

Wissahickon Trails Deer Management Protocol

2021-2022

Updated September 12, 2021

Hunting Season: September 18, 2021- January 17, 2022

Including three Sundays- 11/14, 11/21, 11/28

Wissahickon Trails manages a controlled deer hunt on its preserves in an effort to maintain deer population numbers at an ecologically sustainable level. Wissahickon Trails works with Delaware Valley Wildlife Management a local bow hunting organizations, to achieve this goal. Hunters receiving Wissahickon Trails approval are expected to conduct themselves in a safe, honest and ethical manner. Listed below are the requirements that hunters must meet to receive permission, as well as examples of unacceptable behavior and the regulations that Wissahickon Trails expects hunters to follow when hunting on Wissahickon Trails preserves.

DUE TO COVID 19, NO IN PERSON PRE-SEASON MEETING WILL BE HELD THIS YEAR. HUNTERS MUST FOLLOW ALL CDC GUIDELINES WHEN HUNTING. MASK MUST BE WORN WHEN 6 FOOT DISTANCE FROM OTHERS CANNOT BE ACHIEVED

Permit Requirements

1. All hunters must attend an annual pre-season orientation meeting at Wissahickon Trails headquarters.
2. All hunters must present proof that they have completed both the Pennsylvania Game Commission Hunter/Trapper Education Course and the National Bowhunter Education Foundation Safety Course.
3. Hunters must have a minimum of (3) antlerless deer licenses for the deer management unit that covers the Wissahickon Trails preserves.
4. All new hunters must prove proficiency to a designated Wissahickon Trails representative by firing at a 3-D target from 20 yards and hitting the vitals 4 out of 5 times. Shooting from a tree stand 10 feet above ground, they must place five out of six arrows in the vitals of a 3-D target at distances of five, ten and fifteen yards. The results of this examination will be documented by Wissahickon Trails.

They must also be interviewed and approved by a representative of the appropriate organization.

5. Upon approval, a hunter must become a member of Wissahickon Trails.

Unacceptable Behavior

1. Shooting in marginal situations, such as at running deer, when vital organs are obstructed and/or at excessive distances.
2. Disrespect of Wissahickon Trails employees, adjacent landowners and other preserve users.
3. Consumption of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances.
4. Failing to appropriately follow up on every shot.
5. Displaying game animals unnecessarily.

Hunting Regulations

1. Wissahickon Trails, in consultation with the appropriate group, will determine days and hours of hunting permitted at a site.
2. Hunters must comply with all Pennsylvania Game Commission regulations.
3. Hunters must prioritize the harvest of female antlerless deer. Hunters should harvest a minimum of 3 does each season, or be able to demonstrate considerable effort to do so and discuss strategies for reaching this goal with Wissahickon Trails deer management staff throughout the season.
4. Hunters must log a minimum of 30 hunting hours each year.
5. All hunting must be from tree stands. Only portable tree stands may be used and hunters must wear a full-body safety harness. Screw-in steps are allowed, only after approval by Wissahickon Trails staff. All tree stands must be removed by February 15, 2022.
6. Hunters must follow the hunting procedures below.

Hunting Procedures

Hunters must record their activity by logging on to the website created for that purpose. Wissahickon Trails staff will send out website information to group prior to the start of the season.

Procedure When Encountering Illegal Hunters

1. Try to ascertain the hunter's identity by asking for ID, including their hunting license number, or if they refuse, try to get their license plate number.
2. In a non-confrontational manner, inform them that they are on private property and not permitted to hunt.
3. Ask them to leave the property immediately.
4. If they become confrontational or belligerent, do not respond, but call 911 immediately.

Procedure for Reporting Criminal Activities

1. If hunting equipment is stolen, the hunter should report the theft, date, and location to Wissahickon Trails staff. Staff will then report the incident to local police.
2. If a hunter witnesses illegal activities taking place on Wissahickon Trails preserves, such as but not limited to drug use, unpermitted occupancy (squatting) or other activities, the hunter shall report such activities to staff, who will follow up with police. If the activity is putting anyone at risk, hunters should immediately call 911, then report the activity to Wissahickon Trails staff.

Termination Procedures

If Wissahickon Trails staff observe a case of Unacceptable Behavior, or a violation of one of the Hunting Regulations by a permitted hunter, or is informed of such an event by a reliable source, (s)he will abide by the following procedure to address each incident:

1. The staff member will verbally inform the hunter of the infraction.
2. The hunter will be provided the opportunity to respond to the accusation.
3. If, in the opinion of the staff member, the hunter has clearly exhibited an Unacceptable Behavior or violated one of the Hunting Regulations, (s)he will verbally inform the hunter that his hunting permit has been revoked immediately.
4. If Wissahickon Trails determines that there are legitimate extenuating circumstances concerning a violation, the hunter will be given a warning and may be subject to a probationary period.
5. The hunter will be notified in writing of a warning or the loss of hunting privileges.

Wissahickon Trails additionally reserves the right to revoke a hunter's privileges at any time and for any reason apart from violations of procedures. Wissahickon Trails preserves are private property and the organization has the authority to limit use or access as it sees fit. Hunters will be notified in writing of any loss of permissions or privileges.

I, the undersigned, have read and understand the above rules, regulations and termination procedure. I understand that failure to follow the rules and regulations will result in immediate loss of my hunting permit. I have attended an orientation session and I am aware of the property boundaries and the areas where hunting is prohibited. I assume all risk of entry onto the Premises. Wissahickon Trails. shall not be liable for any injury to any person or property occurring on or about the Premises during the period of the Permit.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Hunting License number

Email address

Antlerless license numbers