Hunting on Ottawa County Parks Managed Lands

August 2012 through May 2013

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission
IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This brochure provides rules and regulations as well as information on hunting opportunities on properties managed by the Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission. The Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission manages two types of properties: County Parks and Open Space Lands. Hunting is allowed only in selected County Parks with a Special Parks Permit and hunting is allowed in Open Space Lands with some restrictions. This brochure describes hunting opportunities on these selected County Parks and Open Space Lands.

Hunting in Selected County Parks

Archery deer hunting only is allowed at the Crockery Creek Natural Area and the Upper Macatawa Natural Area with a required Special Parks Permit. Online applications for Special Parks Permits are accepted in early September each year and a limited number of Special Parks Permits are issued through a lottery drawing. Hunters that receive a Special Parks Permit must agree to all hunting rules, regulations and restrictions included with the permit as well as follow all Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission Parks Rules and Regulations (Ordinance No. 94-3). Successful applicants will be required to pay a $20 permit fee.

Hunting in Open Space Lands

Most Open Space Lands are open to hunting in accordance with the laws of the Michigan DNR. Some are open to archery deer hunting only. An Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Special Parks Permit is not required to hunt in Open Space Lands. All hunters in Open Space Lands must follow the Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission’s Open Space Land Rules and Regulations (Ordinance No 03-2) including the Open Space Land hunting rules and regulations listed in this brochure.

Phone: 616-738-4810
http://miottawa.org/Parks/hunting.htm
The following rules and regulations apply to all Ottawa County Parks managed properties.

- All hunters must follow all Michigan Hunting Regulations as set by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.
- Trapping is not allowed on any property managed by the Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission.
- No target practice or paint ball shooting is allowed on any property managed by the Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission.
- Hunters must maintain a 30 yard distance from property lines. Property lines are marked with red plastic signs that are 4 inches wide and about 3 feet tall.
- An area within 450 feet of any occupied building is considered a “safety zone.” No shooting of a bow; or a firearm; or hunting of any kind is allowed in a safety zone.
- No motorized vehicles of any kind are allowed in County Parks or Open Space Lands except in designated parking areas.
- No cutting of trees or branches to create shooting lanes is allowed.
- Temporary ground blinds may be used per state regulation-type 1 only.
- No gathering of dead materials found on the ground to construct blinds is allowed.

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission Open Space Land Hunting Rules and Regulations (Sections 11 and 12 of Ordinance No. 03-2)

Section 11 & Section 12 (in part)

11.1 Commission Open Space Lands shall be open to hunting in accordance with the laws of the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Michigan except when designated otherwise. Specific Open Space Lands may be designated as open to permit hunting only, open to archery hunting only, closed to all hunting, or may be designated otherwise.

11.2 No person while on an Open Space Land shall be allowed to hunt within ninety (90) feet of the boundary between an Open Space Land and private property.

11.3 The use of bait to attract deer for the purpose of hunting is prohibited.

11.4 Tree stands and ground blinds (type 1 only) may be used according to the laws of the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Michigan.

11.5 Fishing on Commission Open Space land shall be permitted in accordance with Commission guidelines and the laws of the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Michigan in such areas designated by the Commission for such purposes.

11.6 Trapping is prohibited on Open Space Lands unless prior written permission is obtained from the Commission or its Agent.

12.1 No person, while on Open Space Land shall:

12.1a Discharge or set off a pistol, rifle, shotgun, slingshot or any other instrument which discharges a projectile by air, explosion or any other force except for the purpose of hunting in accordance with Section 11 of these rules and the laws of the State of Michigan.

12.2 The possession of firearms shall also be permitted on Commission Open Space Land in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan.
Selected County Parks
(archery deer hunting only: Special Parks Permit required)
1 Crockery Creek Natural Area
2 Upper Macatawa Natural Area

Open Space Lands
(archery deer hunting only: no Special Parks Permit required)
3 Eastmanville Bayou
4 Ripps Bayou
5 Jubb Bayou
6 Port Sheldon Natural Area
7 West Bur Oak Landing
8 Bend Area
9 Kuits Bayou

Open Space Lands
(open to hunting in accordance with the laws of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, unless designated otherwise)
10 Hiawatha Forest
11 Van Buren Street Dunes
12 Johnson Street Wildlife Area
13 Robinson Forest
14 West Upper Macatawa Site
15 East Bur Oak Landing
16 Grand River Open Space

There is no hunting of any kind allowed on the following properties:
Adams Street Landing
Deer Creek Park
Connor Bayou
Eastmanville Farm
Grand River Park
Grand River Ravines North
Grand River Ravines South
Grose Park
Hager Park
Hemlock Crossing
Kirk Park
Macatawa Open Space
Musketawa Trail
North Beach Park
North Ottawa Dunes
Park 12
Pine Bend
Olive Shores
Riverside Park
Pigeon Creek Park
Pigeon Creek Forest
Spring Grove Park
Riley Trails
Rosy Mound Natural Area
Tunnel Park
Selected County Parks

Archery deer hunting only: Special Parks Permit required

PROPERTY # 1 *Special Parks Permit required.*
CROCKERY CREEK NATURAL AREA (Crockery Township)
This 306 acre site includes an old farm, wetlands and a diversity of mixed deciduous and coniferous woods. The site includes frontage along the Grand River and Crockery Creek. Access is at the end of Wren Drive.

PROPERTY # 2 *Special Parks Permit required.*
UPPER MACATAWA NATURAL AREA (Zeeland Township)
Over 500 acres of restored wetlands, grasslands and forest along the Macatawa River. Access is from the 76th Avenue and 84th Avenue parking areas.
Open Space Lands

Archery deer hunting only: no Special Parks Permit required

“P” on maps designates parking area

PROPERTY # 3
EASTMANVILLE BAYOU (Allendale Township)
157 acres of floodplain forest and open areas along the Grand River. Access on the east side of 68th Avenue south of the bridge (limited parking).

PROPERTY # 4  There is no hunting in adjacent Deer Creek Park
RIPPS BAYOU (Polkton Township)
This 172 acres includes all of the bayou. Access only from the Grand River. No public access by road. No motorized watercraft on the

PROPERTY # 5
JUBB BAYOU (Crockery Township)
This 97 acre property at the east end of Jubb Bayou includes nearly a mile of frontage along the Grand River. Access is from the parking area on Oriole Drive.
Open Space Lands (continued)
Archery deer hunting only: no Special Parks Permit required

PROPERTY # 6
PORT SHELDON NATURAL AREA (Port Sheldon Township)
this large 440 acre site has rolling terrain, a diversity of woodlands and several wildlife ponds. Ten Hagen Creek flows through the property. *Access is from parking areas on 160th Avenue.*

PROPERTY # 7
WEST BUR OAK LANDING (Polkton Township)
This 145 acre property includes river frontage, floodplain forest and some upland areas. *Access is on 90th Avenue near the Grand River. Note that this property has different hunting regulations than East Bur Oak Landing (see page 10)*

PROPERTY # 8
BEND AREA (Georgetown Township)
This 141 acre property includes floodplain forest, fields and wetlands along the Grand River. *Access is on 12th Avenue north of Taylor Street.*
Open Space Lands (continued)
Archery deer hunting only: no Special Parks Permit required

PROPERTY # 9
KUITS BAYOU (Allendale Township)
This 80 acre site includes frontage on the Grand River and Kuits Bayou. Access only from the Grand River. No public access by road. No motorized watercraft on the bayou.

Open Space Lands
Open to hunting in accordance with the laws of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, unless designated otherwise
“P” on maps designates parking area

PROPERTY # 10
HIAWATHA FOREST (Grand Haven Township)
This 365 acre site is flat and heavily wooded with mixed hardwoods and pine plantations. Access is from 168th Ave. and the parking area on Fillmore St.
Open Space Lands (continued)
Open to hunting in accordance with the laws of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, unless designated otherwise

PROPERTY # 11
VAN BUREN STREET DUNES (Port Sheldon Township)
This 120 acre property includes a series of low open dunes as well as some pine plantation and scattered deciduous forest. Access is from parking area on Van Buren Street.

PROPERTY # 12
JOHNSON STREET WILDLIFE AREA (Robinson Township)
This 50 acre site is mostly mixed hardwoods and was managed for wildlife in the past. Access is from parking area on Johnson Street.
Open Space Lands (continued)
Open to hunting in accordance with the laws of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, unless designated otherwise

PROPERTY # 13
ROBINSON FOREST (Robinson Township)
This 80 acre site is old pine plantation with scattered other trees. *Access is from parking area on 104th Avenue.*

PROPERTY # 14
WEST UPPER MACATAWA SITE (Zeeland Township)
This 60 acre site is floodplain forest along the Macatawa River. *Access is on 84th Avenue.*
Open Space Lands (continued)
Open to hunting in accordance with the laws of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, unless designated otherwise

PROPERTY # 15
EAST BUR OAK LANDING  (Polkton Township)
This 116 acre property includes river frontage, a bayou, floodplain forest and some upland areas. Access is on the east side of 90th Avenue south of Leonard Street. Note that this property has different hunting regulations than West Bur Oak Landing which is open to archery deer hunting only (see page 6).

PROPERTY # 16
GRAND RIVER OPEN SPACE  (Tallmadge Township)
This 111 acre property with river frontage, includes floodplain forest, fields and wetlands along the Grand River. Access is on the west side of Linden Street, .3 miles south of M-45.