



# 2020-2021 Managed Deer Hunt Procedures, Rules and Regulations



*Striving for Sustainability in our Parklands.®*

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# 2020 Managed Deer Hunt Procedures, Rules and Regulations\*

## I. Overview

As authorized by the Anne Arundel County Code 9-1-601(d) and 14-2-117, and as approved by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDDNR), the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks (AADRP) will conduct a managed hunt for the express purpose of reducing the deer population within the properties listed below. These properties are Jug Bay Farm Preserve (FP) and Magothy Greenway Natural Area (MG). Lethal removal is the only feasible means of deer population control at this time, since contraception is not reliable, the introduction of large predators is impractical, and no action is unacceptable and/or impossible. Similar programs have proven to be a safe and effective means of reducing and maintaining herd deer densities in urban/suburban natural areas. This is not a recreational program, but a management tool for use in areas where deer have exceeded the carrying capacity of the available habitat.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR) requires hunters, as printed in the "2020-2021 Maryland Guide to Hunting and Trapping", in Anne Arundel County to abide by yearly bag limits for both antlered and antlerless deer depending upon equipment used. We are being permitted by MD DNR to follow similar harvest guidelines. In our program, there will be no set harvest quota for antlerless deer, but there are restrictions in place for the number and of antlered deer. Any deer taken in our program, do not count toward a hunter's statewide bag limits.

Safety is of utmost importance and the hunters chosen must be experienced, responsible and competent. To ensure this, all prospective hunters must undergo a background check for criminal convictions, fish and game violations; complete a questionnaire, and an interview with the Hunter Selection Committee. All shots taken must be from elevated tree stands and only at stationary deer. Hunters may fire only upon deer that are within 80 yards of their stands. All firearms must be equipped with either optical sights (scope, red dot, etc) or front and rear "rifle" or "iron" (no single-bead sights). The state required minimum amount of fluorescent orange must be worn by all persons who hunt or accompany, aid, or assist a hunter in a field, marsh, wooded area, or on the water.

### **NOTES / NEW POLICES THIS YEAR:**

1. This year's season is from October 2020 – January 2021 and will have 24 hunt dates. There will be no "rain-dates" for canceled hunts.
2. Glendening Nature Preserve (GP) has been added to our property list this year.
3. "Bonus Bucks" have been discontinued.
4. COVID-19 has changed multiple procedures and social distancing/mask use is mandatory according to current Anne Arundel County Health Department Guidelines.
5. The Deer Management Program will be covering the processing cost of every third deer a hunter culls, regardless if the deer is being donated or not and this only applies if the hunter uses the designated processor for the current season.

Daily hunter access to the properties is limited. The total number of hunters per hunt day will be no more than one less than the total number of stands at each property. (Standby hunters are still encouraged to show up and can assist with the logistics of the hunt that day.)

<u>Park Name</u>	<u># of Stand Sites</u>	<u>Total # of Hunters</u>
Magothy Greenway Natural Area (MG)	20	19
Glendening Nature Preserve (GP)	23	22
Jug Bay Farm Preserve (FP)	22	21

In each park there may be a posted safety zone surrounding the designated hunting area. Weapons shall be unloaded and breeched (if applicable) within in the safety zone. No shots may be taken at any deer within the safety zone. Pocket tags identifying hunters as participants in the AADRP program will be issued daily upon check-in. These tags must be carried at all times while hunting, tracking wounded animals and/or patrolling the safety zone or driving deer. Parking permits may also be issued where applicable. Issued tags and permits must be turned in after the day's hunt has concluded.

The AADRP recognizes the need to provide opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Within this program, reasonable accommodations will be made on a case-by-case basis.

## **II. General Rules and Regulations**

NOTE: Hunting regulations for the State of Maryland and all Anne Arundel County Parklands Rules and Regulations are in effect unless otherwise noted here or posted. Failure to comply with these regulations and local or state laws may result in:

- a. Revocation of hunter permit and privileges
- b. Civil Citations(s)
- c. Arrest, criminal prosecution
- d. Forfeiture of hunting equipment
- e. Confiscation of harvested deer

### **1) Number of Deer to Harvest**

There are no specific harvest goals or quotas for these hunts. Hunters may take unlimited numbers of antlerless deer (as defined by the State of Maryland in the 2020-2021 Guide to Hunting & Trapping in Maryland"). Hunters are encouraged to place an emphasis on harvesting does. Harvest rates (deer taken per hunter per day) will decline as deer population declines. With the strict control of hunting effort in this program, herd size can be effectively reduced without threat of depletion. Hunters will be limited to a total of 2 antlered deer this management season, regardless of the total number of antler points on either antler.

## 2) Hunter Application

All hunters (new and returning) must complete a Hunter Application Packet. This packet includes:

### New Hunter Application Packet

Introduction Letter

Hunter Information Form

Pre-Screening Questionnaire

Background Check Authorization Form+

### Returning Hunter Application Packet

Introduction Letter

Hunter Information Form

Background Check Authorization Form+

Applicants must submit a non-refundable \$25.00 administrative processing fee and a separate \$7 background check fee. Checks or money orders should be made payable to Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks. Applicants now have the option go to our website to fill-out and pay for their Background Check with a credit card.

A criminal history records check serves as a means to review an individual's background in respect to their participation in activities. While no screening process can grant absolute assurances, knowing an individual's criminal background can provide greater certainty that an individual with a history of inappropriate behavior will not have access to our facilities.

### [Click here for Background Check information](#)

Please note Anne Arundel County Public Schools background checks are not able to be used for the managed hunting program and all applicants must submit a background check yearly. There are 2 options for completing the Recreation and Parks Background Investigation process:

- Option #1 is to complete and submit the [Background Investigation Disclosure and Authorization](#) form. \$7.00 is payable by cash, check or money order to the address below. Mail completed form and check or money order to Recreation and Parks Headquarters. In person drop off will not be allowed this year. Please mail in or use the drop off box located in the parking lot of 1 Harry S. Truman Parkway Annapolis, MD 21401. Mail should be addressed to:

Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks

1 Harry S. Truman Parkway

Annapolis, MD 21401

Attn: Sheri Price

- Option #2 is to complete the [background check investigation](#) online through the Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks Background Screening Portal.

**NOTE:** 1. FCRA purpose = Employment by Hire or Contract (default do not change)

2. Organization = Name of the organization who you will be volunteering with. Use acronym DEER.

Hunters, who meet all criteria, will be accepted into the Managed Hunting Program.

### **3) Hunter Selection Process**

All hunters must be at least 18 years of age at the time of application submittal.

#### **To participate in the AADRP Hunt, all selected hunters must have:**

- 1) Valid State of Maryland Photo I.D. or Federal Military I.D.(along with Proof of MD Residency)
- 2) Valid 2020-2021 State of Maryland Hunting License
- 3) Hunter Safety Card. Hunters who can provide proof of a valid hunting license prior to July 11, 1977 are exempt. Proof of license must be provided in place of a Hunter Safety Card.
- 4) 2020-2021 Maryland Shooter Qualification Card by the date of the first hunt for the weapon type(s) they wish to use during the hunt. These can be obtained at a number of shooting ranges around central Maryland. Information about ranges that provide qualification is posted on the MDDNR website:  
<http://dnr.maryland.gov/huntersguide/shootqual.asp>
- 5) All new applicants must complete the Managed Deer Hunt questionnaire.
- 6) Pass a yearly background check for criminal convictions and a game laws violation check. This applies to Returning and New Hunters.
- 7) Participate in an interview scheduled after submission of the application.
- 8) Each hunter that is selected to participate in the hunt program must pay a \$50 registration fee (checks should be made payable to the Friends of Jug Bay). This money goes toward supplies for the season used at all of our hunt sites. Cash or checks will only be accepted during the mandatory meeting. Unfortunately credit cards are not accepted at this time.  
Previous season participants in AADRP Managed Hunts are considered pre-approved, pending passing of annual marksmanship qualification, criminal conviction and game law violation checks. They need not complete a questionnaire or interview. They must however pay their hunt fees each year, fill out a Hunter Information Form and participate in the lottery system. If a previous participant does not participate for two (2) consecutive years, they will loose their "pre-approved" status and must re-submit all required materials if they choose to participate again at a later date.

### **4) Mandatory Hunter Meeting – ALL HUNTERS MUST ATTEND**

All hunters must attend ONE mandatory meeting. This meeting will cover rules, policies, lottery forms, maps and stand site directions.

Due COVID-19 restrictions to group size, there will be multiple meetings held this year.

Hunters will be assigned a meeting date by last name and will be notified of their date by Wednesday August 27, 2020.

The first in person meeting will be held Tuesday, September 15, 2020 from 6:30 – 8PM and the second in person meeting will be held Thursday, September 17, 2020 from 6:30 – 8PM. In person meetings will be held in the River Birch Pavilion at Kinder Farm Park, 1001 Kinder Farm Park Rd, Millersville, MD 21108. Physical distancing will be enforced and mask wearing is mandatory.

Returning hunters will also be given the option of attending a virtual meeting. Virtual meetings will be held Tuesday September 8, 2020 from 6:30 – 8PM and Thursday September 10, 2020 from 6:30 – 8PM.

### **5) Hunt Date/Stand Site Lottery Process**

Due to COVID-19, this season's hunt date/stand site selections will be performed completely by lottery instead of selecting dates by lottery and choosing stand sites the morning of a scheduled hunt during check-in. Lottery forms are due by 4:00 PM on Wednesday, September 22nd, 2020.

Hunters whose lottery forms have not been received by the end of the business day on the due date will have hunting dates and sites assigned from those available at the conclusion of the lottery. Notification of the lottery results for site selections will be sent out no later than 4pm on Friday, September 25<sup>h</sup>, 2020.

Hunter's may hunt from either the marked stand tree locations or at a stand tree location of their choosing within 10 yards of the original tree. If a hunter chooses a different tree, a GPS coordinate of that tree must be provided to the Deer Check in Station Attendant.

### Failure to Appear on a Scheduled Hunt Day

Failure to show up to a hunt without giving at least 48 hours notice will make you eligible to be removed from the rest of the hunts. Failure to show up for 2 hunts will result in your removal from the 2020 season. Emergencies do occur and will be taken into consideration. **This will be closely monitored this year.**

### **6) Deer Drives**

Deer Drives will be utilized whenever possible where we are permitted to do so. Hunters are welcome to volunteer to assist on a drive and will receive a discount for the following season for each assisted drive. Florescent orange must be worn at all times.

## 7) Scouting Prior to the Hunt

**New hunters to our program MUST attend a scout day with a park ranger on the properties they intend to hunt.** Otherwise, hunters may scout on days and hours in which the properties are open to the public. In order to lessen the impact before the season, no scouting will be permitted on, or after October 14, 2020.

Staff assisted scout dates will be held as followed:

**MG:** 9/13 8:30AM – 11:00AM  
9/26 1:00PM – 3:00PM

**GP:** 9/13 1:00PM – 3:00PM  
9/26 8:30AM – 11:00AM

**FP:** 9/13 9:00AM – 3:00PM  
9/26 9:00AM – 3:00PM

As parking and access to these parks may be limited, hunters must be careful to: park properly, obey all local laws, and respect the rights/privacy of local residents and landowners.

## 8) Hours of Hunt

All hunting dates are weekdays, according to the following schedule. Shooting is permitted only from ½ hour before sunrise (as listed in the 2020-2021 Guide to Hunting & Trapping in Maryland) until **11:00 a.m.** Firearms must be out of the area by **12:00 noon**, unless pursuing an injured animal with specific permission from the Check Station Attendant or Deer Project Manager.

## 9) Dates of Hunt

There are 24 managed hunting days this season. Weather cancellations may occur as determined by AADRP officials. Cancelled dates will not be made up. Additional cancellations may occur if deemed necessary by the AADRP.

HUNTER ORANGE must be worn by EVERYONE.

**MG**  
October 23, 29  
November 6, 11, 20  
December 3, 14  
January 6

**FP**  
October 19, 27  
November 5, 10, 16  
December 1, 7  
January 4

**GP**  
October 21, 30  
November 4, 13, 18  
December 11, 16  
January 8

## 10) Check-in times/Stand Lottery

Due to COVID-19, check-in will be split into groups to allow for adequate physical spacing. A hunter's lottery position and stand site will be held for 5 minutes at their group's designated check-in time. If a hunter is late for check-in, that hunter's

stand site will be forfeited and made available for selection by others. This late hunter and all standby hunters will choose their stand site at the end of both group's check-in times. Mask wearing is mandatory during check-in.

### OCTOBER AND DECEMBER

Hunters with a lottery placement of 1 - 11 will check in at 5:00 AM during the months of October and December. Hunters with a lottery placement of 12 - 23 will check in at 5:15 AM during the months of October and December.

### NOVEMBER

Hunters with a lottery placement of 1 - 11 will check in at 4:30 AM during the month of November. Hunters with a lottery placement of 12 - 23 will check in at 4:45 during the month of November.

A participant who has been selected by lottery for a scheduled hunt date and finds they are unable to attend; must email [rpdeer00@aacounty.org](mailto:rpdeer00@aacounty.org) and provide at least 48hrs notice prior of being unable to participate. An email will be sent out to all participating hunters from [rpdeer00@aacounty.org](mailto:rpdeer00@aacounty.org) notifying hunters of the available slot. The first email received by [rpdeer00@aacounty.org](mailto:rpdeer00@aacounty.org) from an eligible hunter, stating they want to take this slot will be assigned the slot. A confirmation email will be sent out to the group stating to whom the slot was assigned. The County is not responsible for mistakes in emails, delays in server responses or any other similar circumstance resulting causing a delay in responses. Hunters that are assigned slots in this fashion will be assigned the stand of the withdrawn hunter and will keep the original participants position in the lottery for check-in times.

Stand sites will be chosen in the following order:

- 1) Lottery Hunters
- 2) Standby Hunters (in order of check-in)
- 3) Late Lottery Hunters (if applicable)

If less than 48hrs notice is provided; no email will be sent and the vacant slot will either be assigned to a standby hunter on the day of the scheduled hunt if possible or be left vacant.

### **11) Safety Zone**

No hunting will take place within designated safety zones, which are posted and identified with signs. Do not shoot at deer that are in the safety zone or shoot across any roadway. **It is illegal to shoot: into, from, through a safety zone, less than 150 yards distance from any occupied structure or less than 300 yards from a school.** Weapons must be unloaded and breached (if applicable) while within a safety zone.



## 12) Equipment

**FIREARMS SHALL BE UNLOADED WHEN WALKING TO, ENTERING, EXITING OR LEAVING YOUR STAND. ALL EQUIPMENT IS SUBJECT TO INSPECTION. RANDOM INSPECTIONS MAY OCCUR BEFORE AND/OR DURING A HUNT.**

**Firearms:** All firearms must be equipped with either optical sights (scope, red dot, etc) or front and rear “rifle” or “iron” (no single-bead sights). **All shots with firearms must be at stationary targets at a range, no greater than 80 yards.**

*Shotguns:* Shall be 20 gauge or larger. Ammunition is to be a rifled slug or sabot. Pumpkin balls and buckshot are prohibited.

*Muzzleloaders:* To be considered a muzzleloader, a gun must be loaded from the muzzle. RIFLES ONLY! Muzzleloading shotguns, handguns and flintlocks are prohibited. The rifle shall be at least .40 caliber in size and use no less than 60 grains of black powder (or a black powder equivalent) and propel one all-lead, lead alloy or copper soft-nosed or expanding bullet at a single discharge. Sabot loads and conical bullets are legal. Spherical bullets are prohibited. Telescopic or iron sites must be used. Percussion cap and inline ignition muzzleloaders are to be used. Muzzleloaders are considered unloaded if the ignition system is disabled by removal of the cap, battery or primer.

*Spent Ammunition:* Hunters are responsible for keeping track of any spent ammunition or shell casings they produce. Hunters must make every effort to pick up these items.

### **Tree Stands, Safety Belts/Harnesses and Haul Lines:**

All hunting will be from portable, removable tree stands at least 10' high. These stands must be placed and removed daily. Only stands that do not damage trees will be allowed. Screws or spikes for climbing trees are prohibited. **Safety belts or harnesses must be worn while in stand, haul lines must be used to raise and lower equipment and their use is mandatory.** **IF A HUNTER SHOWS UP WITHOUT THIS EQUIPMENT THEY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO HUNT THAT DAY.**

### **Hunter Orange:**

Fluorescent orange (hunter orange) promotes hunter safety because it is a color not found in nature. All AADRP Managed Hunt participants must wear it for their protection and the safety of other people whenever hunters are afield. All people who hunt any wildlife or accompany, aid, or assist a hunter in a field, marsh, wooded area, or on the water must wear fluorescent orange.

Whenever participating in an AADRP Managed Hunt, everyone must wear:

- A cap of solid daylight fluorescent orange color (worn on the head at all times);  
**AND**
  - A vest or jacket containing back and front panels of at least 250 square inches of solid fluorescent orange color (worn as outer garment at all times) **OR**;
  - An outer garment of camouflage fluorescent orange worn above the waist which contains at least 50% fluorescent orange color.
- **Hunter Orange must be worn at all times, starting from the conclusion of the check-in meeting until after a hunter is checked out and leaves the property.**

#### **Miscellaneous Equipment:**

Scents (attractants/masking) are permitted but a hunter is responsible for picking up any cartridges, containers, markers or ties that are used to deploy such scents.

#### **Prohibited Equipment:**

Bright eyes, screw steps, spike steps, bait and salts/minerals are currently prohibited. Hunters found using prohibited equipment are subject to removal from the program.

#### **14) Harvest**

To meet population reductions goals, emphasis is placed on taking doe along with antlerless deer.

##### Doe & Antlerless Deer\*

An unlimited number of either may be taken as part of this management program. \*Or as currently defined by MD DNR.

##### Antlered Deer\* (Buck)

Hunters will be limited to a total of 2 antlered deer this management season, across all of the hunted properties. An antlered deer is described as a deer with two or more points on one antler, or a deer with one antler three or more inches long. \* Or as currently defined by MD DNR

A hunter may take an antlered deer first, but must harvest 2 antlerless deer before taking an additional antlered deer.

##### Lottery Bucks

A lottery is held on each hunt day to allow a hunter to harvest an additional buck on that day only. These bucks must meet MD DNR's definition of an antlered deer and do not count towards your season's buck limit.

**A hunter, who takes an ANTLERED DEER, without first completing the prerequisites will: 1) forfeit the antlers, 2) will not be allowed to take another**

antlered deer this season and 3) may be permanently removed from future hunts. The head and/or body of any deer not meeting these restrictions are subject to forfeiture to AADRP. This restriction does not apply to “spike bucks” that are technically antlerless as defined by the State regulations – both antlers having only one point and less than three inches in length from the top of the skull.

### 15) Deer Check-station

Each morning, hunters must check in with AADRP personnel on site at the designated area for each property or at a designated centralized check-in facility. All deer taken must be field tagged according to State regulations *before* being taken to the park’s check-in station. Check-in stations will be designated at each property and indicated on the maps distributed at the mandatory meeting. AADRP staff will remain on site throughout the hunting hours for inspection, safety and enforcement purposes.

\*As an incentive to increase deer cull numbers AADRP will be covering every 3<sup>rd</sup> deer harvested by an individual hunter. Processor information will be provided closer to season as well as instructions on how to collect this incentive.

Hunters are responsible for the proper disposal of offal in the park. Offal should be covered with leaves or other debris. Every effort must be made to move deer away from the tree stand and trails before cleaning the deer. **All deer shall be concealed from view while being transported on public roads.** Please take all reasonable efforts to remove deer from the parks discreetly. Failure to do so may result in being suspended from future hunts.

As part of the check-in process, hunters must call or e-register with MD DNR before leaving from the check-in location to receive a confirmation number and that number must be provided to the check-in attendant. Deer taken in the AADRP managed hunt do not count towards your regular season bag limits in Maryland. *Please follow the special instructions that will be provided to you, when checking your deer with MDDNR.*

### 16) Wounded Deer

Every effort must be made to make clean, one-shot kills. While it is understood that not every shot will be immediately lethal, it is better to live with regret over a shot not taken than the regret of a poorly placed shot. Hunters must track wounded deer and make every reasonable effort to insure a kill and possession. Hunters should not leave their stand to track deer extensively (interfering with other hunters) until the end of hunting for the day at 11:00 a.m.

During the managed hunts, a wounded deer may enter your safe shooting area. This deer may or may not have been injured during our hunt and you will have to

make a responsible decision on how to act. As a participant in these managed hunts, we expect you to be a safe, ethical, responsible and humane hunter. AADRP does not want any animal to suffer as a result of our management efforts and believes that a wounded deer should be “put down” to minimize its pain and suffering. Any wounded deer that is “put down” is subject to confiscation by the hunt staff. If the deer is antlered, the antlers will be forfeited. If it is determined that a “put down” deer was taken improperly; the hunter will not be allowed to take another deer this season and may be permanently removed from future hunts.

### **17) Chronic Wasting Disease**

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a disease of the brain and nervous system in the deer family. Maryland DNR has tested over 10,176 random hunter-harvested deer for CWD since 1999 and first detected the disease in 2010 in Alleghany County. To date 52 infected deer have been detected in Maryland, 33 which have been from Allegany County, and 7 cases have been detected in Washington County. CWD has not been shown to be transmissible to humans. As of 2020 there have not been any known cases of CWD in Anne Arundel County. This is no reason to not follow the same precautionary measures as they might to protect against other pathogens or diseases.

- Avoid shooting or handling a deer that appears sick.
- Wear latex or rubber gloves when field dressing or butchering deer.
- Remove all internal organs.
- Remove the meat from the bones and spinal column if home processing a deer.
- Do not use household knives or utensils when field dressing or home processing a deer.
- Avoid cutting through bones or the spinal column.
- If you saw off antlers or through a bone, or if you sever the spinal column with a knife, be sure to disinfect these tools prior to using them for the butchering or removal of meat.
- Remove all fat, membranes and connective tissue from the meat. Note that normal field dressing and trimming of fat from meat will remove lymph nodes.
- Always wash hands and instruments thoroughly after dressing and processing game meat.
- Use a 50/50 solution of household chlorine bleach and water to disinfect tools and work surfaces. Wipe down counters and let them dry; soak knives for one hour.

### **18) Parking**

Parking will be in designated areas only. They are noted as “P” on each of the park hunting maps. Special vehicle parking permits may be issued for certain

properties. Permits are to be hung from the rearview mirror and will identify the vehicle as belonging to either a registered hunt participant or a staff member. These permits must be returned at the end of the day's hunt.

## **19) Emergency Procedures**

If an emergency occurs that requires immediate medical attention, call 911 and provide them the address for the property you are on (printed on the pocket tag). You may have to advise them that you are in Anne Arundel County. Tell them what your stand number is for the managed hunt. If possible, please call one of the Deer Hunt Staff numbers that listed on your pocket tag as well.

If it's a non-life-threatening emergency and you need to leave your stand and the hunt, please call one of the Deer Hunt Staff numbers that are listed on your pocket tag. A staff member can meet you as soon as possible to escort you from the hunting area if needed.

*\*As of 7/1/2020, this season's rules and regulations are awaiting final approval from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.*