



## MOHONK PRESERVE'S 2022 DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

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As a participant in Mohonk Preserve's Deer Management Program, you play a critical role in helping to mitigate the impacts of deer overbrowsing on the unique forests of the Shawangunk Mountains.

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**2022 Mohonk Preserve Deer Hunting Season Dates and Time Restrictions**  
(Specific to Mohonk Preserve)  
**October 11<sup>th</sup> through January 1<sup>st</sup>**  
(No hunting in Southern Zone December 21<sup>st</sup>– 25<sup>th</sup>)

### TIME RESTRICTIONS

During the first four weeks of our hunting season (October 11<sup>th</sup> – November 3<sup>rd</sup>), The Mohonk Preserve has time restrictions placed on hunting hours Monday through Thursday due to the presence of education groups on the Preserve. Please regard these hunting time restrictions below.

**HUNTING ALLOWED:**

Monday - Thursday

From sunrise to 8:45 AM **AND** from 3:00 PM to sunset (10/11 – 11/03)

**NO HUNTING ALLOWED:**

Monday - Thursday

**Between** 8:45 AM and 3:00 PM (10/11 – 11/03)

These restrictions **DO NOT** apply on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays between the dates of October 11<sup>th</sup> and November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Monday through Thursday time restrictions on hunting are lifted starting on Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. Hunting is allowed every day from sunrise until sunset from November 7<sup>th</sup> to January 1<sup>st</sup> with the exception of the NYS Southern Zone blocked out dates of December 21<sup>st</sup>– December 25<sup>th</sup>.

## MOHONK PRESERVE HUNTING SEASONS

Mohonk Preserve follows the same season dates as New York State's Southern Zone with the exception of a later opening day (October 11<sup>th</sup> vs. NYS October 1<sup>st</sup>). You can view deer hunting season dates on the [NYS Department of Environmental Conservation website](https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/68802.html).

**EARLY BOWHUNTING:** October 11 – November 18

**CROSSBOW:** November 5 – November 18

For more information on crossbow state regulations as outlined by the Department of Environmental Conservation please visit: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/68802.html>.

**SHOTGUN / HANDGUN (NO RIFLES):** November 19 – December 11

**MUZZLELOADER / LATE BOWHUNTING:** December 12 – December 20 & December 26 – January 1. (No hunting from December 21 – December 25)

**Please Note:** All other recreational activities are still allowed at the Preserve during hunting season. Recreationists are encouraged to wear blaze orange while hiking and reminded to always keep your dogs on a leash. Blaze orange vests are available for wear at every trailhead.

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## MOHONK PRESERVE HUNTING GUIDELINES

All New York State hunting laws, rules, and regulations apply to Mohonk Preserve lands. In addition, we require the following:

**Mandatory Hunting Information Session:** Hunters new to the Mohonk Preserve hunting program are **required** to attend one, 1-hour mandatory hunting information session located at the Mohonk Preserve's Visitor Center. Sessions are scheduled on the Mohonk Preserve Deer Management Program webpage (<https://www.mohonkpreserve.org/what-we-do/conservation-science/hunting.html>) when registering for your hunting permit. The hunting permit, guidelines, car parking placard, hunting maps, hunting log, and treestand/trail camera tags will be handed out to registered hunters at each scheduled session. Please bring your New York State hunting license and email confirmation of your Mohonk Preserve hunting permit purchase with you to your scheduled information session.

**Hunting Permit:** Hunting is permitted only with a purchased Mohonk Preserve permit and a current New York State hunting license. To purchase your hunting permit please visit the Mohonk Preserve Hunting webpage (<https://www.mohonkpreserve.org/what-we-do/conservation-science/hunting.html>). The permit allows deer hunting only. No target shooting, sighting in, or trapping allowed. Though hunting concludes on the last day of the season your hunting permit allows you to visit the Preserve until the expiration of the second Sunday in January. This granted time after the hunting season allows hunters sufficient time to remove all equipment (treestands, trail cameras, blinds) from Preserve land.

**Hunting Permit Fee:** There is a fee to purchase a Mohonk Preserve hunting permit; \$40 for non-members or \$25 for current Mohonk Preserve yearly members. There are ways to reduce your permit fee through both harvesting antlerless deer and volunteering personal time assisting in deer management research. For each antlerless deer harvested the previous season a hunter will receive \$5 off the Mohonk Preserve permit fee for the current season. Volunteer opportunities are determined on an as-needed basis by Deer Management Program administration (contact [deermgt@mohonkpreserve.org](mailto:deermgt@mohonkpreserve.org) for opportunity information).

**Display of Hunting Permit:** Mohonk Preserve property is patrolled by our Rangers. To aid in identification, hunters are required to prominently display their Mohonk Preserve permit on their person.

**Parking:** Parking is available at our designated trailheads, hunter-reserved lots (see hunting map), and Visitor Center. When parking, hunters are required to display their car placard on the dashboard of their parked vehicle. Driving and parking on any carriage roads is prohibited.

**Reporting and Checking Your Deer:** All harvested deer must be reported to Deer Management Program administration within 48 hours of harvest. A harvest form is provided in your mailed hunting packet and also can be downloaded on the Mohonk Preserve Deer Management Program webpage: <https://www.mohonkpreserve.org/what-we-do/conservation-science/hunting.html>. Harvest forms can be returned by mail or email (deermgt@mohonkpreserve.org). By law, you must also report your deer to the NYS DEC. If you would like to age or weigh your deer, you may check your deer with a Preserve Ranger by calling the Visitor Center at 845-255-0919. Visitor Center hours are 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. It is not guaranteed that a Ranger will always be available to check your deer.

**Hunting Logs:** All hunters must complete and return the hunting log at the conclusion of the season, deadline for submission is Friday, **January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. A hunting log is provided in your mailed hunting packet and can be downloaded on the Mohonk Preserve Deer Management Program webpage: <https://www.mohonkpreserve.org/what-we-do/conservation-science/hunting.html>. Logs can be returned by mail or email (deermgt@mohonkpreserve.org). By returning your hunting log you will be eligible to be entered in the DMAP tag lottery drawing which takes place before the season commences. Failure to submit harvest forms or hunting logs will impact approval for hunting permits in 2023.

**No Rifles:** Rifles are not permitted on Mohonk Preserve lands.

**No Hunting Zones:** There is absolutely no hunting allowed on Mohonk Mountain House property. The Mohonk Mountain House property is located in the center of the Mohonk Preserve land and is shown on the hunting map in purple. There is no public hunting on the Mohonk Preserve's Foothills and Gateway land parcels. No Hunting Zones for the Preserve are shown on the hunting map in orange.

**Retrieving Your Deer:** Mohonk Preserve carriage roads are closed to all motor vehicles (excluding Mohonk Preserve staff vehicles). A Ranger may assist you in hauling out your deer. Rangers are constantly patrolling on weekends; at other times patrol is sporadic. Therefore, during the week if you need assistance bringing your deer out, stay with your deer at a carriage road and call the Visitor Center with your information at 845-255-0919. Visitor Center hours are 9 am - 5 pm.

**Setback Distances:** Setback distances from dwellings and buildings in use are 150 feet for vertical bows, 250 feet for crossbows and 500 feet for firearms. To ensure the safety of our recreationists, the setback distance from roads and trails is always 150 feet. When actively hunting or setting up equipment, be sure to be at least 150 feet away from any carriage road or trail. The 150-foot setback distance is represented by an orange border around roads and trails on the hunting map.

**Carriage Roads and Hiking Trails:** Do not aim or fire across any road or trail and respect the 150-foot setback distance.

**Equipment:** Treestands, blinds, and trail cameras are allowed and can be left on Preserve property from the time of hunting permit purchase until stated removal deadline. Equipment must be removed by Sunday, **January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**. Equipment left in place after that date will be confiscated. Equipment must be tagged with an official Mohonk Preserve hunting equipment tag. You can register for an equipment tag when completing your hunting permit registration online.

**No Land Modification:** Land modification of any kind is prohibited on Mohonk Preserve land. This includes removal of any vegetation (trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants), trenching, digging, and blazing on trees. This also includes using permanent means, such as screws, to attach hunting equipment to trees.

**Camping and Lodging:** There are several campgrounds, motels, and hotels in the region, including the Samuel F. Pryor III Shawangunk Gateway Campground on Route 299 in Gardiner. The campground is open through mid-November. For more information and to book your campsite, visit <https://www.mohonkpreserve.org/visit/camping.html>. Camping and fires are not permitted anywhere on Mohonk Preserve property. For more information on lodging options in the area please visit <https://www.mohonkpreserve.org/visit/area-guide/>.

**Please Remember:** As the number of visitors to our natural area increases, the need for everyone to be a conscientious steward of the land also increases. In particular, we remind you that litter, such as shell-cases and field dressing gloves, remain in nature for years and bring discredit to reputable hunters. Please follow the “carry-in, carry-out” policy; what you bring into the forest ensure that you also take out.

**Hunting privileges will be revoked by Mohonk Preserve staff if Mohonk Preserve and NYS regulations are not strictly obeyed.** For more information on NYS DEC hunting rules and regulations please visit: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8305.html>

Any questions regarding the Mohonk Preserve’s Deer Management Program can be addressed to [deermgt@mohonkpreserve.org](mailto:deermgt@mohonkpreserve.org).

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## **How does hunting help the Preserve?**

To fulfill our mission of protecting the biodiversity of the Shawangunks, the Preserve must manage our unique habitats and natural resources. Long-term deer overbrowsing has had destructive consequences for the forests of the Shawangunks. Deer populations have grown due to several factors, including increasingly mild winters and development that creates lawns, gardens, and wooded edges that provide deer with plentiful food and habitat. Additionally, there is a lack of natural predators (like mountain lions and wolves) to check the deer population.

In our forests, deer are heavy consumers of saplings and other vegetation, and many areas of forest are simply not regenerating. At high risk are native plants like orchids and wildflowers, food sources of many animals, and critical nesting areas for birds like ruffed grouse, wood thrush, and warblers.

Deer hunting is widely recognized throughout the Northeast as a useful tool for maintaining healthy forests that can regenerate and support diverse plants and animals. The Preserve's hunting and deer management policies are based on conservation goals and rooted in science, including more than 80 years of research on the ecology of the Shawangunks. By maximizing the harvest of antlerless deer instead of bucks, our hunters help us bring our deer population into better balance with the habitat.

Our program follows both New York State and our own permitting and safety regulations. Hunters are required to report their deer harvest and submit hunting logs, allowing researchers to collect information (for example age and sex) so that we can monitor and help maintain the delicate balance between forest health and deer populations over time. This is one of the research activities underway at the Preserve to understand and address the role of deer in the environment.