

Macon County Conservation District
3939 Nearing Lane, Decatur, IL 62521, (217) 423-7708
Archery Deer Herd Management 2021 RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Deer hunting is by archery method only, **October 15, 2021 to December 9, 2021**. Hunting is not allowed during the Illinois shotgun deer seasons. Firearms are prohibited. Hunters will be allowed to harvest coyotes and 1 bearded turkey while participating in the Deer Herd Management Program. Turkeys can be harvested at Fort Daniel, Sand Creek, and Rock Springs. **Friends Creek will not be open to turkey hunting in 2021**. Hunting outside of the designated dates, using firearms, or pursuing wildlife other than deer, coyotes, and turkeys will result in a lifetime ban from hunting on District properties.
2. All hunters must sign in and out daily at designated sign in locations at 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 Rd.
 - Fort Daniel:** Mailbox at site entrance, 4975 Fort Daniel Rd.
 - Friends Creek:** Mailbox at Bethel School parking lot, 13723 Friends Creek Park Rd.
3. All hunters must complete the information indicated on the sign in/out form. Harvested deer and turkey must be reported on the form along with IDNR confirmation number. Harvested deer and turkey must also be documented on District trail cameras mounted near each mailbox. Further instructions are located on the back of the parking permit.
4. Scouting will be allowed through October 11, 2021. After this date, hunters may scout from 11am - 2pm the day before their hunting period begins.
5. Tree stands and ground blinds may be placed in the field from 11am - 2pm the day before your hunting period begins. 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. They may be left in the field throughout your hunting period, but must be removed by the end of your hunting period. Any stand found after the hunter's period is over will result in a 1-week ban from hunting on District properties. The original stand tag issued by the District must be attached to the tree stand or ground blind. Stand tags must be easily located and visible when you are not occupying your stand/blind. It is recommended that the owner's name and contact information be permanently etched or written on the tree stand or ground blind. Any untagged stand/blind will be removed immediately by District staff. 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. Any stand found before or after the District's season will be disposed of immediately. It is not the District's responsibility to notify owners of pulled stands. A fee of \$50 will be charged to recover pulled stands. Any person found tampering with stands will receive a lifetime ban from hunting on District properties.
6. **New for 2021:** Trail cameras are prohibited on District properties. Any trail cameras found will be disposed of immediately.
7. Hunters are required to use fall-arrest systems (FAS) when using tree stands. Failure to use a fall-arrest system will result in the revocation of hunting privileges on District property.

8. An antlerless deer must be harvested on District lands before pursuing a buck. Each hunter is limited to one antlered deer (antlers 3 inches in length or greater) on District lands per year. Failure to harvest an antlerless deer before taking an antlered deer will result in a lifetime ban from hunting on District properties.
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. Target shooting is prohibited.
11. Hunting may only take place within designated hunting areas. Harvesting a deer in a non-designated hunting area will result in a lifetime ban from hunting on District properties. Hunters walking through any non-hunting area to reach a permitted area must have their bows unstrung, cased, or locked. Crossbows may be cocked while walking to your stand, but must be unloaded. Crossbows must be loaded and de-cocked from your stand. Walking with a loaded crossbow will result in revocation of hunting for the remainder of the season.
12. Vehicles must be parked in designated parking spots located on the hunting maps. A Deer Management Program Parking Only sign will be located at each parking location. A parking permit issued by the District must be placed in the windshield. Prior arrangements can be made with District staff if a hunter does not have a vehicle. Failure to park in designated location will result in a 1-week ban from hunting on District properties. The second violation will result in revocation of hunting for the remainder of the season. Hunters must only access hunting sites from designated hunter parking areas. The same penalty for parking will apply.
13. Any person who wishes to track a wounded deer outside District property must first obtain permission from the private land owner. Tracking dogs are permitted with permission from MCCD.
14. Driving or stalking of deer by any person is prohibited.
15. No vegetation may be cut, broken, or removed for any reason. Trail markers may be used but must be removed at the end of the hunter's period.
16. Field dressing of deer is not allowed on hiking trails, next to roads, or in parking lots. Please cover entrails with leaves, grass, etc.
17. The District reserves the right to suspend hunting at any time in any area for any reason.
18. Disabled hunters must possess a valid Illinois Person with a Disability Identification Card (Class P2O (previously a P2) or a Class P2A card) to be eligible for special hunting blinds.

Violations

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. A ban from the Deer Herd Management Program consists of no participation in hunting on District properties. This including participation in drawings, assisting a minor, retrieval of deer, etc.

**Macon County Conservation District
Deer Herd Management Program Application & Permit Fact Sheet**

Welcome to the Macon County Conservation District's Deer Herd Management Program. On this fact sheet you will find details on the District's application and drawing process and permit fees. Archery deer hunting will be allowed by permit only on designated sites from **October 15, 2021 to December 9, 2021**. Hunting is not allowed during the Illinois shotgun deer seasons.

1. Application process and pre-season drawing

Hunting applications will be made available in July in hard copy at Rock Springs Nature Center, and for download at www.MaconCountyConservation.org. Applications are due **Friday, September 3, 2021**. 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 at **3pm on Friday, September 10, 2021**. District archery permits will be available for purchase immediately following the drawing. Illinois Conservation Police will be notified of results.

The Macon County Conservation District will provide limited access to at least one blind for hunters with disabilities. If interest is high, a second blind will be added. The location of this blind will be determined at a later date. Please indicate on your application if special accommodations are needed.

Hunters will be allowed to harvest coyotes and 1 bearded turkey while participating in the Deer Herd Management Program. Turkeys can be harvested at Fort Daniel, Sand Creek, and Rock Springs. Friends Creek will not be open to turkey hunting in 2021.

New for 2021 – Trail cameras are prohibited on District properties. Any trail cameras found on District property will be disposed of immediately.

2. Stand-by hunter drawings during the archery season

Weekly stand-by drawings will be held at the Information Shelter located at the main parking lot of Rock Springs Nature Center. Drawings will be held at 1pm on October 13, 20, and 27; November 3, 10, 17, and 24; and December 1. Illinois Conservation Police will be notified of results.

A District issued permit must be purchased prior to drawing, but will not need to be shown to enter drawing. Permits will not be sold after 12pm on Wednesdays, and will resume after the drawing to prevent conflicts. If you cannot attend a drawing, a "stand in" may come in your place. **This person can enter only two additional people into the drawing besides themselves.**

3. Permits

All hunters must possess a permit issued by the Macon County Conservation District in addition to all necessary state permits. District permits for Macon County residents and out of county hunters will be available for purchase online. Out of state hunters will need to purchase permits by phone. Permits can be sold in person at Rock Springs Nature Center on a case-by-case basis.

Fee Schedule

Each hunter is limited to four (4) District permits per year:

Macon County residents \$30 for the first permit	Out of county residents \$60 for the first permit	Out of state residents \$110 for the first permit
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Fees for second, third, and fourth permits are \$30 regardless of residency