



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods, and diverse communities of Fairfax County

July 12, 2021

**Kevin Davis**  
Chief of Police

Dear Park Neighbor:

Each year, deer management is conducted in select Fairfax County parks. It is a program conducted by the Fairfax County Police Department in partnership with the Fairfax County Park Authority, NOVA Parks, and other public landholders. You are receiving this letter because you live near or adjacent to a park where deer management activity is planned to occur (see attached park list). The purpose of this letter is to provide you with important information about the program.

**Lt. Colonel  
Thomas Ryan**  
Deputy Chief of Police  
for Investigations/  
Operations Support

The Fairfax County Deer Management Program uses the safest, most effective, and sustainable deer management methods as permitted by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, including the use of archery, managed hunts, and sharpshooting.

**Lt. Colonel  
Gun M. Lee**  
Deputy Chief of Police  
for Administration

For the park near your residence, archery has been selected as the most appropriate method of deer management.

## Why is deer management happening?

**Major  
Gervais T. Reed**  
Acting Deputy Chief of  
Police for Patrol

The deer population in Fairfax County has grown to a level that poses safety and health concerns in our communities and is not sustainable by the environment over time.

*Public Safety Concerns:* Serious public safety concerns are associated with an overabundant deer population. The primary concern is the high number of deer-vehicle collisions that occur annually in Fairfax County that may result in injury and even death of residents. Thousands of these collisions occur each year in Virginia.

*Health Concerns:* Deer play an important role in the life cycle of ticks. Ticks transmit pathogens that cause Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses. Deer are primary maintenance hosts that ticks feed upon, but deer themselves do not serve as a source of infection for the Lyme disease bacterium. There is public concern that dense deer populations may increase human risk of exposure to ticks by moving them to new areas. There is also high concern among wildlife professionals over the spread of emerging diseases, including Chronic Wasting Disease, within deer populations in Virginia.

*Environmental Impact:* Over-browsing by deer has also led to destruction of many of our forests. This has negatively impacted the ecosystem including loss or displacement of other wildlife species that depend on these habitats for food, cover, and nest/den sites. Over time, deer herd health also declines as habitat is degraded and more deer must compete for depleted natural foods and other resources.

The goal of the Deer Management Program is to reduce the current deer population to more sustainable levels to minimize these impacts for residents and wildlife alike.

**Fairfax County Police Department**  
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Fairfax, Virginia 22035  
703-246-2195, TTY 711  
Facsimile 703-246-3876  
www.fairfaxcounty.gov



### **What do I need to know about deer management happening in a park near me?**

Archery will be conducted from September 11, 2021 – February 19, 2022. Archers are permitted to hunt at approved park locations Monday through Saturday, beginning 30 minutes prior to sunrise until 30 minutes past sunset. No hunting is allowed on Sunday.

Parks are NOT closed to park patrons during this time. Safety measures have been put in place to allow for continued park visitation and recreation while the archery program is conducted. Archery program signs will be posted at park entrances and on trails informing visitors of this deer management activity and asking visitors to remain on established trails. Hunting is conducted from elevated tree stands located at least 100 feet from the park property lines and 50 feet from established park trails.

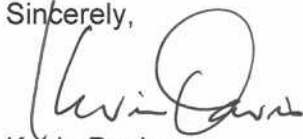
Archery hunters go through a screening process and qualifications to be eligible for the Fairfax County Deer Management Program. Archers must comply with all requirements for licenses, permits, and Hunter Safety Education as mandated by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources. Additionally, archers are required to complete a course through the International Bowhunter Education Program. All archers must also pass qualifications with their bows to demonstrate superior marksmanship. Archers are required to wear program identification and display visible parking permits to show that they are associated with the Fairfax County Deer Management Program. All archers must pass a criminal background check to participate in the program. Only archers that have gone through this special screening and qualification process and are selected for the program by Police Department staff may hunt within the approved County parks in accordance with program rules. **Archers are not allowed on private property without permission by the owner or tenant.**

A recorded webinar providing an overview of the Deer Management Program will be updated in August and posted on the County's Deer Management Program website for viewing at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/wildlife/archery-public-information-meetings>

Additional program information can be found on the Fairfax County Deer Management Program website at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/wildlife/deer-management-program>

If you have any further questions, please contact Sergeant Earit W. Powell, at [earit.powell@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:earit.powell@fairfaxcounty.gov) or 703-324-0280, or Dr. Katherine Edwards, Wildlife Management Specialist, at [katherine.edwards@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:katherine.edwards@fairfaxcounty.gov) or 703-246-6868.

Sincerely,



Kevin Davis  
Chief of Police

Attachment



**2021-2022 ARCHERY PARKS AND ACREAGE**

<b>Archery Cluster</b>	<b>Parks</b>	<b>Acres</b>
<b>Accotink Stream Valley Cluster</b>	Accotink Stream Valley Park	656
	Eakin Park (Mantua Section)	72
	Sally Ormsby Park	40
	Eakin Community Park	33
	Brookfield Park	19
	Carrleigh Parkway	10
	Hunter Village Park	20
<b>Bull Run Marina Cluster</b>	Bull Run Marina	258
	Hemlock Overlook	392
<b>Bull Run Regional Park Cluster</b>	Bull Run Regional Park	839
<b>Clifton Cluster</b>	Confederate Fortifications	150
	Johnny Moore Stream Valley	342
	Bull Run Regional Park South	447
<b>Colvin Run Cluster</b>	Colvin Run Stream Valley	44
	Difficult Run Stream Valley	285
	Colvin Run Mill Park	58
	Wolftrap Stream Valley	48
	Lake Fairfax	244
<b>Cub Run Cluster</b>	Cub Run Stream Valley	626
	Ellanor C. Lawrence Park	458
	Flatlick Stream Valley	60
	Rocky Run Stream Valley	190
<b>Elklick Cluster</b>	Elklick Preserve	1388
	Halifax Point District Park	282
	Mountain Road Park	201
	Sully Historic Site* (reduced acreage)	TBD
	Poplar Ford Park	407
	Hickory Forest Park	95
	Horsepen Run Stream Valley	64
	Merrybrook Run Stream Valley	11
	Rock Hill District Park	169
	Cub Run Stream Valley (North)* (new section)	TBD
<b>Fairfax Station Cluster</b>	Patriot Park	122
	Piney Branch Stream Valley	179
	Popes Head Park	38
	Willow Pond	66
	Rocky Run Stream Valley (portion)	30

Archery Cluster	Parks	Acres
<b>Fountainhead Cluster</b>	Fountainhead Regional Park Sandy Run Regional Park	2075 330
<b>Great Falls Cluster</b>	Riverbend Park Scotts Run Nature Preserve Hickory Run School Site Lexington Estates Park Langley Oaks Park Windemere Park Pimmit Run Stream Valley	394 379 11 15 102 24 41
<b>Huntley Meadows Cluster</b>  Abbreviated archery season at Huntley Meadows and Dogue Creek SV due to the addition of sharpshooting in late season. Archery will end at Huntley Meadows and Dogue Creek SV ONLY on Saturday, January 15 <sup>th</sup> .  Holmes Run acreage <u>does not</u> include Luria Park.	Huntley Meadows Woodlawn Park Dogue Creek Stream Valley Amberleigh Park Island Creek Park Fairchild Property John Byers Park Little Hunting Creek Park Mount Vernon District Park Holmes Run Stream Valley Lillian Carey Park Mason District Park Roundtree Park Deerlick Park Lee District Park	933 9 21 18 96 8 25 10 19 80 54 80 61 19 76
<b>Lake Accotink Cluster</b>	Lake Accotink Wakefield Park Americana Park Long Branch Stream Valley	407 161 4 90
<b>Laurel Hill Cluster</b>	Laurel Hill Park & Golf Course Old Colchester Park & Preserve Newington Heights Mason Neck West Pohick Bay Regional Park* (additional acreage) Noman Cole Pollution Plant BOS Mount Vernon* (additional acreage) Occoquan Regional Park Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area	1149 144 47 44 TBD 103 TBD 200 649

<b>Archery Cluster</b>	<b>Parks</b>	<b>Acres</b>
<b>Pohick Stream Valley Cluster</b>	Burke Station Park	15
	Pohick Stream Valley	570
	West Springfield Village Park	10
	Kings Park West	19
	Shannon Station Park	13
	Crooked Creek Park	12
	Middle Run Stream Valley	169
	Huntsman Lake	26
	Cherry Run Park	4
	Greentree Village Park	19
<b>Reston Cluster</b>	Difficult Run Stream Valley	258
	Fred Crabtree Park	208
	Garnchayne	21
	Little Difficult Run Stream Valley	135
	Foxvale Park	25
	Waples Mill Meadow	18
	Oak Marr Park	58
	Tattersall Park	35
<b>South Run Cluster</b>	Burke Lake Park	323
	Lake Mercer Park	195
	South Run District Park	115
	South Run Stream Valley	319
	Sandy Run Stream Valley	39
	Brimstone Park	5
	Poburn Woods Park	11
<b>Sugarland Run Cluster</b>	Sugarland Run Stream Valley	200
	Shaker Woods Park	14
	Folly Lick Stream Valley	32
	Upper Potomac	646
	TNC Fraser Preserve	233
<b>Vienna Cluster</b>	Clarks Crossing Park	124
	Difficult Run Stream Valley	237
	Lahey Lost Valley Park	23
	Tamarack Park	21

\*New park addition or acreage change for the 2021-2022 archery program