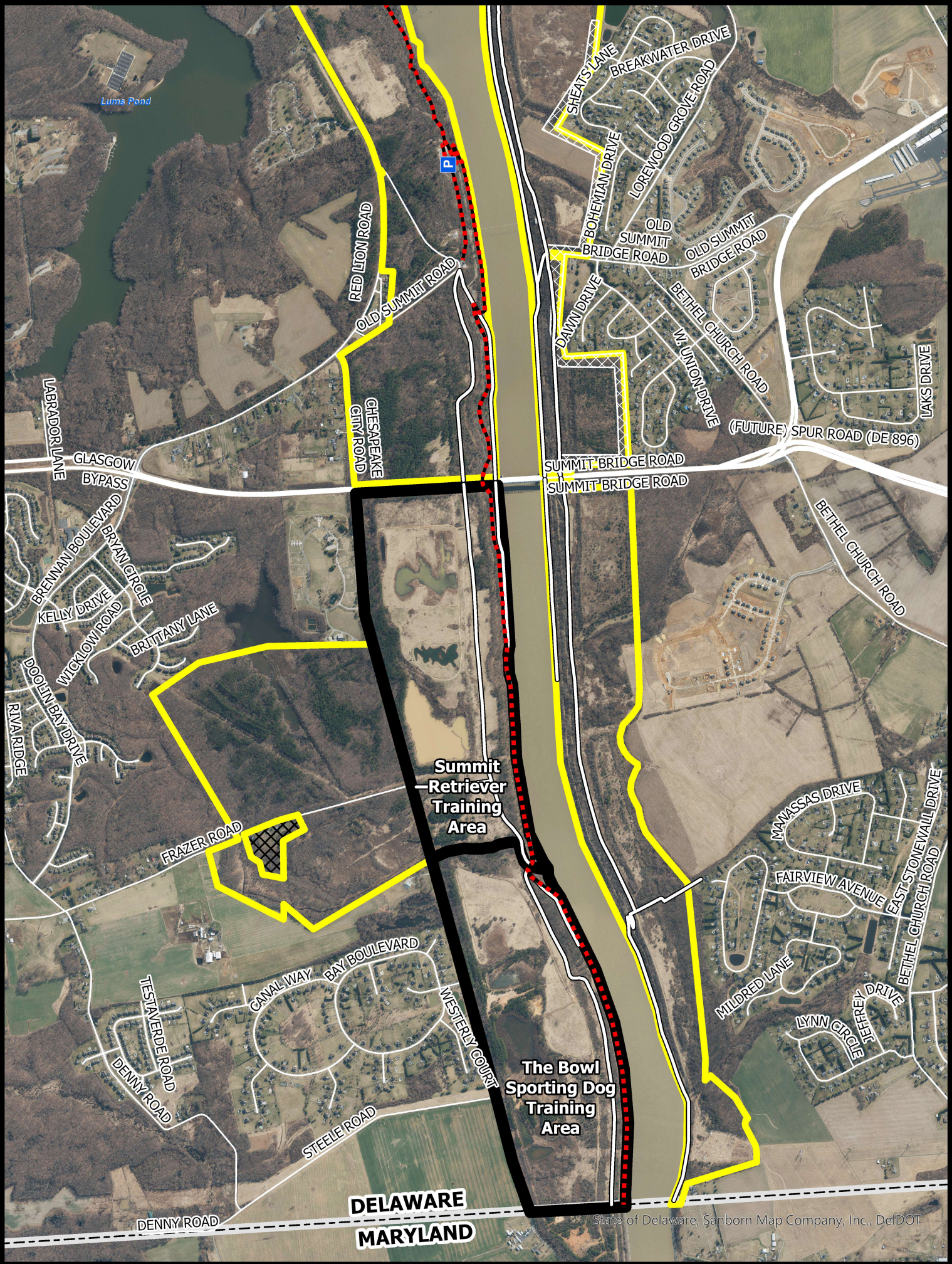




# C&D CANAL

## CONSERVATION AREA

West Section & Dog Training  
Deer, Furbearers, and Small Game Hunting



State of Delaware, Sanborn Map Company, Inc., DelDOT

- Wildlife Area
- Dog Training Area
- Private Property
- CAP Exempt
- Michael Castle Trail
- Safety Zone
- Maintained Roadway
- State Line



BOUNDARIES SHOWN ARE APPROXIMATE AND SHOULD ONLY BE USED AS A GUIDE



**DEER, FURBEARERS & SMALL GAME HUNTING**  
**C&D CANAL CONSERVATION AREA**  
**Effective July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026**

Persons may use state wildlife areas only as directed by the following rules, which have been established by Wildlife Regulations 3900 of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, pursuant to Section 103, 7 Delaware Code. For more information go to <https://de.gov/fw> or call (302) 739-9912. Please refer to the **General Overview** map for additional access and allowable use information.

**A Conservation Access Pass (CAP) is not required for the C&D Canal Conservation Area.**

**GENERAL**

1. Violators of wildlife area regulations may be subject to fines and/or revocation of hunting privileges on state wildlife areas for up to one year.
2. Persons who possess, consume, or are under the influence of drugs or alcoholic beverages are prohibited from hunting or possessing firearms on Division Lands.
3. Failure to accurately complete and return harvest data cards may result in loss of hunting privileges.
4. Firearms may not be discharged outside of established hunting seasons. Target shooting is prohibited at any time.
5. All hunters installing temporary deer stands and/or blinds to remain on-site overnight are required to obtain a free registration number at <https://de.gov/fw> or by calling (302) 739-9912. The registration number must be legibly displayed on all stands and/or blinds.

**DEER HUNTING**

Sunday deer hunting permitted. See Sunday Deer Hunting maps for open areas and hunting implement restrictions.

1. Deer hunting permitted anywhere except within refuges and safety zones.
2. This area **IS OPEN** for the special October antlerless firearms season except for the Summit Retriever Training Area.
3. Deer hunters may use temporary portable stands. No permanent deer stands, platforms, ladders, or blinds may be constructed. No screw-in steps, tree spikes, screws, or nails are allowed. All parts of a temporary portable deer stand must be removed at the end of each day's hunt unless registered with the Division.
4. The Division is not responsible for theft or damage to any temporary stand and placement of a temporary stand does not give the stand owner any exclusive hunting rights to that area.
5. Deer drives are permitted between the hours of 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM. No more than 6 hunters may participate in deer drives.
6. Handguns/pistol caliber rifles are not permitted to be used during any season and this area is NOT open during the January handgun season. Only shotguns and muzzleloaders with rifled barrels may be used for deer hunting.

**UPLAND HUNTING**

**A. Small Game**

1. Small game hunters must display at least 400 square inches of blaze orange while hunting on State Wildlife Areas.
2. Small game hunting permitted anywhere except within refuges, safety zones, Scotts Run and the Summit Retriever Training Areas and dogs are not permitted to enter refuges for any reason.
3. Rabbit hunting closed the week before and the week of December antlerless deer season and during the January shotgun deer season.

4. Rabbit dogs may be trained only on the following Sundays: September 7, 14, 21, 28.

**B. Furbearers**

1. No trapping except by valid contract holders. Trapping rights awarded through competitive bids. Call (302) 739-9912 for bidding information.
2. Raccoon hunting permitted from Sept 1 – March 31 during legal raccoon hunting seasons.
3. Red fox and coyote may be harvested in season while hunting other game species per these map regulations and hunted during the month of February according to applicable state laws.
4. No fox chasing permitted during any deer firearm season or prior to 1:00 PM during turkey season.

**DOG TRAINING**

**SUMMIT RETRIEVER TRAINING AREA**

1. This is a dedicated retriever training area between Route 896 and Guthrie Run restricted to the training of sporting dogs in the act of retrieving.
2. In a cooperative stewardship agreement, the Delaware Bay Retriever Club assists in the management of this area. Except during permitted field trial and organized training events, the club does not maintain exclusive use of the area and the area is open to the public engaged in the act of retriever training.
3. **The Summit Retriever Training Area is closed to hunting except during archery and most firearm deer seasons. This area IS NOT open for the special October Antlerless firearm season.**
4. No dog training permitted during any firearm deer seasons, except on Sundays.
5. It is unlawful to enter the Summit Retriever Training Area for any purpose other than to train dogs in the act of retrieving or to hunt deer during the firearm or archery deer seasons.

**THE BOWL SPORTING DOG AREA**

1. The Bowl Sporting Dog Area is located immediately west of the Summit Retriever Training Area, along the north side of the canal between Guthrie Run and the Maryland State Line. The training of all sporting dogs is permitted within this area.
2. Legal hunting and falconry are permitted within this area.

**MIKE CASTLE RECREATION TRAIL**

1. Hunters using the Mike Castle trail and parking areas to access the conservation area must have firearms unloaded (including bolt removed from crossbow and cap/primer removed from muzzleloader) while on the trail or within any of the trail parking areas.
2. No person shall hunt or discharge any firearm while on or within 100 yards of the recreation trail or within any posted safety zone.
3. All dogs must be leashed, and owners shall be responsible for cleanup of all dog feces while on the recreation trail or within any of the trail parking areas.
4. For more information, please consult the **Mike Castle Trail** map.

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Patrick J. Emory, Director

For further information contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife at (302) 739-9912 or the New Castle County HQ at (302) 834-8433.

**For emergencies or to report violations please call the Enforcement Section at 1-800-523-3336.**