



# Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use

## Nashotah Park Archery Hunting - Frequently Asked Questions (November 27 through December 17, 2018)

### Why is there an archery hunting season in Nashotah Park?

Deer are an important part of Waukesha County's natural areas. However, in some of our higher-quality natural areas, deer numbers are so high that their populations are not in balance with the habitat. Deer browse surveys that have been completed at Nashotah Park, conducted by Wisconsin DNR Biologists and Waukesha County Staff, showed very few native plants and seedlings regenerating in the forest interior. The goal of this archery hunt is to help improve native plant regeneration by reducing the density of deer that are over-browsing vegetation in Nashotah Park.

### What will happen if we do nothing?

Overabundant deer populations can eliminate understory vegetation, directly impacting the entire forest ecosystem. A reduced understory decreases habitat available for ground-nesting birds, cover for woodland amphibians, and shelter for other wildlife species. Deer can even reduce vegetation so much that they no longer have an adequate food source to sustain their own populations in an area. Additionally, overabundant deer populations can increase the risk of deer-vehicle collisions, parasite transmission (e.g. deer ticks, which carry Lyme disease), and disease transmission (e.g. Chronic Wasting Disease).

### Why hunting over other control methods?

Archery hunting gives the public a nature-based recreational opportunity to use the park in a safe and useful way, while also benefiting from the harvested deer.

### How will the population be monitored to know if the hunt was successful?

The population will be monitored by performing annual deer browse surveys to determine success in regrowth and regeneration of native vegetation in the park. The County will also be working with the Wisconsin DNR to establish several "deer exclosures" at Nashotah Park in order to measure and compare the plant populations within and outside exclosures in order to better assess the impact deer are having on the surrounding habitat.

### What are the Archery Hunting Regulations?

Hunters shall follow all Wisconsin DNR archery hunting rules and regulations, in addition to any specific regulations of the Village or Town. Local regulations may specify where a hunter is allowed to set-up their stand. Additionally, since this special archery hunt is occurring during the gun season in our area, hunters are still required to wear blaze orange when they are archery hunting in Nashotah Park.

(more)

### **Are there any special hunting restrictions at Nashotah Park for the archery hunt?**

Hunting will follow the rules and regulations established by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

- Hunters are allowed to enter the park prior to sunrise during the designated hunting period for Nashotah Park.
- Tree stands may be used but must be removed daily.
- No cutting or removal of vegetation to create shooting lanes.
- No hunting within 100 yards of the park boundary.
- Hunting is not allowed within the designated park use areas (see Nashotah Park Hunting Map).
- Hunters, like other park users, will pay a park entrance fee.
- Bows and crossbows allowed ONLY.

### **Do I have to check in before archery hunting?**

No, hunters do not need to check in and check out. Hunters are asked to report their harvest to Waukesha County either online at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/WaukeshaCountyPLUDeerHunt2018](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WaukeshaCountyPLUDeerHunt2018), or by leaving a voicemail with the Nashotah Park Office at 262-367-1022, or by using the drop box at the park entrance. Reporting successful harvest information (i.e. adult vs fawn, doe vs buck) is greatly appreciated and will aid Waukesha County in tracking the success of deer management at Nashotah Park.

### **What if I am approached/harassed by a park user?**

The park will be signed and hikers/skiers will be requested to wear bright colors if they choose to hike/ski through the park during the special hunting period. Bright colored vests will also be made available at the front of the park for users to borrow during their hike/ski. If a conflict arises, please find park staff, a park ranger, or call the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department non-emergency number (262-446-5070). State law prohibits the harassment of any person legally engaged in hunting.

### **Is this archery hunt open during Wisconsin's entire regular archery season or are there specific days?**

For this deer herd management effort, Nashotah Park will be open for archery hunting in designated areas from **November 27 through December 17, 2018**. Hunters will be allowed to enter the park prior to sunrise during the designated park hunting dates.

### **What will the park staff do to ensure the safety of other park users and pets?**

Winter hiking trails and ski trails will continue to be groomed during the archery hunt (November 27 through December 17). Signage will be posted at all designated entrances to the park. No hunting will be permitted near the picnic shelters, maintenance buildings, and Dog Exercise Areas. Blaze orange vests will be made available at the main park entrance for park users to borrow and wear in the park during the archery hunt. Additionally, the following will also be provided in order to ensure park user safety and awareness:

- Social media updates
- Press releases
- Letter to all neighbors
- Wear an orange vest or clothing during this period

**Where can I get more information and updates?**

General information and updates will be posted on [www.waukeshacounty.gov/hunting](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/hunting).  
For questions please call Waukesha County's Park System at (262) 548-7801 or email [parksinfo@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:parksinfo@waukeshacounty.gov).

An informational program on deer ecology and management will be hosted by Waukesha County Parks and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 from 6-8pm at Retzer Nature Center. Register online for the program by Friday, October 19, 2018 at <http://waukeshacounty.maxgalaxy.net/Registration.aspx?ActivityID=2101>

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