

Hunting FAQs



Can I hunt for deer in Oakland County Parks?

Yes, archery hunting of deer (with some limitations) is allowed at six Oakland County Parks. Firearms are NOT allowed in Oakland County Parks except during managed firearm hunts that occur biennially at two locations – Addison Oaks and Independence Oaks.

Where can I archery hunt?

Addison Oaks-East, Highland Oaks, Independence Oaks-North, Lyon Oaks, Orion Oaks and Rose Oaks county parks.

Permitted hunting is in accordance with the laws of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, with additional park-specific rules listed in the individual park archery maps [linked here](#).

[Addison Oaks- East](#)

[Highland Oaks](#)

[Independence Oaks- North](#)

[Lyon Oaks](#)

[Orion Oaks](#)

[Rose Oaks](#)

When can I archery hunt for deer in Oakland County Parks?

Archery hunting is permitted from Oct. 1-Jan. 31, as Oakland County is part of the Urban Deer Management Zone which extends archery season in specific regions of Michigan. The state season for archery hunting outside of this zone is Oct. 1-Nov. 14 and Dec. 1-Jan. 1.

Park use is prohibited after dark, as the park entrance gates close. Fires and overnight camping are prohibited as well.

Do I need other permits/passes, besides the appropriate MDNR license?

Hunters must park in official parking lots which requires a current Oakland County Parks vehicle permit and can be procured [here](#).

How can I sign up for the managed firearm hunts?

Managed firearms hunts occur biennially at Addison Oaks and Independence Oaks county parks. These hunts are lottery-based with details posted on OCP's website in advance of the hunt.

Can I install a tree stand, blind and/or trail camera where hunting is permitted?

Yes, in accordance with [MDNR rules](#), which state "a portable deer stand left overnight must have the hunter's name and address on the stand and be readable from the ground." Stands can only be left up Sept. 1-March 1. OCP rules must also be followed - no tree stands that damage trees or other plants may be used, which include infrastructure that pierces or damages tree bark. Park staff and Oakland County Sheriff's Office deputies patrol park lands and stands that don't comply with MDNR or OCP rules may be removed.

Can I bait for deer?

NO. Baiting is illegal in the entire Lower Peninsula of Michigan as of Jan. 31, 2019. Persons caught illegally baiting are subject to fines of \$50-500 or up to 90 days in jail. Bird feeding is also prohibited in the Oakland County Parks as these inadvertently feed deer.

Can I hunt/trap other animals at Oakland County Parks?

Occasionally, beaver trapping and managed Canada goose hunts may be held at select parks, as determined by OCP Natural Resources staff. If you are interested in finding out more, contact the Natural Resources Wildlife Specialist at 248-520-7231. Otherwise, ONLY white-tailed deer are available for hunting in OCP parks (no small game, waterfowl, etc.)

What should I do if I take a deer while hunting at the Oakland County Parks?

Please fill out a [Deer Harvest Report Form](#) within 24 hours to help us track the deer population.