



# 2024

## DEER MANAGEMENT MANAGED HUNT PROCEDURES, RULES & REGULATIONS

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY RECREATION & PARKS

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STRIVING FOR SUSTAINABILITY IN OUR PARKLANDS



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## 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 (MD DNR), the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks (AADRP) will conduct managed hunts for the express purpose of reducing the deer population within the properties listed below. These properties are Beverly Triton Nature Park (BT), Magothy Greenway Natural Area (MG), and Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Park (WP). 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 in Anne Arundel County, as printed in the “[24-25 Maryland Guide to Hunting and Trapping](#)”, 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. Deer taken in our program do not count toward a hunter’s statewide bag limits.

Safety is of utmost importance and the hunters chosen for our program must be experienced, responsible and competent. To ensure this, all prospective hunters must undergo a background check for criminal convictions, and fish and game violations, as well as 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” sights (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.

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>
Beverly Triton Nature Park (BT)	15	14
Magothy Greenway Natural Area (MG)	21	20
Weinberg Park (WP)	14	13



In each park, a safety zone may be posted surrounding the area where hunting is to occur. Weapons are to be unloaded, and the breech opened if applicable, while 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.

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

- **Application Packets for the 2024 season are due on August 23, 2024.**
- Our season runs from October 2024 – December 2024, during which there will be 18 hunt dates. There will be no “rain-dates” for canceled hunts.
- Due to construction, Bacon Ridge Natural Area will not be hunted during the 2024 season.

## **II. General Rules & 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:

- Revocation of hunter permit and privileges
- Civil Citations(s)
- Arrest, criminal prosecution
- Forfeiture of hunting equipment
- 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 “[24-25 Maryland Guide to Hunting and Trapping](#)”). 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. New & Returning Hunter Requirements

	<b>Requirement</b>	<b>New Hunters</b>	<b>Returning Hunters</b>
1.	Participant Information Form (New Hunter) with Pre-Screening Questionnaire	✓	<b>NOT REQUIRED</b>
2.	Participant Information Form (Returning Hunter)	<b>NOT REQUIRED</b>	✓
3.	Valid State of Maryland Photo I.D. or Federal Military I.D. (along with Proof of MD Residency)	✓	✓
4.	18 years of age at the time the application packet is submitted	✓	✓
5.	\$25.00 administrative processing fee (checks should be made payable to Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks)  <u>Mail or deliver to:</u> Attn: Deer Management Program Resource Conservation & Protection 1555 Severn Chapel Rd Crownsville, MD 21032	✓	✓
6.	Anne Arundel County Recreation & Parks Background Check (yearly)	✓	✓
7.	New Hunter Interview Interviews will be scheduled and held in person on Tuesday, September 3, 2024 & Wednesday, September 4, 2024	✓	<b>NOT REQUIRED</b>
8.	\$50 registration fee (checks should be made payable to the Friends of Jug Bay)  <u>Mail or deliver to:</u> Attn: Friends / Deer Management Jug Bay Wetland Sanctuary 1361 Wrighton Rd Lothian, MD 20711	✓	✓
9.	2024-2025 State of Maryland Hunting License	✓	✓
10.	Hunter Safety Card	✓	✓
11.	2024-2025 Maryland Shooter Qualification Card* (by the date of the first hunt for the weapon type(s) they wish to use during the hunt)  *A Maryland Shooter Qualification Card can be obtained at a number of shooting ranges around central Maryland. Information about ranges that provide qualification is posted on the MD DNR website.	✓	✓



**Previous season participants (Returning Hunters) in AADRP Managed Hunts are considered pre-approved, pending passing of annual marksmanship qualification, criminal conviction and game law violation checks. They do not need to 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 lose their “pre-approved” status and must re-submit all required materials if they choose to participate again at a later date.

### **3. Background Check**

A criminal history records check serves as a means to review an individual’s background in respect to their participation in Recreation & Parks activities.

**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 Recreation & Parks background check yearly.**

There are 2 options for completing the [background check process](#):

**OPTION #1:** Complete the process online through the Anne Arundel County Recreation & Parks [Background Screening Portal](#) (click Begin). A \$7.00 processing fee is payable online.

NOTE:

- ECRA purpose = “**Employment by Hire or Contract**” (default do not change)
- Organization = Name of the organization who you will be volunteering with. Please enter “**DEER**”.

**OPTION #2:** Complete and submit the [Background Investigation Disclosure and Authorization Form](#). A \$7.00 processing fee is payable by cash (cash is accepted in person, only at the address below), check or money order.

Mail your completed form and check / money order to:

Attn: Business Office / Deer Management Program  
Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks  
1 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401



#### 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.

**New Hunters must attend an in-person meeting held Monday, September 9, 2024, 6:30 – 7:30 PM.** This meeting will be held in the Harvest Hall at Kinder Farm Park, located at 1001 Kinder Farm Park Rd, Millersville, MD 21108.

Returning Hunters may attend either the in-person meeting, or a virtual meeting **Tuesday, September 10, 2024, 6:30 – 7:30 PM.** This meeting will also cover the open hunts that are available to returning hunters. Returning Hunters who are unable to make the virtual meeting may make other arrangements with the Deer Management Team.

#### 5. Hunt Date Reservation Process (Lottery)

Hunters will complete and submit a Managed Deer Hunt Lottery Form to communicate their hunt date, location and stand preferences.

**Lottery forms are due by 4:00 PM on Monday, September 23, 2024.** Hunters whose lottery forms have not been received by the end of the business day on the due date will have hunting dates 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 4:00 PM on Monday, September 30, 2024.

#### 6. Hunters per Day

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 encouraged).

#### 7. Deer Drives

Deer drives will be utilized whenever possible on eligible properties. Hunters are welcome to volunteer to assist on a drive and will receive a discount for the following season for each assisted drive. Fluorescent orange must be worn at all times during deer drives.



## 8. Scouting Prior to the Hunts

**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.

Staff assisted scout dates will be held as followed:

### **Beverly Triton Nature Park (BT)**

Saturday, September 14, 2024	12:30 PM - 3:00 PM
Sunday, September 15, 2024	9:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Saturday, September 21, 2024	12:30 PM - 3:00 PM

### **Magothy Greenway Natural Area (MG)**

Saturday, September 14, 2024	9:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Sunday, September 22, 2024	12:30 PM - 3:00 PM

### **Weinberg Park (WP)**

Saturday, September 14, 2024	12:30 PM - 3:00 PM
Sunday, September 22, 2024	9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

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.

**In order to lessen the impact before the season, no scouting will be permitted on or after Monday, October 7, 2024.**

## 9. Hours of Hunts

All hunting dates are weekdays. **Shooting is permitted only from ½ hour before sunrise** (as listed in the “[24-25 Maryland Guide to Hunting and Trapping](#)”) **until 11:00 AM**. Firearms must be out of the area by 12:00 PM, unless pursuing an injured animal with specific permission from the Deer Management Team. The park will reopen to the public at 1:00 PM.





## 10. Dates of Hunts

There are 18 managed hunting days this season. Weather cancellations may occur as determined by AADRP officials. Canceled dates will not be made up. Additional cancellations may occur if deemed necessary by the AADRP.

### **BT (Beverly Triton Nature Park)**

Friday, October 18  
Tuesday, October 29  
Friday, November 8  
Monday, November 18  
Wednesday, December 4

### **MG (Magothy Greenway NA)**

Monday, October 21  
Thursday, October 31  
Tuesday, November 12  
Wednesday, November 20  
Monday, December 9  
Tuesday, December 17

### **WP (Weinberg Park)**

Tuesday, October 15  
Wednesday, October 23  
Monday, November 4  
Thursday, November 14  
Friday, December 6  
Thursday, December 12  
Wednesday, December 18

## 11. Check-in Times

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.

### **October and December**

**Check in will begin at 5:00 AM.**

### **November**

**Check in will begin at 4:30 AM.**

A participant who has been selected by lottery for a scheduled hunt date and finds himself/herself unable to attend; must email [rpdeer00@aacounty.org](mailto:rpdeer00@aacounty.org) at least 48 hours notice prior to 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 the open slot will be selected. A confirmation email will be sent out to all participating hunters stating to whom the slot was assigned. Hunters that are assigned slots in this fashion, will keep the original participant's position in the lottery.

If less than 48 hours notice is provided; no email will be sent and the vacant slot will be assigned to a standby hunter on the day of the scheduled hunt. The Deer Management Team is not responsible for mistakes in emails, delays in server responses or any other similar circumstance resulting or causing a delay in responses.



**Failure to Appear on a Scheduled Hunt Day:** Failure to attend a hunt without giving at least 48 hours notice may result in the forfeiture of your remaining scheduled hunt dates. Failure to attend 2 hunts without giving at least 48 hours notice will result in your removal from the 2024 season. Emergency situations will be taken into consideration.

## 12. 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. Do not shoot across any roadway. It is illegal to shoot into, from, or through a safety zone. It is illegal to shoot less than 150 yards from any occupied structure, or less than 300 yards from a school.** Weapons must be unloaded, and the breech opened if applicable, while within a safety zone.

## 13. Equipment

**NOTE: 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” sights (no single-bead sights). **All shots with firearms must be at stationary targets at a range, no greater than 80 yards.** Firearms may not have aftermarket modifications.

**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 sights 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.



**Straight-Walled Cartridge Rifles:** In alignment with MD DNR regulations, the following Straight-Walled Rifle Cartridge calibers have been authorized for use during this program: **44 Rem Mag, 350 Legend, 450 Bushmaster, 45-70 Government, 444 Marlin, and .460 Smith and Wesson Magnum.** All other Straight-Walled rifle cartridges are currently not authorized. Bottle-Neck cartridges are not authorized for use in this program. **Straight-Walled Cartridge Pistols/Handguns are not permitted in this program.**

**Ammunition** must meet all regulations set forth by MD DNR in the Guide to Hunting and Trapping. Participants are only authorized to use new ammunition purchased from a reputable manufacturer. Reloaded cartridges are not permitted for use in this program.

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 arrives without this equipment they will not be allowed to hunt that day. **Tree saddles are NOT permitted.**

**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.



**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:** The following items are not permitted in this program:

- Bright eyes or similar reflective trail markers
- Screw or spike steps
- Bait and salts/minerals

**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 (as defined by MD DNR).

### Doe & Antlerless Deer

An unlimited number of either may be taken as part of this management program.

### 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 (as defined by MD DNR). This restriction does not apply to “spike bucks” that are technically antlerless according to State regulations – both antlers having only one point and less than three inches in length from the top of the skull.

**A hunter may take an antlered deer first, but must harvest 2 antlerless deer before taking an additional antlered deer. A hunter who takes an antlered deer without first completing this prerequisite may be required to:**

- 1. Forfeit the antlers**
- 2. Forfeit the deer**
- 3. Not be allowed to take another antlered deer this season, and/or**
- 4. Be permanently removed from future hunts**

### 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.



## 15. Deer Check-Station

AADRP staff will remain on site throughout the hunting hours for inspection, safety and enforcement purposes.

All deer taken must be field tagged according to MD DNR 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. Hunters are solely responsible for the deer they harvest.

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. Please follow the special instructions that will be provided to you, when checking your deer with MD DNR.

**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.

Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry informational brochures are available upon request.

## 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 AM.

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. To date 223 infected deer have been detected in Maryland. Cases have been found in Allegany County, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Frederick County, Montgomery County and Washington County. CWD has not been shown to be transmissible to humans. As of 2024 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 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 Management Team phone numbers that are 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 Management Team phone 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 7/22/2024, this season’s rules and regulations are awaiting final approval from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.*