



# **Welcome to the Great Parks of Hamilton County Bow Hunting Program**

# Program Goals

- To **conserve** plant and animal diversity.
- To **improve safety** by reducing deer-vehicle collisions
- To **maintain health** of the deer population

In order to accomplish these goals the density should be around **15 deer/sq. mile**

# Great Parks Rules and Regulations

- All park rules are in addition to ODNR rules/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.
- If you have any questions about the rules, contact a coordinator or the GPHC Representative. Ignorance of the rules is not an excuse. Please review them in detail.
- If you are new to the program or hunting a new area, you must meet with the coordinator by September 12th

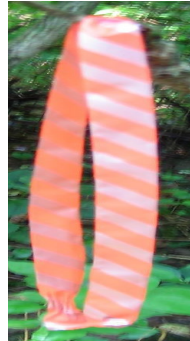
# Boundaries and Property Lines

- **Park boundaries (a)** are marked with orange signs every few hundred feet.
- **Hunting boundaries (b)** are marked with orange flagging or signage (yellow and orange) attached directly to trees.
- Digital boundary maps are available on-line on the Better Impact page.
- Respect Property Lines at all times! **Never** track a deer that leaves the park without contacting the park rangers first.
- It is your responsibility to know the boundaries. Ask your park coordinator if you have questions.

A



B



**CAUTION**  
ENTERING  
BOWHUNTING  
AREA

SEP. 20 - FEB. 10

**PERMIT  
REQUIRED**  
513-521-PARK

**NOTICE**  
LEAVING  
BOWHUNTING  
AREA

SEP. 20 - FEB. 10

513-521-PARK

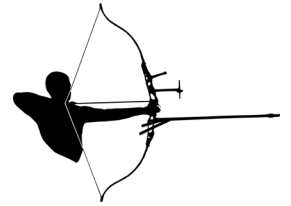
# Safety Zones

Bow hunting zones are established to be at least **100ft** inside the Park Boundaries and **200ft** from any building, road, picnic area, official trail or developed area.



100 feet from park boundary

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200 feet buffer from any buildings

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# Bow Hunting Qualification Process

- **Step 1:** Complete the online lottery application for the upcoming deer season.
- **Step 2:** Based upon your lottery selection, you will be assigned a day and time to complete your qualification shoot and park selection. This is usually the first weekend in August.
- **Step 3:** You will need to complete any online forms as well as mandatory training. (training may be in-person during qualification weekend or shifted to an online format to be completed before qualifications).
- **Step 4:** Attend qualification. You must first pass a shooting test followed by selecting your hunting location and time of year.
- **Step 5:** If you are new to the program or new to a park, you must meet with the coordinator prior to September 12<sup>th</sup>. You can also use the time to scout the parks and prepare for the upcoming hunting season.

# Qualification Day

- When you arrive the day of your qualification, you will check in at registration. You will need to provide a valid ID and proof of completing a hunter education course.
- When it is time to shoot, you will proceed to the shooting range where you will wait until your name is called. Shooters go in order of the lottery pick. You are not permitted to shoot before your designated time.
- Shooters will have to place 4 out of 5 arrows within a circular shaped target at a distance of 20 yards. Only youth and disabled hunters are permitted to have another person assist them on the range.
- If you are successful at the range, you will then select the park and specific time slot that you will be hunting. Hunters pick in the order that they were drawn in the lottery. There are a limited number of hunters per park so your first choice may not be available. It is wise to have a couple of parks in mind that you may want to hunt.

# Hunting/Scouting

- You may only hunt in park(s) for which you have signed up for a session in.
- Install no more than 2 tree stands/blinds and up to 2 trail cameras.
- Only current assigned hunters can have equipment up, **unless approved by a coordinator**.
- Hunters in the first session may install their tree stands any time after qualifications.
- No hunter can use another hunter's tree stand without explicit permission from the owner of the stand, not from a coordinator.
- All hunting areas are off-limits to non-first session hunters from September 12 to opening day. This includes trail cameras. They must be removed two weeks prior to opening day.



# Hunting/Scouting Equipment

- Your name and contact information must be on your tree stand/trail camera no higher than 6 feet off the ground.
- Tree stand, blinds and trail camera without legible contact information will be removed.
- The last day of a hunter's hunting time which always falls on a Friday is Transition Day. This is the time when the current hunters must remove their equipment and the new hunters can install their items. Hunting can take place on this day but patience is required as hunters will be moving in and out of the woods on this day.

# Baiting

- Baiting is allowed by the current session hunter only.
- Pre-Season, the first session hunter can bait but not hunters that are scheduled for later in the year.
- Bait must be natural form and cannot be powder, blocks, or any other form than that of the natural food.
- Examples of items allowed: Whole Corn, Apples, Acorn, Carrots, etc. By definition, scented bait is not allowed as that is not how the food is grown in a natural state.
- Not allowed: Salt Block, mineral licks, powder substances of any kind, peanut butter, etc.

# Managing Your Hunting Time...The Hunter

- If you sign up for a session, you are expected to hunt it. If a hunter cannot hunt for a significant portion of their session, they are required to make their session available to another eligible hunter.
- You will receive instructions for how to make this time available to other eligible hunters.
- Do not make your time available if it is less than 3 contiguous days.
- Hunters that fail to remove their names when they are unable to hunt could be asked to leave the program.

# Managing Your Hunting Time... The "Borrower" (1/2)

- Hunters interested in "Borrowing Time" in the park(s) that they hunt should indicate such on their application to the Better Impact website.
- They will be notified of time borrowing opportunities via email as they arise.
- The borrower should maintain at least 200 feet from the current session hunter's tree stand.
- The borrower must carry their tree stand in and out with them.

# Managing Your Hunting Time... The "Borrower" (2/2)

- Baiting is prohibited by the borrower.
- The borrower cannot hunt over another hunters bait without permission.
- If there are other hunters in the same hunting section, the borrower should contact the other hunters to understand where they are set up.

# Hunters with Disabilities

- People with disabilities are welcomed and encouraged to participate in Great Parks' bow hunting program.
- For questions about accessibility or to make an accommodation request, contact the GPHC representative.

# When You are Hunting

- You **must** leave a piece of paper on your dash showing what grid you are hunting in. The grid matches to the section maps online.
- If you will be in more than an hour after dark looking for a deer or your deer leaves park property you must let the rangers know.
- A permission letter will be provided and must be carried at all times while participating in this program.
- Report any unauthorized activities to Park Rangers by calling 825-2280. Do not confront these people yourself.

# Safety is a Priority!

- You must wear a safety harness at all times while climbing and hunting in a tree stand.
- Hunter orange must be worn during the Youth Deer Gun Season, Deer Gun Season and the Statewide Muzzleloader Deer Season.
- Remember to take all safety precautions when climbing a tree.
- Failure to follow safety rules can result in removal from the program.



# Locking Gates Example

Always make sure to “daisy chain” the locks together so each one can still open the gate/chain independently.



# Please Be A Responsible Hunter

- Take shots that will produce a clean kill.
- Call the Park Ranger at 825-2280 to report injured or sick deer. This number will take you to ranger dispatch who may have a ranger call you back.
- **Hunting in the parks is a privilege not a right.**
- 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.
- Be undetectable around trails, roads, houses etc. If you can see a residence from your tree stand – MOVE.

# Reporting

- Once a deer is harvested , obtain tag number from the State
- Report deer to Great Parks within 24 hours online. Use the Better Impact "hours" page: <http://myimpactpage.com>
  - More guidance will be provided on using this website
- If that does not work for any reason, email GPHC Representative within 24 hours with your name, harvest date, sex of the deer (buck, button, doe), park, hunting area, and the state tag number.
- Only field dress deer out of view of any roads or trails.
- There can be random checks of gut piles to ensure integrity of the program.

# Tips for Encountering Horseback Riders

- Just remember H.U.N.T
- Halt! Horses are flight animals and sometimes spook easily.
- Use calm voice to make contact with the rider
- No sudden movements especially if have equipment or while moving deer
- Take precautions and ask rider if they'd like you to stay still or carry on

# Great Parks of Hamilton County Rangers

- How to reach us
  - *For emergencies, dial 9-1-1*
  - To have a Ranger dispatched to your location, call the Hamilton County Communications Center at **513-825-2280**. (24/7)
  - 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

# Here to Help! Who to Call

Rangers	Coordinators	GPHC Rep
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To report violations</li><li>• To report unsafe conditions (ex: fallen trees, illegal activity)</li><li>• Environmental issues</li><li>• Before tracking a deer off Park property</li><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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To scout</li><li>• To resolve conflicts between hunters</li><li>• For hunting advice/guidance</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Administrative questions /issues</li></ul>

# Off Limits Dates

Our Parks have many uses besides hunting. There will be hunting closures for specific events and activities. It is your responsibility to check the “News” page on Better Impact for announcements on closures. Expect the following:

- All locations: GPHC Winter Bird Count in December
- Highlighted locations: Honeysuckle spraying late October to early December, see maps.
- Other events as announced: Great River Clean-up, Tree cutting, recreational programs, etc/

# State Regulations

- Be sure to read and follow all state regulations.
- A total of four deer can legally be harvested in Hamilton County using four “either sex” tags (\$31 each) or three “either sex” tags and one deer management permit (\$15).
- The \$15 antlerless tag IS NOT VALID after November  
check ODNR guidelines for exact date.
- The Either Sex tags do not need to be bought before the antlerless tag, but only one buck can be taken.
- Privacy – GPHC is required by Ohio Revised Code 149.43 to provide the first and last names of hunters in this program upon request.



# In Closing....Please Remember

- Only current session hunter can have equipment out.
- Tracking a deer after dark? You must call the rangers.
- Wounded deer off property? You must call the rangers.
- Park coordinators are all volunteers as well as hunters in the program.
- Program rules and enforcement related items are always handled by GPHC rep & the Park Rangers. Coordinators do not establish nor can they modify the rules.
- Review the program rules to ensure you are familiar with all of them. Not all rules are covered in this presentation, but it is your responsibility to know and follow all of them.

# Next Year

- Applications out by mid May.
- Application deadline early July.
- Qualification Dates – almost always first weekend in August
- All aspects of the bow hunting program are reevaluated each year. Surveys will be sent for feedback.