



# Cincinnati Park Board

## MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release: June 22, 2010  
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**WHAT:** Cincinnati Park Board invites bow hunters to apply for the Bow Hunting Program

Applications can be found at [www.cincinnati-parks.com](http://www.cincinnati-parks.com) on the Volunteer Projects page. You can register and pay online or download the form and pay in person at 950 Eden Park Dr. 45202 (No Personal Checks Please.)

**WHEN:** Bow hunting applications accepted now through July 19, 2010  
Hunting will occur during the 2010-2011 bow hunting season this winter.

**WHERE:** Only in special zones in California Woods Nature Preserve, Magrath Preserve, Alms Park, and Mt. Airy Forest – only with a Cincinnati Parks bow hunting permit.

In order to promote public safety, the bow hunting zones in these Parks are closed to the public during hunting. For additional public safety, there is a thirty-yard “no hunting” buffer zone around the park perimeters, all roads, parking lots and buildings/shelters.

**HUNTERS REQUIRED TO BE QUALIFIED:** Trained and qualified hunters will be tested for accuracy by park staff and will be required to have passed the DOW Hunter Safety Program. Parks will only consider the safest and most proficient hunters available. The hunters will be selected by lottery and, if selected, must demonstrate the ability to place four out of five arrows in a 10" diameter target from 20 yards.

In an effort to make this program cost neutral to Parks and the public, a \$15 application fee will be charged to applicants interested in being approved to bow hunt in the four parks this season. This fee will offset the cost of processing applications and operating the lottery. Selected bow hunters will also be required to show proof of completing an approved State Hunter Education course and possess all required Ohio Hunting licenses and permits. Qualifications will be August 14th and 15th and a meeting will be held with those who qualify to go over program details and safety.

**TO APPLY:** The Bow Hunting application can be downloaded off the Cincinnati Park Board website at [www.cincinnati-parks.com](http://www.cincinnati-parks.com). The application must be completed and submitted by July 19, 2010, online, in person or sent by regular mail to the Deer Hunting Program, City of Cincinnati, 950 Eden Park Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45202 along with a \$15 non-refundable certified check or money order made payable to the City of Cincinnati. No personal checks accepted. Multiple applications will increase the odds of being selected in the lottery system but each application must be accompanied by a \$15 registration fee.

**CONTACT:** Jim Godby, Cincinnati Parks (513) 861-9070 or [Jim.Godby@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:Jim.Godby@cincinnati-oh.gov)

## **PUBLIC SAFETY A PARK BOARD PRIORITY**

Safety is the top priority at Cincinnati Parks and will be the top priority with our bow-hunting program. The hunting zones in the selected parks are closed to the public during hunting times. Thirty-yard buffer zones are established around the park perimeters, all roads, parking lots and buildings/shelters.

Bow hunters are generally considered to be the safest hunters in the sport, with few injuries and most being self-inflicted. Hunters will be tested for accuracy by park staff and be required to have passed the DOW Hunter Safety Program in order to qualify for a permit to bow hunt in parks. Several safety measures are in place to assure that our employees, the public, and our bow hunters all go home without injury. These measures include:

1. Following all State of Ohio Bow Hunting Regulations
2. Passing an approved Hunter Safety Program
3. Demonstrating accuracy by passing a qualification shoot
4. Hunting only in authorized areas
5. Wearing a safety harness when in a tree stand

## **THE CASE FOR DEER MANAGEMENT IN CINCINNATI PARKS**

The Park Board has been studying the impact of deer on our parklands over the past decade. The research findings are that the deer populations in our parks far exceed the target count of 15 to 20 deer per square mile, as recommended by the State of Ohio Division of Wildlife (DOW). Forest regeneration and wildflower studies have determined that the overall health of Cincinnati Park forests, and of the herd itself, is in jeopardy because of deer over population. The goal of the deer management program is not to eliminate deer from the parks but to reduce the number of deer in order to restore long-term biodiversity and health of our parks.

Since the winter of 2007, the Cincinnati Park Board has been working to control the deer population that has decimated our native forest plant species. Population levels are recommended to be 15 – 20 deer per square mile - yet in Mt. Airy the population had reached 97 per square mile, and in California Woods 103 deer per square mile. The Park Board utilized sharpshooters in 2007 and 2008 to remove deer from the parks. In an effort to further reduce the deer population to healthy levels, and reduce costs, City Council approved implementing a bow-hunting program in 2009. Efforts have been somewhat successful, but still three times more than the healthy capacity of these parks. Excessive deer populations are the reason that bow hunting will be permitted in these select parks:

- Mt. Airy Forest - deer population 67 per square mile (compared to 15 per sq. mile)
- California Woods – population 66 per square mile
- Magrith Riverlands Preserve – population 26 but should only have 1 deer
- Alms Park - population 14 but should have no more than 2

**Get in on the Secret - Free Music, Movies and More in Cincinnati Parks!** Cincinnati Parks are the best kept entertainment secret in the region, according to NKU's annual entertainment survey. Willie F. Carden, Director of Parks, invites everyone to "get in on the secret, and enjoy a summer "Day-cation" in Cincinnati Parks!" Visit any of our 75 parks or 5 nature centers to take a walk, have a picnic; or see a free movie or listen to a local band. For a listing of free park concerts, movies, nature camps and more fun in Cincinnati Parks, visit our calendar for dates, times and directions at [www.cincinnatiiparks.com/parks-events/](http://www.cincinnatiiparks.com/parks-events/).