



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Some City of Ann Arbor Parks and Nature Areas to Close 4 p.m. to 7 a.m. for Deer Control Efforts Jan. 1 – March 31, 2016 All parks to remain open Saturdays and Sundays

ANN ARBOR, Mich., Dec. 17, 2015 — Earlier this week, the City of Ann Arbor issued information about parks and natural areas in Wards 1 and 2 that will be closed Jan. 1 to March 31, 2016, in order for the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services (USDA-APHIS) marksmen to cull and remove up to 100 deer.

City staff has heard community concerns and feedback and wants to remind all citizens that the No. 1 priority remains public safety. In light of the information received and in coordination with the USDA-APHIS, one modification to the deer management program is being made. All parks and natural areas will remain open Saturdays and Sundays.

In addition, answers to the following questions have been added to the FAQs available [online](#):

1. What happens if someone disregards a park's closure?

Violations of park rules are evaluated on a case by case basis. In the case of deer management activities, safety is the city's No. 1 priority and Ann Arbor Police will respond accordingly to individuals who violate park closures.

2. If cull activities are completed before March 31, will the parks reopen?

Yes. All parks will reopen and residents will be notified if cull activities are completed before March 31.

3. Who authorized the park closures?

Chapter 39 of the Ann Arbor City Code, Section 3:3 authorizes park closures by the Community Services Area Administrator, Public Services Area Administrator or designee. The Community Services Area Administrator authorized designated parks to be closed during specific times from Jan. 1 to March 31, 2016 to ensure safety during deer management activities.

4. Will walking and biking trails be closed in designated parks?

Yes. Safety is the city's No. 1 priority during deer management activities. Therefore, all walking and biking trails located within designated parks will be closed. There are 47 additional parks within Wards 1 and 2 that remain open regular hours. However, commuters who routinely use trails within the closed parks will instead need to seek alternative routes during this time. Parks will reopen if cull activities are completed before March 31 and residents will be notified.



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The following City of Ann Arbor parks and nature areas will be closed for deer control efforts from 4 p.m. to 7 a.m. Monday through Friday from January 1 to March 31, 2016. All parks will remain open on Saturdays and Sundays.

1. Arbor Hills Nature Area
2. Argo Nature Area
3. Bandemer Nature Area
4. Barton Nature Area
5. Bird Hills Nature Area
6. Black Pond Woods Nature Area
7. Bluffs Nature Area
8. Braun Nature Area
9. Cedar Bend Nature Area
10. Dhu Varren Woods Nature Area
11. Foxfire South Nature Area
12. Foxfire West Nature Area
13. Furstenberg Nature Area
14. Huron Parkway Nature Area
15. Kuebler Langford Nature Area
16. Leslie Park Golf Course
17. Leslie Woods Nature Area
18. Narrow Gauge Nature Area
19. Oakridge Nature Area
20. Oakwoods Nature Area
21. Olson Park
22. Onder Nature Area
23. Ruthven Nature Area
24. South Pond Nature Area
25. Stapp Nature Area
26. Traver Creek Nature Area

Signage will be posted at impacted park and nature area entrances to notify visitors of closures; and this information can also be found on the [deer management program Web page](#). Residents living near designated parks or nature areas will be informed of these closures directly via postcard.

Ann Arbor has 114,000 residents, spans 28.82 square miles and is frequently recognized as a foremost place to live, learn, work, thrive and visit. To keep up with [City of Ann Arbor](#) information, [subscribe](#) for email updates, follow us on [Twitter](#) or become a city fan on [Facebook](#). The city's mission is to deliver exceptional services that sustain and enhance a vibrant, safe and diverse community.

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