Westchester County Adaptive Deer Management Program (ADMP)  
2019 Rules and Guidelines

Deadlines:
All participants MUST have their Westchester County hunter IDs, New York State (NYS) Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) hunting license and a New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) access permit no later than October 1. A copy of the DEC hunting license and DEP hunting permit must be emailed or mailed to the ADMP manager. Failure to have the Westchester County hunter ID, DEC license or DEP permit will result in removal from the program. The DEP hunting permit can be acquired at:


Online update or new application: http://a826-web01.nyc.gov/recpermitapp/


Hunting Days and Hours:

Dates:
• Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Mountain Lakes, Hilltop Hanover, John E. Hand and Lasdon will be hunted for the full extent of the NYS DEC region 3S archery season: October 1 – December 31.

• Muscoot Farm will be hunted November 2 through December 31.

Days:
• Mountain Lakes Park, Lasdon, Hilltop Hanover and Muscoot Farm are open to hunting seven days a week from 3:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

• John E. Hand Park is open to select hunters only, Monday – Friday from 3:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

• Ward Pound Ridge Reservation is open to hunting Monday – Friday ONLY from 3:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Closures:
• *All parks will be closed to hunting Thursday and Friday Nov. 28 and 29 for Thanksgiving weekend, and on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, Tuesday Dec. 24 and Wednesday Dec. 25.

• *In addition, Ward Pound Ridge Reservation will be closed to hunting on Columbus Day, Monday, October 14.

• Entire parks or sections of parks may unexpectedly be closed to hunting during the season. ADMP managers will announce unscheduled closures to hunters as soon as they are known.

Outside of the Hunting Season and Hunting Hours/Days Defined for Each Park

Outside hunting hours and days defined for each park, hunters must abide by all normal park hours, rules and parking areas.
Program Communication

All hunters are required to have an active email address that they check regularly and a cell phone carried with them while they hunt. ADMP managers will send program notices and updates via email regularly throughout the season. ADMP managers may call or text hunters while they are hunting. ADMP managers will have program cell phones that can be called at any time for any reason. Notices may also appear posted in hunter kiosks.

Requirements to Maintain Participation

To remain in the ADMP, first-year hunters are required to spend at least 45 hours in stand, hunting ADMP managed properties. “In stand” refers to actual hunting time pursuing deer from a tree stand. Time walking in or out, climbing/descending, retrieving deer and non-legal hunting hours (pre-sunrise/post-sunset) are not included. If a first-year hunter harvests one or more antlerless deer, they will be exempt from the 45 hour requirement.

Program veterans (those who have hunted in the program more than one season) will be held to a cumulative antlerless harvest requirement to remain in the program. Currently a hunter must maintain a 0.5 antlerless harvest per year, equal to a minimum harvest of one antlerless every other year. If a hunter harvests multiple antlerless deer in a season, those deer will be counted toward their cumulative average and requirements for following seasons. If the 0.5 antlerless average is not maintained, the hunter will not be invited back the following season.

Antlered bucks do not count toward any requirements in this program.

Requirements may change from season to season.

Hunting Rules and Regulations

All NYS DEC, federal, and Westchester County rules and regulations towards hunting apply.

- The Westchester County Parks ADMP allows for the hunting of deer only. No other game may be hunted or taken on Westchester County owned park lands.
- There must be at least 500 feet between someone who is hunting with a bow and any inhabited buildings or out buildings. Hunters must abide by county-posted “Safety Zone, No Hunting” areas.

Reporting of Violations

Report All: violations of DEC hunting laws, violations of ADMP rules or guidelines, any suspicious activity or findings, any sightings or interactions with hunters poaching on Westchester County Park property, negative interactions with ADMP hunters and negative interactions with the public to ADMP managers immediately.

Hunter IDs, Access Permits and Back Tags

Hunters are expected to carry their DEC hunting license, Westchester County hunter ID, DEP access permit and a valid form of identification such as a driver license, at all times.

Hunters are required to have their Westchester County Hunter IDs with them at all times while hunting on Westchester County property. DEC and DEP officers, police, Parks staff, other ADMP hunters and the public have the right to ask to be shown a hunter’s ID. The Hunter ID may be worn underneath clothing or stored in a pack while hunting. However, the ID should always be easily accessible.

DEC back tags must be worn while hunting, as is required by New York State law.
Etiquette

Hunters are ambassadors for the County Parks and the ADMP program. Hunters must be considerate of our parklands and other park patrons. The parks are carry-in, carry-out facilities, so hunters must not leave behind any trash or litter.

We ask that hunters be conscious of their language and behavior around park patrons, and clean up before entering public areas. Game should be concealed from the public when possible.

Park patrons must be treated with courtesy and respect. Adverse interactions with the public will not be tolerated and will result in a hunter’s immediate removal from the program. If a park user becomes confrontational, a hunter must immediately call an ADMP manager to intervene.

ADMP Hunter Number

Each hunter will be assigned a “hunter number” at the orientation meeting. This number will be used for identification purposes on parking passes, tree stand tags, pins in kiosks and for use in recording hunter data.

Call in/Call Out

Each hunter is expected to call in and call out each day. Hunters must leave their name, hunter number, time in or time out and if a deer was taken, on the Deer Hotline telephone number. Hunters should notify ADMP staff on their program cell phones immediately when a deer is harvested or wounded.

Regardless of circumstance, if it is necessary for a hunter to return to their vehicle after 7:00 pm, they must notify ADMP managers with as much advanced notice as is possible.

Gates and Locks

Some roads accessing the Deer Management Program (DMP) parking areas are gated and locked with combination locks. Select hunter kiosks use similar locks. After passing through, hunters must close and relock all gates and kiosks. Codes will be presented at orientation.

Kiosks

Each ADMP site has one or more hunter kiosks. Each kiosk contains a map of the property with the management units labeled. Before entering the woods to hunt, hunters must place the pin with their designated hunter number in the unit and location they wish to hunt that day. Pins must be removed at the end of each day. Pins may be left in the kiosk if a hunter hunts the morning, wishes to leave for lunch, then return to the same spot in the afternoon.
Hunter Log Slips

Daily log “slips” will be found within the kiosks. Hunters must fill out the entire log slip with the information from their day’s hunt, and then place the log slip in the “ballot box” within the kiosk.

Log entries play a key role to the success of this program. The log slips must be filled out at the conclusion of each hunt. Log slips must be completed accurately, with start and end “time in stand” (see pg. 1 ‘Requirements to Maintain Participation’) reflecting DEC legal shooting hours.

Parking

Outside of the hunting season, hunters must park in public parking areas and abide by each park’s defined days and hours of operation.

During the hunting season, parking is allowed in designated parking areas only. These areas are marked in kiosks, on the provided maps and marked in the field with signs labeled “DMP PARKING.” Parking is not allowed along undesignated parking roads or areas.

Parking Passes

Each hunter will be provided with a parking pass. When hunting a park and parking at a “DMP Parking” area, this pass must be displayed on the hunter’s dashboard in a way that it is clearly visible.

Stuck Vehicles

In the event that a hunter’s vehicle becomes stuck or disabled, a call must be placed to the Westchester County Police to call a towing service that is on contract with the county. Westchester County staff is not permitted to tow private vehicles.

Hunting Implements to Harvest Game

Compound bows are currently the only hunting implement allowed to hunt deer in Westchester County Parks. Special permission may be granted by ADMP managers to allow a participant to use a traditional bow. Crossbows and firearms are prohibited on Westchester County Park property.

Tree Stands

Hunting is allowed from elevated climbing tree stands or saddle systems with climbing sticks only. Stands and climbing sticks must be tagged with Westchester County tree stand stickers. Stands and climbing sticks must be removed from the parks at the end of each day.

No Ground Hunting

Still hunting, stalking, hunting from blinds or any other form of ground hunting is strictly prohibited.

Harnesses

Full body harnesses must be worn while hunting from tree stands.
Cutting of Tree Limbs
The cutting of tree limbs is discouraged; however, limbs up to 3 inches in diameter may be cut if necessary to place a tree stand into a tree. Felling of living trees and saplings is prohibited.

Hunting and Hiking Trails
Hunters may use hiking trails to access hunting areas and to transport deer. Hunters must not set up in proximity to or be visible to the public from hiking trails.

Gut Piles
Gut piles must be buried with soil, sticks and leaves, left away from trails, kept out of the public eye and out of water courses.

Trail Cameras
Use of trail cameras is prohibited in County Parks.

Trail Markers
Use of reflective trail markers (“bright eyes” or “trail tacks”) is permitted during hunting season. However, flagging tape must not be used to mark trails, paths, or stand locations. Flagging tape may be used to track, but must be removed shortly thereafter. Any flagging tape found in the parks will be removed without notice.

Upon Harvest of a Deer
Once a hunter harvests a deer they must:

- Tag the carcass.
- Call an ADMP manager to view and collect data from the harvested animal.
- Report the harvest on the hunter log slips.
- Report the harvest on the call in/call out line.
- Report all harvests to the DEC.

ADMP managers check tags, record data and collect samples from harvests. All harvested deer must be checked by ADMP managers.

Concealment of Game
Hunters must make an effort to conceal their harvested deer when leaving the park, especially when using an open platform attached to the hitch of a vehicle. Tarps must be used to cover deer in this instance.
Tracking/Make Every Effort
Whenever tracking is necessary, the situation must be reported to an ADMP manager who will instruct the hunter how to proceed. If tracking is to be taking place at night, ADMP managers will notify the Westchester County Police.

A hunter must make every effort to track and recover deer. Hunters should adhere to the advice given by ADMP managers before pursuing a lost animal. ADMP managers will often request that a hunter wait to be joined by the manager before tracking. When necessary, an ADMP manager may request a hunter to call Deer Search to assist with the track. While ADMP staff will assist with tracking and recovery in most situations, hunters must recognize that they are ultimately the ones responsible to track and recover their harvests. It is not a requirement for ADMP personnel to assist with tracking or recovery.

Deer Search/ADMP Tracking Dogs
If assistance is needed tracking a wounded deer, hunters may contact the Deer Search organization. This volunteer service uses trained tracking dogs to track and recover wounded deer. The dispatch number can be called at any time. The hunter must always be present when a dog tracker is tracking their game. Please read through the Deer Search guidelines provided in your packet and follow them closely before contacting Deer Search.

Some ADMP managers are licensed dog trackers. Prior to the season it will be announced if the ADMP will have its own tracking dog service.

Harvest Retrieval and Transport/Staff Assistance
ADMP managers are sometimes available to assist with the transport of harvested deer within the parks. The ADMP has deer carts, trucks and tarps to assist hunters with the retrieval of harvests from distant hunting locations and to keep harvests out of the public eye. If an ADMP manager is not available to assist, it is the hunter’s responsibility to retrieve and transport their harvest.

Zero Tolerance for Noncompliance
There will be zero tolerance for noncompliance. Noncompliance will result in the revocation of privilege to hunt on Westchester County park property. All violations are subject to investigation by ADMP managers, Westchester County Parks administration and staff and local and state policing agencies. Retention of individual hunters is up to the discretion of ADMP managers, regardless of the fulfillment of the seasonal requirements. Hunters are held personally responsible for all of their actions.
By signing this document I hereby acknowledge that I have read, understand and at all times will abide by the 2019 rules and guidelines for the Westchester County Adaptive Deer Management Program (ADMP). I agree to conduct myself safely, responsibly and lawfully, and to be respectful of Westchester County Park property, ADMP managers, other ADMP members and park patrons. I understand that ADMP staff and the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation reserve the right to revoke ADMP membership and privileges from any member, for any reason, at any time.

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Signature

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Print Name

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Date