

Great Parks of Hamilton County (GPHC) Controlled Bow Hunting Rules  
Last Updated 7/25/2018

All GPHC bow hunting rules are in addition to ODNR rules and regulations. Each hunter must read, sign and follow the complete list of rules and regulations. Failure to comply with regulations will result in possible fines and disqualification from any Great Parks Controlled Hunts.

### Qualifications

1. Bow hunters, regardless of age, will be required to bring proof of successful completion of a Hunter Safety Education Course approved by any of the 50 states. A previous year's hunting license does not substitute. Those who need to take the hunter safety course can fulfill this requirement through ODNR, for details call 1-800-WILDLIFE.
2. Eligible hunters must arrive ahead of their scheduled time to check in in order to receive their targets before heading to the range.
3. To qualify, each hunter must be able to place at least four out of five arrows in a 10" diameter target from an elevated position at 20 yards.
4. If any part of the arrow tip touches the black line, it will be considered a miss.
5. Once on the qualification range, each hunter has one opportunity per bow to pass.
6. You may only hunt with the bow(s) you used to qualify with. However, you may qualify with up to two bows. You may qualify with either bow first, and failure to qualify with the harder bow does not mean disqualification from program.
7. If your bow malfunctions while qualifying, you may step out of line and make repairs, but qualifications will proceed without you. When your bow is repaired notify the ranger and you will be allowed back in line to qualify and choose from the packets remaining at that point.
8. All equipment must conform to the State of Ohio requirements.
9. Youth and their adult companion must submit separate applications. Each hunter's name will be entered into the qualification process. The pair will be scheduled together at the earlier time of the two.
10. Except for youth or hunters with disabilities, you must be able to draw your own crossbow without help from another. Cocking devices are allowed, but no assistance is permitted for compound bows regardless of age or ability.
11. If the youth hunter fails to pass the qualification, the adult hunter who passes will be hunting without a companion. If the youth hunter qualifies but the adult hunter does not, the adult may accompany the youth but may not hunt. The youth hunter must be accompanied by an adult, as outlined by the state regulations.
12. Hunters in need of accommodation and their adult companion must submit separate applications if both are hunting. However, the companion of the hunter with disabilities does not need to be in this program if they will not be hunting. Hunting in areas designated for those with disabilities by companions is prohibited. Companions are permitted to hunt in their own area when not assisting their hunter with disabilities.

### Packet Selection

1. Everyone who qualifies can sign up for 2 parks: your main park, and another you can borrow time from using the online calendar. Based on the order in which you are drawn, and what is left over when you qualify, you will be able to choose the two parks you want.

2. All qualifying hunters are eligible for one four-week session during Ohio Deer Archery season.
3. Those who qualify but do not receive a packet can still participate in the program by borrowing time in up to 2 parks using the online calendar, as long as they have met with the coordinator for those parks.
4. Hunters who have taken two antlerless deer the previous year are also eligible for a second, four-week session. However, they are still limited to 2 parks and may not choose a third park as their alternate for borrowing time.

### Preparation

1. All hunters are required to meet with the coordinator of the parks where they will be hunting. If you have previously met with the coordinator at the park you will be hunting then you do not need to do so again unless there have been boundary changes. Those who do not meet with their coordinator before the September 15 deadline will be **ineligible** to hunt in that park.
2. Hunters must also log in to the BHIC website before the deadline to make sure there are no issues accessing the calendar. Those who qualify but did not receive a hunting session will still be able to hunt by borrowing time from the online bow hunting calendar, but they must also log on the BHIC website by the September 15 deadline in order to do so.
3. Hunters who cannot hunt every day during their hunting session should make that time available through the online calendar for use by other hunters. You must borrow time using the online bow hunter calendar system only. Hunters are allowed to trade time with other hunters in different sessions within the two parks chosen by the hunter as long as you have met with the coordinators for that park.
4. Scouting is arranged with the coordinator at your park and can be done before and after the bow qualifications. Two weeks prior to the hunting season all areas will be closed to scouting.
5. Baiting and placing tree stands are prohibited prior to season qualifications.
6. All hunting items left in the field by bow hunters must have the current year's tag with hunters name and contact number including but not limited to tree stands, trail cameras, blinds and feeders. Tags must be no higher than 6 feet off the ground. We will supply a tag template for use on tree stands and trail cameras. Equipment without legible contact information will be removed.
7. Only current assigned hunters can have tree stands up, unless approved by a coordinator.
8. Hunters in the first session may put their hunting equipment up after qualifications. However, two weeks prior to the hunting season no one should be in the woods, other than first session hunters. If you need to move your stand please do so in the middle of the day when you are less likely to interrupt other hunters.
9. No hunter can use another hunter's tree stand without permission.
10. Only limited clearing of shooting lanes is allowed. Cutting of sticks, branches or bushes larger than 1/2" (unless it is bush honeysuckle) is prohibited.
11. Hunters will be able to bait anywhere using whole kernel corn, natural bait like acorns and apples. No powdery substance and salt or mineral blocks or compressed corn blocks.
12. Flagging of any kind by bow hunters is prohibited except reflective tacks.

## Equipment

1. All equipment must conform to the State of Ohio requirements; see their website below for details: <http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/hunting-trapping-and-shooting-sports/hunting-trapping-regulations/allowable-hunting-equipment>.
2. Tree stands that meet Tree Stand Manufacturers Association (TMA) safety specifications are permitted. For a list of products that meet safety standards go to [tmastands.com/product/](http://tmastands.com/product/).
3. Wearing of a safety harness is required with use of any tree stand. Hunting on the ground is also permitted. The harness must be worn while hunting off the ground. Failure to do so will result in loss of hunting permit. Climbing, ladder, tripod stands and pop-up blinds are all allowed. It is unlawful to construct, place or use a permanent-type tree stand, or to place spikes, nails, wires or other metal objects into a tree to act as steps or to hold a tree stand on Park District property.
4. Check stands for signs of tampering before each use. Park District cannot be responsible for any equipment left unattended.
5. You can install no more than 2 tree stands/blinds or trail cameras.
6. Take all safety precautions when climbing a tree.

## Bow Hunting Areas and Safety Zones

1. The hunting boundary of each area will be marked with orange tape with silver reflective stripes. Hunting is only permitted within each marked area. Any hunter found hunting in the safety zone (area between hunting boundary and park boundary) will be removed from the program. Although most of the park boundaries have been marked with carsonite and reflective tape, it is the responsibility of each hunter to know where the park boundaries are and to stay within them. Topographic maps showing the hunting and park boundaries will also be available online.
2. At no time is a bow hunter allowed to shoot on private property unless they have obtained written permission to hunt on said property.
3. Bow hunters will maintain a safety zone of no less than 31 yards (100ft) inside the Great Parks Boundaries.
4. In addition to the 31 yard safety zone, bow hunters must maintain a safety zone of no less than 67 yards (200ft) from any building, road, picnic area, official trail or developed area. A bow hunter is not permitted to shoot into a safety zone unless one or more of the following applies:
  - An injured deer may be shot in the safety zone provided the bow hunter shoots towards the interior of the hunting area and the shot will be in a downward direction.

## Bow Hunting and Harvests

1. Archery season hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. The official times for sunrise and sunset are found in the hunting digest. Be sure to use the times for Western Ohio.
2. You must park in the designated areas. Lock gate properly while hunting to prevent unauthorized access to area. Be sure gate is secured when leaving. If you have permission from an adjoining property owner to park on his/her property, notify the park coordinator.
3. If you will be in park tracking a deer more than 1 hour after sunset you must notify a ranger at 825-2280.
4. No scouting during another hunter's session is permitted.

5. Only program participants are permitted in bow hunting areas during the season with the exception of youth and hunters with disabilities accompanied by a companion.
6. The permission letter provided must be carried at all times while participating in this program.
7. Place your parking ID card with your name and grid # on your dash along with a piece of paper indicating the grid location of where you will be hunting. Grid locations can be determined from the topographic area maps on our website.
8. Motorized vehicles will not be permitted beyond the designated parking areas.
9. For conflicts between visitors or landowners, or to report unauthorized activities contact Great Parks Rangers at 825-2280. Do not confront these people yourself.
10. Hunter orange must be worn during the Youth Deer Gun Season, Deer Gun Season and the Statewide Muzzleloader Deer Season.
11. Hunters may harvest as many deer as are allowed by State Law using State of Ohio Urban and Regular Deer Hunting permits. Antlerless Deer permits are issued in addition to the Special Deer permits for regular hunting seasons.
12. In the event that a deer is wounded and reaches the park boundary, contact the Park District Ranger Department at 825-2280. **DO NOT FOLLOW A WOUNDED DEER ONTO PRIVATE PROPERTY AND DO NOT SEEK PERMISSION OF ADJOINING PROPERTY OWNER WITHOUT A RANGER PRESENT.**
13. Once a deer is harvested, the deer must be legally checked in by phone or your computer to ODNR. In addition, the Park District must be notified of the location, sex, date and time of the kill **online within 24 hours at [www.greatparks.org/harvest](http://www.greatparks.org/harvest). Your harvest has not been recorded until you receive an email verification.** The phone hotline is no longer checked. If you encounter any problems with the online form, you must report your harvest within 24 hours by email to [zcarter@greatparks.org](mailto:zcarter@greatparks.org) including your name, deer's sex (buck, button, doe), approximate age (adult or yearling), date and time of kill, location, and deer tag number.
14. **Deer not reported within 24 hours will not be counted towards your score.**
15. Be discrete and field dress your deer out of view of any roads or trails.
16. Bow hunters may be checked periodically by Ohio Division of Wildlife Officers or Park District Rangers to ensure compliance. The harvested deer will belong to the hunter; however, a field dressed deer from the program can be dropped off at a deer processor identified for that purpose for donation to local charities at no expense to the hunter.
17. Call the Park Ranger at 825-2280 to report injured or sick deer.

### **Borrowing Time**

1. The borrower must talk with the coordinator or the current session hunter they are borrowing time from prior to hunting.
2. The borrower must maintain at least 67 yards (200ft) from the current hunter's tree stand.
3. The borrower must carry their tree stand in and out with them.
4. Baiting is prohibited by the borrower without permission.
5. The borrower cannot hunt over another hunter's bait without permission.

### **Transition**

1. Transition day is the last Friday of each hunting session. This is best time for exiting hunters and the next hunters to either put up or take down their stands. However,

exiting hunters may still be hunting on the last day so be considerate and coordinate the timing of your transition.

### Hunting with a Disability

1. Hunters with disabilities may hunt in any bow hunting area. There are some areas that have been identified for better accessibility: Winton Woods Area A.
  - Criteria that qualify a person for hunting in Winton Woods Area A: Physically unable to move without aid of mechanized device
2. Only hunters with mechanized devices are allowed companions
3. Companions are strictly prohibited from hunting or being present in the area without the hunter they are assisting. If you need further accommodations, please contact Zuri Carter.
  - Companions must also display a parking ID card with their name and grid # on the dash along with a piece of paper indicating the grid location of where they will be accompanying the hunter they are assisting. Grid locations can be determined from the topographic area maps on our website.

### Removal from Program

1. Hunters unable to maintain a professional attitude and continue to cause a disruption to the harmony of the bow hunting program will be permanently removed.
2. Breaking State or Park District bylaws or not reporting a missing wounded deer results in removal for 1 full season and possible citation.
3. Breaking State Law or otherwise seriously jeopardizing the program results in permanent removal.
4. Three verbal warnings or citations over one or multiple hunting seasons results in permanent removal. Strikes more than 2 years prior will be wiped from record.

### End of Season

1. All equipment must be removed by March 1<sup>st</sup> of each year or may be confiscated.

### How to reach us

- *For emergencies, dial 9-1-1*
- To have a Ranger dispatched to your location 24/7, call the Hamilton County Communications Center at 513-825-2280. This number will take you to ranger dispatch who may have a ranger call you back.
- For general information or to speak to a Ranger Dispatcher, call Ranger Headquarters at 513-521-3980. Office Hours: 8:00 am – 6:00 pm 7 days a week

Contact the following people for the corresponding issues:

<b>Rangers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To report violations</li> <li>• To report unsafe conditions (ex: fallen trees, open pits, illegal activity)</li> <li>• Environmental issues</li> <li>• Before tracking a deer off Park property</li> </ul>	<b>Coordinators</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To scout</li> <li>• To resolve conflicts between hunters</li> <li>• For hunting advice/guidance</li> </ul>	<b>Zuri</b> Administrative questions and issues
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To report negative contacts with adjacent landowners</li><li>• Any time you are in the woods one hour past legal shooting times</li></ul>		
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