

Finger Lakes Land Trust Deer Management Program FAQ's

Does the Land Trust Allow Hunting?

- FLLT does allow limited permit-based white-tailed deer hunting on some nature preserves. Not all preserves are enrolled in the Deer Management Program. Nature Preserves where hunting is allowed are:

Gun and Bow:

Charles Spencer, Eberhard, Great Hill, High Vista, Hinchcliff, Kehoe, King, Kingsbury Woods, Lindsay-Parsons, Logan Hill, Martin. Plymouth Woods, Staghorn Cliffs, Stevenson, Summerland Farm, Sweedler Preserve Special January Deer Management Focus Area Season, West River/south-east tract of the Great Hill Preserve.

Bow Only: Houghton, Kingsbury Woods, McIlroy Bird Sanctuary, Sweedler Preserve, VanRiper/Whitlock Conservation Area

- FLLT cannot grant permission to people to hunt on a conservation easement property. They are privately owned, and permission must be given by the landowner.
- Hunting is generally allowed on parcels that are pending additions to units of state lands and a permit is not needed. Please contact FLLT for more information.

What Type of Hunting is Allowed on FLLT Preserves?

- Only white-tailed deer hunting is allowed. FLLT does not allow turkey, waterfowl, bear, or small game (squirrels, rabbits, grouse, etc.) hunting. No trapping is allowed.
- Transfer parcels which will be conveyed to NY State, or occasionally the FL National Forest, may be hunted as if they are state lands already. No permit is necessary, but all NYS Laws and Regulations apply. Please ask the hunter to email Jason for clarification.

When is Hunting Allowed?

- Hunting season dates change every year, but bow season always starts on October 1st, and continues until the Friday before the third Saturday in November. Regular firearm (shotgun and rifle) season starts on the third Saturday in November, and continues through the second Sunday in December. The late bow/muzzleloader season starts the day after regular firearm season ends, and continues for 8 days.
- The Tompkins County Deer Management Focus Area begins on the second Saturday in January, and ends on January 31st.

What type of implement can I hunt with on FLLT Preserves?

- Generally speaking, both bow and gun hunting is allowed. However, there are five preserves where only bow hunting is allowed (see list above). Hunters may hunt with a bow only during the regular firearm season.
- Hunters may use any legal implement, including crossbows during the time they are allowed.
- Hunters must apply separately for bow and/or firearm permits, and may receive both if possible.

Can I hunt on more than one preserve?

- You may only hunt on preserves for which you applied for, and were issued a permit to hunt on.

How are applicants selected to receive a permit?

- Anybody is welcome to apply for a permit, for any place they are interested in hunting. Preference will be given to hunters who live nearby, or are members or volunteers of the Land Trust. See front page of the website for other considerations.

Will a map of the preserve be provided if I receive a permit?

- A pdf of the map to be downloaded to your phone, or other device, will be provided to you upon the issuance of your permit. You will be alerted if a hunting zone map has changed. Laminated copies will be provided to permit recipients who do not have the ability to download a map to their phone or upon request of any permit holder. Additionally, the Avenza app can be used on a smart phone to show a hunter's real-time GPS location on the hunting zone map.

Will I know who the other permitted hunters are?

- If you receive a permit, your contact info will be shared among all other hunters who received a permit for that particular preserve and season.

Is there a fee for applying for, or receiving, a hunting permit?

- No. There is no charge to apply for a permit or to hunt by permit on FLLT property. FLLT encourages all hunters to support the program and the organization, as well as the protection of additional lands that support wildlife habitat, by making an annual donation to the organization. We also very much appreciate hunters who volunteer at nature preserves to help with various management activities.