MCHENRY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ORDINANCE #19-979

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE FOR RECREATIONAL HUNTING ON MCHENRY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT LANDS FOR 2020

WHEREAS, under section 12 of the Conservation District Act, 70 ILCS 410/12 (The “Act”), a district is authorized and empowered “To adopt by-laws, adopt and use a common seal, to enter into contracts, acquire and hold real and personal estate and take such other actions as may be necessary for the proper conduct of its affairs”; and

WHEREAS, the District is authorized “to make and publish all ordinances, rules, and regulations necessary for the management and protection of its property and the conduct of its affairs”; and

WHEREAS, the District has determined that it is reasonable, necessary and desirable to set forth policies and administrative directives to outline the organization and administration of the District; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 19-968 General Use Rules and Regulations and Ordinance No. 19-969 General Use Fines and Penalties were passed on December 19, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the District has determined that it is reasonable, necessary and desirable to issue an Administrative Directive for the 2020 Recreational Hunting Season as approved by the Board of Trustees,

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the President and the Board of Trustees of the McHenry County Conservation District that:

2020 Hunting Season Hunting Program Administrative Directive as prepared by the Land Preservation and Natural Resources Division of the McHenry County Conservation District is accepted and approved by the Board of Trustees of the McHenry County Conservation District.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the President and Board of Trustees of the McHenry County Conservation District the 21st day of April, 2020.

Ayes: ___6___
Nays: ___0___
Absent: ___1___
Abstain: ___0___

Approved: Vernon M. Scacci
VERNON SCACCI, PRESIDENT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Attest: Carolyn Campbell
CAROLYN CAMPBELL, SECRETARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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McHenry County Conservation District  
2020 Deer Hunting Program

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Introduction/General Information

Philosophy

The McHenry County Conservation (District) supports hunting practiced in a legal, responsible, safe, and ethical manner. Regulated hunting is the utilization of a renewable resource and fits within the definition and framework of Conservation.

The District’s hunting program operates on the basis of three philosophies. These philosophies serve as the foundation of the program and are as follows:

- **Safety**: is the top priority of the hunting program. The highest standards of safety are demanded from all participants and staff involved in the program. Safety shall not be compromised.

- **Only ecologically self-sustaining wildlife populations** are included in the scope of the program. The definition of “ecologically self-sustaining” is those populations naturally found in viable numbers on District sites. These are wildlife species able to sustain their population through natural reproductive rates.

- The District strives to integrate hunting into the list of **recreational opportunities** available on various sites it owns and manages. The activities of the hunting program will be tailored to prevent significant changes to the District-established pattern of public use on its sites.

Types of Hunting Permitted

The District has three types of deer hunting programs:
- Archery* Deer Hunting
- Firearm Deer
- Combination Archery* and Firearm Deer Hunting
- *Archery Turkey Hunting (Included in Archery Deer Hunting)

Eligibility/ Requirements to Participate

**Web-based Sign-in/out**: Participants will need a smartphone, or other mobile internet device to access web-based programs for checking in and out of hunting areas. Participants requiring special accommodation assistance, need to contact the District at the time of application so we can best meet each individual’s needs. Notification of accommodation requirements after zone selection limits the District’s ability to accommodate. For accommodation assistance, please contact Gabriel Powers at 815-678-4532 x 8146 or gpowers@mccdistrict.org.

**Hunter safety education course**: To be eligible, all participants must show proof they have successfully completed a state- or federally-approved hunter safety education course. First time applicants must submit a photocopy of the applicant’s Hunter Safety Education card with the application. For more information about Hunter Safety Education, contact the Illinois Department of Natural Resources at 800-832-2599 or www.dnr.state.il.us
**Proficiency test:** Archery hunters must pass a proficiency test for each type of archery tool they plan to use, i.e. compound, longbow and crossbow. See archery program overview for more information.

**Orientation meetings:** Each participant must attend an orientation meeting for the type of hunting permitted. The archery and combo deer hunting program meeting is on Thursday, September 3, 2020 and the firearm deer hunting meeting is on Thursday, October 8, 2020. The Archery meeting will be held at McHenry County College Conference Center and start at 7:00 p.m. CST. The Firearm meeting will be held at the Lost Valley Visitor’s Center and starts at 7:00 p.m. CST. All participants should review the program information and rules prior to the orientation meeting and ask questions at that time.

**Necessary licenses:** To be eligible for a District-issued hunting permit, every applicant must show proof of possession of all valid licenses and permits as required by Federal and Illinois State law. These will be checked at the orientation meeting.

**Age requirements:** Participants must have reached their ninth birthday by October 1 of the current year to be eligible to hunt. For the purpose of this program, **youth hunters** are those participants who are seventeen (17) years old by Oct 1, 2020 or younger.

Any participant **under the age of eighteen** (18) years of age must be accompanied by a person twenty-one (21) years of age or older, who will be in the immediate area (100 feet).

**Disabled hunters:** Persons with disabilities may be allowed unique accommodations for participation in the hunting program. Each case will be handled on an individual basis. The definition of a person with disabilities is as per federal and state laws. Applicants with disabilities needing accommodations should contact the District via telephone, email or any other means to arrange accommodations. If you need accommodation assistance, please do so **at the time of application** so we can best meet each individual’s needs. Notification of accommodation requirements after zone selection limits the District’s ability to accommodate. For accommodation assistance, please contact Gabriel Powers at 815-678-4532 x 8146 or gpowers@mccdistrict.org.

**Resident vs. non-resident:** The program is open to both residents of McHenry County and non-residents. **All applicants will be assessed an individual fee for the privilege to hunt.** The number of adult hunters in the group, and each individual’s residency will determine the amount of each applicant’s fee based on the selected group’s zone fees. There is a **fee reduction for McHenry County residents.** For the purpose of this program, “resident” means a person who in good faith makes application for any hunting program and verifies by statement he or she has maintained his or her permanent abode in McHenry County. A person’s permanent abode is his or her fixed and permanent dwelling place, as distinguished from a temporary or transient place of residence. Domiciliary intent is required to establish that the person is maintaining his or her permanent abode in McHenry County. Evidence of domiciliary intent includes, but is not limited to, proof of the location where the person is legally registered to vote or pays property tax, or a copy of a recent utility bill or driver’s license.

**Signed waiver:** All participants must sign a waiver of liability at the mandatory orientation meeting.
All participants must comply with all Federal and Illinois State rules and regulations, unless the District regulations are more restrictive. All participants must agree to expeditiously report any violations or non-compliance of rules and regulations to Conservation District Police Officers.

Violation of any rule or exhibition of unethical or unsafe conduct by a participant may result in revocation of that person’s District-issued hunting permit, a fine, or both.

A participant’s failure to show up for their designated hunting event may prevent them from future hunting opportunities with the District.

A hunter may apply for all of the hunting programs as listed. However, an applicant’s name must appear on only one application for any given program. All applicants must use the District’s on-line application system, linked at www.mccdistrict.org. If an applicant does not own a computer, the District provides public computers at Prairiewiew Education Center, 2112 Behan Road, Crystal Lake, or the Lost Valley Visitor Center at 6316 Harts Road, Ringwood, IL 60072. Incomplete applications, late, mailed, or faxed applications, and duplicate applications will not be accepted. The deadline for archery/combo applications is July 17, 2020 and firearm applications is September 11, 2020; both deadlines occur at 3:30pm CST.

Participants will be selected by a lottery. The lottery selections are tied to a weighted point system. All participants will be electronically notified of the group’s assigned zone, but the group leader is responsible for confirming information has been received by all members of the group.

Deer hunting:
The goals of the lottery system are:
1) To provide a quality program for most and a hunting opportunity for all applicants. Therefore depending on lottery timing, and the number of applicants, those drawn for archery/combo may be placed at the bottom of the firearm lottery.
2) To maximize hunter opportunities (preference to partners for archery hunting groups).
3) To serve the public of McHenry County (preference to adult residents applicants in lotteries where demand exceeds supply).
4) To encourage conservation values for the next generation (preference for youth, residency independent).
5) To manage the deer herd (preference to hunters who participate in doe harvest).
6) To balance hunter demand and opportunity supply (preference adjustments based on zone, program availability, hunter preference and event attendance).
There will be an annually adjusted formula used in the lottery based on District goals and hunter data. Possible criteria will be County of residence, female-male harvest ratios, program attendance, past hours hunted, number of partners, youth partner, zone preferences, past lottery success, qualification success, and zone/site deer population estimates.

**Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing for Adult Deer is Mandatory:**
CWD occurs throughout McHenry County and multiple positive deer have been harvested on District sites. All District deer hunters must have their harvested adult deer checked for CWD. Deer harvested during archery, muzzleloader or late CWD seasons, hunters will bring the entire animal or just the deer head; refrigerated but not frozen, for testing within 72 hours of harvest to an IDNR designated CWD testing partnership facility. The hunter will fill out a short form that includes their District hunting site. The partnership facility will keep the forms and report them to the District. The hunter does not have to send anything in to the District.

Deer harvested during the Illinois first or second firearm seasons must be registered at either the McHenry County check station, located at Moraine Hills State Park, McHenry Dam Day Use Area, or the Boone County Fairgrounds; CWD testing occurs at both sites.

Deer harvested and planned for shoulder/head mount taxidermy must be tested for CWD. Firearm hunters during the 1st and 2nd Firearm season must take their deer to the IDNR check station to have their deer checked in. If they wish to have the deer mounted, they or a taxidermist can cape out and skull cap the deer to preserve the antlers. The caped head can then be dropped off at the IDNR check station or at an IDNR designated CWD testing partnership facility within 72 hours of harvest. If a trophy deer is taken during any other season, you may take the head/neck, minus the cape and skullcap to the partnership facility. What this means, is you, or your taxidermist, can remove the cape and skull cap prior to bringing it to be tested then partnership facility will take the head and perform the test.

If you prefer to have a European mount made (European mount is the skinned out and bleached skull with antlers attached), you may take the head to partnering facilities for testing. You may have to wait or leave the head at the facility depending on availability and schedule so communication with local partnership facilities prior to harvest is encouraged. Some testing facilities can perform the European-style mount for you. The District will provide information on partnership facilities at the mandatory orientation meeting. Please contact the District or IDNR for additional information and location of current partnership facilities in McHenry County.
Program Overview

Archery Deer Program

The District offers three programs for archery deer hunting: full season, late season, and a Special season east side 9-Day archery deer program. All archery programs, plus the combo deer hunt, are on one application. The 9-day Special Season Eastside Archery Program dates are Oct 2-4, Oct 30-Nov 1, and Nov 6-8. The Full Season will begin October 1 and Late Season will begin November 1, 2020 and will run through the end of the deer season January 17, 2021.

Size of group: Hunters may apply as a single, or in a group of two or three applicants. Each zone can accommodate a group up to three adult hunters. An additional three youth hunters may apply with a group of three adults. All youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult while hunting at a 1:1 youth to adult ratio. Two (or more) youth hunters cannot hunt with one adult hunter.

Preference to partners: Preference in the lottery is to partners. Groups of two hunters have preference over a single applicant, and groups of three hunters will have preference over paired hunters.

Zones: District staff sets zones within each site. A hunter (and his/her partners) is assigned to a specific zone for the duration of their opportunity.

Proficiency test: Each participant must qualify to participate in the Archery Deer Hunting program by hitting 4 out of 5 arrows in an 8-inch circle with the equipment carried in the field. You must use broadheads or practice broadheads (no field points). You must bring five (5) arrows; those who have less than five arrows with them will not be allowed to shoot. If you are hunting with a crossbow, you must qualify with a crossbow. The distance for this qualification will be twenty (20) yards for compound and crossbows, and fifteen (15) yards for recurve and longbows. Participants will receive two (2) opportunities to qualify. However, in the interest of time, if an archer does not qualify on the first try, they must go to the back of the line for their second chance to qualify (youth archers will not be required to go to the end of the line). Archers attempting to qualify with multiple bows do not need to go to the back of the line to qualify with a second bow. Crossbow archers qualify by hitting 2 out of 2 arrows in an 8-inch circle, and will only receive one (1) opportunity to qualify. Crossbow archers are only required to possess the necessary two (2) arrows for qualification, not five (5). New this year: due to high volume of archers, and annual high proficiency of some archers, we will be evaluating 4 of 4 first try bullseye hits for a conservation archer rating, which will allow for reduced future testing.

This year’s qualifications will take place the morning of Saturday, August 8, 2020. Applicants who are invited to the qualifications will receive information on the place and time. Participants are encouraged to complete a certified Bow hunter’s Education course. For more information about courses, contact the National Bow Hunter Education Foundation at 309-647-7128.
Firearm Deer Program

The District offers hunts at three sites during two firearms seasons, the first and second IL Deer Seasons. You may apply with a youth partner (17 years old (by Oct 1st) or younger) who will be placed in the same zone. Both applicants must apply and list the adult as the group leader. There is no fee for the youth hunter, and youth residency considerations do not apply for the lottery. Applicants not drawn in the archery or combo opportunities will receive preference for the firearms zones.

District staff will set zones within each site. Each firearm zone will be limited to one participant. The exception is A/B partner zones, and when an adult has a youth partner or has requested to mentor another adult. In youth and mentorship circumstances, hunters must be within 100 feet of each other.

Combination Archery and Firearm Deer Program

The archery-combo season(s) hunting dates are aligned with Full and Late season archery programs. Full Season will begin October 1, and Late Season will begin November 1, 2020 and will run through the end of the deer season January 17, 2021. This program combines archery season hunting with some firearm seasons. All combination zones will be able to participate in the muzzleloader (Dec 11-13) and both CWD seasons (Dec 31-Jan 3; Jan 15-17). The Glacial Park combination zones are additionally allowed to firearm hunt during the IL first firearm season (Nov 20-22) as it coincides with the District’s firearm hunt. No other archery/combo sites are allowed to participate in hunting or scouting during the IL first or second season firearm hunts. No hunting or scouting shall occur at any archery/combo sites December 3-6, Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 26), Christmas Eve or Christmas Day (Dec. 24 and 25).

Size of group: Archery-Combo Deer Hunting applicants may submit their application with one or two partners, for a maximum of three adult hunters per zone. In order to encourage youth hunters, one additional youth per adult hunter may be in the group for a total of up to six (6) hunters. Only one youth may hunt with one adult at a time. The archery and combo hunt are on the same application.

For the archery hunt, up to three adult hunters may hunt in a zone at one time. For the firearms portion of the hunt, only one member of the group may hunt in the zone at a time except in cases where the large archery zone is divided into two firearms zones, or when hunting with a youth hunter.

Zones: District staff will set zones within each site. A hunter (and his/her partner(s)) is assigned to a zone for the duration of their opportunity. In some cases, the archery zones will be different from the firearm zones.

Fall Archery Turkey Hunting:
Fall turkey hunting is included at no additional charge for all archery deer hunters permitted through the District’s Program. Hunters must possess a turkey tag and follow all state statutes related to fall archery turkey hunting. In addition to State Statutes, fall turkey hunters must shoot/hunt from their elevated deer stand. Turkey hunting is being provided as a bonus opportunity to the District’s fall archery hunters.
Fees will be collected for each hunting opportunity if the applicant is selected to participate in the program. Participants will be able to pay online with a credit card prior to the orientation meeting.

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

Each individual hunter will be responsible for paying for his or her hunting privileges. The final fee distribution for each individual is based on the **type of program**, the **number of adults** in a hunting group, the individual’s County of **residency**, and the zone **fee rates** below. **Youth hunters** will not be charged, have their residency assessed, nor factored as part of the hunting group fee breakdown. The group will not be permitted to hunt until all members have paid their individual fees, which satisfy the assessed zone rates listed below.

For example, in a full season archery group with two adult non-resident hunters, each hunter will be charged $400. An adult two-person full season archery group with both being McHenry County residents will pay $200 each. In a split residency full season group of two adults, the McHenry County resident will pay $200 and the out of County hunter will pay $400. In the same full season zone with three adult hunters, the resident hunters will pay $133.33 each and the non-resident hunters will pay $266.67 each. A full season group with two adult resident hunters and one youth, each adult hunter will be charged $200.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>McHenry Co. Resident</th>
<th>Base Zone Rate (Non-Resident)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full season*</td>
<td>50% Discount</td>
<td>$800 per zone</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1 - January 17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Season*</td>
<td>50% Discount</td>
<td>$600 per zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1 – January 17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special season eastside*</td>
<td>50% Discount</td>
<td>$200 per zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>archery- 9 Day Deer /Turkey</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearm deer season</td>
<td>$100 per individual</td>
<td>$200 per individual</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes Fall Archery Turkey Hunting. See rules on page 7.
### Important Dates

#### Archery and Combo
- Applications Due: July 17, 2020 - 3:30pm CST
- Notification for qualification attendance: July 24, 2020
- Qualifications: August 8, 2020
- Zone Lottery: August 14, 2020
- Notification of zone placement: By August 21, 2020
- Orientation: September 3, 2020 - 7:00pm CST

#### Firearms
- Applications due: September 11, 2020 - 3:30pm CST
- Lottery: September 16, 2020
- Notification: By September 23, 2020
- Orientation: October 8, 2020 - 7:00pm CST
Hunting Sites and Dates

Please note: These dates are subject to change based on IDNR dates

**Archery Deer Hunt**

**Full Season: October 1 – January 17**

- **Alden Sedge Meadow**: number of zones not to exceed three (3). Number of adult hunters not to exceed nine (9).
- **Coral Woods**: number of zones not to exceed one (1). Number of adult hunters not to exceed three (3).
- **High Point**: number of zones not to exceed one (1). Number of adult hunters not to exceed three (3).
- **Hollows**: number of zones not to exceed one (1). Number of adult hunters not to exceed three (3).
- **HUM-Diekman/formerly Kloempken**: number of zones not to exceed two (2). Number of adult hunters not to exceed six (6).
- **Lake Elizabeth**: number of zones not to exceed one (1). Number of adult hunters not to exceed three (3).
- **Marengo Ridge**: number of zones not to exceed four (4). Number of adult hunters not to exceed twelve (12).
- **Pioneer Fen**: number of zones not to exceed one (1). Number of adult hunters not to exceed three (3).
- **Pleasant Valley**: number of zones not to exceed four (4). Number of adult hunters not to exceed twelve (12).
- **Queen Anne Prairie**: number of zones not to exceed five (5). Number of adult hunters not to exceed fifteen (15).
- **Rush Creek**: number of zones not to exceed four (4). Number of adult hunters not to exceed twelve (12).
- **Silver Creek**: number of zones not to exceed two (2). Number of adult hunters not to exceed six (6).
- **Stickney Run - Indian Ridge**: number of zones not to exceed one (1). Number of adult hunters not to exceed three (3).
- **Stickney Run South**: number of zones not to exceed one (1). Number of adult hunters not to exceed three (3).
- **Winding Creek**: number of zones not to exceed three (3). Number of adult hunters not to exceed nine (9).

**Late Season: November 1 - January 17**

- **Fel-Pro West Entrance**: number of zones not to exceed one (1). Number of adult hunters not to exceed three (3).
- **High Point**: number of zones not to exceed two (2). Number of adult hunters not to exceed six (6).
- **Fox Bluff**: number of zones not to exceed four (4). Number of adult hunters not to exceed twelve (12).
- **Winding Creek**: number of zones not to exceed one (1). Number of adult hunters not to exceed three (3).
9-day Special Season Eastside Program: Oct 2-4, Oct 30-Nov 1, Nov 6-8

**Hickory Grove:** number of zones not to exceed three (3). Number of adult hunters not to exceed nine (9).

**Hollows:** number of zones not to exceed three (3). Number of adult hunters not to exceed nine (9).

**Lyons Prairie:** number of zones not to exceed three (3). Number of adult hunters not to exceed nine (9).

**Silver Creek:** number of zones not to exceed five (5). Number of adult hunters not to exceed fifteen (15).

**Stickney Run North:** number of zones not to exceed three (3). Number of adult hunters not to exceed nine (9).

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### Combination Archery and Firearm Deer Hunt

**Combo Archery/ Firearm deer hunt:** Full Season October 1-January 17, Late Season November 1 - January 17 (Including muzzleloader and late CWD firearm seasons: December 11-13, December 31-January 3, and January 15-17, 2021 only.) No hunting or scouting is permitted during the regular first or second firearm seasons, except for Glacial Park combo, which will be allowed to participate in the first firearm season November 20-22. Combo hunters participating in the first firearm season at Glacial Park hunt will be required to follow the check in procedure for firearm hunters.

**Full Season: October 1 – January 17**

- **Brookdale – Paulson, Bunker Hill, Brookdale and Deep Cut Roads:** number of zones not to exceed five (5). Number of adult hunters not to exceed fifteen (15).
- **Kishwaukee Corridor:** number of zones not to exceed nine (8). Number of adult hunters not to exceed twenty seven (24).
- **Coral Woods:** number of zones not to exceed four (4). Number of adult hunters not to exceed twelve (12).

**Late Season: November 1 - January 17**

- **Brookdale - Deep Cut Road:** number of zones not to exceed two (2). Number of adult hunters not to exceed six (6).
- **Glacial Park:** number of zones not to exceed four (4). Number of adult hunters not to exceed twelve (12).

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### Firearm Deer Hunt

**First Season – November 20-22**

- **Glacial Park:** Number of zones not to exceed thirty-two (32). Number of hunters not to exceed 64. Please note: (the hunter may need to supply his/her own free-standing elevated stand or rent one from the District.) Please reference zone map and indicate on application if preference for free-standing grassland zone. The District has ten free-standing tripods for a $50 rental fee.
Second Season – December 3-6

Marengo Ridge: Number of zones not to exceed ten (10). Number of hunters not to exceed twenty (20).
Rush Creek: Number of zones not to exceed ten (10). Number of hunters not to exceed 20.

**Rules, Regulations, Provisions, and Directives**

**District hunting and parking permits:**

All participants and their helpers must clearly display a District-issued parking permit on the dashboard or rearview mirror of their vehicle.

No participants shall enter District property without a District-issued hunting permit on their person, at all times. Hunting permits should be stored in an easily accessible location where they can be presented to an enforcement officer upon request.

**Parking:**

All participants must use established or designated parking lots. No parking is allowed along county or township roads. See site/zone maps for designated parking areas.

**Access/Getting to your zone:**

All participants and permit holders must travel to and from their hunting zone using a District-designated route. Where available, driving on field border access lanes is allowed to deliver and pick up harvested deer and equipment, not for hunting. Not all zones contain field border access lanes; where absent, hunter ingress and egress must be completed on foot. Pedestrian mobilized deer carts and sleds are allowed for movement of deer and equipment. While hunting, participants must park in designated lots and walk to the zone. Driving anywhere other than entering the site through the designated entrance and driving to and from a designated parking area is not allowed during periods of saturated soil conditions when impact to the field border is likely.** Participants should reference zone maps for authorized driving areas.

Driving on a field border (for purposes of delivering and picking up deer and equipment) is allowed only under the following conditions:

1.) Driving on a field border is allowed only during periods of dry or frozen ground conditions. Dry or frozen ground is a soil condition when driven on will not create a rut after the vehicle has passed. A rut for the purposes of this directive is a depression, created by the pressure of a vehicle tire, in the soil greater than or equal to one inch. Depression depth is measured from the deepest portion of the tire track to the natural surface elevation of the soil adjacent to the track.

2.) Participants must use good discretion as ground and weather conditions may change from the start of their hunting opportunity throughout the day. If the ground conditions soften as the day goes on and it would cause damage as stated above, do not drive.
**NOTICE:** Anyone found creating damage to the land as described may be issued a citation and/or have their District hunting permit revoked. The driver of the vehicle and/or participant(s) found in violation of the above regulation is responsible for any damage to the land and any costs to repair damage incurred. The District is not responsible for any costs associated with damage to personal vehicles, cost to remove stuck vehicles, or costs to restore impacted lands to former condition.

Marking devices are permitted. Marking devices must be removed at the end of the participant’s hunting opportunity.

**Archery:** At a minimum, all participants must wear a blaze orange or blaze pink hat while walking to and from their stands. Wearing a blaze orange or blaze pink vest is recommended.

**Firearm/Muzzle Loader:** Firearm hunters must wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange or blaze pink, plus a solid blaze orange or blaze pink hat when walking to and from their stands.

**Check-in/Sign in and out:**

**Archery:** All hunters must sign in and out on the web-based system when entering and leaving District property.

**Firearm:** Hunters must sign in and out on the web-based system when entering and leaving District property when scouting or removing stands and must check in and out with on-site personnel during the hunting seasons when they are present.

**Combo:** Combo hunters follow the same check-in procedures as archery hunters. Glacial Park hunters participating in the second firearm season must follow firearm check in procedures.

**Site 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:**

**Archery:** Per state statute

**Firearm:** Per state statute

**Scouting & tree stand information – Deer hunting:**

**Archery, Combo, and Firearm Deer** hunting participants may **scout and set up tree stands** beginning the day after their attendance at the mandatory orientation meeting. The exceptions to this rule exist for some firearm zones at Glacial Park, Rush Creek and Marengo Ridge. Due to other program hunting in the area, specific scouting times must be coordinated. Instructions will be provided to those hunters impacted at the orientation meeting.

There is no limit to the **number of tree stands** in a zone.

Participants may set up anywhere within their zone based on the instructions on the zone map. Participants are encouraged to communicate with other participants in adjacent zones before
selecting a stand site within their own zone. Setting up on the boundary of your zone is discouraged.

No nails, spikes, climbing spurs, or piercing of bark is allowed in trees. Only branches with a stem diameter of less than 1.5 inches may be removed. Do not cut down small trees for shooting lanes.

The modifications to land through the movement of soil, erection of structures, or installation of posts is not allowed.

Permanent stands are not allowed.

Deer hunting stands must be the original manufactured product, designed to industry standards. Tree stands must be TMA-certified (Tree stand Manufacturers Association). Free-standing stands and tree saddles are allowed, but must be manufactured to industry standards. No handmade or repurposed climbing systems, stands or saddles are allowed. The District has ten (10) free-standing stands available for rent during the 2020-21 hunting season. Rental fees are $50 per opportunity and will be prioritized for hunters who draw primarily grassland zones first, then will be open to all. Additional information will be provided at the orientation meetings.

Each hunter can have one or two non-permitted people help put up and take down stands. The hunter must be present. A guest-parking pass must be displayed for each helper. Helpers are not pre-designated as in past years.

Stands must display an original District-issued stand tag. The tag must be able to be seen from the ground.

All participants must use an FAS-approved (Fall Arrest System) harness while in a tree.

All Hunter’s personal equipment (tree stands, steps, cameras, carts, etc.) must be removed within a week after the last day of a participant’s hunting opportunity. If this is a hardship, the participant must contact the District Police Department.

Stand height: Archery stands must be elevated a minimum of four (4) feet from the ground’s surface. The hunter’s feet must rest on the platform.

Firearm stands must be elevated a minimum of six (6) feet from the ground’s surface. The hunter’s feet must rest on the platform.

Use of decoys:
Archery: Use of decoys is allowed. Hunters must wrap decoys in blaze orange when moving afield.

Firearm: Decoys are prohibited for firearm deer hunting.
Post-harvest requirements:

All harvests must be reported according to the procedures for each hunting program specified below. Failure to report harvests will result in the loss of hunting privileges for the next hunting season. Discovery of misrepresentation, intentional false statements or deceptive reporting will not be tolerated and will result in the loss of hunting privileges indefinitely.

CWD testing: All adult deer harvested in the District’s deer hunting program must be tested for CWD. Contact the District or IDNR for information on CWD testing locations.

Field dressing of deer must be conducted more than 100 yards away from any trail, roadway, or parking area.

Each hunter can have one or two non-permitted people help track deer within the hunter’s zone and drag out harvested deer. The hunter must be present. A guest parking pass must be displayed for each helper. The helper must wear blaze orange as required by state regulations when retrieving deer.

Archery and combo:

All participants must follow Illinois State check-in regulations after harvesting a deer. After checking in the harvest with IDNR, participants are required to text or call the hunter check in phone number prior to leaving the site. Also, they must record the harvest on the web based sign-in system.

All entrails must be removed from the 9-day special season program sites. For all other archery and combo sites, the hunter may leave the entrails on site but no closer than 100 yards from trails.

Firearm (and Glacial Park combo during second firearm season):

Deer harvested on District property must have an Illinois State tag properly attached immediately upon harvest.

The hunter must check in all harvested deer when leaving the zone at the end of the day at the District designated location. All hunters must check in harvested deer at the designated IDNR check in station.

When field dressing deer, entrails must be placed no closer than 100 yards from the nearest trail or lot. Hunters are encouraged to be mindful of general public site users and to greatest extent practicable limit presence of blood at parking lots and trails.

Days when scouting and hunting are prohibited:

There will be no scouting or hunting on the following days:

Firearm: November 26 (Thanksgiving)

Archery* and Combo:

November 20-22 (first firearm season)
November 26 (Thanksgiving)
December 3-6 (second firearm season); Except Glacial Park
December 24 & 25 (Christmas Eve and Day).
The District reserves the right to suspend hunting at any time in any area for any reason.

*Alden Sedge Meadow, Fox Bluff, High Point, Hollows, HUM, Lake Elizabeth, Marengo Ridge, Pioneer Fen, Pleasant Valley and Rush Creek have active volunteer site stewards and occasional habitat restoration work days. Hunters assigned to those sites will be notified of work days and will not be able to hunt or scout on those days. Hunters are encouraged to participate with the habitat restoration work days.

Other:

For the purpose of this program, a **firearm is defined** as a slug shotgun, black powder gun, or muzzleloader. No handguns are allowed. A shotgun may not be capable of holding more than three (3) shells.

No participants shall go on **private property** bordering any District hunting site without first getting permission from the landowner. A participant must call a District police officer to escort the participant to approach the neighbor.

No participants or helpers shall go into another hunter’s zone. A participant must call a District police officer before exiting his/her zone to track a deer.

No participants shall be **under the influence** of or be in the possession of alcohol or illegal drugs while hunting.

No participants may take or cause to be taken any still or motion pictures or make sketches or paintings for commercial purposes without prior Written Permission of the Executive Director and then only in accordance with the rules and restrictions duly set forth as part of such Permit or engage in any photography or video recording in restricted areas.

Participants may harvest only those game **animals designated** on their permit.

It is **unlawful to make available** food, salt, mineral block, supplements, attractants, or other products for ingestion by wild deer or other wildlife. This includes but is not limited to any food plot, C ‘Mere Deer, Crush Deer Attractants, or Deer Cane/Co cane, etc. This does not prohibit **scents** used for cover, masking, or attracting, however, the District discourages hunters from using urine-based scents or lures.

Participants may not work together to **drive or move deer**.

Only stationary positioned, elevated hunting is allowed. **No still-hunting** of deer is permitted.

**Tracking deer** with a bow or firearm is not allowed.

No participant may have a firearm loaded or an arrow nocked until they are in their stand.

Participants must pick up and take with them all spent **firearms shells and garbage**.

If you are **unable to use** your assigned hunting opportunity, you must call the Lost Valley Visitor Center office at (815)678-4532 Extension 8146 as soon as you know you are unable to hunt.

Permit holders shall **not lease out** their hunting opportunity.
Summary of Changes from Last Year

All Deer Hunting
- Clarified Resident preference in lottery
- Referenced District Photography Ordinance

Archery/combo
- Adjusted 9-day first weekend from mid-October to early October
- Added Hollows 9-day hunting
- Added high proficiency clause for qualifications
McHenry County Conservation District
2020 Waterfowl and Youth Spring Turkey Hunting Program

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Introduction/General Information

Philosophy

The McHenry County Conservation (District) supports hunting practiced in a legal, responsible, safe, and ethical manner. Regulated hunting is the utilization of a renewable resource and fits within the definition and framework of conservation.

The District’s hunting program operates on the basis of three philosophies. These philosophies serve as the foundation of the program and are as follows:

Safety is the top priority of the hunting program. The highest standards of safety are demanded from all participants and staff involved in the program. Safety shall not be compromised.

Only ecologically self-sustaining wildlife populations are included in the scope of the program. The definition of “ecologically self-sustaining” is those populations naturally found in viable numbers on District sites. These are wildlife species able to sustain their population through natural reproductive rates.

The District strives to integrate hunting into the list of recreational opportunities available on various sites it owns and manages. The activities of the hunting program will be tailored to prevent significant changes to the District-established pattern of public use on its sites.

Types of Hunting Permitted

The District has five types of waterfowl and turkey hunting programs:
- Marsh Only - Waterfowl Hunting
- Combo (Marsh and Field) – Waterfowl Hunting
- Field Only - Waterfowl Hunting
- Youth Marsh Waterfowl Hunting
- Youth Spring Turkey Hunting

Eligibility/ Requirements to Participate

Web-based Sign-in/out: Participants will need a smartphone, or other mobile internet device to access web-based programs for checking in and out of hunting areas. Participants requiring special accommodation assistance, need to contact the District at the time of application so we can best meet each individual’s needs. Notification of accommodation requirements after zone selection limits the District’s ability to accommodate. For accommodation assistance, please contact Gabriel Powers at 815-678-4532 x 8146 or gpowers@mccdistrict.org.

Hunter safety education course: To be eligible, all participants must show proof that they have successfully completed a state- or federally-approved hunter safety education course. First time applicants must submit a photocopy of the applicant’s Hunter Safety Education card with the application. For more information about Hunter Safety Education, contact the Illinois Department of Natural Resources at 800-832-2599 or www.dnr.state.il.us
Orientation meetings: Each participant must attend an orientation meeting for the type of hunting they are participating.

The waterfowl hunting program meeting is on Thursday, September 24, 2020; all participants are encouraged to review all the program information and rules prior to the orientation meeting and ask questions at that time. The meetings will be held at McHenry County College Conference Center and start at 7:00 p.m. CST. The Youth Spring Turkey meeting will take place in March 2021 with location, date and time to be determined.

Necessary licenses: To be eligible for a District-issued hunting permit, every applicant must show proof of possession of all valid licenses, stamps, and permits as required by Federal and Illinois State law. These will be checked at the orientation meeting.

Age requirements: Participants must have reached their ninth birthday by October 1 of the current year to be eligible to hunt. For the purpose of this program, youth hunters are those participants who are seventeen (17) years old by Oct 1, 2020 or younger. However, applicants interested in the special youth hunts must be fifteen (15) years old on Oct 1, 2020, or younger.

Any participant under the age of eighteen (18) years of age must be accompanied by a person twenty-one (21) years of age or older, who will be in the immediate area (10 feet).

Disabled hunters: Persons with disabilities may be allowed unique accommodations for participation in the hunting program. Each case will be handled on an individual basis. The definition of a person with disabilities is as per federal and state laws. Applicants with disabilities needing accommodations should contact the District via telephone, email or any other means to arrange accommodations. If you need accommodation assistance please do so at the time of application so we can best meet each individual’s needs. Contact Gabriel Powers at 815-678-4532 x 8146 or gpowers@mccdistrict.org.

Resident vs. non-resident: The program is open to both residents and non-residents of McHenry County. There is a fee reduction for McHenry County residents. For the purpose of this program, “resident” means a person who in good faith makes application for any hunting program and verifies by statement that he or she maintains his or her permanent abode in McHenry County. A person’s permanent abode is his or her fixed and permanent dwelling place, as distinguished from a temporary or transient place of residence. Domiciliary intent is required to establish that the person is maintaining his or her permanent abode in McHenry County. Evidence of domiciliary intent includes, but is not limited to, proof of the location where the person is legally registered to vote or pays property tax, or a copy of a recent utility bill or driver’s license.

Signed waiver: All participants must sign a waiver of liability at the mandatory orientation meeting.
Compliance with Rules/Consequences

All participants must comply with all Federal and Illinois State rules and regulations, unless the District regulations are more restrictive. All participants must agree to expeditiously report any violations or non-compliance of rules and regulations to Conservation District Police Officers.

Violation of any rule or exhibition of unethical or unsafe conduct by a participant may result in revocation of that person’s District-issued hunting permit, a fine, or both.

Applications

A hunter may only participate in one waterfowl program; marsh, field or combo (marsh and field) program. An applicant’s name must appear on only one application. All applicants must use the District’s on-line application system, linked at www.mccdistrict.org. If an applicant does not own a computer, the District provides public computers at Prairieview Education Center, 2112 Behan Road, Crystal Lake, or the Lost Valley Visitor Center at 6316 Harts Road, Ringwood, IL 60072. Incomplete applications, late, mailed, or faxed, and duplicate applications will not be accepted. The application deadline is August 14, 2020 at 3:30pm CST.

Participant Selection

Marsh only participants will be selected by a lottery. The lottery will be based on a point system. The 2020 lottery is a straight lottery based on zero points awarded from 2019. If applications exceed opportunities in 2020, those not selected in the lottery will have preference in 2021 over others within their residency status. McHenry County residents will receive preference over non-residents.

Program Overview

Waterfowl Program

In order to best accommodate the variety of hunter’s interests, to meet hunter demand, and to provide the highest quality program for most, applicants must select one opportunity which best meets their interests; field, marsh, or combo. The District Waterfowl Program opportunities include either marsh only, field only, or combo (field and marsh). The marsh only program includes the use of reserved and open (first come first served) zones, but only on the water (marsh) opportunities. The field only is an open, first-come first-served program, but only in the field opportunities. There are no reserved fields. The combo (field and marsh) program allows participants to use both the marsh and field first come, first served opportunities. Participants in the combo (field and marsh) program are not allowed to use the reserved marsh blinds. An applicant can only participate in one waterfowl program, either the marsh only, field only, or combo (marsh and field) programs. Qualifying-aged youth may select
two programs, the youth waterfowl program and another program. Applicants drawn in the marsh only lottery will be assigned a marsh hunting opportunity from a designated blind and may also use the first come first served marsh zones. If an applicant is not successful in the marsh only lottery and desires to participate in the field only, or combo (marsh and field) open program, they may do so. The first come first served marsh or field opportunities allow participants to hunt throughout the season at various open hunting sites on a first-come first-served basis. There are no reserved field hunting sites. If you have questions about the 2020 waterfowl hunting program contact Gabriel Powers at 815-678-4532 x 8146 or gpowers@mccdistrict.org prior to applying.

**Length of opportunity:**
Each marsh - reserved opportunity is four days (Friday-Monday), except for opening weekend, where a group will only receive three days (Saturday-Monday). The final number of marsh - reserved opportunities will be determined by the number of applicants and lottery results.

The first come, first served, open program coincides with the Illinois State seasons, tentatively set to begin on Saturday, October 17, 2020 and run through the end of the duck/goose specified waterfowl seasons (December 15/January 14), 7-days a week, except for Thanksgiving (Nov. 26), Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (Dec. 24 and 25) or site specific closures. Field sites with crops will be opened by District staff after crops have been harvested and it has been determined to be safe to enter the zone/site. The zone openings will be listed on the District’s website at [http://www.mccdistrict.org/recms/waterfowl-hunting/](http://www.mccdistrict.org/recms/waterfowl-hunting/)

Special youth mentored hunt’s (waterfowl and turkey) length of opportunity are determined by lottery draw and are based upon the number of applicants in the lottery, and the number of sites and days available.

**Applications:**
**Marsh Only - reserved** waterfowl hunting: The marsh - reserved sites are only available to the District’s marsh only waterfowl program participants during their designated hunting period. Applicants may apply for any or all of the weeks offered at any of the designated marsh hunting sites. Applicants must apply as individuals, and identify a group leader. The group leader must have **two partners** in order for the application to be complete and be considered for the lottery. All applicants must apply individually to be part of the group on the District’s on-line application system at [www.mccdistrict.org](http://www.mccdistrict.org). After the lottery has been finalized, successful marsh only program participants are allowed to hunt with other reserved groups if an opening is available, and has been invited by the group leader. However, at no time shall there be more than 3 hunters in a blind at one time. Participants are encouraged to communicate with each other in order to maximize opportunities and provide as much flexibility as possible, while maintaining the reserved aspect of the blinds. First come, first served marsh blinds and zones may be used by participants in the marsh only or combo (marsh and field) programs on a first come, first served basis.

An applicant’s name may only appear on one application. The exception to this is a youth hunter who may apply for both a youth hunt and a regular season hunt.

Duplicate applications will not be accepted.
Field Only waterfowl hunting: All waterfowl field zones will be available to the District’s field only or combo (field and marsh) program participants on a first come, first served basis. The field only program is permitted by individual; there are no group leader requirements. If a person is hunting a field site, he/she is not required to let other hunters into the zone, although it is strongly encouraged. However, at no time shall there be more than 4 hunters in a zone at one time.

Combo (Marsh and Field) waterfowl hunting: participants who would like to participate in both field and marsh hunting should apply to the combo (marsh and field) program. These participants may use any first-come, first served site, either field or marsh. Participants in this program may not utilize marsh blinds in the reserved program.

Field hunting sites are set up with one or a combination of the following options:

1. Pit blinds -- provided by the District.
2. Parcel -- no blind, participants must hunt within zone boundaries.

Even though we have done our best to make sure that the zone and blind locations are safe, it remains the responsibility of the hunter(s) to make sure that their shots are safe.

Youth Programs

The youth waterfowl hunt takes place one weekend (Saturday and Sunday) in early October. This year the tentative State of Illinois dates are October 10th and 11th.

The mentored youth spring turkey takes place two weekends (Saturday and Sunday). The upcoming Illinois Spring Youth Turkey Seasons, are scheduled for the last weekend in March and first weekend in April; March 27th and 28th and April 3rd and 4th, 2021.

Length of opportunity: Participation in a youth hunt does not include access to any other opportunity, only youth weekends at selected locations.

Youth will be selected by a lottery. If demand exceeds available opportunities, each youth hunter will be limited to hunting one day (Saturday or Sunday). Waterfowl Youth applicants are encouraged to pair up with another youth applicant. A blind can accommodate 2 youth hunters and 2 guides. Spring Turkey hunts are one adult/mentor to one youth hunter.

Requirements: Youth Hunting applicants must be fifteen (15) years of age or younger by October 1st, and must have a hunting license, HIP registration number (waterfowl only), and hunter safety education card prior to applying for a District-issued hunting permit. Youth must be accompanied by a parent or guardian age 21 or older. The parent or guardian cannot hunt. If a youth does not have a parent or guardian familiar with waterfowl or turkey hunting, he/she may request a District-appointed guide to assist them.
Fees

Fees will be collected for each hunting opportunity if the applicant is selected to participate in the program. Participants must pay online with a credit card prior to the orientation meeting.

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

Fees are per Individual.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>McHenry Co. Resident*</th>
<th>Out of County</th>
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<tr>
<td>Marsh Only-Reserved</td>
<td>$50 per Individual</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Only (Open)</td>
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<td>*Spring Turkey Youth</td>
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* Youth applicants see bottom of page 6

Important Dates

Waterfowl
Applications due: August 14, 2020, 3:30pm CST
Lottery: August 21, 2020
Notification: August 28, 2020
Orientation: September 24, 2020, 7:00pm CST

Spring Turkey
Applications due: February 12, 2021, 3:30pm CST
Lottery: February 17, 2021
Notification: February 22, 2021
Orientation: March 2021, TBD
Hunting Sites and Dates

Please note: These dates are subject to change based on IDNR dates

**Waterfowl Hunt**

**Marsh Only: Reserve Hunt Participants**
Reserve Hunting is allowed weekly from opening weekend through December 14. (Fri., Sat., Sun. and Mon. of each week.)
- Week 1: October 17-19
- Week 2: October 23-26
- Week 3: October 30-November 2
- Week 4: November 13-16
- Week 5: November 20-23 (No Hunting at Glacial Park-Pickerel Creek)
- Week 6: November 27-30
- Week 7: December 4-7
- Week 8: December 11-14

**Glacial Park - Pickerel Creek-Marsh:** One (1) blind allowing one group per week.
**Hebron Peatlands:** Two (2) blinds allowing two (2) groups per week.

**Marsh Open: Marsh Only Reserved or Combo Hunt Participants**
Marsh hunting is allowed weekly from opening day through the end of the IDNR established waterfowl seasons.

- **Kishwaukee Corridor Quarry-Route 20:** One (1) blind
- **Pleasant Valley-Hemmingsen Road:** One (1) zone; no blind
- **Queen Anne Pond-Queen Anne Road:** One (1) blind

**Field Hunting: Field Only or Combo Hunt Participants**
Field Hunting will begin after crops are removed from the field at each site. Check the website to make sure the crops are out at a certain site before going afield. A field hunting site is not legally accessible until it is officially designated as “open” on the District website. Below are the potential locations for open hunts, final determinations on which sites will be open for the season will be made prior to the orientation meeting.

Field Hunting will extend to the goose season end date in January set by IDNR. At the time of this directive, the tentative season end date is January 14, 2021.

- **Brookdale – Dunham Road**
  - number of zones not to exceed three (3)
- **Kishwaukee Corridor Field - Ballard Road** (formerly Lussky Parcel)
  - number of zones not to exceed two (2)
- **Kishwaukee Corridor –Burma Road**
  - number of zones not to exceed three (3)
- **Kishwaukee Corridor - River Road**
  - number of zones not to exceed one (1)
- **Kishwaukee Corridor - County Line Road**
  - number of zones not to exceed one (1)
Pleasant Valley - Hemmingsen Road  
-number of zones not to exceed two (2)

Queen Anne Field - Queen Anne Road  
-number of zones not to exceed four (4)

**Waterfowl Youth Hunt**
The youth hunt is scheduled for October 10th and 11th (Sat. and Sun.)

- **Glacial Park / Pickerel Creek Marsh**: one (1) blind allowing up to two youth hunters.
- **Hebron Peatlands**: two (2) blinds allowing up to four youth hunters.
- **Kishwaukee Corridor Quarry - Route 20**: one (1) blind allowing up to two youth hunters.
- **Pleasant Valley - Hemmingsen Road**: one zone allowing up to two youth hunters.
- **Queen Anne – Queen Anne Road**: one (1) blind allowing up to two youth hunters.

**Spring Turkey Youth Hunt**
The youth hunt is scheduled for the IL Youth Spring Turkey seasons March 27 and 28 and April 3 and 4, 2021 (dates are tentative, final dates dependent on final established Illinois DNR youth seasons).

- **Brookdale Conservation Area**:  
  - number of zones not to exceed three (3)

**Rules, Regulations, Provisions, and Directives**

**District hunting and parking permits:**

- All participants must clearly display a District-issued parking permit on the dashboard or rearview mirror of their vehicle.

- No participants shall enter District property without a District-issued hunting permit on their person at all times. Hunting permits should be stored in an easily accessible location where they can be presented to an enforcement officer upon request.

**Parking:**

- All participants must use established or designated parking lots. No parking is allowed along county or township roads. See site/zone maps for designated parking areas.

**Access/Getting to your zone:**

- All participants and permit holders must travel to and from their hunting zone using a District-designated route. Driving on field border access lanes or agricultural fields is allowed to deliver and pick up decoys and equipment. Driving anywhere other than entering the site through the designated entrance and driving to and from a designated parking area is not allowed during periods of saturated soil conditions when impact to the field border or agricultural fields is likely.** Participants should reference zone maps for authorized driving areas.

- Driving on a field border or agricultural field (for purposes of delivering and picking up decoys and equipment) is allowed only under the following conditions:
1.) Driving on a field border or agricultural field is allowed only during periods of dry or frozen ground conditions. Dry or frozen ground is a soil condition when driven on will not create a rut after the vehicle has passed. A rut for the purposes of this directive is a depression, created by the pressure of a vehicle tire, in the soil greater than or equal to one inch. Depression depth is measured from the deepest portion of the tire track to the natural surface elevation of the soil adjacent to the track.

2.) Participants must use good discretion as ground and weather conditions may change from the start of their hunting opportunity throughout the day. If the ground conditions soften as the day goes on and it would cause damage as stated above, **do not drive** onto the field.

**NOTICE:** Anyone found creating damage to the land as described may be issued a citation and/or have their District hunting permit revoked. The driver of the vehicle and/or participant(s) found in violation of the above regulation is responsible for any damage to the land and any costs to repair damage incurred. The District is not responsible for any costs associated with damage to personal vehicles, cost to remove stuck vehicles, or costs to restore impacted lands to former condition.

**Check-in/Sign in and out:**

All hunters must sign in and out on the web-based system when entering and leaving District property. They must record times, birds taken and other required information.

First come first served hunters will use the web-based system for check-in and sign in box for communicating with fellow hunters. Write legibly and comment courteously when signing in and out.

**Shooting hours:**

Shooting hours for **marsh - reserved** hunting is one half hour before sunrise until noon, and participants must exit the site by 1:00pm.

Shooting hours for **open (first come, first served)** hunting are from one half hour before sunrise until sunset. Hunters must exit site within one hour after legal shooting time.

Shooting hours for Youth Waterfowl Hunting are from one half hour before sunrise until sunset, Youth Spring Turkey are one half hour before sunrise until 1:00pm.

No participants may enter District property prior to one hundred twenty (120) minutes or two (2) hours before legal shooting time.

**Scouting and decoy delivery – waterfowl:**

Marsh - reserved hunting participants may scout their designated blinds after 2:00pm on the Monday-Thursday of the week they are scheduled to hunt.

All marsh - reserved participants may deliver their decoys to the blind the week they are scheduled to hunt, after 2:00pm on Monday.
Participants in the **youth hunt** may scout and deliver decoys beginning the day after their attendance at the mandatory orientation meeting. (Coordination with other youth hunters may be necessary.)

Decoys may not be left “set up” in field or on water overnight except for the youth hunt.

If you’re using a **first-come, first-served** blind, you must remove your equipment from the blind/field each day.

**Post - harvest requirements:**

Report harvest on the web-based sign-out.

**Days when scouting and hunting is prohibited:**

All sites: November 26 (Thanksgiving), December 24 & 25 (Christmas Eve and Day)
Kishwaukee Corridor (County Line): December 11-13, and December 31-January 3)

**Blinds, stakes, and fields:**

Blinds provided by the District **cannot be moved**.

The District will **brush the marsh blinds** at the beginning of the season. Participants may rebrush the blinds after receiving written permission and using District approved materials only. **At no time may hunters move or possess invasive vegetation on District sites.**

Waterfowl marsh hunters must hunt only from designated District blinds when provided; marsh sites without a blind, hunters must hunt within the designated zone.

When waterfowl marsh hunting, a maximum of **three (3) hunters** may occupy the **marsh blind or zone** at one time.

Waterfowl field hunters can hunt from either a blind or within the designated zone.

All waterfowl hunters must hunt from a set location within the specified zone or within the blind, **no jump shooting is allowed.**

Waterfowl Open hunters cannot hunt from both **blind and the zone** at the same time.

When field hunting, a maximum of **four (4) hunters** may occupy the **pit blind** or within the **designated zone** at one time.

Waterfowl field hunters may bring their own blind to use as cover in the open field within the designated hunting area (zone). The blind and hunter’s equipment shall be removed once finished hunting for the day. **At no time may hunters move or possess invasive vegetation on District sites.**

**Waterfowl boats and dogs (does not apply to Spring youth turkey):**

**Non-motorized boats** are permitted.

In areas where a boat is available, participants must **relock the boat** after each use.
Retriever dogs may be off leash but must remain under the control of the owner at all times.

There is a limit of two (2) dogs per blind.

No training of dogs is allowed.

**Waterfowl Voluntary Restraint:**

The District encourages participants to follow the practice of Voluntary Restraint as set forth by the Delta Waterfowl Foundation. The components of this practice are as follows:

1) Focus harvest to drakes of all species;
2) Practice and emphasize field identification;
3) Don’t flock shoot - “Look for the Drakes”;
4) Hunt with a dog to minimize bird loss; and

**Youth Spring Turkey:**

Youth Spring Turkey hunters must hunt from a hunter provided, manufactured blind in a pre-disclosed location within their zone boundary and may not move the blind from the designated position during their permitted hunt period.

Only one youth may hunt with one adult within their designated zone at a time.

No archery equipment is allowed for turkey, shotgun only equipped with turkey choke tube.

**Other:**

No participants shall be under the influence of or be in the possession of alcohol or illegal drugs while hunting.

Participants may harvest only those game animals designated on their permit.

No participants may take or cause to be taken any still or motion pictures or make sketches or paintings for commercial purposes without prior Written Permission of the Executive Director and then only in accordance with the rules and restrictions duly set forth as part of such Permit or engage in any photography or video recording in restricted areas.

Participants must pick up and take with them all spent firearms shells and garbage.

If you are unable to use your assigned hunting opportunity, you must call the Lost Valley Visitors Center office at (815)678-4532 Extension 8146 as soon as you know you are unable to hunt.

Permit holders shall not lease out their hunting opportunity.

**Summary of Changes from Last Year**

- Added spring turkey youth hunt.
- Provided additional rules for regulation of the spring youth turkey hunt.
### Ordinance 20-979 Accepting 2020 Hunting Admin Directive Deer, Waterfowl & Youth Spring Turkey

Final Audit Report

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"Ordinance 20-979 Accepting 2020 Hunting Admin Directive Deer, Waterfowl & Youth Spring Turkey" History

- **Document created by Anne Basten (abasten@mccdistrict.org)**
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