

TOWN OF CLIFTON PARK
COUNTY OF SARATOGA
STATE OF NEW YORK

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT REGARDING DEER
HUNTING BY BOW IN TOWN PARKS & PRESERVES

Please take notice that the Town Board of the Town of Clifton Park will conduct a public hearing on August 1, 2022 at 7:05 p.m. in the Wood Memorial Meeting Room in the Town Office Building, located at One Town Hall Plaza, Town of Clifton Park, County of Saratoga, State of New York to solicit public input on a proposal to amend Town Code Chapter 152-153, to provide for a Deer Management Program THROUGH A CONTROLLED Deer Hunt, by bow only, at the Vischer Ferry Preserve, Garnsey Park, Veterans Park, and the Dwaas Kill Nature Preserve, during deer hunting season.

PROPOSED LOCAL LAW BELOW.

Chapter 152-A

DEER MANAGEMENT

PARKS AND PRESERVES

- 152-A 1
- Legislative Purpose and Intent

The purpose of this chapter is to establish a pilot program to provide for a controlled bow hunting program on designated Town lands during deer season for the purpose of deer management and control of overpopulation of deer within the Town.

Notwithstanding any other Law or Provision of this Town Code, Archery Equipment, Bows and Crossbows only, will be allowed within each of the following Parks and Preserves for qualified individuals through a structured program administered through a permit system as described in this chapter.

152-A 2: Definitions

Bow – Includes Long Bow, Compound Bow or Recurve Bow.

Crossbow – Consists of a bow, a string and either compound or recurve limbs with a minimum width of 17 inches (uncocked) and a mounted stock. The stock shall have a trigger with a working safety that holds the string and limbs under tension until released. It shall have a minimum overall length from the butt of the stock to the front of the limbs of 24 inches and be able to launch a minimum 14 inch arrow/bolt, not including the legal arrowhead. It shall have a draw weight of 100 to 200 pounds. Optical sights are allowed.

Portable Tree Stand – Includes stands known as Hang-on-Stand, Self-Climbing Stand and Ladderstand, these stands must have the ability to be hung or set in place without causing any harm or damage to the tree. They also must have the ability to be removed without causing harm or damage to the tree. No objects, such as screw in climbing pegs may be used.

Bow/Muzzleloader deer tag/permit – This includes a valid New York hunting license with the privilege to harvest deer by use of a Bow or Crossbow. This also will include a valid DMP deer carcass tag for WMU 5R.

Veterans memorial Park is a Municipal Park situated west of Macelroy Road, east of Ashdown Road, south of Route 146A, and North of Hubbs Road, which is owned by the Town of Clifton Park

Dwaas Kill Nature Preserve is a municipally owned Nature Preserve which is situated off Van Patten Drive Park which is defined in

Vischer Ferry Nature Preserve is Nature Preserve as defined by Section 152-1 of this code.

Garnsey Park is a municipal park situated on the Northern side of Route 146, owned by the Town of Clifton Park

Deer Management Committee; The Deer management Committee is an advisory committee established by resolution of the Town Board to advise the Town Board concerning Deer management

practices and protocols, to make recommendations concerning a pilot program to establish a deer management program within the Town Parks and Preserves identified herein, and to assist in the enforcement of these rules and regulations.

152-A .3 Eligibility

- (a) The program will be open to Clifton Park Residents through a lottery system conducted by the Office of the Town Clerk. Successful applicants through the lottery will attend a pre-season meeting to receive instruction concerning the program rules and procedures, and pass a proficiency test as administered by the Deer Management Committee, to take place at an Archery Range Designated by the Committee.
- (b) Clifton Park Residents who hold a valid New York hunting license with bow/muzzleloader privilege and proof of residency may apply through the Town Clerk's Office.
- (c) Proof of Residency, bow/muzzleloader privilege and a fully executed and notarized liability waiver must be provided upon issuance of the Bow Hunters Permit by the Town Clerk.
- (d) Eligible hunters may only take deer as per existing NYS DEC archery season rules and regulations.
- (e) Permittees must register with the Town clerk during business hours 45 days prior to the commencement as per section 12-A.5 .
- (f) The recognized members of the Deer Management Committee (Board approved) will be granted permits under this chapter.
- (g) Proficiency Test. Permittees must pass an archery proficiency test administered by the Committee. An applicant will be required to place three arrows within a 12-inch pie plate at a distance of 20 yards, 3 out of 5 shots to pass.
- (h) Tracking dogs may be used on the designated park properties to recover wounded deer.

152A-4 The Lottery system:

A random lottery system will be administered by the Office of the Town Clerk as follows: .

All available hunting areas will be randomly selected through a program managed by the Town Clerk's Office. Qualified residents from the list will be randomly assigned, until all park slots are filled. A wait list will be kept if needed to be filled if the need arises. Residents will be advised by the Town Clerk's Office if their name is drawn to attend the safety meeting and proficiency test. Upon failure to attend the meeting or pass the test, the next name will be assigned.

152-A .5 Season and hours of Operation

The controlled program in each of the four parks and preserves referenced in this chapter will be allowed for the 22 days immediately preceding the second Saturday of November, 2022. Permitted hunters may be on property for the purpose of hunting for 24 hours, seven days per week during this period, but may only actively hunt during legal hunting hours pursuant to the NYS Environmental Conservation Law and its regulations.

152-A .6 Operations

(a) Maps

The Town Clerk's Office will post and distribute mapping of the four Parks and Preserves with separately mapped grids which identify discrete hunting zones which will be assigned to each permit issued for the Deer Management Program. Participants are required to stay in their assigned area and enter their zone using the clearly marked trails on the maps provided.

(b) Tree Stands

Portable Tree Stands and ground blinds are permitted for the duration of the permitted season, but must be removed within 24 hours after the last day hunting is permitted. Stands or blinds must be labeled with the hunter's NYSDEC issued back tag ID Number.

(c) Permittees may field dress harvested deer on site pursuant to this chapter.

152-1 Prohibited Acts: It is illegal to discharge a ,bow or crossbow:

- So that the load or arrow passes over any part of a public highway,
- Within 250 feet (for a crossbow) or 150 feet (for a bow) of a dwelling, farm building, or structure in occupation or use unless you own it, lease it, are an immediate member of the family, an employee, or have the owner's consent.
- Within 250 feet (for a crossbow) or 150 feet (for a bow) of any school, playground, or an occupied factory or church,
- Within 20 feet of an established Trail within any of the parks where bow hunting is authorized by this chapter.
- With a bow equipped with any mechanical device which is attached to the bow (other than the bowstring) for drawing, holding or releasing the bowstring, except for a hunter with a disability who is in possession of a Modified Longbow Authorization or Modified Crossbow Permit.
- With an arrow with an explosive head or shaft.
- With a broadhead considered illegal by DEC.
- With any device designed or intended to deliver drugs to an animal.
- All Firearms are prohibited within all Town Parks and Hunting Areas except for Duck Hunting in the Vischer Ferry Nature Preserve pursuant to Chapter 152-2D of this code.

152-A 7 Reporting

(a). All permittees will report Harvests to both the Town of Clifton Park and to NYSDEC, per the issued permit. Reports will be made of deer harvests to the Town of Clifton Park within 72 hours.

152-A 8 Penalties for Offenses

Violations of these rules and regulations, as well as regulations and practices established by NYSDEC, will be referred to the Deer Management Committee which may suspend, revoke or limit a permit providing notice and an opportunity for hearing. After being reviewed by the Committee an action can be taken to limit, revoke, or suspend a permit under this section.