

Delaware's New Conservation Access Pass

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Conservation Access Pass?

A Conservation Access Pass is required for all registered motor vehicles accessing Delaware's state wildlife areas for recreational activities such as birdwatching, wildlife photography, hiking and horseback riding, as well as hunting.

How will funding from the sale of Conservation Access Passes be used?

Proceeds from the sale of the pass will help the Division of Fish & Wildlife maintain and improve these areas for hunting, wildlife viewing and wildlife photography. These funds will also support habitat improvements on state wildlife areas.

When will I need a Conservation Access Pass?

Effective July 1, 2017, the Conservation Access Pass is required for all registered motor vehicles accessing state wildlife areas.

Who needs to purchase the pass?

Anyone accessing a state wildlife area with a registered motor vehicle for recreational activities such as birdwatching, wildlife photography, hiking and horseback riding, as well as hunting, must have a Conservation Access Pass clearly displayed on the dashboard of the vehicle.

If I am driving around a State Wildlife Area but do not stop or park do I need a pass?

Yes. A Conservation Access Pass is needed for any registered motor vehicle used to access state wildlife areas.

Does everyone in a vehicle need to have a Conservation Access Pass?

No. The Conservation Access Pass is assigned to the motor vehicle based on vehicle registration information. The pass should remain in the vehicle clearly displayed on the dashboard while you are using the wildlife area.

Where is the Conservation Access Pass required?

The pass is required to access state wildlife areas that are not exempt. State wildlife area maps can be found [here](#).

Which Division of Fish & Wildlife areas are exempt from the Conservation Access Pass requirement?

Areas that are exempt include the Michael N. Castle Trail on the C&D Canal Conservation Area and designated [tidal](#) and [non-tidal](#) fishing and boating access areas identified in the [Delaware Fishing Guide](#). Educational and shooting range facilities operated by the Division are also exempt, including the Little Creek Hunter Education Center, Aquatic Resources Education Center at Woodland Beach Wildlife Area, DuPont Nature Center at Milford Neck Conservation Area and Ommelanden Hunter Education Training Center and Public Shooting Range in New Castle.

Is the Conservation Access Pass good for entry into Delaware State Parks, State Forests or National Wildlife Refuges?

No. The Conservation Access Pass is required for accessing [State Wildlife Areas](#) managed by the Division of Fish & Wildlife. [Delaware State Parks](#) are administered through a different division of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and a different pass is required to access state parks. [Delaware State Forests](#) are managed through the Delaware Department of Agriculture and do not require an access fee. The [National Wildlife Refuges](#) are owned and managed by the federal government through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which administers its own access fees separate from the state's Division of Fish & Wildlife.

Who can I contact if I have more questions about where the pass is required?

Please call the Division's Wildlife Section at 302-739-9912 Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

How much does a Conservation Access Pass cost?

An annual pass for a Delaware-registered vehicle is \$32.50. An annual pass for out-of-state registered vehicle is \$65. Annual passes are good July 1 through June 30. A 3-day pass for a Delaware-registered vehicle is \$10. A 3-day pass for an out-of-state registered vehicle is \$20. Both 3-day passes are good for three consecutive days. The pass may be transferred to another vehicle of the same owner (as identified on the vehicle registration cards) for \$10.

Can I purchase a Conservation Access Pass online?

Yes. The Conservation Access Pass may be purchased [online](#) using a desktop computer or laptop. *Please do not attempt to use a mobile device, iPad or tablet to purchase the pass.* To purchase the pass online, you will need a printer to print the pass immediately upon purchase. *Remember to have the vehicle registration card available at the time of purchase.*

Where else can I purchase a Conservation Access Pass?

The pass may also be purchased from [authorized license agents](#) throughout the state or at the Division's licensing desk in the Richardson & Robbins Building, 89 Kings Highway, Dover, DE 19901. *Remember to have the vehicle registration card available at the time of purchase.*

Is the Conservation Access Pass a decal?

No, the pass is not a decal. The pass prints on an 8.5x11 sheet of paper that is folded in half and displayed in the vehicle's dashboard when accessing a state wildlife area.

Is my Conservation Access Pass transferable between vehicles?

The pass is assigned to a single registered vehicle, and may be transferred to another registered vehicle of the same owner (as identified on the vehicle registration cards) for \$10.

I have two vehicles. Can I use the pass for both of my vehicles?

No. The pass is assigned to a single registered vehicle. However, you may transfer your pass to another vehicle that you own for \$10.

Do I have to own the vehicle I obtain the pass for?

No. However, you will need to show a vehicle registration card for the vehicle when purchasing the pass because the pass is assigned according to information provided on the vehicle registration card.

Are hunters required to have a Conservation Access Pass?

Yes. Hunters will be issued a single vehicle pass free of charge with the purchase of a hunting license. Hunters who are issued a free pass may purchase additional passes if they use multiple vehicles throughout the year to access state wildlife areas. License exempt hunters who do not purchase a hunting license and who use a motor vehicle to access state wildlife areas must purchase the pass.

I am a hunter and I purchased a hunting license but did not receive my free Conservation Access Pass. Can I still get a pass for free?

Yes, if you missed an opportunity to receive a free pass at the time you purchased your hunting license, please call the DNREC's Recreational Licensing Office at 302-739-9918. Please allow up to 4 weeks for processing.

I am a license-exempt hunter. Do I need to purchase a pass?

Yes. If you plan to access state wildlife areas with a registered motor vehicle, and you did not purchase a hunting license, you will need to purchase a pass and clearly display it on the vehicle's dashboard.

I am a Delaware resident over the age of 65. Do I need to purchase a pass?

Yes, if you are accessing state wildlife areas with a registered motor vehicle, you will need to purchase a pass and clearly display it on the vehicle's dashboard.

I am a Delaware resident but my car is registered in another state. Which pass do I purchase?

You will need to purchase an out-of-state Conservation Access Pass because the pass is assigned according to the vehicle's registration information, not the residency of the person purchasing the pass.

Are there any personal exemptions from the pass?

No. There are no exemptions based on the age of the vehicle owner, driver or occupants.

I am leading a birding group and we want to visit Delaware's state wildlife areas. Can I purchase one Conservation Access Pass for the group?

No, there is no group pass. A pass is assigned to a single registered vehicle. Each vehicle accessing the state wildlife area must have a pass clearly displayed on the dashboard of the vehicle.

What if I lose or misplace my Conservation Access Pass?

Please use your desktop computer or laptop to print a duplicate pass [online](#) at no cost. You will have only two opportunities to obtain a duplicate pass. *Please do not attempt to use a mobile device, iPad or tablet to obtain a duplicate pass.* If you are having difficulty obtaining your duplicate pass online, please contact the DNREC's Recreational Licensing Office at 302-739-9918 Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you use up your two free opportunities, there is a \$5 handling charge for a duplicate pass issued by the Division.

Who can I contact if I have more questions about purchasing the Conservation Access Pass?

Please call the DNREC's Recreational Licensing Office at 302-739-9918 Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.