
Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation

Blue Hills Reservation Deer Management Program Controlled Shotgun Hunt

2019 Operational Plan



Governor Charles D. Baker
Lt. Governor Karyn E. Polito
EEA Secretary Kathleen A. Theoharides
DCR Acting Commissioner Jim Montgomery

DCR Staff Contact Information

NAME	RADIO CALL SIGN	CELL
UNIFIED COMMAND CENTER	UCC	617-874-6278
Michael Nelson	S-1	617-828-1651
Peter Church	FORESTRY-1	617-828-1648
Olivia Dorrance	N/A – CONTACT VIA CELL PHONE	617-360-1715
Karl Pastore	SOUTH-1	617-828-1619
Susan Kane	SOUTH-2	617-438-4194
Kevin Drake	BLUE HILLS-1	857-207-1318
John Jacoppo	BLUE HILLS-2	617-721-7818
Stephen Ouellette	R-1	617-828-5157
Tom Bender	R-10	617-997-6962
Jason Silva	N/A – CONTACT VIA CELL PHONE	774-644-5377
Michelle O'Bannon	R-11	508-237-8673
Jeff Dumais	R-12	508-237-8667

Brookwood Farm Unified Command Center

The controlled hunt will be supervised by a multi-agency command center stationed at the Brookwood Farm Conference Center (11 Blue Hill River Road, Canton).

Staff can contact the UCC by calling: **617-874-6278**

Deer Check Station

The Deer Check Station is located at Brookwood Farm (11 Blue Hill River Road, Canton).

The Deer Check Station will be staffed between the hours of 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM. The Check Station may be closed earlier if all hunters have checked-out of the Reservation before 6:00 PM.

Staff can contact the Deer Check Station via two-way radio using the following call sign: **DEER CHECK**

Daily Wristband Colors

Tuesday, December 3rd: RED

Thursday, December 5th: GREEN

Executive Summary

The Blue Hills Deer Management Program is part of DCR's long-term effort to manage high deer densities within the Blue Hills Reservation. The primary objective and rationale for developing and implementing a deer management program is to maintain an ecologically sustainable deer density that allows for the continuous growth and development of forest regeneration. In particular, DCR wishes to reduce the negative impacts that high deer densities have on the regenerating forest to ensure a healthy forest composed of adequate diversity of species and age classes.

To initiate deer management within the Blue Hills, DCR and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) developed and successfully implemented the first-ever controlled deer hunt within the Reservation during the 2015 shotgun season. To continue these efforts, DCR and MassWildlife implemented controlled deer hunts in 2016, 2017, and 2018 which featured both shotgun and archery hunting in designated areas of the Reservation.

The 2019 controlled shotgun hunt will include two (2) days of hunting on Tuesday, December 3 and Thursday, December 5. The operation of the controlled hunt will be overseen and implemented by the DCR with support from MassWildlife, the Massachusetts State Police (MSP), and the Massachusetts Environmental Police (MEP). The 2019 Blue Hills Controlled Shotgun Hunt Operational Plan outlines and describes the work activities that DCR and participating agencies will perform to implement this event.

The 2019 Blue Hills State Reservation Deer Management Plan builds off of the 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 management plans and highlights the issue of deer overpopulation within the Reservation and the subsequent damage to natural resources and habitat. The management plan also notes a legislative mandate in the 2014 Environmental Bond Bill (Chapter 286 of the Acts of 2014), which directs DCR and MassWildlife to "identify areas in which deer overpopulation is negatively impacting forestation, water resources, or plant growth on department-owned land" and "develop and implement a harvest management plan for the identified areas."

The use of licensed public hunters in managing deer populations is one of the most widely used management methods employed throughout the United States. In Massachusetts, it is the primary management tool supported by MassWildlife and has been shown to be successful in addressing situations involving deer overabundance and vegetation over-browse. The Quabbin Reservoir controlled deer hunt is the most notable example. In addition, DCR manages thousands of acres of forest and parkland across the Commonwealth where licensed hunters are allowed to hunt game during the appropriate seasons.

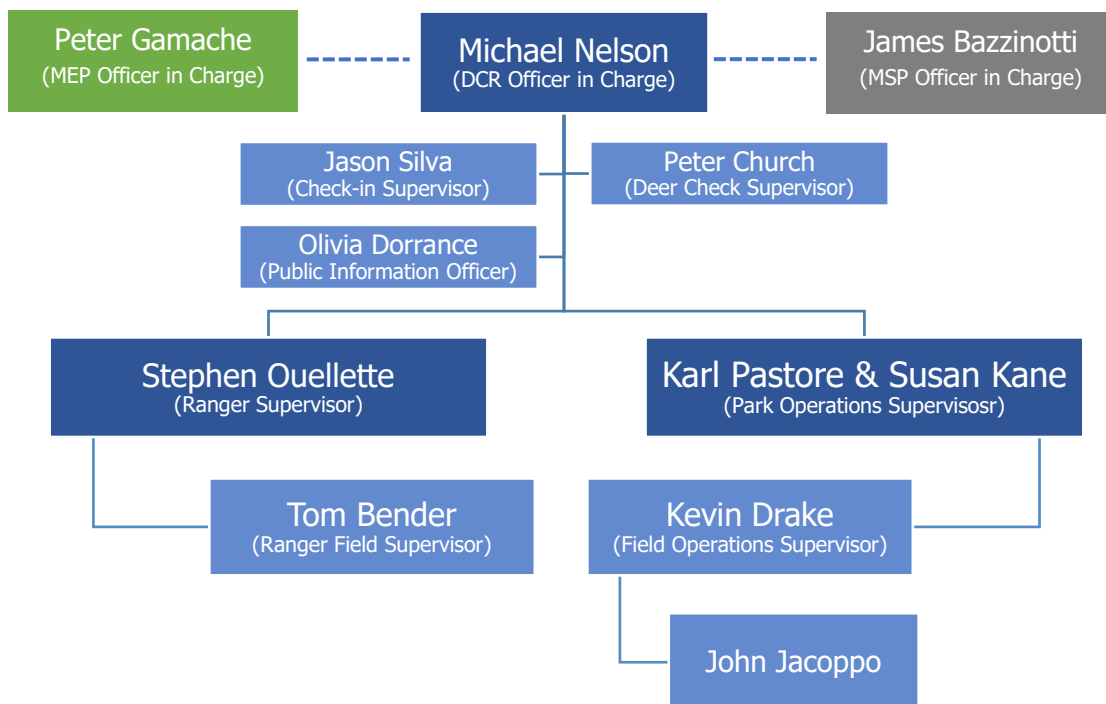
The controlled shotgun hunt will be managed utilizing the Unified Command System. Michael Nelson (DCR Director of Ranger Services) will represent DCR in the command center, Lieutenant James Bazzinotti will represent the MSP, and Lieutenant Peter Gamache will represent the MEP.

The primary mission of the Massachusetts State Police during the controlled hunt will be to provide support in certain locations with monitoring traffic and conducting roving patrols along major roadways and highways running through and around the perimeter of the Blue Hills Reservation; providing oversight and a physical presence at areas in which demonstrators may congregate, and assist DCR Rangers and MEP officers with any other public safety issues that may arise during the hunt.

Massachusetts Environmental Police officers will be tasked with enforcement of all pertinent hunting/gaming regulations, responding to reports of hunter harassment, conducting mobile patrols of designated hunting zones and areas of the Reservation closed to hunting, assisting in the tracking and location of injured deer on private property, handling hunter disputes, responding to lost/late hunters, and responding to and investigating any hunting accidents.

DCR Ranger Services Director Michael Nelson will monitor all radio traffic and communications at the command center and, with the assistance of the following DCR staff, will coordinate all DCR functions associated with the controlled shotgun hunt. DCR Ranger Captain Stephen Ouellette will coordinate all staff assigned to mobile and static assignments based on the assignments outlined in this plan. Assistant Regional Director Susan Kane and DCR Field Operations Team Leader Kevin Drake will coordinate any Division of State Parks operational needs for the duration of the hunt. This may include, but not be limited to, monitoring and maintenance of VMS boards, distribution and maintenance of light towers, and provision/coordination of other resources as needs may arise. Olivia Dorrance will be the DCR designated Public Information Officer during the hunt. Peter Church and Jason Silva will coordinate and oversee hunter check-in and check-out procedures.

Organizational Structure



Daily Schedule

SETUP DAY: Monday, December 2nd

TIME	EVENT/OBJECTIVE	RESPONSIBLE STAFF
9:00 AM	Post Parking Lot Closure Sign at Houghton's Pond	Rangers
9:30 AM	Begin Preparation of Brookwood Farm for UCC	Rangers
Anytime	Prepare Radio Communications Equipment & Charge Batteries	Rangers
Ongoing	Confirm Shotgun Hunt Signage Posted, Replace as Needed	Rangers
Ongoing	VMBs to Announce Deer Hunt & Dates	Operations
Anytime	Prepare Brookwood Farm for Overnight Staff	Rangers & Operations
Anytime	Prepare Houghton's Pond VC for Hunter Check-in	Silva & Rangers
Anytime	Prepare Hunter Check-in Materials & Resources	Silva
Anytime	Prepare Floor Scale for Deer Check Station	Rangers
Anytime	Prepare & Test Heating Unit at Deer Check Station	Operations
Anytime	Setup and Test 2 Light Towers at Houghton's Pond	Operations
Anytime	Stage European Fencing at Brookwood Farm	Operations
Anytime	Post Signage at Brookwood Farm Exit Gate	Rangers
Anytime	Bring Access Restriction Sign to Brookwood Farm	Rangers
5:00 PM	Lock/Secure Houghton's Pond Parking Lot	Rangers

HUNTING DAY: Tuesday, December 3rd

TIME	EVENT/OBJECTIVE	RESPONSIBLE STAFF
4:00 AM	Hunter Check-in Staff Arrive – Final Preparations	Assigned DCR Staff
4:30 AM	Hunter Check-in Begins	Assigned DCR Staff
4:30 AM	Staff Posted at Old Rt. 128 Gate – Gate Opened for Hunters	Operations
6:30 AM	Legal Hunting Begins	
7:00 AM	Hunter Check-in Complete	
7:00 AM	Brookwood Farm UCC Post Fully Staffed & Operational	
9:00 AM	Deer Check Station Operational	Church & MassWildlife
4:00 PM	Staff Posted at Nike Site for Hunter Check-out	Operations
4:00 PM	Staff Posted at Paul's Bridge Parking Lot for Hunter Check-out	Rangers
6:00 PM	All Hunters Checked-out	
6:00 PM	Re-open Houghton's Pond Parking Lot	Rangers

Daily Schedule (cont.)

SETUP DAY: Wednesday, December 4th

TIME	EVENT/OBJECTIVE	RESPONSIBLE STAFF
9:00 AM	Post Parking Lot Closure Sign at Houghton's Pond	Rangers
Anytime	Prepare Radio Communications Equipment & Charge Batteries	Rangers
Ongoing	Confirm Shotgun Hunt Signage Posted, Replace as Needed	Rangers
Anytime	Prepare Houghton's Pond VC for Hunter Check-in	Silva & Rangers
Anytime	Prepare Hunter Check-in Materials & Resources	Silva
Anytime	Post Signage at Brookwood Farm Exit Gate	Rangers
5:00 PM	Lock/Secure Houghton's Pond Parking Lot	Rangers

HUNTING DAY: Thursday, December 5th

TIME	EVENT/OBJECTIVE	RESPONSIBLE STAFF
4:00 AM	Hunter Check-in Staff Arrive – Final Preparations	Assigned DCR Staff
4:30 AM	Hunter Check-in Begins	Assigned DCR Staff
4:30 AM	Staff Posted at Old Rt. 128 Gate – Gate Opened for Hunters	Operations
6:30 AM	Legal Hunting Begins	
7:00 AM	Hunter Check-in Complete	
7:00 AM	Brookwood Farm UCC Post Fully Staffed & Operational	
9:00 AM	Deer Check Station Operational	Church & MassWildlife
4:00 PM	Staff Posted at Nike Site for Hunter Check-out	Operations
4:00 PM	Staff Posted at Paul's Bridge Parking Lot for Hunter Check-out	Rangers
6:00 PM	All Hunters Checked-out	
6:00 PM	Re-open Houghton's Pond Parking Lot	Rangers

POST HUNT: Friday, December 6th

TIME	EVENT/OBJECTIVE	RESPONSIBLE STAFF
ASAP	Return Light Towers to Blue Hills Operations Depot	Operations
ASAP	Return VMBs to Blue Hills Operations Depot	Operations

Parking Restrictions

Houghton's Pond Parking Lot:

STATUS	TIME	DATE
Closed	5:00 PM	Monday, December 2 nd
Opened	6:00 PM	Tuesday, December 3 rd
Closed	5:00 PM	Wednesday, December 4 th
Opened	6:00 PM	Thursday, December 5 th

On hunting days, Houghton's Pond Parking Lot will be open to permitted hunters only for the check-in process from 4:30 to 7:00 AM. No static parking will be allowed at Houghton's Pond for hunters. Any media vehicles that arrive during the check-in process will be allowed to park at Houghton's Pond. An area will be designated for any media vehicles. The parking lot will not be opened to the public on days in which hunting is taking place.

Other General Parking Restrictions:

- No hunter parking allowed on I-93 or Route 24
- No parking allowed in front of park gates
- No parking or vehicular access allowed on Reservation Trails

Hunter Check-In Process & Procedures

All permitted shotgun hunters are required to check-in each day. Daily check-in will take place at the Houghton's Pond Visitor Center at 840 Hillside Street.

Daily hunter check-in will begin at 4:30 AM. Staff assigned to hunter check-in will arrive at 4:00 AM to turn on light towers, set up tables, ensure the Visitors Center restrooms are opened, and open gates at 4:30 AM.

Staff working the hunter check-in will:

- Verify the hunter possesses a DCR Blue Hills Hunting Permit for that day
- Tear off the permit stub and return the permit to the hunter
- Give each hunter a colored wristband for displaying on their person while hunting
- Give each hunter a reminder card

Once these steps are complete, the hunter may travel to his/her assigned hunting zone.

Permit stubs will be deposited and stored in a box until transferred to the UCC.

Staff can refer any questions or issues regarding a hunter's documentation to the check-in supervisor or the on-site Environmental Police Officer.

Hunter Check-Out Process & Procedures

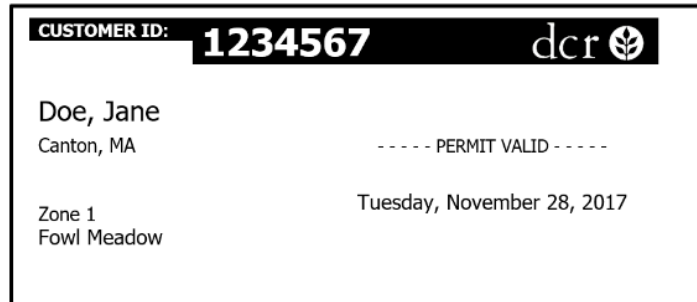
All permitted hunters are required to check-out each day of the controlled hunt by 6:00 PM.

There are three (3) locations in which hunters may report to DCR staff for the purposes of checking-out:

- Brookwood Farm Deer Check Station – Staffed from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM
- Fowl Meadow/Paul’s Bridge Parking Lot – Staffed from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM
- Nike Site Inner Gate – Staffed from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

All hunters who harvest a deer must check-out at the Brookwood Farm Deer Check Station (11 Blue Hill River Road, Canton).

When a hunter checks out for the day, they must turn in their DCR Blue Hills Hunt Access Permit to the DCR staff person station at the check-out location. See below for a sample:



Each check-out location will have a 2-inch metal clipboard box for staff to place/store permits of hunters who have checked-out. On a periodic basis, these permits will be collected and delivered to the UCC for matching with each permit stub collected during hunter check-in.

Harvested Deer Check

All hunters who harvest a deer are required to bring their deer to the Brookwood Farm Deer Check Station (located at 11 Blue Hill River Road, Canton).

Hunters must drive into Brookwood Farm using the main entrance. They will then be directed to drive toward the red barn and report to DCR and MassWildlife staff. Once a hunter’s deer has been checked, they will be directed to continue driving across the path through the field and toward the gated exit.

Although there is no limit on the number of antlerless deer (does) a hunter may harvest, no hunter may harvest more than two (2) male deer (bucks) in accordance with the statewide bag limit. Once a hunter harvests two (2) deer (regardless of sex), they are required to bring those deer to the deer check station for official sealing prior to returning to the woods for further hunting.

All harvested deer will be officially weighed, measured, aged, and sealed as part of the deer check process.

Static Field Assignments

Old Route 128 Gate (behind Houghton's Pond Ball Fields):

- Staff assigned to this post must report to the Houghton's Pond Visitor Center at 4:00 AM
- Staff will then proceed to the Old Route 128 Gate and must report to that post no later than 4:30 AM
- Staff assigned to this post shall be responsible for:
 - Granting access onto Old Route 128 to hunters permitted to hunt in the Houghton's Pond management zone. (Note: hunter access permits identify assigned zone and hunters who have completed the check-in will have a colored wristband on their person)
 - Granting access onto Old Route 128 to public safety and DCR personnel
 - Reporting any demonstrators/protestors or emergency situations
 - Directing any hunters who wish to check-out to the Brookwood Farm Deer Check Station
 - Closing/securing the gate when directed by the UCC

Nike Site (4:00 PM – 6:00 PM):

- Staff assigned to this post must report to the Brookwood Farm UCC by 3:30 PM to sign-in and pick up the 2-in metal clipboard for collecting permits.
- Staff will then proceed to the inner gate at the Nike Site and must report to that post no later than 4:00 PM
- Staff assigned to this post shall be responsible for:
 - Collecting access permits from hunters who are checking out who did **NOT** harvest a deer (Note: all hunters who harvest a deer must be directed to the Brookwood Farm Deer Check Station to check-out) – Access permits must be stored in the 2-inch metal clipboard provided
 - Closing/securing the park gate at High Street/Middle Street when directed by the UCC
 - Returning the 2-inch metal clipboard and all collected access permits to the UCC

Fowl Meadow/Paul's Bridge Parking Lot (4:00 PM – 6:00 PM):

- Staff assigned to this post must report to the Brookwood Farm UCC by 3:30 PM to sign-in and pick up the 2-in metal clipboard for collecting permits.
- Staff will then proceed to the Paul's Bridge Parking Lot and must report to that post no later than 4:00 PM
- Staff assigned to this post shall be responsible for:
 - Collecting access permits from hunters who are checking out who did **NOT** harvest a deer (Note: all hunters who harvest a deer must be directed to the Brookwood Farm Deer Check Station to check-out) – Access permits must be stored in the 2-inch metal clipboard provided
 - Returning the 2-inch metal clipboard and all collected access permits to the UCC

Radio Communications

All DCR personnel who have been assigned an 800 MHz radio shall bring that radio fully charged along with a spare fully charged battery to their assigned shifts.

Radios will be assigned to staff that do not have an assigned radio.

The Deer Check Station at Brookwood Farm will also be assigned a radio.

Staff assigned DCR call signs will utilize them when communicating on the radio. Staff who do not have a call sign will utilize their last name when communicating on the radio.

- EXAMPLE: "SMITH to UCC"

All channels will be monitored by the UCC. DCR Operations and Ranger staff will be utilizing channel 9, TAC OPS located on Bank 1.

Communications should be brief and specific to the event only. Use plain English when speaking.

Please pause before talking so you do not interrupt a radio conversation; unless you are calling in an emergency.

You **do not** need to notify the UCC of hikers or hunters entering a designated hunting area.

Notify the UCC of the following:

- Emergency Situation
- Protestors/Demonstrators
- Hunters without a DCR Permit

Weather

Dennis Fitzpatrick, DCR Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator will provide updated daily forecasts to the DCR Officer in Charge.

All staff should dress appropriately for all weather conditions.

The controlled hunt (in its entirety or specific dates) may be cancelled at any time due to severe weather conditions. In the case of cancellation, DCR will make all efforts to provide advanced notice to staff and permitted hunters.

Attendance

If a DCR Ranger is unable to report to their assigned shift, they must call Captain Steve Ouellette at 617-828-5157 as soon as possible.

If a DCR Operations staff person is unable to report to their assigned shift, they must call Assistant Regional Director Susan Kane at 617-438-4194 as soon as possible.

Daily Staffing Plan

Tuesday, December 3rd

Position/Assignment	Name	Division/Bureau	Start Time	End Time
DCR Officer in Charge	Michael Nelson	Ranger Bureau	4:00 AM	6:00 PM
Check-in/Deer Check	Peter Church	Forestry	4:00 AM	6:00 PM
Check-in/Check-out	Jason Silva	Park Operations	4:00 AM	6:00 PM
Deer Check	David Stainbrook	MassWildlife	9:00 AM	6:00 PM
Deer Check	Susan McCarthy	MassWildlife	9:00 AM	6:00 PM
South Region Director	Karl Pastore	Park Operations	4:30 AM	TBD
Park Operations Supervisor	Susan Kane	Operations-South Region	TBD	6:00 PM
Field Operations Supervisor	Kevin Drake	Operations-South Region	4:00 AM	6:00 PM
Operations Roving Staff	John Jacoppo	Operations-South Region	4:00 AM	6:00 PM
Old Rt. 128 Gate	Steve McKay	Operations-South Region	4:00 AM	6:00 PM
Nike Site Check-out	Al Brown	Operations-South Region	4:00 PM	6:00 PM
Ranger Supervisor	Stephen Ouellette	Ranger Bureau	4:00 AM	6:00 PM
Ranger Field Supervisor	Tom Bender	Ranger Bureau	4:00 AM	6:00 PM
Roving Ranger	Michelle O'Bannon	Ranger Bureau	8:00 AM	6:00 PM
Roving Ranger	Jeff Dumais	Ranger Bureau	8:00 AM	6:00 PM
Paul's Bridge Check-out	DCR Ranger	Ranger Bureau	4:00 PM	6:00 PM

Thursday, December 5th

Position/Assignment	Name	Division/Bureau	Start Time	End Time
DCR Officer in Charge	Michael Nelson	Ranger Bureau	4:00 AM	6:00 PM
Check-in/Deer Check	Peter Church	Forestry	4:00 AM	6:00 PM
Check-in/Check-out	Jason Silva	Park Operations	4:00 AM	6:00 PM
Deer Check	David Stainbrook	MassWildlife	9:00 AM	6:00 PM
Deer Check	Susan McCarthy	MassWildlife	9:00 AM	6:00 PM
South Region Director	Karl Pastore	Park Operations	4:30 AM	TBD
Park Operations Supervisor	Susan Kane	Operations-South Region	TBD	6:00 PM
Field Operations Supervisor	Kevin Drake	Operations-South Region	4:00 AM	6:00 PM
Operations Roving Staff	John Jacoppo	Operations-South Region	4:00 AM	6:00 PM
Old Rt. 128 Gate	Steve McKay	Operations-South Region	4:00 AM	6:00 PM
Nike Site Check-out	Al Brown	Operations-South Region	4:00 PM	6:00 PM
Ranger Supervisor	Stephen Ouellette	Ranger Bureau	4:00 AM	6:00 PM
Ranger Field Supervisor	Tom Bender	Ranger Bureau	4:00 AM	6:00 PM
Roving Ranger	Michelle O'Bannon	Ranger Bureau	8:00 AM	6:00 PM
Roving Ranger	Jeff Dumais	Ranger Bureau	8:00 AM	6:00 PM
Paul's Bridge Check-out	DCR Ranger	Ranger Bureau	4:00 PM	6:00 PM

Medical Plan

In the event of a life-threatening medical emergency, call 9-1-1. If you do not know what city or town you are in, please contact the UCC by radio or phone (617-874-6278). If you do not have a cell phone, contact the UCC directly by radio on TAC OPS (channel 9).

The first person on scene with First Aid training should begin care until relieved by someone of equal or higher training.

Contact the UCC. The UCC will assign a Ranger to respond and coordinate best access for EMS.

EMS will use existing protocols for treatment and coordinate patient access and extrication with DCR Rangers.

TRANSPORTATION:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milton Fire Department
515 Canton Avenue, Milton, MA
617-898-4901
Level of Service: ALS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canton Fire Department
99 Revere Street, Canton, MA
781-821-5095
Level of Service: ALS |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quincy Fire Department
40 Quincy Avenue, Quincy, MA
617-376-1015
Level of Service: ALS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Randolph Fire Department
10 Memorial Parkway, Randolph, MA
781-961-0992
Level of Service: ALS |

HOSPITALS:

	Trauma Center	Burn Center	Helipad	Travel Time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milton Hospital 199 Reedsdale Road, Milton, MA 617-696-4600 	NO	NO	YES	15 MIN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mass General Hospital 55 Fruit Street, Boston, MA 617-726-2000 	YES	NO	YES	35 MIN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Shore Hospital 55 Frogg Road, South Weymouth, MA 781-624-8000 		NO		18 MIN

For any minor first aid needs, contact Captain Steve Ouellette by cell phone (617-828-5157).

Safety Message & Precautions

To ensure all DCR staff have a safe experience, please keep the following tips in mind:

- Use headlights when driving for safety
- Be alert for black ice when driving in the morning. Watch your footing at all times.
- Wear weather-appropriate clothing.
- Wear a blaze orange vest over your outermost layer of clothing when walking in the woods to provide assistance. If you do not have a vest, please contact Ranger Tom Bender.
- Staff must wear high visibility neon green vests or jackets when assigned to any road or parking lot duties.
- All staff in the field should check for ticks throughout the day and when he or she gets home.
- Please be aware of mosquitos that may carry EEE (Eastern Equine Encephalitis)
- Do not confront protestors or hostile public. Walk away and contact the UCC directly.
- Watch for fatigue. Get rest and take breaks
- Stay hydrated.

Interaction with Park Visitors

In accordance with the 2019 Blue Hills Reservation Deer Management Plan, general public access for recreation will not be restricted in those areas in which hunting will take place.

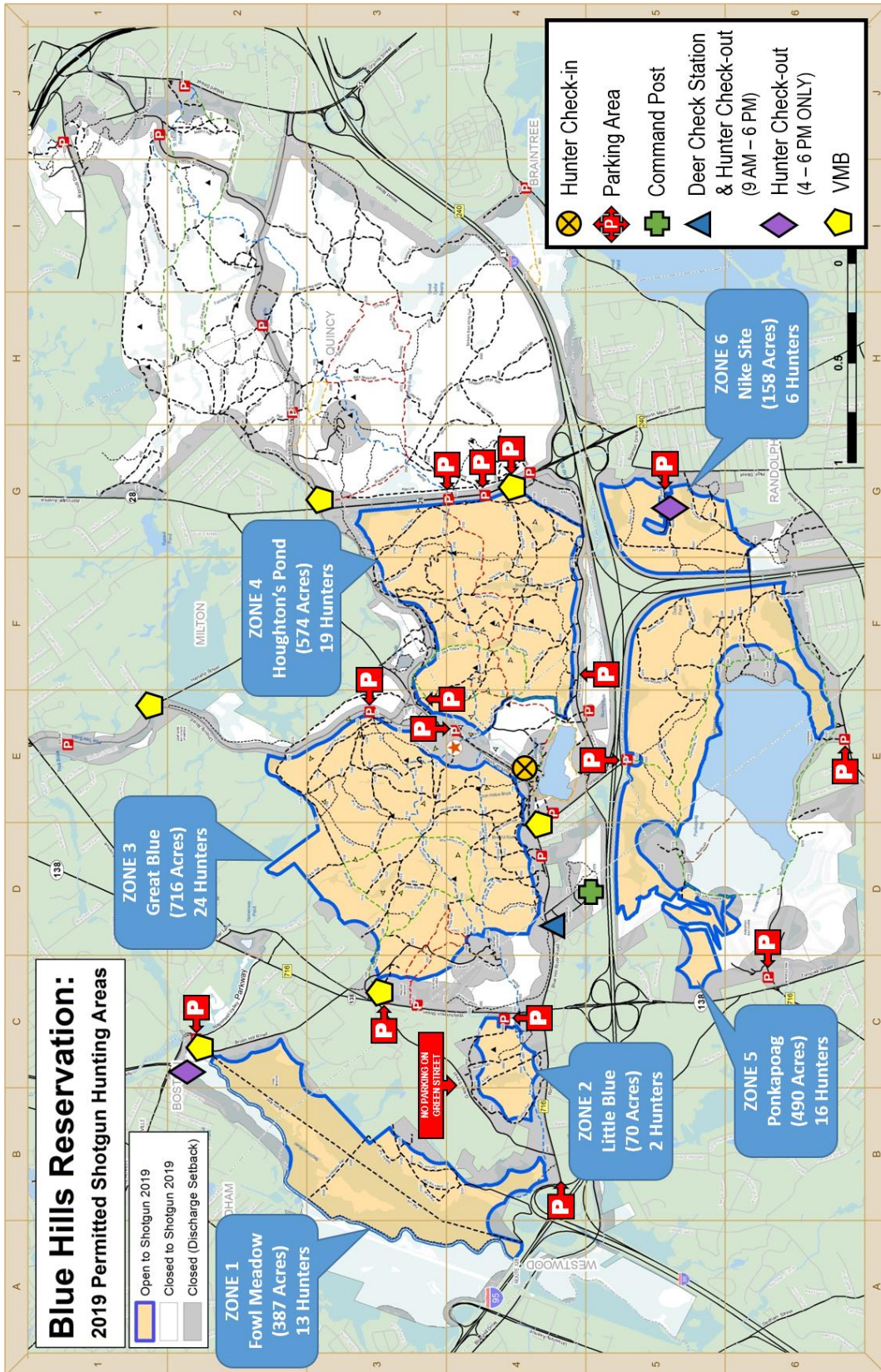
Staff should encourage any recreational users who wish to avoid areas where hunting is taking place to utilize areas of the Blue Hills that are east of Route 28; specifically, the Wampatuck and Chickatawbut areas of the Reservation.

Members of the general public who choose to enter those areas in which hunting is taking place should be advised to take proper precautions by wearing blaze orange clothing, vests, and hats.

Any member of the public who does not have blaze orange clothing should be advised to stop by the Blue Hills Park Headquarters and request a blaze orange vest.

Avoid any negative confrontations and immediately report any incidents of hunter harassment, protesting, or unruly behavior to the UCC.

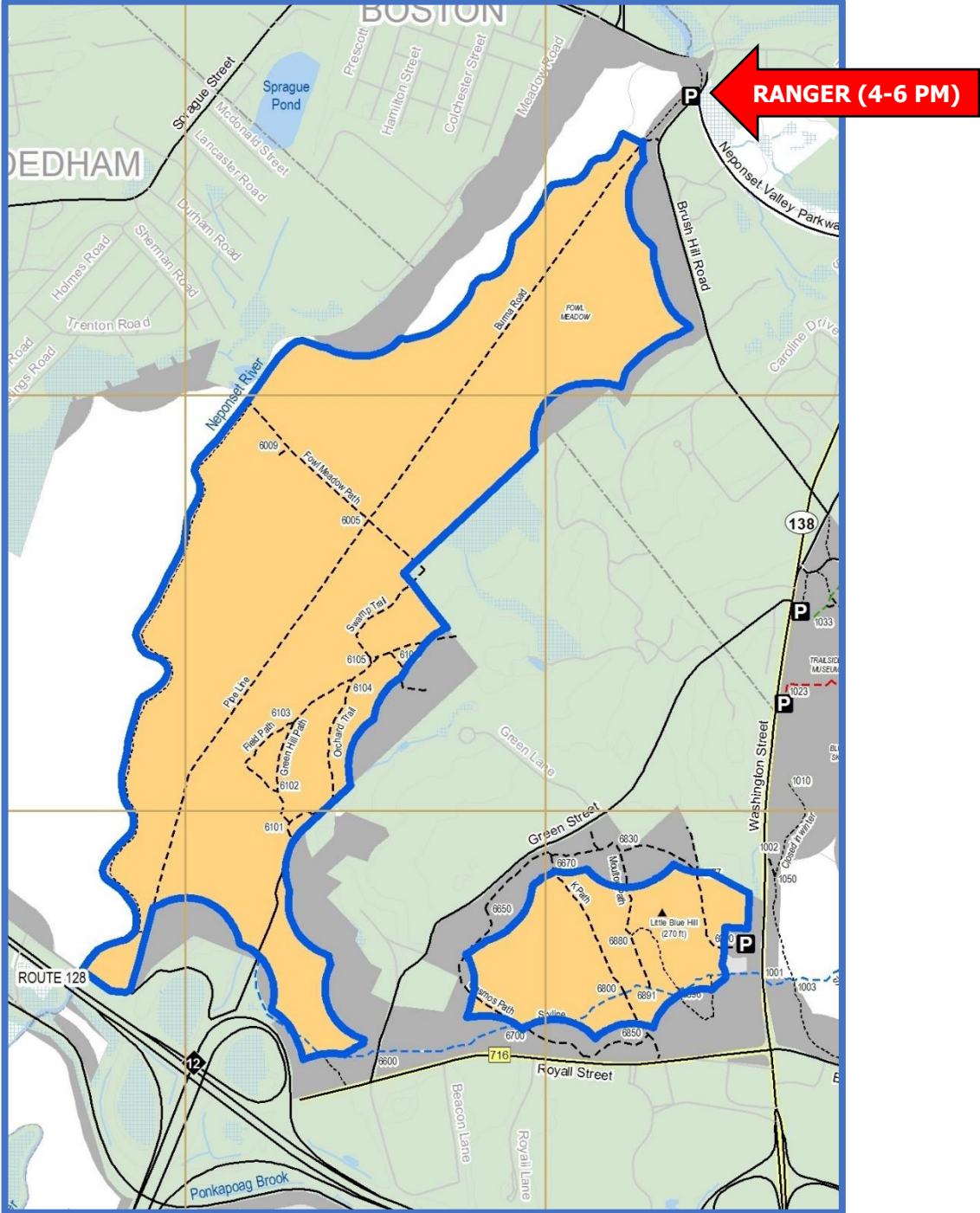
Hunting Zone Maps & Hunter Distribution



Hunting Zone Maps & Hunter Distribution

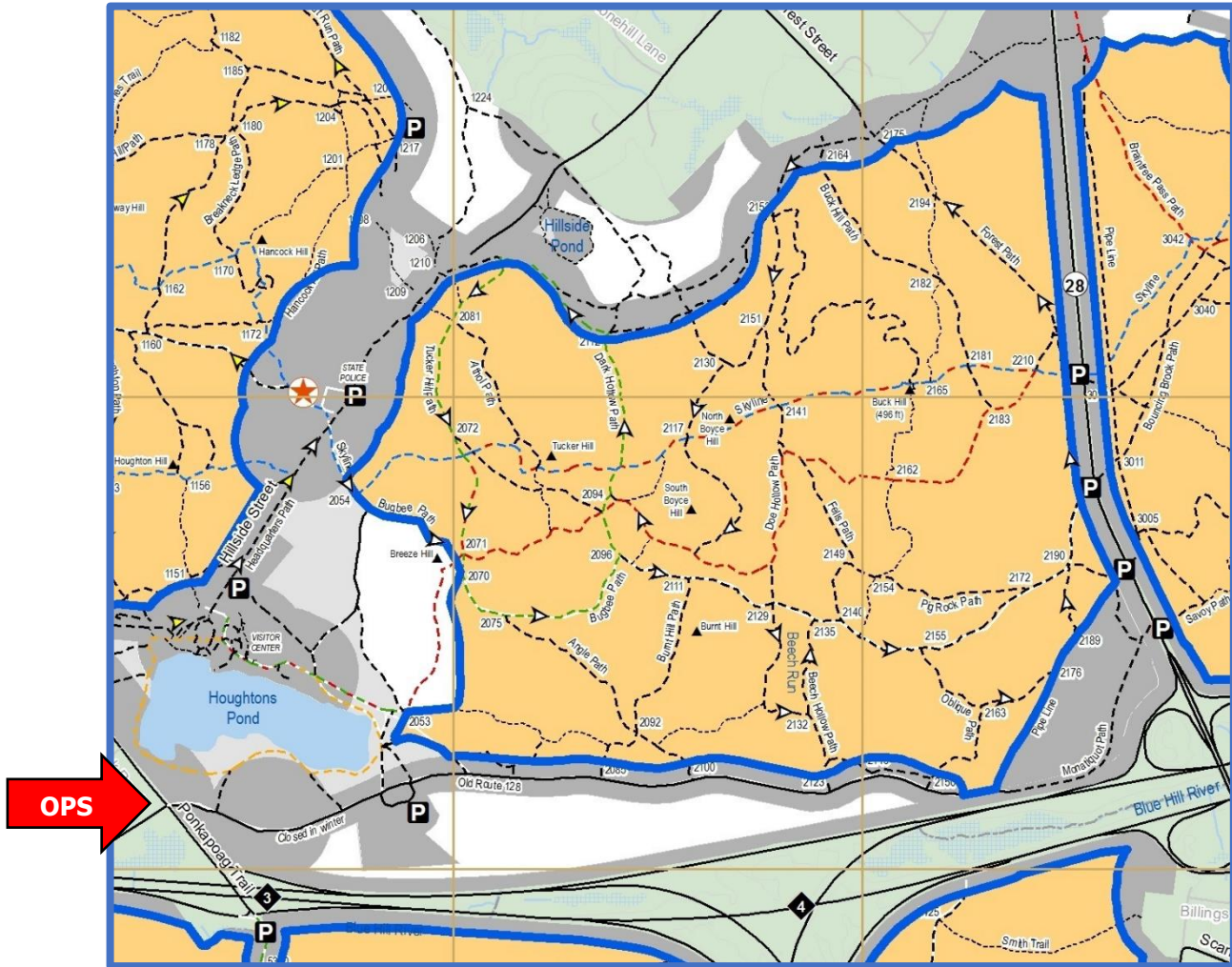
Zone 1 - Fowl Meadow (387 acres) – 13 Hunters

Zone 2 - Little Blue (70 acres) – 2 Hunters



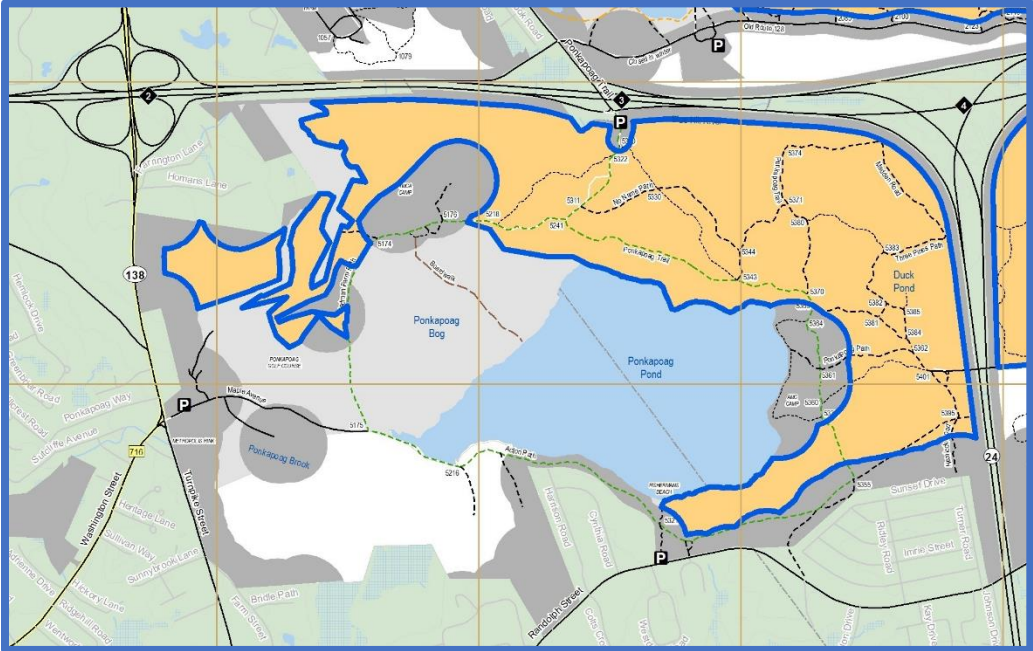
Hunting Zone Maps & Hunter Distribution

Zone 4 - Houghton's Pond (574 acres) – 19 Hunters

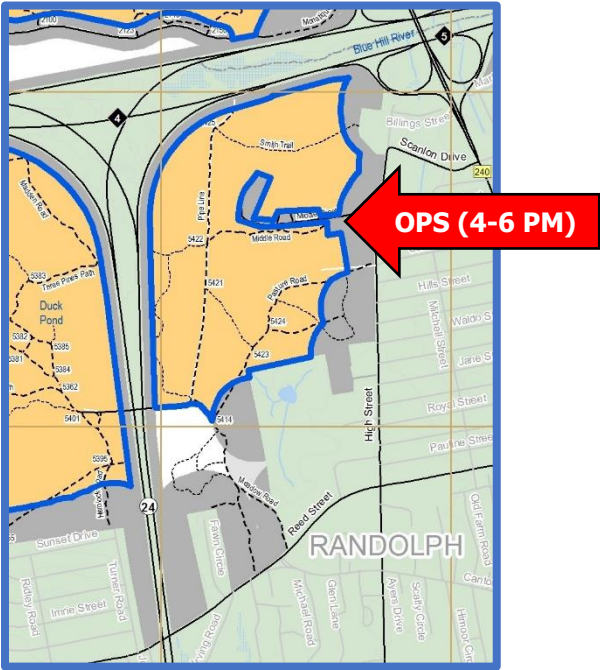


Hunting Zone Maps & Hunter Distribution

Zone 5 - Ponkapoag (490 acres) – 16 Hunters



Zone 6 - Nike Site (158 acres) – 6 Hunters





Blue Hills State Reservation

Deer Management Program 2019 Controlled Shotgun Hunt Rules

All permittees are required to know and understand the information contained in this document. Please review and read this document carefully and thoroughly prior to attending your assigned hunter orientation.

Background:

The Blue Hills Deer Management Program is part of the Department of Conservation & Recreation's (DCR) long-term effort to manage high deer densities within the Blue Hills Reservation. The primary objective and rationale for developing and implementing a deer management program is to maintain an ecologically sustainable deer density that allows for the continuous growth and development of forest regeneration. In particular, DCR wishes to reduce the negative impacts that high deer densities have on the regenerating forest to ensure a healthy forest composed of adequate diversity of species and age classes.

DCR and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) have concluded that the most practical, workable, and effective management option to accomplish the goal of reducing deer densities is through the use of controlled/permitted hunting. As such, **the Blue Hills Controlled Hunt is not a recreational hunt.** DCR and MassWildlife view the hunters selected to participate in the hunt as partners in successfully achieving the primary objectives of deer management in the Blue Hills. As partners in this effort, DCR and MassWildlife expect all selected permittees to abide by and comply with the rules of the Blue Hills Controlled Hunt Program, DCR's regulations for use of its parklands, MassWildlife's rules and regulations related to hunting, and all Commonwealth laws regarding the possession and discharge of firearms.

Selected permittees who violate any rules or regulations will be immediately removed from the property, ineligible for participation in future years, and subject to any relevant fines or penalties prescribed by applicable state laws and/or regulations.

General Rules & Provisions for the 2019 Blue Hills Controlled Shotgun Hunt

1. Hunting by Access Permit Only: Hunting of white-tailed deer shall be allowed in designated areas of the Blue Hills Reservation by those persons holding an access permit issued by the DCR. All persons to whom such a permit has been issued are also required to have a valid 2019 Massachusetts Hunting/Sporting License issued by MassWildlife. All persons to whom such a permit has been issued who are also residents of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts must have a valid FID card or License to Carry (LTC). All licenses must be valid on the days in which the controlled hunt is scheduled to take place.

DCR-issued access permits are valid only for the person named on the permit and for the date/time period specified on the permit.

2. Organization & Timing: The 2019 Blue Hills Controlled Shotgun Hunt will take place during the annual shotgun season over the course of two (2) days:

- Tuesday, December 3rd
- Thursday, December 5th

In accordance with state hunting regulations, hunters will be allowed to start hunting one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

3. Management Zone Assignments: Each permittee is assigned to a particular management zone. The management zone shall be noted and identified on the DCR-issued access permit. Permittees are required to remain within the boundaries of their assigned management zone while hunting.

The boundaries of the management zones have been delineated using not only the existing state firearms discharge setback laws, but also hard boundary delineations such as trails, roads, and pathways. All permittees are required to know the boundaries of their management zone. Absolutely no hunting or discharge of firearms is allowed outside of the delineated boundaries. Permittees will be provided detailed maps with the boundaries of their management zone clearly delineated.

4. General Hunting & Discharge Prohibitions: No hunting or discharge of firearms is allowed outside of the boundaries of the designated management zones, within 500 feet of any building or dwelling, within 150 feet of any roadway, or in any area posted as no hunt zones. In 2019, no hunting will be allowed west of the Neponset River (in the Fowl Meadow area) and in the southwest areas of the Ponkapoag section (including Ponkapoag Golf Course).

5. Hunter Orientation Required: All permittees are required to complete an orientation in order to be allowed to participate in the Blue Hills Controlled Shotgun Hunt. Selected hunters who do not fulfill the orientation requirement will not receive a permit and will not be eligible to participate in the controlled hunt.

6. Deer Hunting Only: The Blue Hills Controlled Deer Hunt is restricted to white-tailed deer only. The shooting or injury of any other bird or animal species is strictly prohibited.

7. Hunting Implements: Permittees selected to participate in the 2019 controlled shotgun hunt will be allowed to use shotguns with slug only. The use of buckshot is prohibited.

8. Scouting: Permitted shotgun hunters are allowed to scout within their designated management zone beginning October 20, 2019. During the month of November, permitted hunters are allowed to scout on Fridays,

Saturdays, and Sundays only. While scouting, permittees are required to have the following on their person:

- DCR Notice of Selection
- 2019 Massachusetts Hunting/Sporting License
- Valid photo ID

The use of trail/game cameras for the purposes of scouting is prohibited. In addition, scouting will not be allowed on those days in which the controlled hunt is actually taking place.

No scouting will be allowed after Sunday, November 24th.

9. Tree Stands: Permittees are allowed to use tree stands while participating in the controlled shotgun hunt. Tree stands must be either a climbing tree stand or a hang-on tree stand with climbing sticks (please be sure to bring the bottom section of the climbing sticks with you on the day of the controlled hunt).

- Permittees selected to hunt on December 3rd and 5th are allowed to install tree stands beginning November 30th and must remove the tree stand by December 7th.

The installation of a tree stand does not entitle a hunter to a particular area of the Reservation. Hunters possessing a permit to hunt in a particular management zone may hunt in any area within the boundaries of that zone.

In accordance with DCR's regulations at 302 CMR 12.11 (10), the installation of a permanent tree stand is not allowed. Permanent tree stands are defined as a type of hunting platform or structure (emplaced for any period of time) which is fastened to a tree by nails, bolts, wire or other fasteners which intrude through the bark into the wood of the tree.

10. Hunting Blinds: The use of on-the-ground hunting blinds is prohibited.

11. Vegetation Cutting: Cutting of branches, trees, or shrubs is prohibited.

12. Minor Permittees: Individuals possessing a valid 2019 Massachusetts Hunting/Sporting License who are also under the age of 18 years were required to apply with a co-applicant who is over the age of 21 years. The co-applicant is also required to be a registered hunter possessing a valid 2019 Massachusetts Hunting/Sporting License. As co-applicants, both individuals are considered permitted hunters and are allowed to participate in the controlled hunt.

13. Antlerless Permits: MassWildlife will make antlerless deer permits specific to the Blue Hills Controlled Shotgun Hunt available to all permittees who successfully complete the orientation. All hunters selected to participate must purchase two at least (2) antlerless permits. The use of any Zone 10 antlerless permits is prohibited in the Blue Hills. Antlerless deer harvested during the Blue Hills Controlled Deer Hunt are considered "bonus deer" and do not count

towards state bag limits. Antlered deer will count toward the statewide bag limit of two (2) antlered deer.

14. Parking & Vehicular Access: Permitted hunters are not allowed to park their vehicles along the sides of Route 24 or I-93. In addition, vehicular access is prohibited on the Reservation's trails. Permittees should make use of designated parking areas.

15. Check-In & Check-Out: All permittees are required to check-in and check-out each day they are scheduled to hunt. Failure to check-in and check-out by the appropriate times may disqualify a permittee from participating in the hunt. Check-in will take place between 4:30 and 7:00 AM. All permittees must check-out by 6:00 PM.

16. Documentation: While hunting, all permittees must have the following on their person:

- DCR Blue Hills Controlled Hunt Access Permit
- MassWildlife Blue Hills Antlerless Deer Permits
- 2019 Massachusetts Hunting/Sporting License
- Valid FID card or License to Carry (LTC)
- Valid Photo ID

Failure to provide any of these documents while hunting, may disqualify a permittee from participating in the hunt.

17. Deer Driving: Only permitted hunters may participate in any deer driving. Permittees are not allowed to invite or bring family or friends for the purpose of deer driving. Permittees are prohibited from driving deer toward roadways/highways, private property, or areas of the Reservation where hunting is not allowed.

18. Deer Tracking: Permittees are prohibited from tracking any wounded deer onto private property or a roadway. If you wound a deer and it crosses onto private property, contact the DCR using the phone number provided on the back of your DCR-issued access permit. An Environmental Police Officer will meet you at your location and accompany you onto private land to search for the deer.

19. Deer Cleaning: Permittees who harvest a deer are required to move the deer at least 100 feet away from a trail for the purposes of gutting and cleaning the deer. In addition, no deer parts can be disposed of within 100 feet of the Blue Hills Reservoir. Harvested deer must be legally tagged prior to moving. To the greatest extent possible, permittees are encouraged to select areas that are generally out of view for the disposal of deer parts.

20. Deer Removal & Check Station: Permittees who harvest a deer must first legally tag the deer, and then are responsible for transporting the deer to their vehicle (may not be concealed from view) and must bring the deer to the Blue Hills deer check station on the day of harvest (the 48 hours does not apply and online checking is not allowed). A hunter may harvest a deer, legally tag it, and then continue to hunt and harvest one more deer prior to

checking both deer. Once those two deer are checked, the hunter may return to their management zone to continue hunting.

21. Compliance with Rules & Requests: All permittees within the Blue Hills Reservation shall obey the directions of posted regulatory signs, any state or local law enforcement official, Environmental Police Officer, DCR Ranger, DCR employee, and MassWildlife employee.

22. Carry In / Carry Out: No litter or refuse of any sort may be thrown or left in or on any land or water within the Blue Hills Reservation while hunting. To the greatest extent possible, hunters should remove spent shell casings from the Reservation.

23. Conduct & Alcohol/Controlled Substances: Any form of disorderly conduct is strictly prohibited during the controlled hunt. Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages, marijuana, or any other controlled substance while participating in the controlled hunt is strictly prohibited.

24. Pets & Animals: Permittees may not bring any pets or other animals with them during the controlled hunt.

25. Property Damage/Vandalism: DCR is not responsible for any damage or vandalism to a permittee's property, vehicle, tree stand, or other possessions.

26. MassWildlife Rules & Regulations: Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife rules and regulations related to hunting shall apply to the Blue Hills Reservation Controlled Shotgun Hunt. In the event of a conflict, the Blue Hills Controlled Shotgun Hunt rules and provisions take precedence over the rules and regulations of MassWildlife.

27. Cancellation: The controlled hunt (in its entirety or specific dates) may be cancelled at any time due to severe weather conditions or security situations. In the case of cancellation, DCR will make all efforts to provide advance notice to permittees.