

2023 MEADOWS WHITETAIL DEER BOW-HUNT

Welcome to another GREAT year of hunting with:

Dixon Park District
1312 Washington Avenue
Dixon, IL 61021
(815) 284-3306

e-mail: adminassist@dixonparkdistrict.com

www.dixonparkdistrict.com

Location

Facility-Community Room
1312 Washington Avenue, Dixon, Illinois 61021

Registration is on Saturday, March 25, 2023

- Registration begins at 8:30 am. When you arrive, fill out the necessary paperwork before the drawing. **The drawing will begin promptly at 9:00 am.** At this time, the door will be locked, and individuals who arrive late will not be allowed to participate in the drawing until after the event has concluded.
- For those in attendance at 9:00 am, their names will be placed in a box. The first name drawn will have first choice, the second name will have second, and so on until no names remain. The drawing will continue in reverse order until all eligible individuals no longer seek an open session.
- When your name is called, there are a few options for registration:
 - one session for yourself
 - one session for yourself and a friend
 - one session for two absent individuals
- During each round, you may register for only **ONE** session.
- Additional sign-ups will be taken until orientation in September. **Orientation will be on Saturday, September 9, 2023 and Thursday, September 14, 2023.**
- There will be NO REFUNDS for this program.
- If you are unable to hunt your session, please notify the hunt coordinators.
 - Transfer of sessions between participating individuals is not allowed. No one shall hunt for someone else.

Orientation and Proficiency

Hunters must pass a proficiency test every year.

- For those who did not participate last year, you **must** attend the orientation and pass the the proficiency test at **Facility-Community Room**. Your orientation will be held inside T on **Saturday, September 9, 2023** and **Thursday, September 14, 2023** after your proficiency test outside. **You are required to attend ONE of the TWO sessions.**
- Illinois now allows deer hunters to use a crossbow. **The weapon that you use for the proficiency test is the only weapon that you may use for the harvesting of deer in the Meadows.**
- For those who participated last year, orientation must be taken by previous hunters **every other** year. If you hunted last year and did not attend the orientation, you **must** attend this year. Your proficiency test must be completed on **Saturday, September 9, 2023 at 3:00 PM or Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 1:00 PM** outside the **Facility-Community Room**.
- **You must test with the bow or crossbow, arrows and broadheads you plan to use during your hunt. This is your notice; mark your calendar for September 9 or September 14, 2023. In past years we have allowed hunters to complete the orientation and proficiency testing at flexible times - do not expect that level of flexibility in 2023.**

Welcome and Rules

Registered hunters must agree to abide by all rules listed below:

Welcome to the 2023 season of bow hunting offered through the Dixon Park District. Since its inception, this hunt has been modified and upgraded to assist in reaching two goals – the first is a safe, successful, and enjoyable recreational hunting experience for well-qualified and ethical participants; the second is to provide basic management of both the deer herd and the environment of Meadows Park.

With this in mind, park staff, bow hunt coordinators, and natural resource professionals have developed a program that rewards the hunter who assists in herd management while providing

1. Recreational Hunting; 2. Doe Hunting for meat & management; 3. Trophy Buck Hunting.

Hunting opportunities will be offered in three ways this season at the Meadows:

- A. Proper herd management is our ultimate objective in the Meadows Bow Hunting Program. Harvesting mature does is a fundamental tool to reaching our objective. If you have the opportunity to harvest a mature doe, we ask that you do so. You are **limited to two does per year. If you wound a doe you are unable to take a second doe until you shoot a proficient with the Hunt Coordinator.**
- B. One benefit of proper herd management is healthier, larger deer. During the bow hunting season, you are permitted to harvest **one** buck. All bucks harvested will be scored, and jawbones will be extracted to determine the age of the deer. The antlers must measure at

least **140 inches gross at the minimum**. Hunters who harvest bucks under the minimum, including button bucks, will be required to pay a **\$500.00 deer management fee** to the Meadows Bow Hunting Program. **Failure to pay will result in banishment from future hunts.**

If you harvest an animal under 140 inches but feel it is at least 5.5 years old, we will send the teeth to be aged at your cost. If the animal is at least 5.5 years old, we will refund your aging fee and void your \$500.00 deer management fee.

- C. Hunters interested in fall turkey hunting may harvest one legal turkey at no additional charge. You must have an Illinois Turkey License. Please call a hunt coordinator if you harvest a turkey.

All hunters must agree to abide by the additional rules listed below

1. **Shooting time in the Meadows is 15 minutes after sunset. (Not 30 minutes)**
2. Hunters must have a valid Illinois hunting license and deer tags, and be at least 18 years of age.
3. Direct any compliments or complaints to Hunt Coordinators. They will consult the Park Director.
4. Hunters are allowed two portable tree stands or one tree stand and one ground blind. You will need **numbered tags** at eye level for your stands or blind. Oak, hickory, and walnut trees are off limits for screw-in steps or any apparatus that may damage a tree. You must place and remove your stands during your paid session. Tag your stands **before** entering the Meadows. **Stands left prior to or after your paid session will be confiscated.** Tag identification numbers must be recorded with hunt coordinators. A stand found before your paid session, or after your paid session during the season it will not only be confiscated, if the stand can be identified to ownership that hunter will not be allowed to participate in the drawing the following year. All hunting stands or ground blinds must have a number on them if in the Meadows even if on the ground.
5. If a deer is shot and travels to adjacent private property, you must contact the Bow Hunt Coordinator, and they will contact the property owners. Under no circumstances are you to enter private property; this includes Illinois Department of Corrections property.
6. **Hunt Coordinator or Coordinators Must be contacted when an arrow is released prior to exiting stand.**
7. Hunters must inform the Bow Hunt Coordinator before removing their deer from the Meadows. We will be glad to assist in removing your deer from the Meadows if you need help. As part of the management program, we are aging all deer taken from the Meadows and will extract the lower front teeth from your harvest. Either Park Staff or Bow Hunt Coordinator(s) will inspect

your harvested deer prior to leaving the Meadows to verify size, sex, and age. If spoilage is an issue, we will adjust for you. Thank you for your cooperation in managing the deer program.

Damian Considine, Hunt Coordinator.....(815) 288-3048 or (815) 973-4049

Clyde Seeley, Hunt Coordinator.....(815) 973-6029

Park Office.....(815) 284-3306 (*Mon. thru Fri. 9am – 4 pm*)

If you do not have a card with these numbers, please ask the office. Keep these phone numbers with you when you hunt.

8. If a hunter injures a deer or loses an arrow, he/she must contact one of the numbers listed above.
9. Registered hunters are the only authorized people allowed in the hunting area.
10. There is a limit of **nine** registered hunters per hunt session for all sessions except for the Nov 27 - Dec 31 session which will allow **ten** hunters to sign up. Authorized Park Staff and Coordinators may be in the hunt area at any time and may harvest deer for management and/or safety.
11. No one shall hunt for someone else.
12. **Hunting is a privilege; all hunters are expected to act ethically in all situations. No alcohol is allowed. We sincerely appreciate and thank the hunters who have been excellent role models in the past. You are representing the sport you enjoy.**
13. **Hunting of furbearers and predators is prohibited!**
14. Any hunter who is not in compliance with any and all rules and regulations, including rules and regulations of the Dixon Park District and State of Illinois hunting regulations, may be ejected without refund from this or any other program. **Please make certain that you are familiar with this program and with the boundaries before you register to hunt. A minimum of 50 yards from the bike path is required to hunt.**
15. By signing the registration form/waiver, you agree to abide by all rules and regulations.
16. If a rule violation meeting is called, all hunters that hunt that session must attend.
17. All hunters must display a window card provided by the Dixon Park District in their vehicle while hunting at the Meadows.
18. **If you wound a buck that is considered your one buck for the season. If you shot a button buck that is also your buck for the season. However you do have the choice of not paying the \$500 for a button buck only. If on the next hunting season you sign up to hunt for does only. If you would shoot a button buck or buck during that season you would not be allowed to hunt the Meadows in future hunts.**

- 19. The Hunt Coordinators have the right to reject a broadhead at their discretion.
- 20. Any rule infraction could result in banishment from current year sessions left and future hunts .

Thank you for supporting hunting in Illinois!

▶▶▶ Hunters whose stands remain in the Meadows:

**Stands not removed before April 7, 2023 will be confiscated by
Park Staff or Hunt Coordinators.**

2023 Hunting Dates & Fees

Dates	Number of Hunt Days	In District	Out of District Adult
Oct 2 - 27 (no weekends)	20	\$180	\$210
Oct 30 - Nov 12	14	\$210	\$225
Nov 13 - 26	11	\$165	\$180
<i>Nov. 17, 18, and 19.....3-Day Shotgun Season - NO HUNTING, scouting, stand erection, etc. NO ONE IS ALLOWED IN THE HUNTING AREA FOR ANY REASON.</i>			
Nov 27 - Dec 31	31	\$100	\$115
<i>Nov. 30, Dec. 1,2,34-Day Shotgun Season - NO HUNTING, scouting, stand erection, etc. NO ONE IS ALLOWED IN THE HUNTING AREA FOR ANY REASON</i>			

**There will be no more than 9 hunters in the Meadows at a time except for the
Nov 27- Dec 31 session which will allow up to 10 hunters to sign up.**