

**BURLINGTON COUNTY PARKS SYSTEM
DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The Burlington County Parks System Deer Management Program is a facilitated, controlled deer hunt aimed at reducing the white tail deer population in the region. The rules and regulations for this program have been created and will be enforced to manage deer hunting on County property in an effective and ethical manner with foremost consideration being given to the safety of parks visitors and hunters alike.

I. GENERAL POLICIES

Only those who receive Deer Management Program permits are allowed to hunt on Burlington County property. Applicants for permits must read and comprehend the Rules and Regulations in order to obtain a permit.

Participants in this program understand that Burlington County properties are high use, recreation areas that will remain open for public use during the hunting season. As such, the Deer Management Program Rules and Regulations and hunting schedules are created and maintained to ensure the safety of park users and hunters alike and to ensure the continued success of the program.

Hunting will be permitted in the Burlington County Park System properties listed in the table below. The number of permits that will be issued in any season may be adjusted by the County depending upon the estimated deer population, parks visitorship, or work to be conducted in the park.

Property	NJ Fish and Wildlife Zone	Number of Permits	Total approximate acreage
Amico Island	49	5	65
Long Bridge Park	48	10	130
Smith's Woods	48	10	150
Crystal Lake	48	15	180
Rowan Property	49	10	110
Gale Property	17	10	140
Barkers Brook	48	15	500
Arney's Mount	48	10	75

In addition to adherence to the County Rules and Regulations, all New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Fish and Wildlife (NJFW) license and permit requirements must be followed by participants at all times. As indicated in the table above, County properties fall within different NJFW Deer Management Zones (DMZ). Therefore, hunters must be aware of the NJFW regulations for each zone. Any hunter who is found guilty of NJFW violations while hunting on County property will be immediately and permanently banned from participation in the Burlington County Deer Management Program.

The County has the right to preserve the integrity and mission of the deer management program by removing a hunter from the program at any time for reasons including, but not limited to, falsified information on applications or harvest reports; violation of NJFW or County Rules and Regulations; or based solely on the discretion of the individuals directing the Deer Management Program.

The County may adjust hunting regulations, areas, boundaries, and scheduled hunting dates at any time during the season. The County may restrict hunting in certain areas in order to conduct maintenance activities.

II. RULES & REGULATIONS

A) General Regulations

1. Hunting on Burlington County property is allowed only by those who apply for and are approved to receive a permit to participate in the Deer Management Program. Procedures for issuance of annual permits will be developed by the Parks System.
2. Only Bow hunting is allowed. No guns allowed at any time.
3. Use or possession of alcoholic beverages or drugs while on the property is prohibited.
4. Littering is prohibited. Hunters are expected to properly dispose of any trash brought into the park.
5. Property damage or injury must be reported immediately to the Burlington County Parks Office or Ranger Duty Phone.
6. Permittees are encouraged to report any hunters that do not have a valid County permit or other illegal and restricted activities to Ranger Duty Phone.
7. Vehicles are restricted to public roads and designated parking areas (See attached maps) and must display the vehicle parking permit clearly visible from the outside of the vehicle. Parking is only allowed if legal and safe.
8. No hunter, under any circumstance, is allowed to create or maintain trails to their tree stand or anywhere in the park.
9. Reflective tags, clips and twists and colored tape are permitted to mark access routes but need to be removed immediately after the season.
10. Guests or non-permitted hunters are not permitted to accompany a permitted hunter on hunting days or for hunting activity, with the exception that one guest may assist the permitted hunter in setting up and taking down a tree stand and locating and removing harvested deer.
11. Feeders are not permitted at any time.
12. Trail cameras are not allowed.
13. Screw-steps or any device that requires inserting into a tree is prohibited.

B) Hunting Schedule

1. Hunting schedules may be unique to each property within the program and may be more restrictive than NJFW regulations. Permitted hunters must abide by the hunting schedule issued for each property.
2. A hunter shall be allowed to hunt on County approved property prior to scheduled opening times of parks if the hunting times are within NJFW regulations. If the parking lot gate is closed, the hunter must locate their own parking in a safe and legal manner. Hunters are not permitted to drive around locked gates.
3. If a hunter is parked on County property, they must remove their vehicle prior to park closing. If a hunter must remain on the property beyond closing time to track deer or find a missing hunter, they must alert the Park Ranger by calling the Ranger duty phone.
4. There is no hunting on Sunday.
5. The hunting season will be in accordance with the State Fish and Wildlife zones respective to each property.

C) Safety Regulations

1. A minimum 50-foot safety zone is required to be maintained on either side of all County-recognized trails, roads, and driveways within which no hunting activity is permitted, including but not limited to:
 - i) Placement of tree stand

- ii) Shooting from or into the safety zone.
 - iii) Field dressing
 - iv) Bait piles
2. A 150' safety zone is required around buildings.
 3. No shooting may take place across Burlington County recognized trails, access/ service roads, driveways, or public roads.
 4. Hunters are responsible for knowing safety zones, park boundaries and restricted areas.
 5. Hunters are only authorized to be on the County owned property and are responsible for knowing where they are at all times.
 6. All bows are required to be un-nocked while a hunter is traveling to or from their tree stand.
 7. No target practice is allowed.
 8. No deer drives are allowed.

D) Tree Stands

1. All hunting must take place from an elevated, commercially manufactured, Tree Stand Manufacturer's Association (TMA) certified temporary tree stands including ladder stands, lock on stands, and climbing stands.
2. Hunters are strongly encouraged to wear a TMA certified fall restraint system while in the tree stand.
3. Tree stands must be placed at minimum 10 feet off the ground.
4. Hunters are allowed only one tree stand in the assigned park property.
5. Tree stands may be placed in the park after the hunter has received their County-issued permit and only two weeks prior to legal hunting season.
6. Each stand must clearly display the County Permit number and must be clearly visible from the ground. Stands without this information will be removed.
7. Selective vegetation removal will be limited to hand pruning and small limb removal to gain access, improve sight lines, or hang a stand.
8. Tree stands must be removed from the property by March 31st. Tree stands remaining on the property after March 31st will be removed and disposed of by the Parks System without notice. The owner of a tree stand left in the park after March 31st may be denied a permit in the following hunting season.

E) Harvest Requirements

1. A hunter must harvest one antlerless deer prior to harvesting an antlered deer for each individual archery season.
2. All deer harvests must be reported to the Parks System via the online harvest report form within 24 hours of harvest. Reports must include the date, state confirmation number, and name of property the deer was harvested in.
3. Hunters are required to notify the Parks Office of any lost/injured deer not recovered by the hunter.
4. Any individual hunter that harvests at least four (4) antlerless deer will receive 50% off their permit fee for the following year. Any individual hunter that harvests 10 or more antlerless deer will have the following season's application fee waived.

F) Additional Requirements to retain eligibility for the program:

1. Each hunter must complete a Hunter Feedback Survey, which will be sent out at the end of the season with a deadline for return to the County. Hunters who do not return the survey may not be assigned to hunt in the park(s) of their choice in the following season.
2. Hunters must abide by all State and County regulations at all times.

G) Hunter Identification

1. Hunters who are approved to participate in the Burlington County Deer Management Program are required to:

- i) Clearly display their County-issued parking permit on the dashboard or visor of a vehicle. If multiple participants travel to an access point in one vehicle, a permit for each hunter must be displayed.
- ii) Hunters must carry their County Permit with them when they are on the property.

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