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How to Apply for Permit(s)

1. **NEW**: In 2024 all applications will be submitted using the County’s online reservation software known as CivicRec. Each participant will be able to submit fill out and submit their application online. Only one application per person will be permitted.

2. The application period will begin on **July 31** and continue through **September 1st**. Only one application per person may be submitted and for only one park/location only.

3. Antlerless Hunting License Requirements: Park/sites are within WMU 5C with the exceptions of Black Rock Sanctuary and Exton Park. Exton Park and Black Rock Sanctuary are within WMU 5D. Each applicant and participant is required to have at least one antlerless deer license for the appropriate WMU.

SAFETY STATEMENT

Hunting within the boundaries of Chester County Real Estate is a privilege granted by the Chester County Commissioners through the Chester County Parks + Preservation Department. The Chester County Parks + Preservation Department conducts these hunts to scientifically manage wildlife populations within the park system and to preserve a balanced ecosystem while providing ongoing recreation opportunities for the general public. The future success of these hunts depends on the ethical and safe conduct of all those who participate in these hunting programs. If these programs are to continue each participant must make their own safety and the safety of the public their first and foremost priority.

Participant deviation from the Chester County Real Estate Rules and Regulations, Pennsylvania Game Law and the US Fish and Wildlife Service Regulations shall not be tolerated. Such conduct, whether witnessed by, or reported to Department staff, shall be considered grounds for permanent expulsion from CCPPD hunting programs. **Appropriate citations and fines will be issued.**

Park Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Contact</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hibernia County Park (HCP)</td>
<td>1 Park Road, Coatesville, PA 19320</td>
<td>610-344-5415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nottingham County Park (NCP)</td>
<td>150 Park Road, Nottingham, PA 19362</td>
<td>610-344-6415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springton Manor Farm (SMF)</td>
<td>860 Springton Road, Glenmoore, PA 19343</td>
<td>610-344-6415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warwick County Park (WCP)</td>
<td>382 County Park Road, Pottstown, PA 19465</td>
<td>610-344-6415</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

hunting@chesco.org
A. WHITE-TAILED DEER MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Chester County Parks + Preservation Department is responsible for the stewardship of 5000 acres of parks/trails and undeveloped open space parcels. Most of the managed acreage consists of interior and marginal forests. White-tailed deer are a very important animal species that thrive within forest ecosystems – particularly within the edges and ecotones. This animal species has a significant impact on the forest ecosystems regeneration and without ongoing population management the forests cannot sustain themselves. Regulated archery hunting continues to be the tool of choice to manage the white-tailed deer population supported by the park’s forests. This proven management system will again follow all PA Game Commission seasons, bag limits, and objectives for southeastern Pennsylvania. There is a significant recreational benefit to this management system as in 2023 there was a total of 5700 hunting hours generated and all in a safe and ethical manner. The Department has the ongoing challenge to provide park and recreation assets along with opportunities for the enjoyment of the public while maintaining balance to ensure sustainable and diverse natural resources for current and future generations.

B. ARCHERY RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR APPLICATIONS AND PERMITS

1. Archery hunting permits will be awarded to permit holders from the previous year based on their demonstration of safety, successful participation, and adherence to the rules and regulations. This will limit the number of hunting permits available to new applicants.
2. Permits issued to new applicants will be determined based on information listed on the application and successful demonstration of proficiency with archery tackle to be used in the program. Chester County Resident applications and Non-County Resident applications will be separated prior to the drawings. A lottery drawing will be conducted to fill permit vacancies beginning with Chester County Residents.
3. New Applicants and all Participants in the Archery Program are required to demonstrate proficiency with archery tackle on a five-year cycle.
4. Certification of completion of the PA Game Commission Successful Bowhunter Education course is required of all applicants and participants prior to submitting an application.
5. Hunting Zone assignment is subject to successful completion of the proficiency test for new and returning applicants. The Parks and Trails Manager will use discretion in area zone assignments based on past history of safe participation and success in Department archery programs.
6. Proficiency testing for new hunters will be conducted at Hibernia Park on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
7. Permits are non-transferable and only valid for the 2024-2025 archery season for white-tailed deer, as established by the Pennsylvania Game Commission, or as designated by the Department.
8. Applications must be submitted by each applicant. If an applicant is less than 18 years of age, the application must be submitted by a parent or legal guardian.
9. Individuals may submit ONE application for permit and may participate in ONE of the Department-sponsored White-tailed Deer programs locations.
10. All legal-age hunters are eligible; and if selected, hunters under the age of 16 years may apply with – and must be accompanied by, an adult at all times per PA Game Law. Applicants under the age of 16 must list the name of the accompanying adult if other than the co-signed.

• Applications will not be accepted until Monday July 31, 2024.
C. APPLICANT SELECTION PROCESS

1. Applications for new participants in the archery hunting program requires individuals to submit (Beginning July 31, 2024) information regarding archery experience, personal vitae, game law compliance record, and references from landowners of properties hunted. The Parks and Trails Manager or delegate shall validate this information for accuracy and said information will be strongly considered when permits are issued.

2. All applicants will be required to have completed the Pennsylvania Game Commission Successful Bowhunting Course before an application can be submitted. A copy of the certification card is required as part of application process and can be emailed to hunting@chesco.org. Applications submitted without a Successful Bowhunter Course Certificate/ Card will not be considered at the time of the drawing.

3. New participants must attend a mandatory meeting at the Hibernia Park Office on September 11, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. A lottery drawing will be conducted to fill vacancies with new applicants beginning with Chester County Residents. Returning hunters are not required to attend the meeting; however, they must schedule and meet with park staff to receive their permit beginning on July 31 at Hibernia Park.

4. Individuals who have not participated in the archery-hunting program and have been chosen for a permit must demonstrate proficiency with the archery tackle to be used (while hunting) to qualify for a hunting permit.

5. Proficiency testing for new participants shall be conducted September 11, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Hibernia Park or by appointment.

6. The proficiency test shall require individuals using compound, recurve or longbow to place 3 of 4 arrows in the vital area of a target at 20 yards. One (1) broadhead tipped arrow (type to be used in the hunting field) will also need to be accurately shot into the target at 20 yards. Individuals using crossbows shall be required to place 3 of 4 bolts in the vital area of a target at 25 yards. Crossbow shooters will also be required to shoot one (1) broadhead tipped bolt (type to be used in the hunting field) accurately shot into the target at 25 yards. Shooting will be from an elevated location approximately 10 feet above ground level. The bow and arrows to be used for hunting shall be used for this process. This same rule applies for crossbows and crossbow bolts. Participants must re-test every five (5) years. Each individual must pass the proficiency test to participate in the archery program. Only one attempt to pass the proficiency test will be given.

D. RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR ARCHERY HUNTING

1. BAG LIMITS – Each participant, with appropriate licenses, may harvest one (1) antlerless deer for each legal antlerless license they possess for the applicable WMU.

2. Each participant must endeavor to harvest an antlerless female before and/or after a participant harvests an antlered deer. There is no penalty for harvesting an antlered deer prior to the harvest of antlerless deer. Only antlered deer with a full set of antlers with 3 or more points on one side and an outside spread equal to, or greater than, the width of the outstretched ears of the deer may be harvested.

3. HUNTING SEASONS - All applicable archery deer seasons as set forth by the Pennsylvania Game Commission for WMU 5C and 5D beginning September 21, 2024, and ending January 25, 2025. There are some park program and event dates that may be in conflict with hunting which will be made clear and obvious to participants where and when applicable.

4. GENERAL PROCEDURES – Participants must sign in before each hunting event and sign out following each event. For 2024 daily log sheets will again be used. Each park location will have designated places for hunters to manually log hours and harvest information. Harvested deer must be recorded following the hunting event.

5. Participants must park their vehicles in the area designated for the assigned hunting area and display Department parking permit.
6. **ARCHERY TACKLE** – Must conform to that which is specified by the PA Game Commission for use during the 2024 season.

7. Participants must wear a blaze orange hat and vest/coat that meet the minimum square inch requirements specified by the PA Game Commission during the statewide firearms deer season, November 30 through December 14, 2024.

8. **Participants must hunt a minimum of 20 hours or harvest a female antlerless deer to be considered for future archery programs in Chester County Parks + Preservation.** Failure to do so may result in revocation of hunting privileges at the discretion of the Park Manager.

9. **HUNTING ZONES** – Hunting zones have been established for the white-tailed deer management program at each park and open space site as applicable and needed. These zones have not been field marked but are identified on the respective Archery Hunt Map, hunt maps will be available when the permit is issued. Participants may hunt in the **assigned zone only.** Hunting areas are located outside of developed recreational areas of the park: this is for the safety of participants as well as park visitors and minimizes the opportunity for conflict of interests. Safety zone boundaries may exceed the 150-foot minimum as is established statewide by the Pennsylvania Game Commission for a variety of reasons, including respect for adjacent landowners. It is imperative that all hunters adhere to their area boundaries and safety zones accordingly. Maps illustrating all archery hunting areas will be issued to participants. Beginning Saturday November 30, hunters may hunt any zone at their assigned park location on a first-come first-served basis.

10. **TREESTANDS** - All participants, other than handicapped individuals and those certified by a physician as unable, must hunt from an elevated platform commonly known as a treestand and must use a fall restraint system commonly known as a safety harness. Tethered tree saddles are acceptable.

11. **Driving Deer** – Participants attempting to move deer to other participants in any way, shape or form is not permitted at any time during any season. Hunting must be done from elevated platforms by intercepting deer in their normal day to day activities only.

12. **Baiting Deer** – Baiting deer is not permitted on Chester County Real Estate.

13. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate handicapped participants.

14. Participants may use portable type treestands; self-climbing type is preferred or tethered tree saddles. Fixed position stands will be considered, but the type of stand and proposed location(s) of stands must be approved by the Parks and Trails Manager. Access to climbing devices by others must be restricted by removal or other approved means following each hunting event. Steps or other devices that pierce the outer and inner bark of trees are not permitted. **Participants must label fixed position stands with name and permit number. ALL TREESTANDS and TREE CLIMBING EQUIPMENT (i.e., ladders) MUST BEAR THE TREESTAND MANUFACTURES ASSOCIATION (TMA) LABEL.** Treestands must be removed from County Real Estate by February 10, 2025.

15. Failure to disable/remove climbing devices following hunting events may result in removal of treestand and climbing devices by park staff. Treestands must have legible hunter information labeled/attached to stand at all times.

16. **PERSONAL SAFETY DEVICES** – All participants must wear a 5-point safety harness with current date tag affixed and be tethered to the tree at all times while ascending, occupying their treestand, and descending from the stand. **Participant failure to comply with this rule will result in immediate removal from the hunting program.**

17. Chester County reserves the right to discontinue its White-Tailed Deer Archery Hunting program at any time.

18. Hunting permits are not transferable.

19. Permit holders who cannot participate in the white-tailed deer hunting management program are asked to call the park office at 610-344-6415 to allow staff to make timely adjustments.

20. The Pennsylvania Game Law and the Chester County Real Estate Rules and Regulations (governing county Parks) shall apply (rule #9 regarding hunting and #31 regarding use of weapons are suspended for the dates of this program only).