

**M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks
Lottery-based Managed Deer
Hunting Program**



2016 Participant Handbook

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M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks Lottery-Based Managed Deer Hunting Program 2016-17 Participant Handbook

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NEW FOR 2016

- **David Petersen** is now the primary manager and contact point for the program. **Teddy Fisher** is now the assistant manager and contact point.
- Participants who are drawn for a buck lottery tag on the morning of their hunt may harvest an antlered deer of their choice. This means that the antler restriction is removed. However, hunters are encouraged to follow the antler restriction parameters voluntarily.
- Smoking is now prohibited on all park property, indoors and outdoors. E-cigarettes and other non-lighted tobacco products are still permitted.

Montgomery County Deer Management and the Inception of the Managed Deer Hunting Program

In 1993, responding to citizen's concerns about deer-related problems, the Montgomery County Council established a Citizen Task Force to Study White-tailed Deer Management. As a result of this group's recommendations, the Montgomery County Deer Management Work Group (DMWG) was established to develop a deer management plan for the County and oversee the implementation of a countywide deer management program.

The DMWG is a multi-agency committee working together to address concerns surrounding deer population issues within Montgomery County. The goal of the plan is to



"Reduce human-deer conflicts to a level that is compatible with human priorities and land uses."

At the recommendation of the DMWG, in response to the concerns of the citizens of Montgomery County, and the stakeholders they represent, managed deer hunting was implemented in the winter of 1996-1997, at **Little Bennett Regional Park in Clarksburg (LBRP)** and the Agricultural History Farm Park in Derwood.

Since that time, managed hunting has ceased at the Agricultural History Farm Park, due to new development and proximity to housing, but the program has expanded to include:

- **Rachel Carson Conservation Park in Olney (RCCP)** - implemented in 2001
- **Blockhouse Point Conservation Park in Darnestown (BPCP)** – implemented in 2002
- **North Germantown Greenway/Great Seneca Stream Valley Park in Goshen/Gaithersburg (NGG/GSSVP)** - implemented in 2005

Managed hunting has been conducted annually since its inception in '96-'97 and has proven successful as a comprehensive means for reducing and maintaining the deer populations. To date, 5,513 deer have been safely harvested by managed hunt participants across the five park locations, and this program remains vital to the success of the Montgomery Parks' Managed Deer Population Management.

The Mission of the Managed Deer Hunting Program

The mission of the Managed Deer Hunting Program is:



"To utilize carefully selected hunters to safely reduce and/or maintain deer populations on select parklands, in an effort to alleviate damage to natural ecosystems and reduce human-deer conflicts to a level that is compatible with human priorities and land uses."

Safety is our number one priority for this program, and is stressed in all facets of operations from the pre-screening hunter selection process through implementation in the field. Participant disregard or negligence of any safety element in this program will not be tolerated. Offenders will be removed from the program and, if deemed appropriate, will be subject to prosecution.

Participants can best further the mission of the Managed Deer Hunting Program by:

- Acting selflessly and responsibly
- Being reliable and arriving on time
- Following all rules and regulations meticulously and demonstrating willingness to safely harvest/remove multiple antlerless deer when the opportunity presents itself

Staying practiced and proficient with his/her firearm and other equipment as well as with target identification and shot selection (i.e. identifying antlered deer vs. antlerless deer, identifying ranges, etc.)



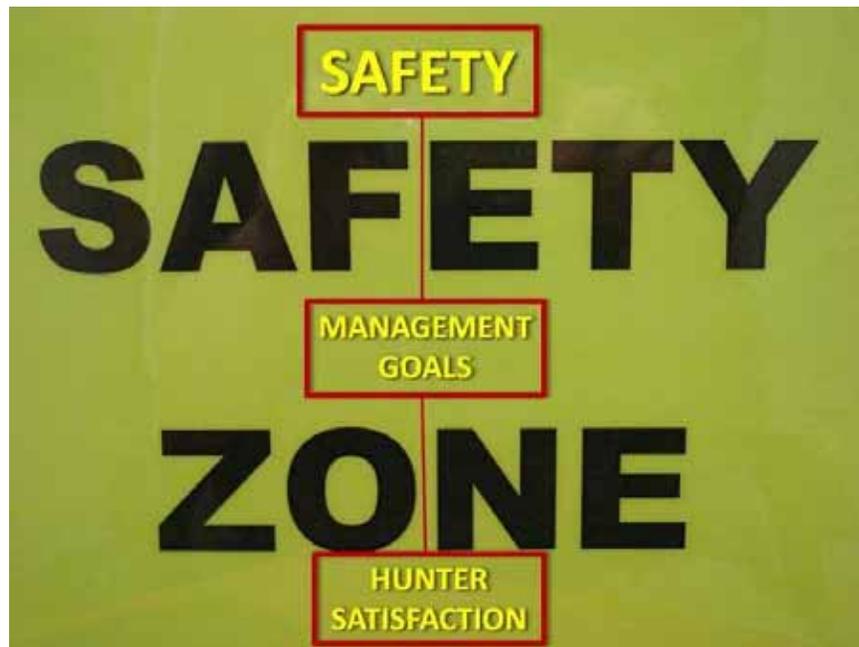
Program Goals and Objectives

While we hope to provide an enjoyable hunting experience, this program is **NOT** a recreational program. Simply stated, this is a “management program.” Recreation may come as a by-product of this program, but it is not a priority, and will not be treated as such by Wildlife Ecology Staff.

The goals and objectives of the Managed Deer Hunting Program are:

- To **SAFELY** reduce over-populations of deer in select parks
- To maintain sustainable populations of deer in parks where population reductions have been successful, thereby reducing ecological, social and economic impacts caused by deer
- To balance white-tailed deer with their available natural habitat, thereby allowing them to fulfill their role within the environment

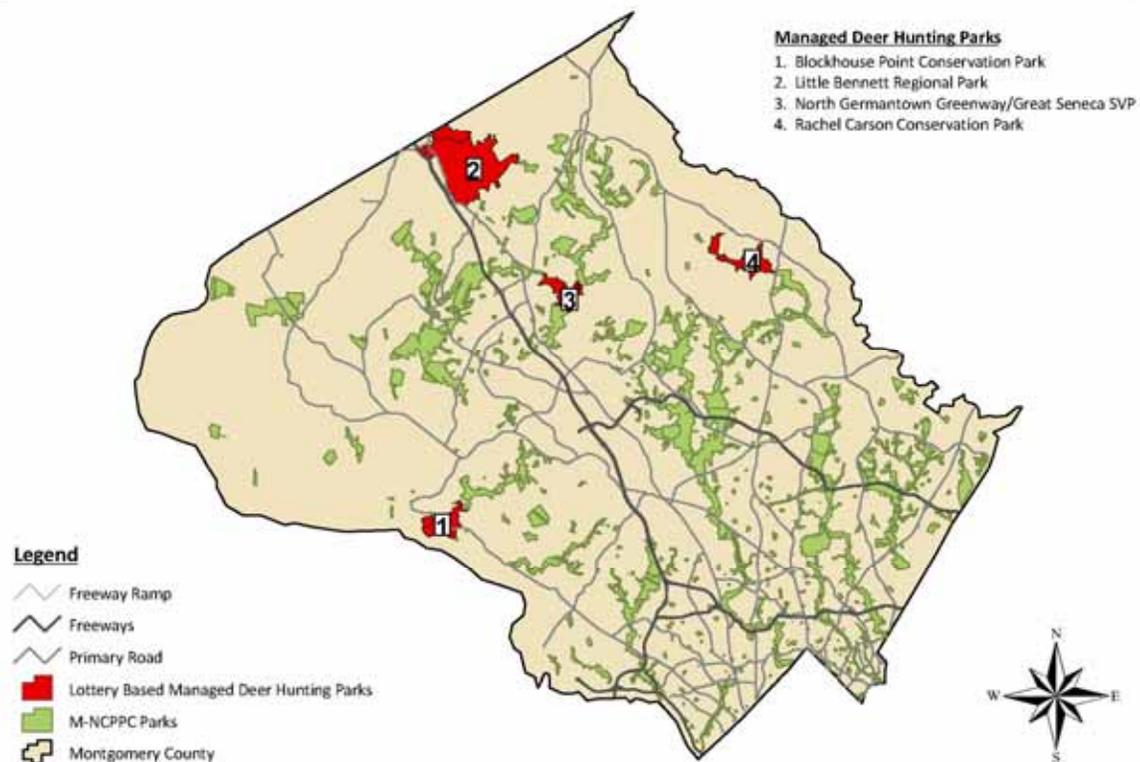
With these goals in mind, the hierarchy of priorities for this program can be summarized as follows:



Managed Deer Hunting Locations

- Blockhouse Point Conservation Park (BPCP) – Darnestown
- Little Bennett Regional Park (LBRP)– Clarksburg
- North Germantown Greenway/Great Seneca Stream Valley Park (NGG/GSSVP) – Goshen/Gaithersburg
- Rachel Carson Conservation Park (RCCP) – Olney

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks, Montgomery County Lottery-Based Managed Deer Hunting Locations



For more information, see <http://www.parksdeermanagement.org> and click the link to access the password protected page (Approved Managed Hunt Participant Log-In) containing maps and other information for approved Managed Deer Hunting Program participants.

The Managed Hunting Program Lottery Explained

The **Managed Hunting Program Lottery** is intended to provide a fair system for the selection of hunting participants based on a drawing of random numbers annually. All four parks currently under this program are drawn separately. Each applicant or applicant group may choose for which park(s) they wish to apply. Each participant/group may only be selected for one date at each location for a total of 4 possible selections per year, unless the number of available opportunities at a given location exceeds the number of applicants for that location (*exceptions may apply based on specific circumstances, most notably, volunteer service hours*).



NOTE: Participants who are interested in deer management volunteer work may request information by emailing mcp-deermanagement@montgomeryparks.org.

In the spring of 2009, a survey was sent to existing participants. This survey included questions regarding the Managed Hunting Program Lottery, and participant attitudes and perceptions of the Lottery System. While the system is fair, based on your responses, we recognized that perhaps it could be improved to better satisfy the participants as a whole. As such, effective fall 2009; a preference point system was instituted to increase the probability of selection for participants who may not have been selected in previous seasons. It should be noted, however, that this change does not guarantee selection. This is still a random system, and results are based on computer generated random number lists.

The nuts and bolts of the Lottery:

- Applications are numbered in the order by which they are received.
- Group applications are assigned one application number (assuring fair chance for selection for individual applicants).



NOTE: There is neither advantage nor disadvantage to applying as a group.

- If preference points have been earned (i.e. an applicant or applicant group was not selected the previous year), then the applicant or applicant group will be assigned an additional application number for each consecutive prior year not selected, thereby increasing the odds of being drawn.



NOTE: If any member of an applicant group has been replaced by another applicant, that group forfeits any and all earned preference points. If group members are deleted but not replaced, the group may retain any and all preference points.



Figure 1- Random Number Generator

- Applicant numbers are drawn at random using a random number generator (<https://www.random.org/>).
- Site assignments are made based on the following priorities:
 - Considerations are made for participants with disabilities or health concerns.
 - Considerations are made for group parking

There are random assignments for the remainder of sites.

Some additional considerations:

- Staff makes every reasonable effort to assure a fair system for all program participants.
- Sites are selected based on safety implications, deer habitat use, movement patterns, population density surveys and history of success, etc.
- Not every participant will have a successful hunting experience on a given day. Please do not blame and/or harass staff for lack of success. After all, this is hunting!
- If you feel a complaint is warranted or necessary, please contact David by phone or email subsequent to your hunt date (exception: if you have reason to believe that the safety of you, other participants or staff has been compromised, please speak with David directly on the day of the hunt).

Random Number List	Lottery Selections	Applicant Name	Street Address	City	State	Zip Code	Special Health Consideration	Dates Available to Participate (Will Participate)
1	158							
2	175						X	11-17, 12-1
3	126						X	X
4	175						X	X
5	41						X	X
6	126						X	X
7	155						X	X
8	71						X	X
9	96						X	11-14
10	104						X	11-14
11	40						X	X
12	186						X	X
13	149						X	X
14	139						X	X
15	188						X	X
16	14						X	X
17	66						X	X
18	11						X	11-Nov
19	30						X	11-5, 11-6
20	59						X	X
21	108						X	X
22	14						X	X
23	76						X	X
24	185						X	X
25	1							
26	198							
27	62							

Figure 2- Lottery Spreadsheet

Scouting Activities

Scouting is permitted and is intended to prepare participants for the morning of the hunt in an effort to increase efficiency and allow for a smooth beginning to each hunt day. However, certain locations may best be scouted or may be scouted **only**, on the dates specified in the selection materials. Go to the (Approved Managed Hunt Participant Log-In) at <http://www.parksdeermanagement.org>, to access these materials, as well as other information and maps, etc. While Montgomery Parks are open to the public every day from sunrise until sunset, any access not typically open to the public, will be open to managed hunt participants on pre-selected Scout Dates, **only**!



NOTE: There may be select sites for which scouting is **not** permitted. This is due to type of access, or potential disturbance to the community, etc. However, if you are not yet familiar with how to get to the park and/or the Check-In/Check-Out location, you may wish to travel to the park for that purpose.

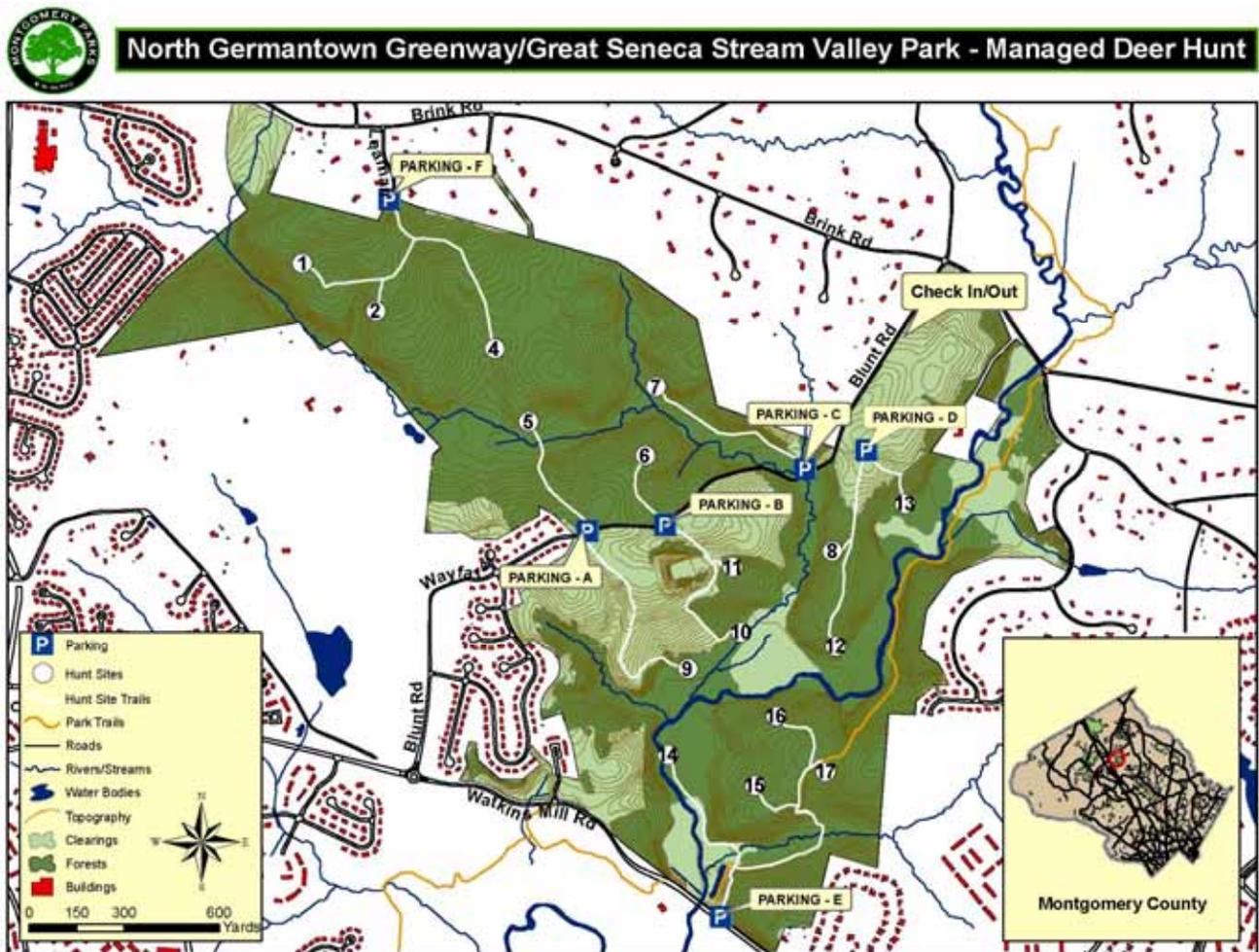


Figure 3- Example of a Managed Hunt Map (Note: Map format is subject to change)

Scouting activities should accomplish the following:

1. Familiarity with the Check-In/Check-Out Area

2. Familiarity with your assigned parking area and navigating to and from the Check-In/Check-Out Area

3. Familiarity with the beginning of the reflective trail leading to your assigned site



NOTE: Navigating all the way to your assigned site is permitted, but not required. If you choose to navigate all the way to your site, please be sure your assigned site is authorized for scouting, and proceed quietly and carefully. Please note that you should not expect to be able to clearly find your way into and out from your site on Scout Days. Staff intentionally marks sites in a way to make them relatively difficult to find in daylight in order to discourage vandalism/damage from the public. If you are not confident in your ability to navigate with a map, compass, GPS or cell phone, we recommend that you do not attempt to scout all the way into and around your site. The main objective of scouting is to be sure participants can find their assigned parking and the beginning of their reflective trail. On the morning of your hunt it is unlikely that you will have any difficulty finding your way in with the use of a flashlight. On the morning of your hunt, if you do experience difficulty, staff will be on call to assist you. Simply call the cell phone number on your permit card or come back to the check-in location to report your difficulty.



NOTE: On the morning of your hunt, NEVER begin hunting unless you are absolutely certain you have reached your assigned site (with a reflective marker denoted "SITE X").



Figure 4 -Example of Site Marker

On **every** hunt day, participants are required to check-in and check-out with Park Staff and/or Volunteers. The following are mandatory procedures for check-in/check-out:

Check-In



- All gear (flashlight, commercial manufactured grade tree stand, safety harness, haul line, firearm, ammunition, knives, etc.) should be thoroughly inspected **prior** to arriving to the park and again prior to use in the field.
- Check-in begins at 5:00AM and continues until 5:30AM. Every participant should arrive on site before 5:30AM.
- If running late, you must contact **David (240-338-3923)**. After 5:45AM, **NO** participants will be admitted.
- Upon check-in, you will receive a hunting permit card and parking permit card. **DO NOT** leave the check-in area without this information. The hunting permit must be on your person at all times and the parking permit must be placed in a visible location on the dashboard of your vehicle.
- Information will be provided regarding legal shooting time for a given day (i.e. one half hour before legal sunrise as defined by MD Department of Natural Resources (DNR)).
- Ask any last minute questions (“if in doubt, find out!”).

Check Out



- You must make contact with Wildlife Staff by 12:30PM (call, text or in person), and then return to the Check-In/Check-Out Area prior to departure from the park.
- Return hunting permit and parking permit cards.
- Complete Hunter Check-Out Log to verify you are out and to record your field observations. (If you cannot find this sheet upon check-out, ask Wildlife Staff or assigned volunteers).
- All deer must be checked by Wildlife Staff for verification and data collection.
- Specimen sampling may occur by request of Wildlife Staff (i.e. samples to be tested for Chronic Wasting Disease etc.).

Appropriate codes (County Code and Location Code) will be provided for you to complete the State-required deer harvest checking procedure (by phone or on-line).

PLEASE NOTE: If unsafe weather conditions exist, Staff reserves the right to cancel operations for the day. We strive for safety first. Likewise, if you do not feel safe driving to your hunt location, **DO NOT DRIVE**. Simply contact Staff to inform them of your decision.

For more information regarding cancellations due to weather, please visit <http://www.parksdeermanagement.org> and click the link to access the password protected (Approved

Managed Hunt Participant Log-In) page containing maps and other information for approved Managed Deer Hunting Program participants.

Navigating to Your Assigned Site and Setting Up for a Safe Hunt

After checking in with Wildlife Staff, you will proceed to your assigned parking area where you will find your reflective trail leading to your assigned site. Parking will be identified by a reflective sign. Each parking sign will note the area/assigned sites accessed from the specific parking site. Please park in a manner that does not impede traffic passage.

When you have collected and inspected all of your gear, you may begin navigating to your assigned site. **DO NOT load your firearm at this time!** You **must** proceed to your site while it is still dark, and well before legal shooting time. Therefore, you **must** use a flashlight to follow your reflective trail to your site. This trail may begin near or far from the parking site, but will be visible from the parking site with a flashlight.

The start to the trail will be marked with either yellow-green reflective tape or white reflective tacks and, in some cases where appropriate, will include the site numbers that will utilize the trail. You will find white reflective tacks marking the trail. These tacks will be placed at easily identified intervals, but may be spaced at greater distances when site trails utilize existing park hiking trails or roads.

Where a trail requires a significant change of direction, or when multiple hunting sites stem from a main access trail, a larger piece of reflective tape will be placed and will indicate the site number and the direction that the trail will take **OR** 2 reflective tacks placed together will indicate change in direction (see photo to the right).

Your trail will end at a larger, yellow-green reflective marker of approximately 2"x8" that will note your site number: ex. "SITE X" (see photo to the right). You may utilize any tree within ten yards (10 Paces) of this site marker.



NOTE: *If you do not arrive at a strip of yellow-green tape that SPECIFICALLY includes the word "SITE", then you have not arrived at your assigned site. Directional markers are NOT the same as site markers!*

If you are unable to locate your site marker, or if you become lost, **DO NOT** guess whether or not you have arrived at your assigned site, and **DO NOT** begin hunting! If possible, return to where you last saw a reflective marker and look carefully for the next marker. If you cannot find one, contact Wildlife Staff at the cell phone number provided on your permit card (240-338-3923), inform them of the situation and wait for instructions and/or assistance. Sites are selected for utmost safety of the public and of the other hunting participants. Please exercise discretion and patience in these situations. Assistance will be provided as quickly and quietly as possible.



Figure 5- Directional markers are NOT the same as site markers!

Once you have located your assigned site marker, you may choose any tree within 10 yards (10 paces) of this marker from which to hunt. Prior to climbing any tree, be sure to inspect the tree as thoroughly as possible. Hunt **ONLY** from trees that are living, solid and of appropriate climbing size for your specific tree stand. If any given tree shows peeling bark, is rotting, appears to be hollow or is broken or breaking, **DO NOT** utilize the tree! Sites are selected with at least one suitable tree for climbing within 10 yards of the marker. Nevertheless, you must use your best judgment. If there is any question about the safety of a tree, do not climb it.



REMINDER: You are required to wear a safety harness while climbing, hunting and descending, and you are required to utilize a haul line to raise and lower your unloaded firearm.

With your tree selected, inspect your tree stand, safety harness and haul line one final time before hunting. Climb to a platform height of **at least 10 feet**, be sure your stand is thoroughly secured to the tree, and raise your unloaded firearm.

Once safely settled in, look carefully and note any Safety Zone signs (see examples below). You may then load your firearm and begin hunting! If hunting from the ground (Little Bennett Regional Park, only), be sure to note all safe shooting directions providing a safe back stop for your slugs. Shoot only at stationary deer with a safe backstop!



Figure 6 - Safety equipment and Safety Zone signs

Essential Safety Measures



It cannot be stressed enough: **Safety is the #1 priority of this program!** Please keep the following safety measures in the forefront of your mind at all times. Remind yourself, your hunting partners, and your fellow participants to observe them continuously. (See the *Managed Hunting Program Regulations*, presented in the e-Learning module.)

- You **must** wear the State required amount of fluorescent orange at **ALL TIMES** (**both** an orange hat and vest are strongly recommended!). NO EXCUSES.
- You must wear a full body safety harness at all times while climbing, hunting and descending during treestand use.
- Locate any and all posted Safety Zone signs and **DO NOT** fire at deer beyond these signs.
- Be 100% sure of your target **AND** what is beyond it.
- All shots should be directed to the ground.
- With the exception of Little Bennett Regional Park, all shots must be fired from a minimum hunting height of 10ft to the foot platform.
- Shoot only at deer that are within 80 yards of your stand.
- NEVER** shoot at deer that are on the horizon line (i.e. deer on the top of a hill).
- Shoot only at stationary targets. **DO NOT** shoot at deer that are running or bounding.
- Focus on one deer at a time. Try to limit your shots to one per deer and do not “herd shoot” (a.k.a. shoot rapidly at multiple deer).
- Minimize shots fired, and take **ONLY** ethical shots with the maximum probability of quick expiration of the deer.
- Do not allow yourself to fall asleep while in your tree stand. If necessary, stop hunting and return to the ground until you are sufficiently awake to continue safely. Only then should you return to hunting height and begin hunting.



Figure 7- Both an orange hat and vest are strongly recommended!

What to Do After the Shot

After you shoot a deer, you may investigate the results of the shot(s) following these guidelines:

- If possible, check on downed deer using binoculars from your tree stand.
- If necessary, you may climb down to go investigate the result of your shot(s) and/or inspect downed deer, however:
 - You must lower your **UNLOADED** firearm and leave it at the base of the tree at your site. Do not carry your firearm with you to check on downed deer.
 - You may **NEVER** hunt, carry a loaded firearm, and/or discharge your firearm while on the ground away from your site (unless instructed to do so by Staff).
 - You may not inspect downed deer or track hit deer outside of 80 yards from your site, unless authorized by Staff (be extremely cautious while inspecting and/or tracking.)
 - If further tracking is necessary, you must wait until after hunting hours and upon gaining approval of Wildlife Staff.
- Staff may be able to inspect deer for you if/when they pass through on patrol. Simply wave to staff to receive assistance.
- If further assistance is necessary, call Wildlife Staff at the number provide on the Hunting Permit (240-338-3923).



NOTE: Every reasonable effort must be made to recover wounded deer. Each year, Staff has noted at least some level of wounding loss of deer by participants. It is our direct intention to minimize this unfortunate occurrence. As such, please be utmost, responsible hunters and give these animals the respect they deserve. Only take the highest percentage shots at well-identified, stationary deer! If you shoot a deer and can see from your stand that it is wounded, but still living, contact Wildlife Staff at the number provided on the permit card to inform them of the situation. Staff will advise you on how to proceed. Likewise, if you see a wounded deer from your stand that you did not shoot, contact Wildlife Staff to inform them and to receive instruction. In general, if there is a wounded deer within accepted range of your stand (80 yds), and you have a safe shot opportunity, we ask that you put the wounded deer down. However, if there is any question, and/or you have the ability to first contact Wildlife Staff, please do so immediately.

* As a standard procedure, Wildlife Staff will remove antlers from any previously wounded, antlered deer that is harvested by a participant who is not “buck ready” (whether authorized to do so or not)

Staff Presence and Effort

Meet your Managed Deer Hunting Program Managers:



David Petersen

Natural Resources Specialist with the Department of Parks Wildlife Ecology Unit

David is the primary manager and contact point for this program. He will be onsite at every hunting operation, and will oversee all operational procedures, data collection and enforcement, etc.



Teddy Fisher

Natural Resources Specialist with the Department of Parks Wildlife Ecology Unit

Teddy is the assistant manager and contact point for this program. He will be onsite at every hunting operation, and will assist with all operational procedures, data collection and enforcement, etc.



Ryan Butler

Principal Natural Resources Specialist and Department of Parks Wildlife Ecology Unit Leader

Ryan is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the Wildlife Ecology Work Program. He will be present in a supporting role at many of the hunting operations.

Contact Information

You may wish to program these phone numbers into your cell phone:

David Petersen – 240-338-3923

1st point of contact, calls and/or texts

Teddy Fisher – 240-338-9200

2nd point of contact, calls and/or texts

Others assisting with this program include individuals from: Rock Creek Regional Park Staff, Little Bennett Regional Park Staff, Black Hill Regional Park Staff, Shady Grove Park Management Area Staff, Park Planning and Stewardship Staff and volunteers.

Our staff works hard to ensure safety, first and foremost, and strives to help managed hunt participants achieve optimal success. As such, we request your utmost patience and respect.

Staff patrols and/or deer drives may or may not occur depending on staff availability and professional discretion. Please keep a watchful eye for staff on patrol and be respectful of their efforts. **ALWAYS** be sure of your target **AND** what is beyond it! While on patrol, Staff will check on participants as you are encountered in the field.



Staff may also be present at varying levels to assist with deer removal after the hunt. However, this is not guaranteed, and you should plan to remove your own deer from the field.



NOTE: On rainy, snowy, or foggy mornings, Staff patrols and/or deer drives will be strictly limited or eliminated. Restriction of these efforts on poor weather days maximizes safety and minimizes loss of deer after wounding.

Participant Interaction with the Public

In general, during hunting operations, participant encounters with members of the public are unlikely, but they do occur. If you observe or encounter citizens, or are encountered by citizens, call Wildlife Staff immediately (number provided on the Permit) to inform them of citizen presence. Do not speak to the citizens unless they speak to you, so as not to startle them.

If you are confronted by citizens: remain calm, be courteous, keep your firearm secured and pointed in a safe direction. When appropriate, discretely unload your firearm. Refer any questions or concerns to Wildlife Staff at the number provided on the permit card. If citizens become belligerent, refer them to Wildlife Staff again, calmly explain that you can be of no further assistance, and discontinue the conversation. If the situation escalates, call Wildlife Staff immediately*.



** If you are unable to contact Wildlife Staff, remain in your stand with your firearm secured until you are sure that the person(s) has safely left the area. Only then should you return to hunting.*

Most importantly, in all cases, **remain calm, collected and courteous**. You are a permitted participant in a Department of Parks sanctioned program. The park is officially closed to all other members of the public, and there are signs surrounding the park indicating this closure.

If you encounter members of the media, call Wildlife Staff immediately. Act discretely and discontinue your activity until you receive instruction from Wildlife Staff to resume. If questioned or confronted, explain that the park is closed and that they will need to speak to Park Staff for any additional information (you may provide them with the phone number on the back of the permit card). Do not speak to them further unless informed to do so by Wildlife Staff.

In all cases, do not continue hunting and/or shooting until you are sure that citizens are safely clear of the area



Figure 8 - The park is officially closed to all other members of the public



Bag Limits and Antler Restrictions

This program allows the harvest of an unlimited number of antlerless deer (unless otherwise instructed on the day of the hunt), while restricting the harvest of antlered bucks. We ask that you observe all deer very carefully prior to taking any shot, in an effort to accurately distinguish between the sexes.

The harvest goals of this program dictate that **adult female** deer are targeted. This is because these animals are the primary producers in the reproductive cycle. A healthy adult doe produces two fawns each year on average.

One of the goals of this program is to encourage healthy breeding ecology within the local deer herd. This means that we strive to achieve a balanced buck/doe ratio and a balanced age structure with representatives from each age class, while reducing the overall population. With this in mind, while button buck fawns are permitted for harvest, we ask that you consider restraint in harvesting these animals.

Antler restrictions are another means by which we strive to achieve a balance in the age structure of the bucks in a given location. These restrictions are not intended to create a trophy hunting opportunity, nor are they intended to diminish the enjoyment of you, as a hunt participant. They are first and foremost intended for the benefit of the deer herd, and we suspect that the restrictions may, over time, actually increase frequency of mature buck sightings and prove enjoyable to hunt participants. In that way, antler restrictions also serve as an incentive for participants to return year after year with the very real hope that he/she may see and possibly even harvest the buck of a lifetime.

The following is an outlined description of the bag limits and antler restrictions set forth by this program:

- Participants may harvest an **unlimited** number of **antlerless** deer.
- At least one **FEMALE** deer must be harvested **before** a participant is eligible to harvest one **MATURE** antlered deer (see antler restrictions).
- Antler Restrictions - After harvesting at least one female deer, participants may harvest one mature antlered deer under the following criteria:
 - Antlers with an inside spread of at least 15 inches
 - Participants who **FIRST** harvest **3 ANTLERLESS** deer, with at least one being **FEMALE**, may harvest an antlered deer of their choice. This means that the antler restriction is removed. However, hunters are encouraged to follow the antler restriction parameters voluntarily.
 - Participants under the age of 18 who are hunting at Little Bennett Regional Park, only, may harvest any deer of their choosing without antler restrictions. A maximum of ONE antlered deer may be harvested. However, youth hunters are also encouraged to follow the antler restriction parameters voluntarily.
 - Participants who are drawn for a buck lottery tag on the morning of their hunt may harvest an antlered deer of their choice. This means that the antler restriction is removed. However, hunters are encouraged to follow the antler restriction parameters voluntarily.

NOTE: Staff reserves the right to change bag limits at any time based on professional discretion.



Important Antler Restriction Notes

SPIKE BUCKS - Spike bucks with at least one antler measuring 3 inches or longer are considered antlered deer and are not eligible for harvest! [Exception – participants who first harvest 3 antlerless deer with at least one being a female, Buck Lottery Tag winners, and youth hunters under the age of 18 who are hunting at Little Bennett RP, only.] Be absolutely certain of your target before squeezing the trigger. Please also note that button bucks do not count as your antlered buck. However, they also do **NOT** count as a “female"! DO NOT harvest a mature antlered buck unless you are certain that you have first harvested a female deer AND that you have not mistakenly harvested any spikes or other under-sized antlered deer!

MARGINAL BUCKS - Avoid harvesting marginal-sized bucks. Please squeeze the trigger only if you are certain that the buck has an inside spread that exceeds 15 inches!

It is recognized that some mature antlered deer may not exhibit antler characteristics meeting these restrictions. In the case that a harvested buck does not meet the antler restrictions, antler beam circumference will be measured at the base. If antler beam circumference is greater than or equal to 3.75 inches, an exception will be made for the participant. While our goal is to restrict the antlered deer harvest to 3.5 yr old bucks and older, we have found that aging bucks by tooth wear and replacement is simply too subjective for proper enforcement. While still not perfect, utilizing the circumference measurement as the exception will keep things black and white for staff and participants. NO other exceptions will be made. We appreciate your best efforts and cooperation with this restriction.

The following images are great examples of the types of mature antlered deer that exist in our parks. These are the types of bucks that we hope and expect you to wait for the opportunity to harvest. We recognize that restraint can be difficult. However, we believe the benefits far outweigh the costs. All photos were taken in recent years on Montgomery County Parkland!



Figure 9 - Examples of mature antlered deer that exist in Montgomery Parks



Figure 10 - Additional photos of mature antlered deer taken recently in Montgomery Parks

All regulations will be enforced by Wildlife Staff and Park Police (if deemed necessary). In **every** case, honesty is the best policy. Staff recognizes that mistakes can be made, but must also maintain minimum standards. Infractions will be evaluated on a case by case basis, and penalties issued accordingly. For example, participants who harvest antlered deer that do not meet the antler restrictions will forfeit the antlers to Wildlife Staff who will remove the antlers from the skull with a saw. Any participant found repeatedly in violation of the Antler Restrictions will be subject to further disciplinary action. Likewise, participants who harvest antlered deer without first harvesting a female deer, will be required to forfeit the carcass and antlers, and will be subject to further requirements and/or disciplinary action as evaluated by Wildlife Staff and/or Park Police. Dishonesty and/or failure to comply with this enforcement will not be tolerated, and offenders removed from the Managed Deer Hunting Program.

* As a standard procedure, Wildlife Staff will remove antlers from any previously wounded, antlered deer that is harvested by a participant who is not "buck ready" (whether authorized by staff to do so or not).

Any participant found to be unsafe, unethical, and/or dishonest will be permanently dismissed from the program and citations will be issued as appropriate.



The End of the Hunt Day

Hunting ends at 11:30AM each hunt day. At this time, participants must unload their firearm and cease hunting. By no later than 12:30PM, all participants must report to Staff regarding their status (i.e. if they have deer down, if they need to track deer, if they are in the process of field dressing, if they need assistance, etc.) prior to returning to the check-in/check-out area to complete the check-out procedure.

Reporting on status can be done by phone call, text message (to David only) or by returning to the check-in/check-out area to inform Wildlife Staff. Once status is reported, participants may continue working to remove their deer from the field.



NOTE: *If communicating by way of text message (or voicemail), please be sure to identify yourself and your location.*

All participants are responsible for field dressing, tagging, removing, transporting and making use of the deer that he/she harvests. Field dressing of deer must occur out of sight of homes, roads and trails. All viscera should be placed away from trails out of view (cover with sticks and leaves if possible).

MD Big Game Harvest Record

THIS CARD MUST BE IN YOUR POSSESSION WHILE HUNTING

DNRid: 12345
Licensee: JOHN Q. HUNTER

Species WT Deer Sika Deer Turkey
 Managed Hunt Deer

Sex Male Female Button Buck

Weapon Firearm Bow Muzzleloader

Date 11/24/12 County Frederick
Confirmation # 987654321000
Report Harvests at
www.gamecheck.dnr.state.md.us
or 1.800.800.0121

Field Tag- Attach permanently to head of deer or leg of turkey.

Date: 11/30/13 County: Frederick
Hunter's Name: John Q. Hunter
Hunter's DNRid #: 012345
Fill Out Big Game Harvest Record

Figure 11 - MD Big Game Harvest Record and a sample field tag



Maryland DNR procedure for tagging and reporting harvested deer must be followed. Field tags must be attached to the head AND Harvest Report Cards must be completed prior to moving from the place of kill. Hunters have 24 hours within which to report their harvest to MD DNR by the phone or on-line check-in procedure described in the “Deer and Turkey Tagging and Checking Instructions” located in the MD Guide to Hunting and Trapping found at <http://www.eregulations.com/maryland/hunting/deer-turkey-tagging-checking/>. While it is not required for managed hunt participants to complete the MD DNR checking procedure prior to leaving the park, it is recommended.

Participants are responsible for removing their own harvested deer from the field. However, when available, some assistance may be provided through the use of Staff, ATV support. In these cases, we ask that participants have their tagged, field-dressed animals together in one location ***near a trail or field edge for ease and efficiency of pick-up***. This assistance is prioritized by need (i.e. those with physical disabilities or health considerations, those having harvested multiple deer, etc), and patience is required! Please come prepared to remove your own deer (i.e. bring deer drags, sleds, pull carts, etc.). Please note that deer removed by ATV may be exposed to dirt and debris. At your own discretion, if preferred, participants may refuse assistance. After removal from the field, all deer should be transported ***discretely*** to the check-out area for observation/data collection. Once checked, deer should be transported away from the park ***discretely*** (i.e. covered with a tarp on a trailer or rack and/or in the bed of a pick-up truck).



Figure 12- This is NOT how to transport deer discretely!

M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks does not assume responsibility for the use of harvested deer. All harvested deer must be utilized by the participant or donated to other individuals or organizations who will utilize them appropriately. If desired, Managed Hunt participants are welcome to share harvested deer with other fellow hunters on the day of their hunt. However, Park Staff will not assume any responsibility for overseeing these activities. Further information regarding locations where deer can be donated is available in the Maryland Guide to Hunting and Trapping found at http://dnr2.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/hunt_trap/fhfh.aspx, as well as on the secure, Managed Hunt Participant Log-In page accessed through www.parksdeermanagement.org.

Finally, the managed hunt check-out procedure, as described earlier, should be followed prior to departure from the park.



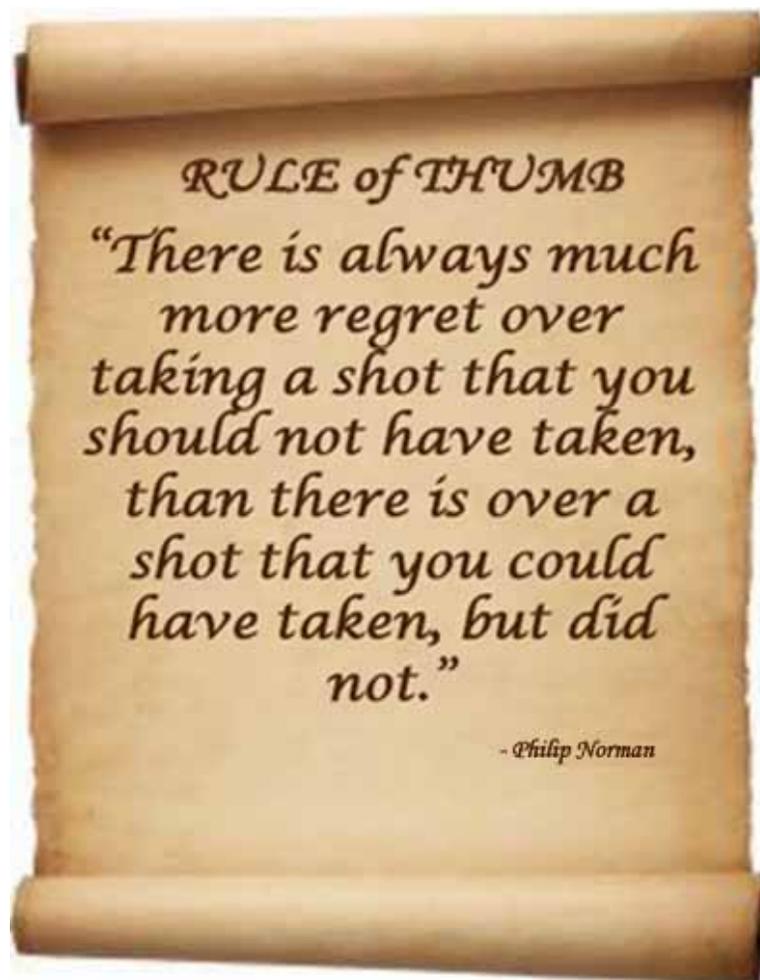
Wrap Up

Thank you for taking the time to thoroughly read these guidelines. Please print them and refer to them often.

In preparation for, and throughout the coming season, please use the logic: "If in doubt, find out!" Do not act on assumptions. Ask questions if and when necessary! You may contact Wildlife Staff at 301-962-1351 or MCP-deermanagement@montgomeryparks.org. On hunt dates and/or for urgent reasons, you may call 240-338-3923.

Only you are responsible for your own decisions and actions. Through your hunting activities on parkland, you are representing yourself and the Montgomery Parks Managed Deer Hunting Program. Please do your part to ensure the continuation of this program and the enjoyment of yourself and your fellow hunters for many years to come.

Hunt SAFELY and best of luck to you!



If this is your first time here, please close this window by clicking on the "X" in the upper corner of the screen. You will then return to the e-Learning portion of this training.