

**Macon County Conservation District  
Deer Herd Management Program Application and Permit Fact Sheet**

Welcome to the Macon County Conservation District’s Deer Herd Management Program. In this fact sheet you will find details on the District’s application and drawing process and permit fees. Archery deer hunting will be allowed by permit only on designated sites from **November 1, 2024 to December 26, 2024**. Hunting is not allowed during the Illinois shotgun deer seasons.

**1. Application process and pre-season drawing**

Hunting applications will be made available during July in hard copy at Rock Springs Nature Center and for download at [www.maconcountyconservation.org](http://www.maconcountyconservation.org). Applications are due **Friday, September 20, 2024**. Applications will be available for a pre-season archery deer hunt drawing for Rock Springs, Sand Creek, Fort Daniel, and Friends Creek Conservation Areas. A public lottery drawing will be held at Rock Springs at **3 p.m. on Friday, September 27, 2024**. District archery permits will be available for purchase immediately following the drawing. Illinois Conservation Police will be notified of results.

The Macon County Conservation District will provide limited access to two blinds for hunters with disabilities. The blinds are located at Rock Springs Conservation Area and Sand Creek Conservation Area. Please indicate on the application if special accommodations are needed.

Hunters will be allowed to harvest coyotes and 1 bearded turkey while participating in the Deer Herd Management Program. Turkeys can be harvested at Fort Daniel, Sand Creek, and Rock Springs. Friends Creek will not be open to turkey hunting in 2024.

**2. Stand-by hunter drawings during the archery season**

Weekly stand-by drawings will be held at the information shelter in the parking lot of the Rock Springs Nature Center. Drawings will be held at 1 p.m. on October 30; November 6, 13, 20, 27; December 4, 11, and 18. Illinois Conservation Police will be notified of results.

A District issued permit must be purchased prior to weekly drawings, but will not need to be shown to enter drawing. Permits will not be sold after 12:00 on Wednesdays and will resume after the drawing to prevent conflicts. If you cannot attend a drawing, a “stand in” can come in your place. **This person can enter only two additional people into the drawing besides themselves.**

**3. Permits**

All hunters must possess a permit issued by the Conservation District in addition to all necessary state permits. A Macon County Conservation District permit allows you to harvest two deer. District permits for Macon County residents and out of county hunters will be available for purchase online and out of state hunters will need to purchase permits by phone. Permits can be sold in person at the Nature Center on a case-by-case basis.

**\*\*Each hunter is limited to two (4 deer total) District permits per year\*\***

Fee schedule		
Macon County residents	Out of county residents	Out of state residents
\$30*	\$60*	\$110*
*These fees apply to first permits only		
**Fee for second permit is \$30 regardless of residency		

## **Macon County Conservation District**

3939 Nearing Lane, Decatur, IL 62521, (217) 423-7708

### **Deer Herd Management Program 2024 RULES AND REGULATIONS**

#### **General Hunting Regulations**

##### **1. Hunting Season and Methods**

- Deer hunting is by archery method only, from **November 1 to December 26, 2024**.
- Hunting is not allowed during Illinois shotgun deer seasons, and firearms are prohibited.
- Hunters are allowed to harvest coyotes, one bearded turkey, and four deer while participating in the program.
- Turkeys can be harvested at Fort Daniel, Sand Creek, and Rock Springs (**excluding Friends Creek in 2024**).

##### **2. Daily Sign-In/Out Procedure**

- Hunters must sign in and out daily at designated sign-in locations:
  - **Rock Springs:** Mailbox at entrance to maintenance facility, 3740 Banton Lane.
  - **Sand Creek:** Mailbox at maintenance facility, 946 E. Elwin Rd.
  - **Fort Daniel:** Mailbox at site entrance, 4975 Fort Daniel Rd.
  - **Friends Creek:** Mailbox at maintenance facility, 13723 Friends Creek Park Rd.
- Hunters must complete the sign-in/out form, reporting harvested deer and turkey with IDNR confirmation numbers.
- Harvests must be documented on district trail cameras near each mailbox (further instructions on the back of the parking permit).

#### **Scouting and Equipment**

##### **3. Scouting and Equipment Placement**

- Scouting is allowed through October 25; after this date, scouting is permitted from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. the day before the hunting period begins.
- Tree stands and ground blinds may be placed from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. the day before the hunting period begins.
- Only portable tree stands or ground blinds may be used; no devices that pierce tree bark are allowed.
- Hunters are limited to one tree stand or ground blind in the field at a time, which must be removed by the end of the hunting period.
- Stand tags issued by the District must be attached and visible. Unattended stands/blinds without tags will be removed and considered abandoned after 30 days. A \$50 fee applies for recovery of pulled stands.

##### **4. Trail Camera Usage**

- The use of trail cameras is prohibited on District properties and will be disposed of immediately if found.

##### **5. Fall-Arrest Systems**

- Hunters must use fall-arrest systems (FAS) when using tree stands. Non-compliance will result in revocation of hunting privileges.

## Deer Harvesting Regulations

### 6. Harvesting Requirements

- An antlerless deer must be harvested on District lands before pursuing a buck (antlers 3 inches or greater).
- Each hunter is limited to one antlered deer on District lands per year.
- Failure to comply may result in a lifetime ban from hunting on District properties.

## Compliance and Conduct

### 7. Legal Compliance

- Hunters must comply with Illinois and Federal Game Codes and carry the permit issued by the Conservation District at all times.

### 8. Safety and Prohibited Actions

- No hunting is allowed within 75 yards of any building or official hiking trail.
- No shooting toward buildings or across hiking trails/roads.
- Target shooting is prohibited.
- Hunting must occur within designated hunting areas only.
- Crossbows must be unloaded while walking; loading/de-cocking should occur at the stand.

### 9. Parking and Access

- Vehicles must be parked in designated spots with a visible parking permit. Non-compliance will result in penalties.
- Hunters must access sites from designated hunter parking areas.

## Additional Guidelines

### 10. Tracking and Stalking

- Permission must be obtained from private landowners to track wounded deer outside District property. Tracking dogs are permitted with MCCD permission.
- Driving or stalking of deer is prohibited.

### 11. Vegetation and Trail Markers

- No vegetation may be cut or removed. Trail markers must be removed at the end of the hunting period.

### 12. Field Dressing

- Field dressing is not allowed on hiking trails, next to roads, or in parking lots. Please cover entrails with natural materials.

### 13. Suspension of Hunting

- The District reserves the right to suspend hunting at any time for any reason.

### 14. Disabled Hunters

- Disabled hunters must have a valid Illinois Person with a Disability Identification Card (Class P2O or P2A) for special hunting blinds.

### 15. Youth Hunters

- Children under 18 may hunt during their parent's/guardian's period, must remain within eyesight, and purchase a MCCD Hunting Permit. All other rules apply.

## Violations

Violation of any rules may result in the suspension or revocation of hunting privileges. The Executive Director reserves the right not to issue a permit to any person. A ban from the Deer Herd Management Program includes no participation in hunting activities on District properties.