

**MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
ARCHERY DEER HERD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
3939 Nearing Lane, Decatur, IL 62521 / 217-423-7708**

**2017 Applications and Permits**

Welcome to the Macon County Conservation District’s archery deer herd management program. This sheet contains details on the District’s application process, drawing process, and fees. Archery deer hunting will be allowed by permit only on designated sites from **October 20, 2017 to December 14, 2017**. Hunting is not allowed during the Illinois shotgun deer seasons or on Thanksgiving Day.

**1. Application process and pre-season drawing**

Hunting applications will be made available during July in hard copy at Rock Springs Nature Center and for download at [www.maconcountyconservation.org](http://www.maconcountyconservation.org). Applications are due **Friday, September 8, 2017 by 5:00 PM**. Applications will be available for a pre-season archery deer hunt drawing for Rock Springs, Sand Creek, Fort Daniel, and Friends Creek Conservation Areas. A public lottery drawing will be held at Rock Springs Nature Center on **Friday, September 15, 2017 at 3:00 PM**. District archery permits will be available for purchase immediately following the drawing until 4:30 PM. Illinois Conservation Police will be notified of results.

**2. Stand-by hunter drawings during the archery season**

Weekly stand-by drawings will be held at the information shelter in the parking lot of Rock Springs Nature Center. Drawings will be held at 1:00 PM on October 18 and 25, November 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, and December 6. **A District archery permit must be presented in order to enter the weekly drawings. Permits will not be sold after 12:45 PM on Wednesdays and will resume after the drawing to prevent conflicts. Have your Illinois DNR Customer Number with you when you purchase a permit.** Illinois Conservation Police will be notified of results. If you cannot attend a drawing, a “stand in” can come in your place. This person must present your District issued permit to enter you in the drawing.

**3. Permits**

Hunters must possess a District issued permit in addition to all necessary state permits. District permits are available for purchase in the lower level Business Office of Rock Springs Nature Center Monday-Friday 9 AM-4:30 PM, and on the main floor of the nature center on Saturdays 9:30 AM-4:30 PM and Sundays 1:30 PM-4:30 PM, excluding holidays.

<b>Fee Schedule</b>		
Each hunter is limited to four (4) District permits per year:		
<b>Macon County residents</b> \$20 for the first permit*	<b>Out of county residents</b> \$50 for the first permit*	<b>Out of state residents</b> \$90 for the first permit*
*Fees for second, third, and fourth permits are \$20 regardless of residency		

Proof of an **Illinois DNR Customer Number** must be shown to purchase District permits.

**2017 Rules and Regulations**

1. Deer hunting is by archery method only, **October 20, 2017 through December 14, 2017**. Hunting is not allowed during the Illinois shotgun deer seasons or on Thanksgiving Day. Firearms and pursuing wildlife other than deer are prohibited on District property.
2. All hunters must sign in and out daily at designated sign in locations at the area to be hunted. Sign in box locations are as follows:
  - Rock Springs:** Mailbox at entrance to maintenance facility, 3740 Banton Lane
  - Sand Creek:** Mailbox at maintenance facility, 946 E. Elwin Road
  - Fort Daniel:** Mailbox at site entrance, 4975 Fort Daniel Road
  - Friends Creek:** Mailbox at Bethel School parking lot, 13723 Friends Creek Park Road
3. All hunters must complete the information indicated on the sign in/out forms. Harvested deer must be reported on the sign in/sign out form along with IDNR confirmation number.
4. Scouting will be allowed through **October 15, 2017**. After this date, hunters may scout from 11:00 AM-2:00 PM the day before their hunting period begins.
5. Tree stands and ground blinds may be placed in the field from **11:00 AM-2:00 PM the day before your hunting period begins**. They may be left in the field throughout your hunting period, but **must be removed by the end of your hunting period**.
6. Only portable tree stands or ground blinds may be used. No screws, nails, or any other device which pierces the bark of the tree are allowed. Hunters are limited to **one tree stand or ground blind** in the field at a time. The original stand tag issued by the District must be attached to the tree stand or ground blind. Stand tags will have a specified location depending on the type of stand. **Any unlabeled stand will be removed by District staff**. It is recommended that the owner's name and contact information be permanently etched or written on the tree stand or ground blind. **NEW FOR 2017 SEASON: Tree stands removed by District staff due to rule violations will be held for a period of 30 days, after which the stand will be considered abandoned property and disposed of.**
7. Hunters are required to use fall-arrest systems (FAS) when using tree stands. Failure to use a FAS will result in the revocation of hunting privileges on District property.
8. An antlerless deer must be harvested on District lands and reported on the sign in/out form before pursuing a buck. Each hunter is **limited to one antlered deer** on District lands per year. An antlered deer is considered a deer with antlers 3 inches in length or greater.
9. All hunters must comply with the Illinois and Federal Game Codes and must carry the permit issued by the Macon County Conservation District at all times while hunting.
10. No hunting is allowed within 75 yards of any building or official hiking trail. No shooting is allowed toward any building or across any official hiking trail or road.
11. Hunting may only take place within designated hunting areas. Hunters walking through any non-hunting area to reach a permitted area must have their bows unstrung, cased, or locked.
12. Target shooting or shooting at random is prohibited.
13. Vehicles must be parked in locations designated by the Macon County Conservation District. A parking permit issued by the District must be placed in the windshield.
14. Any person who wishes to track a wounded deer outside District property must first obtain permission from the private land owner.
15. Driving or stalking of deer by any person is prohibited.
16. No vegetation may be cut, broken, or removed for any reason. Trails may not be marked with any man-made material.
17. Field dressing of deer is not allowed on hiking trails, next to roads, or in parking lots. Cover entrails with leaves, grass, etc.
18. The District reserves the right to suspend hunting at any time, in any area, for any reason.

**Violation of any of the above rules may result in the suspension or revocation of hunting privileges on District property. The District reserves the right not to issue a permit to any person.**