

**McHenry County Conservation District  
2021 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@mccdistrct.org](mailto:gpowers@mccdistrct.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](http://www.dnr.state.il.us)

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**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 2, 2021 and the firearm deer hunting meeting is on Thursday, October 7, 2021. 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. If public meetings are unable to be held due to public health and safety rules, a virtual orientation will be provided. 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, 2021 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@mccdDistrict.org](mailto:gpowers@mccdDistrict.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.

### Compliance with Rules and 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.

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

### Applications

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.mccdistrct.org](http://www.mccdistrct.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 applications, and duplicate applications will not be accepted. **The deadline for archery/combo applications is July 7, 2021 and firearm applications is September 1, 2021; both deadlines occur at 3:30pm CST.**

### Participant Selection

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).

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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 either 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Communication with local partnership facilities prior to harvest is strongly 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 two programs for archery deer hunting: full 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 29-31, Nov 5-7, and Nov 12-14. The Full Season will be October 1, 2021 through the end of the deer season January 16, 2022.

**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). Vertical bow archers must bring five (5) arrows; those who have less than five arrows with them will not be allowed to shoot. The distance for this qualification will be twenty (20) yards for compound and crossbows, and fifteen (15) yards for recurve and longbows. **Participants must qualify with each bow they wish to hunt with and will receive a maximum of two (2) opportunities to qualify.** If an archer does not qualify on the first try, and would like to retest with the same bow, they must first go to the back of the line prior to 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, the 444 rule: due to high volume of archers, and annual high proficiency of some archers, we will be evaluating 4 of 4 first try in a 4-inch bullseye hits for a conservation archer rating, which will allow for reduced future testing.*

**This year's qualifications will take place Tuesday, August 3, and Saturday, August 7, 2021.**

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, see the National Bow Hunter Education Foundation at

<https://www.bowhunter-ed.com/>.

### 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 1<sup>st</sup>) 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 either full or late season programs. Full Season will begin October 1, and late Season will begin November 1, 2021 and both will run through the end of the deer season January 16, 2022. The combo program combines archery season hunting with some firearm seasons. All combination zones will be able to participate with legal firearms in the muzzleloader (Dec 10-12) and both CWD seasons (Dec 30-Jan 2; Jan 14-16). The Glacial Park combination zones are additionally allowed to firearm hunt during the IL second firearm season (Dec 2-5) as it coincides with the District's firearm hunt. These hunters must follow the firearm check-in/out procedures. 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 November 19-21, Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 25), 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.

<b>Fees</b>
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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.

Program	McHenry Co. Resident	Base Zone Rate (Non-Resident)
Full season* October 1- January 16	50% Discount	\$800 per zone
Late Season* November 1 – January 16	50% Discount	\$600 per zone
Special season eastside* archery- 9 Day Deer /Turkey	50% Discount	\$200 per zone
Firearm deer season	\$100 per individual	\$200 per individual

\*Includes Fall Archery Turkey Hunting. See rules on page 7

## **Important Dates**

### Archery and Combo

Applications due	July 7, 2021 -3:30pm CST
Notification for qualification attendance	July 28, 2021
Qualifications	August 3 & 7, 2021
Zone Lottery	August 18, 2021
Notification of zone placement	By August 25, 2021
Orientation	September 2, 2021 -7:00pm CST

### Firearms

Applications due	September 1, 2021 -3:30pm CST
Lottery	September 15, 2021
Notification	By September 22, 2021
Orientation	October 7, 2021 -7:00pm CST

### No Hunting or Scouting Dates

All programs	November 25, December 24 & 25, 2021
Archery/combo program	November 19-21, December 2-5, 2021
Glacial combo	November 19-21, 2021

### Special No Hunting Times:

No hunting at Rush Creek, Full Archery Season, Zone 14 between 10:30am and 1pm.

## Hunting Sites and Dates

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

### Archery Deer Hunt

#### Full Season: October 1 – January 16

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

**Camp Algonquin:** number of zones not to exceed two (2). Number of adult hunters not to exceed six (6).

**Coral Woods:** number of zones not to exceed one (1). Number of adult hunters not to exceed three (3).

**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).

**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 three (3). Number of adult hunters not to exceed nine (9).

**Nippersink Canoe Base:** number of zones not to exceed one (1). Number of adult hunters not to exceed three (3).

**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 four (4). Number of adult hunters not to exceed twelve (12).

#### 9-day Special Season Eastside Program: Oct 29-31, Nov 5-7, Nov 12-14

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

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**Hickory Grove:** 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 two (2). Number of adult hunters not to exceed six (6).

<b>Combination Archery and Firearm Deer Hunt</b>
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**Combo Archery/ Firearms deer hunt:** Full Season October 1-January 16, Late Season November 1 - January 16 (Including muzzleloader and late CWD firearm seasons: December 10-12, December 30-January 2, and January 14-16, 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 second firearm season, December 2-5. Combo hunters participating in the second firearm season at Glacial Park hunt will be required to follow the check in procedure for firearm hunters.

Full Season: October 1 – January 16

**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).

**Coral Woods:** number of zones not to exceed four (4). Number of adult hunters not to exceed twelve (12).

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

**Kishwaukee Corridor:** number of zones not to exceed nine (8). Number of adult hunters not to exceed twenty seven (24).

Late Season: November 1 - January 16

**Brookdale - Deep Cut Road:** number of zones not to exceed two (2). Number of adult hunters not to exceed six (6).

<b>Firearm Deer Hunt</b>
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First Season – November 19-21

**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.

Second Season –December 2-5

**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.

<b>Rules, Regulations, Provisions, and Directives</b>
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**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

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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:** <https://www.huntmccd.org/login>

**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 two 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.

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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 hand-made or repurposed climbing systems, stands or saddles are allowed. The District has ten (10) free-standing stands available for rent during the 2021-22 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. Discovery of misrepresentation, intentional false statements or deceptive reporting will not be tolerated and will result in the loss of hunting privileges indefinitely.

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**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 **record the harvest** on the web based sign-in system at [www.huntmccd.org](http://www.huntmccd.org).

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 25 (Thanksgiving)

**Archery\* and Combo:**

November 19-21 (first firearm season)

November 25 (Thanksgiving)

December 2-5 (second firearm season); Except Glacial Park

December 24 & 25 (Christmas Eve and Day).

**There will be no hunting at Rush Creek, Zone 14 between 10:30am and 1pm.** The trails will be open to the public during this time. Scouting may occur during periods of public use.

The District reserves the right to suspend hunting at any time in any area for any reason.

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\*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.

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## **Summary of Changes from Last Year**

- Modified seasons, zone counts, and boundaries to accommodate full season hunting and public use to occur.
- Eliminated the Late Season Archery Program
- Eliminated the Hollows 9-day hunt
- Added the Fox Bluff 9-day hunt
- Added Full Season zones at Camp Algonquin, Fel Pro, Glacial Park, High Point, Nippersink Canoe Base, and Winding Creek
- Adjusted 9-day hunts to the last weekend in October and first two weekends in November
- Adjusted the firearm hunt season by site
- Modified the qualification in attempt to improve efficiency