



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

ANN ARBOR, Mich., Dec. 15, 2015 — In August, City Council approved the establishment of Ann Arbor's deer management program, which includes culling deer on city property in Wards 1 and 2 during the next four years. The city has contracted with the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services (USDA-APHIS), whose marksmen will cull and remove up to 100 deer from pre-designated City of Ann Arbor parks and nature areas beginning on January 1, 2016.

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. daily from January 1 to March 31, 2016.

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



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Signage will be posted at impacted park and nature area entrances to notify visitors of closures. Residents living near designated parks or nature areas will be informed of these closures directly via postcard. In addition, the City's Communication Office will utilize local media, social media, Community Television Network, the city's website and email notifications to inform citizens of these park closures.

USDA and city staff worked together to identify cull sites based upon specific criteria including:

- Public safety
- Size and shape of the city-owned property
- Terrain
- Surrounding land-use and housing density
- Proximity to neighbors
- Ease of access
- Attractiveness of the location for deer

All deer cull activities will be performed by highly experienced USDA-APHIS marksmen who are specially trained to conduct a cull in an urban setting with precision, accuracy and safety as top priorities.

USDA-APHIS personnel:

- Practice a principle of "SHE" – safe, humane, effective
- Are experienced in a wide variety of wildlife damage and disease issues, including deer removal in urban and other sensitive areas
- Must pass stringent firearms safety and proficiency qualifications before using firearms, and re-qualify regularly
- Are trained and equipped with the latest tools and techniques to reduce disturbance and allow for efficient and safe deer removal
- Can commit full time and attention to accomplishing established goals
- Are trained on proper single shot selection to effectively and humanely take deer
- Are trained Wildlife Biologists and Wildlife Specialists, most with educational backgrounds in Wildlife or Natural Resources management
- Must complete comprehensive background checks and drug testing prior to employment

The goal of Ann Arbor's deer management program is to decrease the deer population in Ann Arbor in order to reduce deer-human negative interactions and support biological diversity in natural areas. **The City is also answering frequently asked questions in a document, which is available at www.a2gov.org/deermanagement.**

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](http://www.a2gov.org) 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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