

2024 MEADOWS WHITETAIL DEER BOW HUNT

Welcome to another GREAT year of hunting with:

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

Email: adminassist@dixonparkdistrict.com

2024 Lottery Location & Fall Orientation

Facility-Community Room
1312 Washington Avenue Dixon, IL

Registration & Lottery is on April 13, 2024

- Registration begins at **8:00am**. When you arrive, fill out the necessary paperwork before the drawing. The drawing begins promptly at 8:30am. At this time no other names will be allowed to be entered into the drawing. Hunters who arrive after the drawing begins must wait to register for any unfilled hunting slots after the event has concluded.
- **For those in attendance at 8:30am, their name(s) will be placed in a box. This year you may only enter one name per ticket into the drawing. You may, however, enter a name for a hunter not present. A person present may enter a maximum of two separate names into the lottery. You will not be able to enter two names on the same entry ticket into the lottery this year.** The first name drawn will have first selection, the second name will have second choice. This will continue until all names have been drawn. After all the names have selected their session in the first round the drawing will continue in reverse order until all eligible individuals no longer seek an open session.
- **When a name is called, there is only one option for registration:**
 - **One hunting session per name drawn.**
- During each round you may only register for ONE session.
- Additional sign-ups will be taken until orientation in September. Orientation and proficiency shoot will be on Sunday, September 8th at 3:00pm or Thursday, September 12th at 5:00pm. Both orientation days will take place at the Facility. Due to changes in the program for 2024 ALL hunters must attend orientation.
- 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.
 - **A hunter will be eligible for a refund if: 1) there is a hunter on the wait list able to fill your session or 2) at the Hunt Coordinators discretion.**

Orientation and Proficiency

Hunters must pass a proficiency test every year.

- Upon the request of the park board, all hunters must attend orientation and pass the proficiency test at the Facility-Community Room this season. Orientation and proficiency shoots will be on Sunday, September 8th at 3:00pm or Thursday, September 12th at 5:00pm. ALL registered hunters are required to attend ONE of the TWO sessions.
- A hunter that cannot make either date for the proficiency test should contact a Hunt Coordinator as soon as possible. An alternative date can be arranged at the Hunt Coordinators convenience.
- Illinois now allows deer hunters to use a crossbow. The weapon that you use for the proficiency test is the only weapon you may use for the harvesting of deer in the Meadows.
- You must test with the bow or crossbow, arrows, and broadheads you plan to use during your hunt. If you plan on using both a bow and a crossbow during your hunt, please bring both to your proficiency test. Please mark your calendar and have your equipment ready to shoot on September 8th or September 12th.

Welcome and Rules

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

Welcome to the 2024 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: Provide a safe, successful, and enjoyable recreational hunting experience for well qualified and ethical participants. Secondly, is to provide basic management of both the deer herd and the environment of the Meadows.

The Dixon Park Board, bow hunt coordinators, and natural resource professionals have developed a program that rewards hunters who assist in herd management while providing recreational hunting, Doe hunting for meat and management, and trophy Buck hunting.

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

- Proper herd management is our ultimate objective in the Meadows Bow Hunting Program. Harvesting mature does is a fundamental tool in reaching our objective. If you can harvest a mature doe, we ask that you do so. You are limited to two doe per year. **If you wound a doe, you are unable to take a second doe until you pass another proficiency test with a coordinator.**
- One benefit of proper herd management is healthier, larger deer. During the bow hunting season, you are permitted to harvest one buck. All bucks will be scored to determine the size and age of the deer. The antlers must measure **125"** Hunters who harvest bucks under the minimum will be required to pay a **\$250** deer management fee to the Meadows Bow Hunting Program.

- Any button buck taken during the hunt will count as the hunter's buck for the season. If a hunter takes a second button buck, they will be required to pay the \$250 dollar management fee.
- A wounded buck that is not recovered is considered your buck for the season.
- Hunters may harvest one legal Turkey at no additional charge. You must utilize an Illinois Fall Turkey License. Please call a hunt coordinator if you harvest a Turkey.
- This season the Meadows will be open for you to archery hunt during the Illinois Firearm season. You MUST utilize a Lee County Firearm Deer Permit to hunt during this season. Your archery permit is NOT valid during this season. Hunters must meet blaze orange clothing requirements during this season.
- Per Illinois hunting regulations blaze orange must be worn during the youth firearm season and muzzleloader season.

Hunters must agree to abide by the additional rules listed below.

1. The Meadows are OPEN during the hunt starting with the 2024 season. Anyone may use the Meadows for any recreational activities while you are hunting. It is critical for the future of the hunting program that we understand this change of policy. The future of the hunting program relies on the hunter's cooperation moving forward.
2. Shooting time has been changed back to 30 minutes after sunset. This is a change from the 2023 program rule of 15 minutes.
3. Hunters must have a valid Illinois hunting license and deer tags. Hunters must be at least 18 years of age.
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. You may not place your stands in the Meadows until after shooting light the day before your hunt begins. The only exception will be session one in October. Stands for session one maybe placed after the September proficiency shoot. Please tag your stands before entering the Meadows. A stand found before or after your paid session will be confiscated and the hunter will not be allowed to participate in the drawing the following year. Tag identification numbers must be recorded with the hunt coordinators. Stands that are used during the January session must be removed from the Meadows by March 1st.
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. Entering private property without permission puts the program at risk.

6. There is a limit of **twelve hunters** for sessions 1,2,5,6. Three of the slots in each October session will be reserved for youth hunters and their parent / mentor hunter. The expectation is that the youth will be hunters.
7. Sessions numbered 3 & 4 will be limited to **10** hunters per session.
8. The hunt coordinators will also have hunting privileges during each session. The hunt coordinators will also be piloting a youth hunt and maybe hunting with a youth hunter during any session utilizing a two-person stand or a ground blind.
9. Hunting is a privilege, and all hunters are expected to act ethically in all situations. Any hunter not in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Dixon Park District and Illinois Department of Natural Resources are subject to removal from the program without refund.
10. Make certain you are familiar with hunting boundaries. Tree stands / hunting blinds must be a minimum of 50 yards from the bike path.
11. Hunting of furbearers and predators is prohibited.
12. Hunters must display a window card provided by the Dixon Park District in their vehicle while hunting the Meadows.
13. Hunt Coordinators must be contacted when an arrow is released. Please save the coordinator's contact information in your cell phone. The hunt coordinators will inspect your deer to ensure it meets program guidelines. The hunt coordinators are here to help and have access to gates to transport your deer. Please contact us with any questions or concerns you have during your hunt.

Evan Thorpe, Hunt Coordinator (815) 973-2211
Josh Shipman, Hunt Coordinator (815) 440-4849
Park District Office (815) 284-3306

2024 Hunting Dates & Fees

Session #1: Oct 1-14 (14 days)	\$85 (\$100 out of district) \$50 Youth Hunter	9 Hunters 3 Youth
Session #2: Oct 15-28 (14 days)	\$85 (\$100 out of district) \$50 Youth Hunter	9 Hunters 3 Youth
Session #3: Oct 29-Nov 11(14 days)	\$190 (\$205 out of district)	10 Hunters
Session #4: Nov 12-25 (14 days)	\$160 (\$175 out of district)	10 Hunters
Session #5: Nov. 26-Dec.23 (28 days)	\$85 (\$100 out of district)	12 Hunters
Session #6: Dec 24-Jan 19 (27 days)	\$85 (\$100 out of district)	12 Hunters

***** Session #1 & Session #2 will have three slots reserved for youth hunters. If no youth hunters take advantage of the reserved slots we will contact hunters on the wait list. Hunters on the wait list will be contacted no later than September 1st if a slot becomes available.**

Hunters would be able to hunt with archery equipment during Illinois Firearm Season in the Meadows if they abide by the state regulations (blaze orange apparel.) Hunters must also possess an Illinois Firearm Permit for Lee County. Archery tags may not be used during firearm season.

**Illinois Firearm Season:
November 22, 23, 24
December 5,6,7,8**