



Forest Preserve District of Kane County

**2017/18 Deer Management Program
Controlled Archery Component**

RULES & REGULATIONS

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CONTROLLED ARCHERY HUNTING: GENERAL INFORMATION

Program Rationale

Deer are a valued component of the natural resources of Kane County, however when they are overabundant, they can have substantial impacts on the natural areas. Plant diversity and structure, forest regeneration, restoration, other species and human safety may all be affected. The Forest Preserve District of Kane County's obligation to be a responsible steward of these lands requires, at times, that we manage deer populations at levels that maintain and enhance the diversity of flora and fauna within the preserves, by protecting these areas from excessive deer impacts. This management must be conducted using methods that are safe, effective and state-approved.

Non-lethal and lethal methods for managing deer populations, and negative impacts on a large scale were evaluated for efficiency, effectiveness, safety and compliance with Illinois laws. Public input was also gathered at two open house meetings, and through online comments, letters and phone calls. The Forest Preserve District already utilizes non-lethal methods when possible (for example, fencing and repellants). Based upon all of these factors, the two methods identified as safe, effective, state-approved and suitable to the conditions of the areas under consideration are controlled archery hunting and sharpshooting, limited to where they can be done safely.

Hunting is a commonly used and effective deer-management tool in rural areas, and has been used effectively in some suburban areas. Controlled hunts during the established hunting season can safely and successfully reduce deer densities in localized areas, under the proper conditions. In 2017/18, controlled archery hunting will be implemented at three sites with elevated deer densities and documented impacts to the ecosystem. The District is not proposing the use of sharpshooting in 2017/18.

Type of Hunting

Due to the suburban nature and size of many of District holdings and Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) regulations (for example, no firearm hunting east of IL-Route 47), the use of controlled archery hunting is the most-appropriate method for the sites currently in need of management. Additional rules and regulations have been made to tailor the program to these sites and further enhance safety.

Eligibility and Requirements to Participate

Residency: Program participants must be a full-time resident of Kane County.

Hunter-Safety Education Course: To be eligible, all participants must show proof that they have successfully completed a state-approved hunter-safety education course. First-time applicants must submit a photocopy of their hunter safety education card with their application. Hunter-safety certificates from applicants who have previously filed valid and complete applications in prior years do not need to re-send their certificates. They are on file.

Proficiency Test: Each participant selected in the lottery must qualify to participate in the Deer Management Program. The proficiency test will entail hitting 4 of 5 arrows in an 8-inch circle with the equipment to be utilized in the field. You must use broadheads or practice broadheads, field points are not acceptable. Participants using compound bows or crossbows must qualify at 20 yards, and participants using long bows or recurve bows must qualify at 15 yards. **The qualification will be conducted from an elevated position.** Qualification will occur after the lottery has been conducted. **Proficiency tests will be offered Friday, Aug. 4, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 5, 2017, from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., at the Natural Resources department at Aurora West Forest Preserve, 40W244 Hankes Rd., Aurora, IL.**

Orientation Meeting: Each participant selected in the lottery must attend the mandatory orientation meeting on Thursday, Aug. 17, 2017 at Creek Bend Nature Center within LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve, 37W700 Dean St, St. Charles, IL. The Orientation Meeting is from 7-8:30 p.m.

Required Licenses: To be eligible for a District hunting permit, each applicant must show proof of possession of all valid licenses, stamps and permits as required by Illinois state law.

Signed Waiver: All participants must sign a waiver of liability at the mandatory orientation meeting.

Age Requirements: Individuals under the age of 18 must apply as a zone partner with an individual 21 years of age or older, and must be accompanied by the adult applicant when hunting.

CWD testing: Hunters must have all deer taken through this program tested for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Sample drop-off locations will be provided to program participants.

Compliance with Rules

All participants must comply with all District rules and regulations, in addition to Illinois rules and regulations.

Violation of any rule or unethical conduct by a participant may result in revocation of the individual's District-issued hunting permit and/or fines.

Applications

An applicant's name must only occur on one application. Applicants may submit an application online (www.kaneforest.com), but proof of hunter safety (unless on file) and the application fee must be mailed or delivered in person to District headquarters. Applicants may alternatively fill-out a paper application and mail it to or drop it off at District headquarters. District headquarters is located at:

Forest Preserve District of Kane County
Administrative Headquarters
1996 S. Kirk Rd., Ste. 320
Geneva, IL 60134

Applications will not be accepted at any other Forest Preserve District facility. Incomplete, late, faxed or duplicate applications will not be accepted.

Participant Selection

Participants will be selected randomly via a lottery. The lottery will be carried out at Forest Preserve District headquarters on Tuesday, July 25, 2017. The primary applicant will be notified of a group's selection and assigned site and zone. The primary applicant is responsible for notifying secondary applicants and the alternate, if applicable.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In 2017/18 the District will be utilizing controlled archery hunting to achieve deer-management program goals. Hunting periods, sites and zones will be assigned via a lottery system.

Size of Group

Hunters may apply alone or with up to two zone partners.

Fees

There will be a \$10 fee for each application submitted to the District for inclusion in the lottery. Payment must be submitted at the time of application. (Online applicants should mail or deliver payment to District headquarters so that it is received by July 21.) Applicants who have not submitted their \$10 fee will not be entered into the lottery. The application fee is non-refundable.

Upon selection for the program, the permit fee will be \$100 per zone, per hunting period. The permit fees for the zones within Camp Tomo Chi-Chi Knolls will be \$50. **Permit fees will be due before the orientation meeting, following the lottery.**

No refunds will be given, unless the District suspends hunting in a given area.

Rules and Regulations

District Hunting and Parking Permits

- All participants and their “helpers” must clearly display a District-issued parking permit on the dashboard of their vehicle.
- Participants shall not enter District property without a District-issued hunting permit on their person.
- All parking and hunting permits must be returned to the District after the end of a participant’s designated hunting period. Individuals who do not return their permits will be disqualified from the next year’s lottery.

Parking

- All participants must use established or designated parking areas. Parking anywhere else is prohibited. Site/zone maps will illustrate designated parking areas.

Zone Access

- Participants must travel to and from their zone using a District-designated route.
- Marking devices are permitted. Marking devices shall be removed at the end of the participant’s hunting period.

- It is highly recommended that all participants wear a blaze-orange hat while walking to and from their stand.

Sign In and Out

- All participants must sign in and out each time they hunt, and record time and other information requested on the data sheet.

Site Hours and Shooting Hours

- Participants may not enter District property prior to one and one-half hours before legal shooting time, and must exit within one hour after legal shooting time.
- Shooting hours are established by the IDNR, one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Sunrise and sunset times are posted in local newspapers or may be obtained online.
- Zones within Camp Tomo Chi-Chi Knolls are open to hunting Monday thru Thursday, during normal hunting hours, and Friday until noon. No hunting or tree-stand placement may take place after noon on Friday through Sunday.

Scouting and Tree Stand Information

- Participants may scout beginning the day after attending the mandatory orientation meeting. Upon the beginning of the first hunting period, hunters in later periods shall not scout until the first day of their designated hunting period.
- Season 2 participants may not hang stands until the first day of their assigned hunting period.
- Season 1 participants must remove all stands by the end of the last day of their designated hunting period. Season 2 participants have 7 days from the end of season to remove their stands.
- Tree stands may be set up anywhere within an assigned zone, based on map instructions. Participants are encouraged to communicate with participants in adjacent zones prior to selecting stand locations.
- There is no limit to the number of stands that can be placed in a zone.

- No nails, spikes or piercing of bark are allowed in trees. Only branches with a diameter of less than 2 inches may be removed from the stand tree.
- Permanent stands are not allowed.
- Tree stands must be elevated a minimum of six feet from the ground's surface. The hunter's feet must rest on the platform.
- Tree stands must be TMA-certified (Treestand Manufacturer's Association).
- Hunters must use a Fall Arrest System (FAS) or Full Body Harness (FBH) while in a tree stand.
- Each participant may have one or two non-permitted people to assist with stand placement and removal. The program participant must be present and a guest parking pass must be displayed in the vehicle of the "helper."
- Stands must display an original District-issued stand tag. The tag must be clearly visible from the ground.
- Ground blinds shall ONLY be permitted for use in zones determined by the District. Freeman Kame zones 1, 2, 4 and 6 and Brunner/Fox River Shores zones 3, 4 and 5 are ground-blind approved zones.
- Ground blinds must display a District-issued blind tag. The tag must be clearly displayed on the exterior of the blind.
- When clearing shooting lanes, only trees less than 3 inches' diameter may be removed. Only non-native shrubs and trees may be removed.

Post-Harvest Requirements

- All harvested deer must be reported. Failure to report harvest will result in being excluded from future program participation.
 - Participants must follow IDNR check-in regulations and procedures after harvesting a deer.
 - After completing IDNR check-in, participants are required to call the phone number on their District permit, between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. on the day of harvest.
 - Additionally, the harvest must be recorded on the sign-in sheet at the site.

- Field dressing of deer must occur more than 100 yards away from any trail, roadway or parking area.
- Each hunter can have one or two non-permitted people help remove harvested deer. The permitted participant must be present. These “helpers” may not assist with the tracking of a deer. A guest parking pass must be displayed in the vehicle of any “helper.”
- **The collection of a sample for CWD testing from each harvested deer is a requirement for program participation. Failure to comply will result in ineligibility for future program participation.**
 - A list of the locations for sample drop-off locations will be provided by the District.

Other Rules

- No participants shall be under the influence of or be in possession of illegal drugs or alcohol during program participation.
- Participants may harvest an antlered deer first but will be required to harvest an antlerless deer, before harvesting a second antlered deer.
- Participants shall not enter private property adjacent to District land without obtaining permission from the landowner. A participant may call a District police officer to escort the participant to approach a neighbor.
- Participants and “helpers” shall not enter another hunting zone. A participant must contact District staff to be escorted into another zone.
- Participants may only harvest game animals designated on their permit (that is, deer only).
- It is unlawful to make available food, salt, mineral blocks or any other products for ingestion by wild deer. The establishment of food plots is prohibited on District lands.
- Participants may not work together to drive or move deer, or allow other individuals to knowingly do so.
- “Still-hunting” or “stalking” of deer is prohibited.
- If tracking a deer, a participant may only carry a bow without a nocked arrow.
- No participant may nock an arrow until they are in their stand and legal shooting hours have begun.

- Participants at Big Rock must comply with state laws regarding blaze orange during the muzzleloader and late-season antlerless deer seasons.
- Participants must remove all garbage that they bring onto District land.
- Permit holders may neither assign nor transfer their permit.
- Participants must hunt a minimum of five times with at least 25 hours being spent afield.
- An additional point will be awarded for the lottery in the following year for each two female deer harvested by the applicant and/or co-applicant. For groups, the point will be awarded to the primary applicant in the event that individuals each harvest one female and do not apply together the next year. Harvesting five or more female deer will guarantee placement in the same zone in the following season for up to one additional season. If five or more female deer are harvested a second consecutive year, the participant(s) will be guaranteed a spot in the program but not necessarily the same zone.
- Certain zones (Brunner zones 4 and 5, Freeman zone 10, Big Rock zone 1,2 and 4) will only be awarded to applications with a zone partner.

Sites and Zones

Controlled archery hunting will be conducted at three sites in 2017/2018:

1. Brunner Family Forest Preserve/Fox River Shores West (5 zones total)
2. Freeman Kame North and South (10 zones*)
3. Big Rock (4 zones**)

* Zones at Freeman Kame within Camp Tomo Chi-Chi Knolls have special restrictions on hunting. **They are only open Monday to Friday, ending at 12:00 p.m. on Friday.** A reduced fee of \$50 will be charged for these zones. **DO NOT APPLY for these zones if your schedule cannot accommodate the Monday to Friday schedule!**

** **Big Rock Zones are closed to archery hunting during the Deer Firearm Season (Nov. 17-19 and Nov. 30 - Dec. 3). Firearm hunting is not permitted.**

District staff shall set zones within each site. A hunter and members of his or her group shall be assigned a zone for the duration of their program participation.

Season Dates

Season 1 will be Oct. 1, 2017 – Nov. 12, 2017.

Season 2 will be Nov. 13, 2017 – Jan. 14, 2018.

Big Rock Season will be Nov. 1 – Jan.14, 2018, closed during firearm seasons (Nov. 17-19 and Nov. 30-Dec. 3).

Summary of Changes from Last Year

- Size of group has been changed to allow up to two zone partners to apply with a primary applicant.
- Season 2 participants will have one week after the end of season to remove their stands.
- Minimum number of hunts has been changed from three to a combination of five hunts totaling at least 25 hours afield.
- Harvesting 5 or more female deer will guarantee placement in that zone in the following season. This will be limited to two consecutive seasons. If the threshold is met again, a spot in the program will be guaranteed, but not necessarily in that zone.
- Saturday qualification times will be between 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Important Dates

Application Period Begins	Friday, June 30, 2017
Application Period Ends	Friday, July 21, 2017
Lottery	Tuesday, July 25, 2017
Notification	Wednesday, July 26, 2017 – Friday, July 28, 2017
Qualifications***	Friday, Aug. 4, 2017 – Saturday, Aug. 5, 2017
Orientation Meeting***	Thursday, Aug 17, 2017
Alternate Orientation Meeting***	Thursday Aug. 24, 2017

*** No exceptions will be made if applicants are unable to attend planned proficiency and orientation meeting dates. Do not apply if these dates are incompatible with your schedule.

Only those who successfully draw in the lottery need to attend the qualification and orientation meeting.