IIT Hunting Policy

Individuals and families use IIT Preserves and trails for a wide range of reasons, including bow hunting for whitetail deer during the Expanded Bow season. IIT trails and Preserves should always feel safe and accessible to the non-hunting public through the seasons. Recreational hunting makes up a very small part of public use of the preserves and is not a Preserve Management priority. IIT initiated a hunting by written permission only policy to support deer management on the island. Data and anecdotal evidence suggest that hunting in the Preserves has little to no effect on local deer populations. Most hunters using the Preserves come from off-island, which diverges from IIT’s stated mission of protecting land for the benefit of the Islesboro community. IIT’s hunting policy incorporates hunter accountability, ensures safety and peace of mind for all Preserve visitors and reduces the visibility of hunter activity.

* Hunting by written permission only; available only through the office
* No long-term tree stands; only allowed during each hunter’s scheduled time; must be clearly marked with hunter’s name, phone number and address, as required by law
* Hunting restricted to a minimum of 50-yard distance from trails
* Game cameras only allowed one week prior to and during scheduled use; must be located a minimum of 50-yards from trails; must be marked by hunter
* Report killed and un-recovered or wounded deer to IIT
* Remove (preferred) or bury gut piles
* Hunting only at Herbert/Mill Dam/Bachelor, Hutchins Island/Hutchins Marsh, Blueberry Hill Preserves, and the Cregar Center (Saturdays only)
* No hunting at the Turtle Head, Hinkle, Narrows and Broad Point Preserves
* Hunting limited to 3 hours after the start of legal hunting in the morning and 3 hours before the end of legal hunting in late afternoon

Islesboro Deer Harvested

2022 - 140

2021 - 117

2020 - 172

2019 - 145

2018 - 132