wear blaze orange clothing during hunting season;
- The hunting and fishing program will be monitored and have adjustments made as deemed necessary.

Figure 1. Block Island National Wildlife Refuge Hunt Map. 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.

Block Island National Wildlife Refuge 2026-2027 Hunting FAQ's:

1) Highlights for the Hunting Season?

a) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is pleased to announce hunting opportunities at Block Island NWR. A signed refuge brochure, located on www.fws.gov/refuge/block-island is required to hunt at Block Island NWR. The signed brochure can be printed or on the hunter's mobile device. Rhode Island Archery Proficiency Certification is required to hunt at Block Island NWR.

i) **Beane Point Unit** of Block Island NWR is open for the state deer hunting seasons.

- White-tailed deer – Archery – October 15, 16, 19-23, 26-30
- White-tailed deer – Archery, Muzzleloader, Shotgun
  November 2-6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 30
  December 1, 3, 4, 7-11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21, 22
  January 2027: 4–8, 11–15, 19–22, 25–29, 2027
  February 2027: 1–5, 8–12, 2027

ii) **Sandy Point, Grove Point, Wash Pond, and Skippers Island Units** of Block Island NWR are open for the state deer hunting season, **archery only**

- White-tailed deer – Archery
  October 15, 16, 19-23, 26-30
  November 2-6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 30
  December 1, 3, 4, 7-11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21, 22
  January 2027: 4–8, 11–15, 19–22, 25–29, 2027
  February 2027: 1–5, 8–12, 2027

iii) **Wash Pond Unit** is open to the state Waterfowl Hunting season.

- Ducks, Mergansers, and Coot – Shotgun
  October 9–12
  November 25–29
  December 5-January 24, 2027

2) Who is eligible to apply?

a) Anyone who is eligible to purchase a resident or non-resident State of Rhode Island Deer Hunting License and has obtained all required safety certificates is eligible. Rhode Island Archery Proficiency Certification is required to hunt at Block Island NWR, John H. Chafee NWR, and Trustom Pond NWR.

3) Are the refuge hunt units open to non-hunting recreational use during the hunt times?

a) Block Island NWR – no – there are no approved public trails on the refuge; visitors on adjacent lands are encouraged to wear bright orange clothing when hiking trails during the hunting season.

4) Are there other opportunities for public land hunting on Block Island?

a) Yes, there are opportunities for hunting on land managed by the town of New Shoreham. Hunting on town-managed properties in New Shoreham should be directed to the town managers office at townmanager@new-shoreham.com.

5) How do I contact U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service if I have questions about hunting on the refuges?

a) Please email any questions to RhodeIslandComplex@fws.gov. You may also call and leave a message at our Charlestown, RI headquarters at 401 364-9124.