



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 any allowable activity, including, but not limited to, hunting, birdwatching, hiking and photography. A new type of Conservation Access Pass called the "Resident Senior Lifetime Conservation Access Pass" (also referred to as the "Resident Senior Pass" in this document) is available as of July 1, 2022. For more information about this new type of pass, please continue reading these Frequently Asked Questions.

What is the difference between a vehicle Conservation Access Pass and the new Resident Senior Lifetime Conservation Access Pass?

A vehicle Conservation Access Pass is assigned to a single vehicle's registration and can be transferred to another vehicle of same ownership for a fee \$10.00. Whereas the Resident Senior Lifetime Pass is assigned to an individual and is non-transferable to another individual. The Resident Senior Lifetime Pass can be used in any vehicle provided the pass holder is the driver or a passenger of the vehicle accessing a Delaware State Wildlife Area where passes are required. The Resident Senior Pass does not expire and remains active as long as the pass holder is a resident of the state of Delaware.

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

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

When will I need a Conservation Access Pass?

The Conservation Access Pass has been in effect since July 1, 2017 and is required for all registered motor vehicles accessing Delaware's state wildlife areas. Availability of the new Resident Senior Lifetime Conservation Access Pass begins on July 1, 2022.

Who needs to purchase the pass?

Anyone accessing a Delaware State Wildlife Area with a motor vehicle for any allowable activity, including, but not limited to, hunting, birdwatching, hiking, and photography must have a Conservation Access Pass clearly displayed on the dashboard of the vehicle.

If I am driving within one of Delaware's state wildlife areas, 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 Delaware's 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; please continue reading to understand how the Resident Senior Lifetime Conservation Access Pass differs from other types of Conservation Access Passes. The pass should remain in the vehicle clearly displayed on the dashboard while you are accessing a state wildlife area. If you leave your vehicle, please be sure your pass remains displayed on the vehicle's dashboard. A Resident Senior Lifetime Pass can be used in any vehicle provided the pass holder is the driver or is a passenger of the vehicle accessing Delaware's state wildlife areas where passes are required.

Where is the Conservation Access Pass required?

The pass is required to access Delaware's state wildlife areas that are not exempt from the pass requirement. More specific information and maps showing where passes are required can be found [here](#).

Are there any state wildlife areas where I do not need a pass?

Areas that are exempt include the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal Conservation Area, including the Michael N. Castle Trail, 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 DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife are also exempt, including the following: Little Creek Hunter Education Center at Little Creek Wildlife Area in Kent County, Ommelanden Hunter Education Training Center and Public Shooting Range in New Castle County, Aquatic Resources Education Center at Woodland Beach Wildlife Area in Kent County and DuPont Nature Center at Milford Neck Conservation Area in Sussex County.

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

No. The Conservation Access Pass is required for accessing Delaware [State Wildlife Areas](#) managed by the DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife. [Delaware State Parks](#) are administered through the DNREC Division of Parks and Recreation and a different pass is required to access Delaware State Parks. [Delaware State Forests](#) are managed through the Delaware Department of Agriculture and do not require an access fee. The federal [National Wildlife Refuges](#) are owned and managed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a federal agency that administers its own access fees unrelated to access fees administered by the DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife for state wildlife areas.

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 through Friday, 8:00 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 an out-of-state registered vehicle is \$65.00. Annual passes are valid July 1 through June 30. A three-day pass for a Delaware-registered vehicle is \$10.00. A three-day pass for an out-of-state registered vehicle is \$20.00. Three-day passes are valid for three consecutive dates. The vehicle pass may be transferred to another vehicle of the same owner, as identified on the vehicles' registration cards, for \$10.00. The Resident Senior Lifetime Conservation Access Pass is a one-time fee of \$65.00 as long as the pass holder maintains primary residency in the state of Delaware. The Resident Senior Pass does not expire and remains active as long as the pass holder is a resident of the state of Delaware.

Can I purchase a Conservation Access Pass online?

Yes. The Conservation Access Pass may be purchased [online](#) using a computer or mobile device and printer. Remember to have the vehicle registration card available at the time of purchase. Those eligible to purchase a Resident Senior Lifetime Conservation Access Pass do not provide a vehicle registration card at the time of purchase but must be prepared to verify age and state of Delaware residency.

Where else can I purchase a Conservation Access Pass?

The pass may also be purchased from [authorized license agents](#) throughout the state. Remember to have the vehicle registration card available at the time of purchase. Those eligible to purchase a Resident Senior Lifetime Conservation Access Pass do not provide a vehicle registration card at the time of purchase but must be prepared to verify age and state of Delaware residency.

Is the Conservation Access Pass a decal?

No, the pass is not a decal. The pass prints on an 8.5-inch x 11-inch sheet of paper that you can fold in half and display 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 vehicles' registration cards) for \$10.00. A Resident Senior Lifetime Conservation Access Pass can be used in any vehicle provided the pass holder is the driver or a passenger of the vehicle accessing Delaware's state wildlife areas where passes are required.

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 \$10.00. A Resident Senior Lifetime Conservation Access Pass can be used in any vehicle provided the pass holder is the driver or a passenger of the vehicle accessing Delaware's state wildlife areas where passes are required.

Do I have to own the vehicle for which I am purchasing a pass?

No. However, you will need to show a vehicle registration card for the vehicle when purchasing a pass because the pass is assigned according to information provided on the vehicle registration card. Those eligible to purchase a Resident Senior Lifetime Conservation Access Pass do not provide a vehicle registration card at the time of purchase but must be prepared to verify age and state of Delaware residency.

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 any type of 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. License-exempt hunters who are state of Delaware residents and are aged 65 or older may purchase a Resident Senior Lifetime Conservation Access Pass for a one-time fee of \$65.00 as long as the pass holder maintains primary residency in the state of Delaware.

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 a free pass was not issued at the time of hunting license purchase, a free vehicle pass may be obtained by logging into your [Digital DNREC Account](#) or by contacting the Recreational Licensing Office by phone at 302-739-9918 Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or by email dfwrecl@delaware.gov.

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. License-exempt hunters who are state of Delaware residents and are aged 65 or older may purchase a Resident Senior Lifetime Conservation Access Pass for a one-time fee of \$65.00 as long as the pass holder maintains primary residency in the state of Delaware.

I am a Delaware resident aged 65 or older. 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. Effective July 1, 2022, Delaware residents aged 65 and older now have the option to purchase a Resident Senior Lifetime Conservation Access Pass for a one-time fee of \$65.00 as long as the pass holder maintains primary residency in the state of Delaware.

I am a Delaware resident, but my car is registered in another state. Which pass do I need to 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. However, those eligible to purchase a Resident Senior Lifetime Conservation Access Pass can use the pass in any vehicle provided the pass holder is the driver or a passenger of the vehicle accessing Delaware's state wildlife areas where passes are required.

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?

Duplicate passes may be printed free of charge by logging into your [Digital DNREC Account](#). If you are having difficulty obtaining your duplicate pass, please contact the Recreational Licensing Office by phone at 302-739-9918 Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or by email dfwrecl@delaware.gov.

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

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