**Controlled Bow Hunt Questions and Answers 2016 - 2017**

**How are bow hunters selected?**
Bow hunters who apply for the 2016-2017 season will be selected by lottery and required to pass a State Hunter Education course, possess a current Ohio hunting license and deer permit and be able to place at least four out of five arrows in a 10” diameter target from an elevated position at 20 yards. Each hunter must also attend a brief meeting to ensure understanding of the safety regulations.

Next season bow hunters who were a successful antlerless deer hunter in 2016-2017 hunting season get in automatically after submitting one application (dependent upon any DOW rules changes). They are invited to qualify based on the number of antlerless deer they harvested in the previous season. Bow hunters who harvested an antlered deer only, will still get in automatically, however they will be behind those who harvested antlerless deer.

**What if a hunter has not passed a hunter education course or can not produce proof?**
A bow hunter can satisfy this requirement by passing the written portion of the Ohio Hunter Education course. A score of 80 out of 100 questions is required to pass. A complete review is available at:

**Will I need Hunter's Education before qualifications?**
Yes, you will be required to pass the Hunter Safety Education Course prior to your qualification time.

**Where are the areas for bow hunting located?**
Sections of Mt. Airy Forest, California Woods, Stanbery Park, Drake Park, Glenway Woods, Miles Edward, Seymour Preserve, Alms Park, Ault Park, and Magrish Preserve, will be open to hunters in the 2016/2017 Season. Updates will be available online, a link will be provided to those who pass qualifications via e mail. Hunters will receive topographic maps and aerial photos of the area that they select to hunt.

**How many hunters are allowed in each area?**
We will need approximately 250 hunters to fill all of the sessions in the selected parks. Each park has a different schedule and different hunter numbers. We are trying to allow 25 acres per hunter but we also have some small zones that can only hold one hunter. For more information on hunting zones and number of hunters check the maps portion of our web site. All hunting areas including Mt. Airy Forest will be closed for the Winter Bird Counts on December 18 and January 1.
**How long is each hunter allowed to hunt?**
Most of the hunting sessions are for three weeks, with a few exceptions. Hunters who successfully harvested a doe the previous season will be allowed to choose two 3 week sessions. Hunters can also trade time with each other if they choose to share their contact information.

**Where can a hunter hunt within each area?**
The boundary of each area will utilize streams, roads, trails or property lines whenever possible. Hunting is permitted anywhere within each area except within 30 yards of a neighboring property, road, or building.

**What happens when a hunter harvests a deer?**
Once a deer is harvested, the deer must be checked at an official check station in Hamilton County, or by using the new computer or phone in system. In addition, the Park Board must also be provided other information such as sex, age, permanent tag number, area killed, date and time of kill by phone call or e mail to 861-9070 ext. 24 ASAP.

**Can a hunter apply more than once?**
Yes. The application form this year allows you to apply multiple times while submitting only one application. The application is on our website and applicants can fill out the form and pay online, we are encouraging hunters to use this method since the Park Board still pays a web fee and have to enter information manually. Each application will cost $15.00 per person on the application as long as you supply an active email address for each person on the application. Submitting more than one application will increase your chances of being selected. However, no name will be drawn more than once.

**How many names will be drawn?**
Everyone who enters will be part of the random drawing, with the exception of hunters who were successful at harvesting at least one antlerless deer. They are automatically in the lottery after turning in an application. We anticipate needing approximately 250 hunters. Hunters who pass the qualification and do not receive a three week session will be able to borrow time from other hunters who have received time during the 2016-2017 deer season. Each year we have several hunters who have to cancel for various reasons throughout the season. Hunters who do not receive three weeks and are considered alternate hunters will be contacted in the order drawn to fill any vacancies that may occur.

**Will the hunter have a choice of their three-week session or hunting location?**
Yes, All hunters will get to choose based on a first drawn, first choice basis, providing they have met all requirements. First name chosen will have first choice and so on.
Will there be time for scouting and preparing your hunting location?
Yes. Anytime prior to the bow qualifications, scouting must end two weeks prior to the beginning of hunting season.

Is baiting allowed?
Yes. Hunters may only bait during their session. First session hunters and those who have a session immediately following a break in hunting (ABCFG) may begin baiting earlier than their session. Other than that exception hunters who wish to bait must wait until the Friday before their session begins and must stop at the end of their session. Salt blocks or mineral licks of any kind are prohibited.

Are ATVs allowed?
No. Motorized vehicles will not be permitted beyond the designated parking areas.

Can I qualify with one bow, and then use another for hunting?
No. You must hunt with the bow you used to qualify. However, you may qualify with up to two bows. To qualify with two bows you must qualify with the hardest bow first. You must pass with the first bow to have an opportunity to qualify with the second bow.

How does Hunting with a buddy work?
Cincinnati Parks no longer has a “Buddy” system in place due to past complaints.

What is the minimum age for hunting and can I hunt with my child?
The minimum age for hunting in the Cincinnati Parks Bow Hunting Program is 12 years old. Hunters 12 years old through 17 years old MUST be accompanied by a parent or guardian. They must be within reach of that parent or guardian while they are with their weapon. The minimum age for hunting unaccompanied is 18 years of age. Minors will not be given their own session to hunt.

Will there be other opportunities to hunt more than the three week session?
Yes, but you must be willing to share our contact information with other hunters (details will be given on qualification day).

What if I harvest more deer than I can use?
The harvested deer will belong to the hunter; however we encourage hunters to consider donating venison to Hunters for the Hungry.

What kind of equipment is allowed?
All equipment must conform to the State of Ohio requirements. Compound, long, recurve and crossbows are allowed. Longbow: Minimum draw weight 40 lb. Crossbow: draw weight not less than 75 lb., or more than 200 lb.
Are tree stands allowed?
Yes, wearing of a safety harness is required with use of any tree stand. Hunting on the ground is also permitted. The harness must be worn while hunting off the ground. Failure to do so will result in loss of hunting privileges. Climbing, ladder, tripod stands and pop-up blinds are all allowed. However, only limited clearing of shooting lanes is allowed. Cutting of sticks, branches or bushes larger than ½” (unless it is bush honeysuckle) is prohibited. It is unlawful to construct, place or use a permanent-type tree stand, or to place spikes, nails, wires or other metal objects into a tree to act as steps or to hold a tree stand on Park District Property. Tree stands must be removed by March 1st or they will be confiscated, sold at auction, and the hunter may be removed from the program.

When can I put my stand up?
Coordinators, first session hunters, and those hunting the first session back from a break (ABCFG) may set stands early. Rest of session hunters must wait until the Friday before their session begins and remove their stand the Friday their session ends. Any unmarked stands will be confiscated and sold at auction.

What hours are hunters allowed to hunt?
Archery season hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. The official times for sunrise and sunset are found in the hunting digest. Be sure to use the times for Western Ohio.

Are bow hunters allowed to take a mature buck?
Yes, but hunters are encouraged to harvest does to help control the population.

How many deer are participants allowed to take?
As many as are allowed by State Law Using State of Ohio Urban and Regular Deer Hunting permits. Antlerless Deer permits are issued in addition to the Special Deer permits for regular hunting seasons.

Are there plans to allow hunting for other species?
No. The controlled bow hunting program is an ecological management tool for white-tailed deer only. Coyotes, turkeys, and other game are off limits.

How will hunters be monitored for compliance with City of Cincinnati, Park Board Policy and State laws?
All harvested deer must be checked at a State of Ohio deer check station for permanent tagging. Bow hunters may be checked periodically by Ohio Division of Wildlife Officers, Park Police, or Park Staff to ensure compliance.
Can hunters trade time with each other to help maximize their hunting opportunities?
Yes, hunters are allowed to trade time with other hunters in different sessions and even different parks as long as it is one of the areas open for hunting. We expect hunters who cannot hunt every day during their hunting session allow other hunters use this time to increase hunter opportunity and hopefully increase hunter harvest.

I passed the qualification process and all the time for hunting was taken, will I still be able to hunt?
Yes, but you will have to call hunters from a list provided, and borrow some of the time they will not be able to hunt.

If I borrow time from other hunters can it be in any park that has hunting or do I need to stay in the same park that I picked for my two weeks?
No, you can hunt in any park open to hunting as long as you get time from another hunter. If you think you would hunt in multiple parks open for hunting, we encourage you to meet with the coordinators and scout them out before hunting season.