

## Why controlled hunting on Geauga Park District soil?

Conservation is the active care of preserved lands, and protection ensures the land remains for generations to come. Controlled hunting is used to maintain healthy, balanced populations of plants and animals on Park District properties. Time has proven it a viable management tool and a proactive approach to our mission.

By involving residents in these goals, we're all taking stake in Geauga County's natural resources together.

## Ensuring safety for all: hunters, visitors & neighbors

Selected hunters are knowledgeable, safety-conscious and experienced, having completed a safety education course through the State of Ohio and a program qualification test and mandatory orientation meeting through the Park District. All adhere to rules and regulations set forth by Geauga Park District and the Ohio Division of Wildlife.

Deer management only occurs on specific dates on properties identified by the Park District Board of Park Commissioners. **At no time will Park District properties be open for public hunting and trapping, except by permit.**

The Park District's Ranger Department enforces strict controls over every hunt, including hunting areas, hunter education requirements, number of hunters and type of hunting implements used for harvest. Likewise, when it's time for a hunt the Park District informs the public through signs and public correspondence, ensuring safe enjoyment of the parks for all.

**"No persons shall hunt, discharge a firearm or any other weapon at any wildlife species within 200 feet of any road, structure, path, and/or parking lot; or on, across or from any roadway." — Park District Regulation No. 12.4**

## Safety Tips

### Responsible hunters

- Learn and practice safe hunting techniques
- Practice good sportsmanship
- Know the capabilities and limitations of your hunting devices and use them safely
- Obey and support all wildlife laws
- Report any violations
- Do not knowingly interfere with another hunter
- Respect the right of others to lawfully share the outdoors
- Value the hunting experience
- Make sure you know your target
- Be aware of your surroundings
- Transport game in an acceptable manner
- Dispose of carcasses appropriately

### Reporting violations

Violations should always be reported, even if you were the one who inadvertently committed the violation. Call the Geauga Park District Ranger Department between 10:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at 440-286-9516. After hours, call the Geauga County Sheriff's Department at 440-286-1234 and ask the sheriff's department to contact a ranger.

**For more on the Park District's deer management program, contact Eileen at 440-279-0829 or [esmith@geaugaparkdistrict.org](mailto:esmith@geaugaparkdistrict.org), or visit [www.geaugaparkdistrict.org](http://www.geaugaparkdistrict.org).**



GEAUGA PARK  
DISTRICT

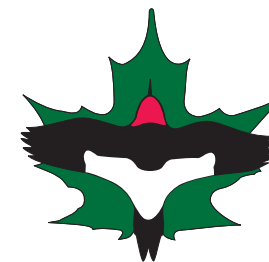
9160 Robinson Road  
Chardon, Ohio 44024  
440-286-9516  
[www.geaugaparkdistrict.org](http://www.geaugaparkdistrict.org)

PROTECT · CONSERVE · CONNECT

## DEER MANAGEMENT

## CONTROLLED HUNTING PROGRAM

# Frequently Asked Questions



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Natural resource management provides active conservation stewardship through the care of plant and animal species in order to maintain a healthy balance within various habitats and natural areas.





## Qualifying to hunt

### Who can hunt on Geauga Park District property?

Only pre-qualified Geauga County residents are permitted to hunt on Park District property. Hunting is limited to whitetail deer and is by permit only.

### Who is a Geauga County resident?

Someone who resides in Geauga County or pays property tax to Geauga County.

### What do I need to hunt on Park property?

ODNR rules apply. Pre-qualified hunters must have a current Ohio hunting license and either a driver's license or Ohio identification (photo optional). A youth hunter may accompany an adult in possession of a permit and license. We encourage youth hunters to attend our Hunters Education Training Program.

### How do I get an application?

Applications can be picked up at Geauga Park District's nature centers: Big Creek Park's Meyer Center, 9160 Robinson Road in Chardon, or The West Woods Nature Center, 9465 Kinsman Road in Russell Township; or at Great Lakes Outdoor Supply locations: 14908 N. State Road in Middlefield, or 8389 Mayfield Road in Chesterland. They can also be downloaded from or filled out at <http://bit.ly/gpdhunt>.

### When and where do I qualify?

Hunters must pass a qualification test with the equipment they will use hunting. See Great Lakes Outdoor's brochure for dates, times and costs.

### How do I get a permit as a neighbor?

Some properties selected for the controlled hunting program will be hunted by neighbors only. A neighbor must own property adjacent to a selected park or, at the time of qualification, present written permission to hunt a selected park from an owner of adjacent property. A complete list of properties selected from the program can be viewed on our website, at our nature centers or at Great Lakes Outdoors.

*If you feel you are a neighbor, please fill out the Neighbor Permit application.*

*Call Eileen at 440-279-0829 with questions.*

## Selection and orientation

### How do I get a permit?

Applications will be placed in a lottery. Successful applicants must qualify and attend a mandatory meeting.

### How and when will the lottery take place?

A random drawing of the applications will be conducted no later than July 31. Applicants can learn if they were successful and receive their dates to qualify by the week of August 21, 2011, by finding the list posted at <http://bit.ly/gpdhunt> and at a Great Lakes Outdoor Supply locations.

### When will I get my permit?

You will be issued a permit at the conclusion of the proficiency qualification and mandatory orientation meeting.

### How do I get to my designated hunting location?

You will be provided a map and additional information at the mandatory orientation meeting.



## Communication

### How will neighbors be informed of the controlled hunting program?

A mailing to notify neighbors is sent before hunting season. Updated mailings will be provided if necessary.

Area newspapers will receive press releases, signage will be clearly posted at selected parks that are open to the public, and at times those parks may also be completely closed to ensure public safety.

Neighbors witnessing any inappropriate activities are encouraged to contact the Ranger Department immediately.

*Gauga Park District encourages neighbors living adjacent to the selected parks to complete the controlled hunting requirements and participate themselves.*

