

# **TOWN OF HARVARD DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM RULES AND REGULATIONS 2023**

The Harvard Conservation Commission will open a **controlled archery hunt for deer** on 16 Town of Harvard conservation areas in a program administrated by the Deer Management Subcommittee to manage deer population density. Hunters selected for the program who have passed the Harvard archery proficiency test may hunt on specific conservation properties with a permission letter issued by the Deer Management Subcommittee. The hunt will coincide with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts hunting season and run from the **2023 archery season opening through December 30, 2023.**

## **Rules:**

1. Hunters admitted to the program will be eligible for a bow-hunting permit issued by the Harvard Deer Management Subcommittee (DMS) to lawfully hunt on designated Town lands. All state hunting regulations must be followed. An individual permit can be revoked or denied by the Conservation Commission agent or chairperson, DMS Committee member, police or designee for any violation of Harvard Deer Management and State of Massachusetts Hunting Rules and Regulations.
2. Hunters must post an entry in the program's hunting log accessed through your cell phone or internet capable computer. This is required and will be a huge help for the program to know when and where our hunters are and what field observations, they make for each hunting day. If you hunt multiple times during the course of the day, please submit a separate log entry for each time on property.
3. Park in areas suggested by DMS. A DMS hunting program tag must be left visible in your vehicle.
4. Hunters must carry their hunter ID and permission letter at all times, and present it on demand to any State or Town official, Hunt Program Coordinator, or participant if requested.
5. Digital maps of the property being hunted must be carried on person. Hunters must stay within the bounds of the designated conservation area, maintain a 150-foot distance from roads and a 500-foot distance from dwellings in use while hunting and follow all other Massachusetts state hunting regulations. Hunters should have a GPS or cellular enabled mapping device that shows their location relative to property boundaries, roadways and any dwellings in use.
6. Hunting is by bow only and it is exclusively permitted from an elevated stand. Crossbows may be used by hunters as allowed by their Massachusetts State hunting license. No gun hunting is allowed.
7. Two tree stands tags are allowed for each hunter, They may be ladder stands, hang-on stands or climbers. Screw-in steps are not allowed. Two tree-stand tags will be issued to each hunter and these tags must be attached and easily visible on stands. Hang-on, platforms, and other mobile stand equipment may be left overnight or for an extended period of time and tagged as appropriately. Wrap-around climbing sticks, non-screw steps, or rope loops may also be used and left overnight or for an extended period of time. A Fall Restraint Harness must be used when in a tree stand. Stands may be placed on property starting once property assignments have been released.
8. Stands must be removed no later than February 1, 2024. Any stands remaining after February 1st will be confiscated and the hunter may be suspended from future hunts. All unauthorized stands will be confiscated by the DMS.
9. The temporary use of bright eyes tacks/glow tacks is allowed to mark trails to stands, but do not use flagging tape. Please remove at the end of the season.

10. Hunter orange (500 square inches of blaze orange on the chest, back, and head) must be worn during shotgun and primitive firearms of deer season per State law.
11. Use of baiting is not permitted. Baiting of deer is strictly prohibited at all times, this includes salt licks, mineral licks and other chemical compounds of a like food-related nature to attract or entice deer.
12. Use of non-food related scents, synthetic doe urine, deer antlers or replicas, or grunt tubes are permitted.
13. All deer taken must be reported to DMS, preferably before the deer is removed from the property. All harvest must be reported within 48 hours.
14. DMS will monitor the program and issue permits based on available land and land management goals. No more than twenty-four hunters will participate in 2023 Deer Hunt Program assigned to specific properties. Hunters are strongly encouraged to take does. Our goal is to reduce the overall deer population.
15. These rules are applicable to the 2023 season and may be revised. Violation of any of these rules may subject a participant to immediate revocation of hunting privileges for this and future seasons.
16. Hunters must comply and abide with all MA Hunting rules and regulations.

**Additional Considerations for hunters in the Program:**

- A. There are 16 sites. Daman/Stephenson is in Zone 10, where the season starts Oct 2; the other sites are in Zone 9, starting Oct 16. This year we are assigning hunters to specific property. Please be good stewards of the land. Pick up your and others trash. No cutting down of live trees or branches. You are able to tie back bushes or branches but must be removed at the end of the hunting season.
- B. Remember as a hunter you are an ambassador for the program. Hunting on Town conservation land, like private land, is by permission. That permission could be withdrawn at any time due to one hunter's bad judgment, please don't be that hunter.
- C. Be polite and considerate to others. Be the first to say hello to people you meet on the trail. When on trails have on your possession your Hunter ID. If asked by anyone to see your ID, it is recommended that you politely show it.
- D. Do not get into arguments and if confronted in a belligerent manner, take the high road, walk away calmly and call the police. Hunter harassment is against the law.
- E. If you run into a person who is hunting that you don't recognize from the Program, politely inform them that hunting is by Town permit only and refer them to DMS. If they give you any trouble, walk away and call the police. Also, if you don't want to talk to another hunter who you feel is not part of the program, please notify DMS.
- F. If you find a stand without a permit tag, take note of where it is and notify DMS. DO NOT REMOVE IT YOURSELF. The stand will be removed after notice is given. Take note of the GPS coordinates and get a photo. If needed, put up a marker so you can relocate it.

- G. Be aware of the location of hiking trails and do not setup within 75 feet of marked trails.
- H. Take good and ethical shots. Do not shot beyond your capability. Know what is behind that deer before your shoot.
- I. If your shot deer runs onto private land, politely notify the owner of the situation before continuing to track the deer. If you do not get the cooperation of the owner contact Environmental Police and notify DMS.
- J. Field dress your harvested deer away from marked trails. Don't leave your gut pile in a wetland or near a trail where a dog could get into it or people could find it. Cover your gut pile with some branches and debris. If possible, drag the deer out as a whole to be processed elsewhere.
- K. If anyone would like to donate venison to our local food bank we have set up the appropriate channels to do so. (This is completely voluntary, and not a requirement of the Program) Please contact DMS.
- L. We have a great group of hunters that will help others with tracking or dragging out a deer or provide assistance with setting up a stand. Contact DMS and we will try and get someone to help.
- M. For those we assigned multiple hunters to a property please communicate with each. Maybe subdivide the property in sections and assign a rotation on who will be hunting where and when. Communication is key.
- N. Autumn Safety tips: Know your limits, tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return, and watch the weather. Remember to log in and out the Hunter's log. And wear your safety harness while climbing, hunting and upon decent from the tree.

Thank you for your help in controlling our Town's deer population. Good luck, and have a great hunt!

**DMS CONTACTS:**

**Bob Douglas 978-860-6682**

**Joe Pulido 727-804-2138**

**HARVARD POLICE DISPATCH 978-456-8276**

**ENVIRONMENTAL POLICE 800-632-8075**