District hunting and parking permits:

All participants and their helpers must clearly display a District-issued parking permit on the dashboard or rearview mirror of their vehicle.

No participants shall enter District property without a District-issued hunting permit on their person, at all times. Hunting permits should be stored in an easily accessible location where they can be presented to an enforcement officer upon request.

Parking:

All participants must use established or designated parking lots. No parking is allowed along county or township roads. See site/zone maps for designated parking areas.

Access/Getting to your zone:

All participants and permit holders must travel to and from their hunting zone using a District-designated route. Where available, driving on field border access lanes is allowed to deliver and pick up harvested deer and equipment, not for hunting. Not all zones contain field border access lanes; where absent, hunter ingress and egress must be completed on foot. Pedestrian mobilized deer carts and sleds are allowed for movement of deer and equipment. While hunting, participants must park in designated lots and walk to the zone. Driving anywhere other than entering the site through the designated entrance and driving to and from a designated parking area is not allowed during periods of saturated soil conditions when impact to the field border is likely.** Participants should reference zone maps for authorized driving areas.

Driving on a field border (for purposes of delivering and picking up deer and equipment) is allowed only under the following conditions:

1.) Driving on a field border is allowed only during periods of dry or frozen ground conditions. Dry or frozen ground is a soil condition when driven on will not create a rut after the vehicle has passed. A rut for the purposes of this directive is a depression, created by the pressure of a vehicle tire, in the soil greater than or equal to one inch. Depression depth is measured from the deepest portion of the tire track to the natural surface elevation of the soil adjacent to the track.

2.) Participants must use good discretion as ground and weather conditions may change from the start of their hunting opportunity throughout the day. If the ground conditions soften as the day goes on and it would cause damage as stated above, do not drive.

**NOTICE: Anyone found creating damage to the land as described may be issued a citation and/or have their District hunting permit revoked. The driver of the vehicle and/or participant(s) found in violation of the above regulation is responsible for any damage to the land and any costs to repair
damage incurred. The District is not responsible for any costs associated with damage to personal vehicles, cost to remove stuck vehicles, or costs to restore impacted lands to former condition.

Marking devices are permitted. Marking devices must be removed at the end of the participant’s hunting opportunity.

**Archery:** At a minimum, all participants must wear a blaze orange or blaze pink hat while walking to and from their stands. Wearing a blaze orange or blaze pink vest is recommended.

**Firearm/Muzzle Loader:** Firearm hunters must wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange or blaze pink, plus a solid blaze orange or blaze pink hat when walking to and from their stands.

**Check-in/Sign in and out**

**Archery:** All hunters must sign in and out on the web-based system when entering and leaving District property.

**Firearm:** Hunters must sign in and out on the web-based system when entering and leaving District property when scouting or removing stands and must check in and out with on-site personnel during the hunting seasons when they are present.

**Combo:** Combo hunters follow the same check-in procedures as archery hunters. Glacial Park hunters participating in the second firearm season must follow firearm check in procedures.

**Site hours**

Participants may not enter District property prior to one and one-half hours before legal shooting time and must exit within one hour after legal shooting time.

**Shooting hours**

**Archery:** Per state statute

**Firearm:** Per state statute

**Scouting & tree stand information – Deer hunting**

**Archery, Combo, and Firearm Deer** hunting participants may **scout and set up tree stands** beginning the day after their attendance at the mandatory orientation meeting. The exceptions to this rule exist for some firearm zones at Glacial Park, Rush Creek and Marengo Ridge. Due to other program hunting in the area, specific scouting times must be coordinated. Instructions will be provided to those hunters impacted at the orientation meeting.

There is no limit to the **number of tree stands** in a zone.

Participants may set up anywhere within their zone based on the instructions on the zone map. Participants are encouraged to communicate with other participants in adjacent zones before **selecting a stand site** within their own zone. Setting up on the boundary of your zone is discouraged.
No nails, spikes, climbing spurs, or piercing of bark is allowed in trees. Only branches with a stem diameter of less than 1.5 inches may be removed. Do not cut down small trees for shooting lanes.

The modifications to land through the movement of soil, erection of structures, or installation of posts is not allowed.

Permanent stands are not allowed.

Deer hunting stands must be the original manufactured product, designed to industry standards. Tree stands must be TMA-certified (Tree stand Manufacturers Association). Free-standing stands and tree saddles are allowed, but must be manufactured to industry standards. No handmade or repurposed climbing systems, stands or saddles are allowed. The District has ten (10) free-standing stands available for rent during the 2019-20 hunting season. Rental fees are $50 per opportunity and will be prioritized for hunters who draw primarily grassland zones first, then will be open to all. Additional information will be provided at the orientation meetings.

Each hunter can have one or two non-permitted people help put up and take down stands. The hunter must be present. A guest-parking pass must be displayed for each helper. Helpers are not pre-designated as in past years.

Stands must display an original District-issued stand tag. The tag must be able to be seen from the ground.

All participants must use an FAS-approved (Fall Arrest System) harness while in a tree.

All Hunter’s personal equipment (tree stands, steps, cameras, carts, etc.) must be removed within a week after the last day of a participant’s hunting opportunity. If this is a hardship, the participant must contact the District Police Department.

Stand height: Archery stands must be elevated a minimum of four (4) feet from the ground’s surface. The hunter’s feet must rest on the platform.

Firearm stands must be elevated a minimum of six (6) feet from the ground’s surface. The hunter’s feet must rest on the platform.

Use of decoys
Archery: Use of decoys is allowed. Hunters must wrap decoys in blaze orange when moving afield.

Firearm: Decoys are prohibited for firearm deer hunting.

Post-harvest requirements
All harvests must be reported according to the procedures for each hunting program specified below. Failure to report harvests will result in the loss of hunting privileges for the next hunting season. Discovery of misrepresentation, intentional false statements or deceptive reporting will not be tolerated and will result in the loss of hunting privileges indefinitely.
CWD testing: All adult deer harvested in the District’s deer hunting program must be tested for CWD. Contact the District or IDNR for information on CWD testing locations.

Field dressing of deer must be conducted more than 100 yards away from any trail, roadway, or parking area.

Each hunter can have one or two non-permitted people help track deer within the hunter’s zone and drag out harvested deer. The hunter must be present. A guest parking pass must be displayed for each helper. The helper must wear blaze orange as required by state regulations when retrieving deer.

Archery and combo:
All participants must follow Illinois State check-in regulations after harvesting a deer. After checking in the harvest with IDNR, participants are required to text or call the hunter check in phone number prior to leaving the site. Also, they must record the harvest on the web based sign-in system.

All entrails must be removed from the 9-day special season program sites. For all other archery and combo sites, the hunter may leave the entrails on site but no closer than 100 yards from trails.

Firearm (and Glacial Park combo during second firearm season):
Deer harvested on District property must have an Illinois State tag properly attached immediately upon harvest.

The hunter must check in all harvested deer when leaving the zone at the end of the day at the District designated location. All hunters must check in harvested deer at the designated IDNR check in station.

When field dressing deer, entrails must be placed no closer than 100 yards from the nearest trail or lot. Hunters are encouraged to be mindful of general public site users and to greatest extent practicable limit presence of blood at parking lots and trails.

Days when scouting and hunting are prohibited
There will be no scouting or hunting on the following days:

Firearm: November 28 (Thanksgiving)

Archery* and Combo:
November 22-24 (first firearm season)
November 28 (Thanksgiving)
December 5-8 (second firearm season); Except Glacial Park
December 24 & 25 (Christmas Eve and Day).

The District reserves the right to suspend hunting at any time in any area for any reason.

*Alden Sedge Meadow, Fox Bluff, High Point, Hollows, HUM, Lake Elizabeth, Marengo Ridge, Pioneer Fen, Pleasant Valley and Rush Creek have active volunteer site stewards and occasional habitat restoration work days. Hunters assigned to those sites will be notified of
work days and will not be able to hunt or scout on those days. Hunters are encouraged to participate with the habitat restoration work days.

Other

For the purpose of this program, a firearm is defined as a slug shotgun, black powder gun, or muzzleloader. No handguns are allowed. A shotgun may not be capable of holding more than three (3) shells.

No participants shall go on private property bordering any District hunting site without first getting permission from the landowner. A participant must call a District police officer to escort the participant to approach the neighbor.

No participants or helpers shall go into another hunter’s zone. A participant must call a District police officer before exiting his/her zone to track a deer.

No participants shall be under the influence of or be in the possession of illegal drugs or alcohol while hunting.

Participants may harvest only those game animals designated on their permit.

It is unlawful to make available food, salt, mineral block, supplements, attractants, or other products for ingestion by wild deer or other wildlife. This includes but is not limited to any food plot, C ‘Mere Deer, Crush Deer Attractants, or Deer Cane/Co cane, etc. This does not prohibit scents used for cover, masking, or attracting, however, the District discourages hunters from using urine-based scents or lures.

Participants may not work together to drive or move deer.

Only stationary positioned, elevated hunting is allowed. No still-hunting of deer is permitted.

Tracking deer with a bow or firearm is not allowed.

No participant may have a firearm loaded or an arrow nocked until they are in their stand.

Participants must pick up and take with them all spent firearms shells and garbage.

If you are unable to use your assigned hunting opportunity, you must call the Lost Valley Visitor Center office at (815)678-4532 Extension 8146 as soon as you know you are unable to hunt.

Permit holders shall not lease out their hunting opportunity.