

# City of Oxford

## 2023 – 2024 Deer Management Program

### **Purpose**

The goal of this program is to maintain deer populations at levels that can be sustained by the local environment, that prevent the spread of disease, limit the number of deer-vehicle accidents, and reduce damage to vegetation and the local environment.

As the Deer Management Program (the Program) is intended to address deer population concerns, no other game or nuisance animals are to be harvested in association with the Program, even if permitted by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife (ODNR) Ohio Hunting and Trapping Regulations 2023–24.

As with past years, the venison from the first antlerless deer harvested shall be donated to the Community Meal Center (CMC), in Hamilton, Ohio. The CMC has obtained granting funding to cover the cost of the venison processing and preparation. There is only one (1) processor participating with the CMC this year, H & M Processing in Okeana, approximately 12-13 miles (15-20 minutes travel) south-southwest of Oxford.

Please note that the ODNR has set the bag limit for the 2023-2024 hunting season for deer in Butler County to a total of **TWO** deer.

Due to the bag limit reduction, the “3-2-1” Program enabling a participant to harvest an antlered deer after donating the venison from two antlerless deer has been modified. The 2023-2024 Program will continue to offer the opportunity to harvest an antlered deer following the harvest and donation of an antlerless deer.

### **2023 - 2024 Deer Management Program**

By this reference all applicable rules and regulations included in the ODNR Ohio Hunting and Trapping Regulations 2023-24 are in effect for the Program. Additional, specific requirements for the City of Oxford’s Program are as follows:

- For the 2023 – 2024 deer hunting season, the City of Oxford (Oxford) intends to continue a deer harvesting program on a year-by-year basis. This Program is a continuation of an initial pilot program established in 2009, and has occurred annually since 2009.
- The number of hunters actively hunting in the Program at any one time will be limited by the area of available City and private properties participating in the Program. Hunters will be approved at the City Manager’s discretion. Preference will be given to public safety personnel and successful participants from previous years’ Programs.
- All hunting will take place on Oxford-owned property, or private tracts of land of five or more acres. All hunting on Oxford property will be limited to isolated areas and determined by the City Manager.
- The Program is limited to bow hunting only.

- All hunters must provide background checks and proof of attendance of state-approved hunter safety course. Additionally, hunters must demonstrate proficiency and attend a briefing (established by the City Manager) before hunting.
- Participants shall notify the City Manager or their designee when hunting as part of the Program.
- If a hunter is not utilizing or sufficiently participating in the Program (in the opinion of the City Manager or their designee), Oxford reserves the right to remove the hunter from the current year's Program, and provide their spot to one of the hunters on the alternative list.
- Hunting will be limited to antlerless deer only, with the exception as outlined in the modified "3-2-1" Program described above.
- Per State law, two deer may be tagged with either-sex permits during the archery season. All participants shall possess a valid Ohio hunting license.
- All hunting will be conducted from tree stands provided by the hunter.
- **All harvested deer will be reported to City Manager or their designee by 1:00 PM the day after it was harvested.**
- Program participants are required to donate the first deer they harvest to the Community Meal Center, Hamilton, Ohio. The second deer after that may either be donated or kept by the hunter. Oxford will reimburse hunters the cost of the deer tag for all donated deer.
- The Program will take place from September 30, 2023 through February 4, 2024.

### **General Rules and Parameters for 2023-2024 Deer Management Program**

All hunting within Oxford will be governed by the State of Ohio Game Laws. Each participant is responsible for knowing, understanding, and complying with these laws, including those requirements (above) established by Oxford.

Eligibility for participation is determined exclusively by the City Manager or their designee. No person may hunt or participate without written permission from the City Manager. Each participant must have attended and provide proof of successful completion of a state-approved hunter's safety course. All approved participants must attend a briefing with Oxford's City Manager or their designee before hunting.

All participants must submit a signed background check release form. Any potential participant may be refused based on criminal history or game law violations.

Hunting shall be by bow(s) that are in compliance with the ODNR's "Legal Deer Hunting Equipment" and "Legal Definitions" included in the Ohio Hunting and Trapping Regulations 2023-24.

For the purpose of safety, all hunting shall be conducted from tree stands – no ground or blind hunting will be permitted. Tree stands must bear the participant's name, address, and phone number, and be clearly visible on the stand. No permanent or screw-type stands will be permitted. All stands must be removed by end of hunting on February 4, 2024.

All deer must be harvested according Ohio hunting rules and regulations. For the purpose of deer management, Oxford will only permit the taking of non-antlered deer as defined by the ODNR, with the exception of the modified “3-2-1” Program as described above.

All hunting will occur within City-designated areas. All hunting times and areas will be scheduled with the City Manager including the date, location, and time of hunting.

All participants are required to **inform Oxford by 1:00 PM the day after harvesting a deer and provide the City with the State Tag number, name of hunter, sex of deer, and date it was harvested.**

For the purpose of safety, all participants **MUST** wear at least 50% hunter orange while hunting. Hunters must be visibly wearing a vest, coat, jacket, or coveralls that are either solid hunter orange or camouflage hunter orange. Examples of acceptable and non-acceptable vests are shown below (adapted from the ODNR Ohio Hunting and Trapping Regulations 2023-24).



All field-dressing waste must be taken with the hunter and disposed of at a location to be determined by the City Manager.

The first deer taken by each hunter must be donated to the Community Meal Center, the sole recipient of the established venison donation associated with the Program. Presently, there is only one processor that is working with the Community Meal Center. Donated deer must be submitted for processing at:

**H & M PROCESSING**  
**7532 Cincinnati-Brookville Road**  
**Okeana, Ohio 45053**  
**(513) 907 – 7367**

It is recommended that H & M Processing be alerted and informed of a pending delivery prior to transporting the deer there for processing.

For the second deer harvested, donation will be at the discretion of the hunter.

All deer must be legally tagged and checked at a certified checking station, or by utilizing the automated game check and tagging process as described in the ODNR Ohio Hunting and Trapping Regulations 2023-24.

In order to be eligible for hunting tag reimbursement, the deer must be donated and all other rules and regulations must be followed including the submission of the deer tag number.

**REMINDER:** At Oxford-designated properties adjacent to Miami University (MU) property: if a struck deer leaves the Oxford property and enters into MU Natural Areas, Ms. Nancy Feakes, MU Natural Areas Field Manager, is to be notified immediately (telephone number 513 / 524 – 2197; email: [feakesn@miamioh.edu](mailto:feakesn@miamioh.edu)), as she is required to notify the MU Police Department of the situation.

### **Brief Overview of Ohio Rules and Regulations for Archery Deer Hunting**

All licensed hunters must purchase a Deer Permit in order to legally hunt deer. All deer hunters must possess a valid Ohio Hunting License. It is unlawful to attach a temporary tag to a deer taken by another person.

**Archery Season Bow or Longbow (includes compound and recurve bows):** Minimum draw weight of at least 40 pounds. The arrow tip shall have a minimum of two cutting edges that may be exposed or unexposed, with a minimum 3/4 inch width. Expandable and mechanical broadheads are legal. Poisoned or explosive arrows are not to be used.

**Crossbow:** Minimum draw weight of at least 75 pounds. The arrow tip shall have a minimum of two cutting edges that may be exposed or unexposed, with a minimum 3/4 inch width. Expandable and mechanical broadheads are legal. Poisoned or explosive arrows are not to be used.

**Tree Stands:** it is unlawful to construct, place or use a permanent-type tree stand, or to place spikes, nails, wires or other metal objects into a tree to act as steps or to hold a tree stand on public hunting lands. It is also unlawful to make any of these changes to trees on private property without first obtaining the permission of the landowner or the landowner's authorized agent.

**Deer Checking:** only the person who harvested the deer can present it to the check station. Deer can be checked at any location that sells deer licenses; the animal does not need to be brought to the check station. Or the animal may be game checked by utilizing ODNR's automated game check and tagging process.

### **Some check stations in proximity to Oxford:**

**WAL-MART #2275**

5720 College Corner Pike  
Oxford, Ohio 45056  
(513) 524-4122

**DAN'S SPORT SHOP**

238 South Lafayette Street  
Camden, Ohio 45311  
(937) 452-7236

**BAKER HARDWARE**

6550 Hamilton-Scipio Road  
Reily Township, Ohio 45053  
(513) 756-9700

**SEASON’S SCHEDULES:**

	<b><u>Opening Date</u></b>	<b><u>Closing Date</u></b>
<b>Archery</b>	<b>September 30, 2023</b>	<b>February 4, 2024</b>
Youth Gun	November 18, 2023	November 19, 2023
Gun	November 27, 2023 December 16, 2023	December 3, 2023; and December 17, 2023
Muzzleloader	January 6, 2024	January 9, 2024

(From pages 6 and 8 of the Ohio Hunting and Trapping Regulations 2023–24)

**ALL PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING AND COMPLYING WITH STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS.**