

S T A T E O F M I C H I G A N

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN

**PARKS & RECREATION—APPROVE REVISED DEER & WATERFOWL HUNTING  
POLICY #212**

**WHEREAS**, on September 22, 2011, the Board of Commissioners adopted a hunting policy; and

**WHEREAS**, based on review of policy, County Administration provided an update to the Board on December 12, 2019, relative to necessary changes needed to ensure a fair and open marketing process; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board supported the need for changes and further suggested a lottery system be considered.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Allegan County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the revised Deer & Waterfowl Hunting Policy #212, as attached, effective March 12, 2020; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Administration shall post the policy to the County website.

Moved by Commissioner Cain, seconded by Commissioner Dugan to approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried by voice vote. Yeas: 7 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

ATTEST, A TRUE COPY



\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk-Register

APPROVED: March 12, 2020

cc: Admin. - Finance - Human Resources - Parks

**ALLEGAN COUNTY  
POLICY**



**TITLE:** Deer & Waterfowl (Goose/Teal/Duck) Hunting  
**POLICY NUMBER:** 212  
**APPROVED BY:** Board of Commissioners

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** March 12, 2020  
**LAST REVISED DATE:** September 22, 2011

1. **PURPOSE:** To establish policy for Allegan County residents to hunt waterfowl (Goose/Teal/Duck) or deer during specific times on County Services Complex property to help control wildlife population.
2. **SERVICE AREA(s) AFFECTED:** Parks & Recreation
3. **DEFINITIONS:**
  - 3.1 County Services Complex: The 240 acres between 33rd Street on the west and 122nd Street on the south.
  - 3.2 Safety zone: An area within 500 feet of any occupied building where bow and firearm use and hunting of any kind are not allowed.
  - 3.3 Motorized vehicle: Any 2 (or more) wheeled motorized automobile, truck, 4-wheel drive, or ATV.
  - 3.4 Tree stand: Any structure or compartment that is placed in a tree to offer stealth positioning to provide a hunting advantage.
  - 3.5 Ground blind: Any ground structure with four sides and a top whether custom-made or professionally manufactured that is designed to camouflage location and movement. The use of any ground blind must not create any permanent changes to the property on which it is used.
  - 3.6 Bait: Items such as fruit, vegetables, or salt blocks used to attract deer or waterfowl.
  - 3.7 Designated parking areas: The asphalt areas specifically designated for parking by each of the 13 County buildings within the County Services Complex.
  - 3.8 Allegan County Hunting Permit: The County hunting permit application which must be completed by individuals desiring to hunt deer or waterfowl (goose, teal, and duck) season's within the County Services Complex and submitted to the Parks & Recreation Department and approved by same. The

Permit holder must be at least 18 years to apply.

4. **RULES:** The following rules apply to the 240 acres designated as the County Services Complex. Law enforcement officers will be called to address any violations of law including, but not limited to, adherence to all applicable hunting laws and recreational trespass laws.
  - 4.1 Applicants are required to obtain an appropriate and valid Michigan DNR hunting license prior to a County permit being issued.
  - 4.2 Hunters must follow all Michigan hunting laws and regulations and all rules set forth in this policy.
  - 4.3 Hunters must maintain a safe distance from property lines. Property lines are specifically marked on the east by page wire fencing, the west by 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, the south by 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, and the north by Dumont Lake.
  - 4.4 A specified area from any building (500 feet) is considered a “safety zone.” No shooting of a bow or firearm or hunting of any kind is allowed in a safety zone.
  - 4.5 No motorized vehicles of any kind are allowed on County land or open space lands except in designated building parking areas and drives.
  - 4.6 The use of bait to attract deer or waterfowl for the purpose of hunting is prohibited.
  - 4.7 No tree stands are to be used.
  - 4.8 Only portable and temporary ground blinds may be used. Ground blinds may only be placed while occupied. Advance placement or leaving ground blinds overnight is prohibited. The name, phone number and address of the owner must be attached to any blind.
  - 4.9 No cutting, removing or gathering of natural materials is allowed for any purpose.
  - 4.10 No person while on County property shall be in possession of, discharge, or set off a pistol, rifle, shotgun, slingshot or any other instrument which discharges a projectile by air, explosion or any other force except for a duly appointed law enforcement officer carrying out the duties and responsibilities of his or her position, unless for the purpose of hunting while in possession of a valid County permit as described in this policy.
  - 4.11 Only bow hunting of deer is permitted. Firearms are not allowed for deer hunting. Each firing of a bow and arrow for deer hunting shall be limited to a single arrow that is tipped with a legal broadhead for hunting purposes.

Practicing with a bow and arrow while on County property is prohibited.

- 4.12 Hunting on the County Services Complex without a valid County Hunting permit is not allowed and violators can and will be prosecuted. Hunters with a permit may hunt only during the specific time period and area authorized on the permit.
- 4.13 Hunting hours are limited to weekends only,
  - 4.13.1 Deer hunting hours are Friday from 5:00 PM until one-half (1/2) hour after sunset, Saturday & Sunday from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to one-half (1/2) hour after sunset.
  - 4.13.2 Teal hunting hours are from Friday 5:00 PM to sunset, Saturday & Sunday sunrise to sunset.
  - 4.13.3 Waterfowl (Goose/Duck) hunting hours are from Friday 5:00 PM to sunset, Saturday & Sunday.
- 4.14 Hunting for deer will only be permitted during bow and arrow season (October 1 to November 14 and December 1 to December 31) and hunting for waterfowl will only be permitted during waterfowl (teal, goose, duck) season as determined by the MDNR for Allegan Township (South Section).
- 4.15 The number of permits issued for each weekend is limited to 1 for waterfowl and 1 for deer.
  - 4.15.1 Each permit holder may be accompanied by no more than one (individual).
- 4.16 Deer hunting is limited to the area north of Human Services, excluding lagoons (see attached map).
- 4.17 Waterfowl hunting is limited to the fenced-in area at the lagoons (see attached map).
- 4.18 Permit availability is limited to individuals who are residents of Allegan County at least 18 years of age and who furnish proof of hunter safety course completion.
- 4.19 Use/possession or previous consumption of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances within the County Services Complex is prohibited.
- 4.20 Waterfowl hunters must only use shotguns with MDNR approved non-toxic shot. Using any other firearms or a bow or crossbow to hunt waterfowl is prohibited. Target practice is prohibited.
- 4.21 Individuals must possess all applicable Michigan DNR hunting license requirements for either waterfowl or deer depending on their specific hunting request.

- 4.22 Should a hunter be approached by a law enforcement officer, the hunter is required to place his or her weapon on the ground and produce all requested documents such as State I.D., hunting licenses and permits to be on County property.
- 4.23 No person shall willfully vandalize, destroy, deface, alter, change or remove any property from the premises, natural or manmade, including, but not limited to, stakes, posts or blaze marking or designating any boundary line, survey line, or reference point.
- 4.24 No fires are allowed on the County Services Complex for any reason.
- 4.25 Littering of any kind is prohibited, including the leaving behind of spent shotgun shells.
- 4.26 Waterfowl hunters are limited to 25 shotgun shells per day and subject to all bag limits. Waterfowl hunters are limited to hunting waterfowl and may not possess a bow and arrow for the taking of deer and vice versa.
- 4.27 The tracking and attempted retrieval of any game requires permission of adjacent landowners before continuing onto adjacent properties. All efforts to retrieve downed game are required.
- 4.28 No equipment may be left on County property. Anything left on County property will be removed and confiscated by the County.
- 4.29 Except for lawful deer and waterfowl hunting consistent with this policy, no person within the confines of County property shall hunt, molest, harm or kill any wild bird or animal, or rob or molest any bird nest or take the eggs of any bird.
- 4.30 The County may revoke a hunting permit based on a trespass or violation of any law or any provision of this policy. Such revocation may also result in ineligibility for a permit in the future.

## **5. Process for Obtaining Permit:**

- 5.1 Permits for deer and waterfowl hunting will be awarded for available weekends through a lottery.
- 5.2 The available weekends (dates) for each deer and waterfowl seasons will be posted on Allegan County's webpage ([www.allegancounty.org/parks](http://www.allegancounty.org/parks)) by April 15 of each year.

- 5.3 Applications for the lottery will be accepted from May 1 – June 30
- 5.3.1.1 A separate application must be submitted for deer and waterfowl hunting seasons.
  - 5.3.1.2 Applications may be picked up at the reception area of the County Services Building, 3283 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Allegan Township, or downloaded from the County website at ([www.allegancounty.org/parks](http://www.allegancounty.org/parks)).
  - 5.3.1.3 Completed applications may be submitted in person at the reception area of the County Services Building, 3283 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Allegan Township or by emailing a copy of the application to [parks@allegancounty.org](mailto:parks@allegancounty.org).
- 5.3.2 Submitted applications will then be assigned a number and by the end of July each year; those numbers will be entered and drawn using a randomizer.
- 5.3.3 Once the lottery has been completed the applicant will be notified as to whether they were awarded a permit or not, within one week of lottery downing date by Parks Administrative Staff. The awarded applicant will then have until September 1 pay for and pick up the permit. The applicant will need to provide the following in order to be issued the official permit:
- ◆ Verify County Residence
  - ◆ Verify Age
  - ◆ Verify Hunting Safety Certificate
  - ◆ Verify Hunting License
  - ◆ Hunting Fee (\$10 per every weekend permitted)
- 5.3.4 The applicant must carry their permit with them at all times during the approved hunting weekend.
- 5.3.5 Approved permits are non-transferrable.
- 5.3.6 At the conclusion of the lottery process, the County may allow additional permits to be issued on a first come, first serve basis for any available weekends generally for the purpose of deer/waterfowl population control based on the recommendation of the County's Facilities Management Director, subject to approval by the County Administrator. Notice will be posted of this fact on the County's Parks and Recreation website.

**6. RESPONSIBILITIES:**

6.1 The Parks & Recreation Department shall issue Allegan County Hunting Permits in accordance with this policy to individuals who wish to hunt deer or waterfowl on the County Services Complex.

6.2 Hunters must carry the approved permit and all required state and federal licenses while hunting as proof of permission to hunt.

**7. IMPORTANT NOTE:** The County does not represent, warrant or guarantee that any game taken from County property is fit for human consumption. Each hunter should carefully examine the game for evidence of illness or disease or other problems in the same manner that game from other areas would be examined if used for human consumption.

**8. REFERENCES:**

8.1 Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

**9. APPENDICES:**

9.1 County Services Complex Map



APPENDIX 9.1 – County Services Complex Map

