



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods, and diverse communities of Fairfax County

July 15, 2022

Kevin Davis
Chief of Police

Dear Park Neighbor:

**Lt. Colonel
Brian J. Reilly**
Executive Deputy
Chief of Police

Each year, deer management is conducted in select Fairfax County parks. It is a program conducted by the Fairfax County Police Department in partnership with the Fairfax County Park Authority, NOVA Parks and other public landholders. You are receiving this letter because you live near or adjacent to a park where deer management activity is planned to occur (see attached park list). The purpose of this letter is to provide you with important information about the County's program.

**Lt. Colonel
Gun M. Lee**
Deputy Chief of Police
Administration

The Fairfax County Deer Management Program uses the most safe, effective and sustainable deer management methods currently permitted by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources. These methods include archery, managed (shotgun) hunts and sharpshooting. For the park near your residence, archery has been selected as the most appropriate method of deer management.

Why is deer management happening?

**Lt. Colonel
J. Dean Lay**
Deputy Chief of Police
Investigations

The deer population in Fairfax County has grown to a level that poses safety and health concerns in our communities and is not sustainable by the environment over time.

**Lt. Colonel
Robert A. Blakley**
Deputy Chief of Police
Operations

Public Safety Concerns: Serious public safety concerns are associated with an overabundant deer population. The primary concern is the high number of deer-vehicle collisions that occur annually in Fairfax County that may result in injury and even death of residents. Thousands of these collisions occur each year in Virginia.

Health Concerns: Deer play an important role in the life cycle of ticks. Ticks transmit pathogens that cause Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses. Deer are primary maintenance hosts that ticks feed upon, but deer themselves do not serve as a source of infection for the Lyme disease bacterium. There is public concern that dense deer populations may increase human risk of exposure to ticks by moving them to new areas. There is also high concern among wildlife professionals over the spread of emerging diseases, including Chronic Wasting Disease, within deer populations in Virginia.

Environmental Impact: Over-browsing by deer has also led to destruction of many of our forests. This has negatively impacted the ecosystem including loss or displacement of other wildlife species that depend on these habitats for food, cover, and nest/den sites. Over time, deer herd health also declines as habitat is degraded and more deer must compete for depleted natural foods and other resources.

The goal of the Deer Management Program is to reduce the current deer population to more sustainable levels to minimize these impacts for residents and wildlife alike.

Fairfax County Police Department
12099 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
703-246-2195, TTY 711
Facsimile 703-246-3876
www.fairfaxcounty.gov



What do I need to know about deer management happening in a park near me?

Archery will be conducted from September 10, 2022 – February 18, 2023. Archers are permitted to hunt at approved park locations Monday through Saturday, beginning 30 minutes prior to sunrise until 30 minutes past sunset. No hunting is allowed on Sunday.

Parks are NOT closed to park patrons during this time. Safety measures have been put in place to allow for continued park visitation and recreation while the archery program is conducted. Archery program signs will be posted at park entrances and on trails informing visitors of this deer management activity and asking visitors to remain on established trails. Hunting is conducted from elevated tree stands located at least 100 feet from the park property lines and 50 feet from established park trails.

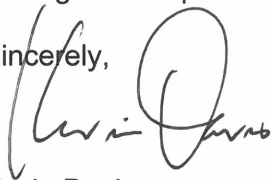
Archery hunters go through a screening process and qualifications to be eligible for the Fairfax County Deer Management Program. Archers must comply with all requirements for licenses, permits and Hunter Safety Education as mandated by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources. Additionally, archers are required to complete a course through the International Bowhunter Education Program. All archers must also pass qualifications with their bows to demonstrate superior marksmanship. Archers are required to wear program identification and display visible parking permits to show that they are associated with the Fairfax County Deer Management Program. All archers must pass a criminal background check to participate in the program. Only archers that have gone through this special screening and qualification process and are selected for the program by Police Department staff may hunt within the approved county parks in accordance with program rules. **Archers are not allowed on private property without permission by the owner or tenant.**

A recorded webinar providing an overview of the Deer Management Program will be updated in August and posted on the County's Deer Management Program website for viewing at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/wildlife/archery-public-information-meetings>.

Additional program information can be found on the Fairfax County Deer Management Program website at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/wildlife/deer-management-program>.

If you have any further questions, please contact Sergeant Earit W. Powell, at earit.powell@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-0280 or Dr. Katherine Edwards, Wildlife Management Specialist, at katherine.edwards@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-246-6868.

Sincerely,



Kevin Davis
Chief of Police

Attachment

2022-2023 ARCHERY PARKS AND ACREAGE

Archery Cluster	Parks	Acres
Accotink Stream Valley Cluster	Accotink Stream Valley Park	656
	Eakin Park (Mantua Section)	72
	Sally Ormsby Park	40
	Eakin Community Park	33
	Brookfield Park	19
	Carrleigh Parkway	10
	Hunter Village Park	20
Bull Run Marina Cluster	Bull Run Marina	258
	Hemlock Overlook	392
Bull Run Regional Park Cluster	Bull Run Regional Park	839
Clifton Cluster	Confederate Fortifications	150
	Johnny Moore Stream Valley	342
	Bull Run Regional Park South	447
Colvin Run Cluster	Colvin Run Stream Valley	44
	Difficult Run Stream Valley	285
	Colvin Run Mill Park	58
	Wolftrap Stream Valley	48
	Lake Fairfax	244
Cub Run Cluster	Cub Run Stream Valley	626
	Ellanor C. Lawrence Park	458
	Flatlick Stream Valley	60
	Rocky Run Stream Valley	190
Elklick Cluster	Elklick Preserve	1388
	Halifax Point District Park	282
	Mountain Road Park	201
	Sully Historic Site	31
	Poplar Ford Park	441
	Hickory Forest Park	95
	Horsepen Run Stream Valley	64
	Merrybrook Run Stream Valley	11
	Rock Hill District Park	169
	Cub Run Stream Valley North	138
Fairfax Station Cluster	Patriot Park	122
	Piney Branch Stream Valley	179
	Popes Head Park	38
	Willow Pond	66
	Rocky Run Stream Valley (portion)	30
	Fairfax Villa Park*	60

Archery Cluster	Parks	Acres
Fountainhead Cluster	Fountainhead Regional Park	2075
	Sandy Run Regional Park	330
Great Falls Cluster	Riverbend Park	394
	Scotts Run Nature Preserve	379
	Hickory Run School Site	11
	Lexington Estates Park	15
	Langley Oaks Park	102
	Windemere Park	24
	Pimmit Run Stream Valley	41
Huntley Meadows Cluster Abbreviated archery season at Huntley Meadows and Dogue Creek SV due to the addition of sharpshooting in late season. Archery will end at Huntley Meadows and Dogue Creek SV ONLY on Saturday, 1/7/23. Holmes Run acreage <u>does not</u> include Luria Park.	Huntley Meadows	933
	Woodlawn Park	9
	Dogue Creek Stream Valley	21
	Amberleigh Park	18
	Island Creek Park	96
	Fairchild Property	8
	John Byers Park	25
	Little Hunting Creek Park	10
	Mount Vernon District Park	19
	Holmes Run Stream Valley	80
	Lillian Carey Park	54
	Mason District Park	80
	Roundtree Park	61
	Deerlick Park	19
	Lee District Park	76
	Ridgeview Park*	22
	Pole Road Park*	47
Loisdale Park*	37	
Gristmill Park*	48	
Groveton Heights Park*	12	
Paul Springs Stream Valley (portion)*	20	
Kirk Park (portion)*	7	
Lake Accotink Cluster	Lake Accotink	407
	Wakefield Park	161
	Americana Park	4
	Long Branch Stream Valley	90

Archery Cluster	Parks	Acres
Laurel Hill Cluster	Laurel Hill Park & Golf Course	1149
	Old Colchester Park & Preserve	144
	Newington Heights	47
	Mason Neck West	44
	Pohick Bay Regional Park	525
	Noman Cole Pollution Plant	103
	BOS Mount Vernon	135
	Occoquan Regional Park	200
	Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area	649
Pohick Stream Valley Cluster	Burke Station Park	15
	Pohick Stream Valley	570
	West Springfield Village Park	10
	Kings Park West	19
	Shannon Station Park	13
	Crooked Creek Park	12
	Middle Run Stream Valley	169
	Huntsman Lake	26
	Cherry Run Park	4
	Greentree Village Park	19
Country Club View Park*	39	
Reston Cluster	Difficult Run Stream Valley	258
	Fred Crabtree Park	208
	Garnchayne Park	21
	Little Difficult Run Stream Valley	135
	Foxvale Park	25
	Waples Mill Meadow	18
	Oak Marr Park	58
Tattersall Park	35	
South Run Cluster	Burke Lake Park	323
	Lake Mercer Park	195
	South Run District Park	115
	South Run Stream Valley	319
	Sandy Run Stream Valley	39
	Brimstone Park	5
	Poburn Woods Park	11

Archery Cluster	Parks	Acres
Sugarland Run Cluster	Sugarland Run Stream Valley	200
	Shaker Woods Park	14
	Folly Lick Stream Valley	32
	Upper Potomac	646
	TNC Fraser Preserve	233
Vienna Cluster	Clarks Crossing Park	124
	Difficult Run Stream Valley	237
	Lahey Lost Valley Park	23
	Tamarack Park	21
	Old Courthouse Spring Branch Stream Valley*	33
	Raglan Road Park*	8

*New park addition for the 2022-2023 archery program

Fairfax County Deer Management Program Archery 2022-2023

Website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/wildlife/archery-program>

In 1998, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors mandated development of the Fairfax County Deer Management Program in response to concerns of county residents about the growing number and conflicts posed by overabundant deer. The program is operated primarily on county-owned properties and is implemented by the Fairfax County Police Department in collaboration with the Fairfax County Park Authority, NOVA Parks and other public landholders.

Archery Program Regulations

2022-2023 Program Dates: Saturday, September 10, 2022 - Saturday, February 18, 2023

Hunting is allowed Monday through Saturday. Hunting on Sundays is not allowed in the parks.

Legal hunting hours: 30 minutes prior to sunrise and extending until 30 minutes past sunset.

Parks remain fully open to the public during archery season.

The Fairfax County Deer Management Program operates under a Deer Population Reduction Program (DPOP) permit for antlerless deer harvest authorized by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR).

Personal tags will be used for antlered bucks. Antlered bucks can only be harvested from the first Saturday in October through the first Saturday in January.

Archers must notch a deer tag (DPOP or Personal Tag) before moving the deer and report the harvest to the DWR.

Archer Selection and Qualifications

Archers must apply to the program and are selected via a lottery. Selected archers are assigned to an archery cluster and can only hunt in designated parks within their assigned cluster. Hunting in county parks by other individuals is prohibited.

Archers must pass a criminal background check. Disqualifying convictions include, but are not limited to, any type of weapons violation, child exploitation violation, domestic violence, animal cruelty or any felony.

Each member of a Group will harvest deer only in their assigned park(s) and will have on their person or inside their vehicle the following documents when in the park(s):

- Valid Virginia Hunting license
- Valid Virginia Big Game license (Deer/Turkey license)
- Valid Virginia Archery License
- Archery Group ID & lanyard must be worn on the outside of clothing by all archers while entering and exiting the park, during any scouting, set-up or take down activities and when tracking any wounded deer. It's not necessary to wear the ID outside of clothing while in a stand for safety reasons.
- Archery Vehicle Parking Pass
- Deer Population Reduction Program (DPOP) Tags

Archers must meet Hunter Education standards as required by the DWR and must also have completed a course through the International Bowhunter Education Program.

Archers must pass qualifications with their bow(s) to be eligible for the program.

- Three out of three arrows in a 6 ¼ inch target at 20 yards and two out of three arrows in a 6 ¼ inch target at 30 yards. Maximum of 3 attempts to range qualify for the Archery Program.
- Crossbows and Compound bows ONLY. Only the bows used to qualify may be used to participate in the program.

- Broadheads ONLY - Field tips not permitted for use to qualify. Must, minimally, cut a 7/8th-inch hole. "Practice" broadheads are not permitted for qualifications.

Archer Operating Procedures

Each archer is assigned a unique ID number. This ID number must be visible on all arrows, tree stands, and game/trail cameras.

Each archer will report an accurate log of their participation within 24 hours to include:

- Cluster, Park, and Sector (as required by their group leader)
- Activity date and start and end times from vehicle departure until return to vehicle before leaving the park
- Number of deer observed from the start of activity until the end
- Number of shots taken
- Number of arrows retrieved
- Number of deer shot and retrieved
- Sex & age (fawn, yearling, adult) of deer retrieved
- Disposition of deer (kept by archer or donated to family/friend, park neighbor, Hunters for the Hungry, other charity)
- Permit and DWR checking confirmation number

Archers will submit an Incident Report for:

- Non-retrieved deer
- Lost arrow/broadhead
- Illicit hunting activity/signs of poaching
- Hunter injury
- Theft or damage of equipment
- Archer harassment or sabotage

Harvest attempts will be accomplished from elevated tree stands. Hang on, climbers, tripods, and ladder stands are permitted. The desired minimum tree stand height over level terrain is 10 feet.

Tree stands must not be located closer than 100 feet from a property line or closer than 50 feet from a park trail. There is no hunting within this 100 or 50 foot buffer.

While adjacent to off-limit County property, archers may place stands up to the edge of the park boundary as long as they face the approved park. No shots are to be taken where the arrow or bolt will impact outside of the Park property.

Hunting from the ground level in any park is prohibited within the Fairfax County Archery Program.

While archers are on the ground, arrows and bolts will be quivered (not knocked on the bow string or in crossbows) for safety. All arrows or bolts must be accounted for before leaving the area.

Archers must identify deer with 100% certainty. Deer are the only animals to be harvested. They may not take shots at moving deer. Shots of twenty-yards or less are encouraged to increase the probability of a quick, humane harvest.

Deer must be moved from public view before field dressing. Gut piles are to be left in the woods away from the public and preferably buried or covered with leaves. Archers must cover harvested deer completely while transporting.

Vehicle parking will be in designated parking areas. Parking passes will be hung on the rear-view mirror or placed on the dashboard and clearly visible from the outside. The Archery ID must be visible from outside the vehicle.

Contacts:

Dr. Katherine Edwards, katherine.edwards@fairfaxcounty.gov, 703-246-6868

Sergeant Earit Powell, earit.powell@fairfaxcounty.gov, 703-324-0280

Animal Protection Police 703-691-2131 (Police non-emergency number)

DEER MANAGEMENT NOTICE

Archery Program in Progress

(Only APPROVED MEMBERS of the Fairfax County Archery Program may hunt this designated park)



September 10, 2022

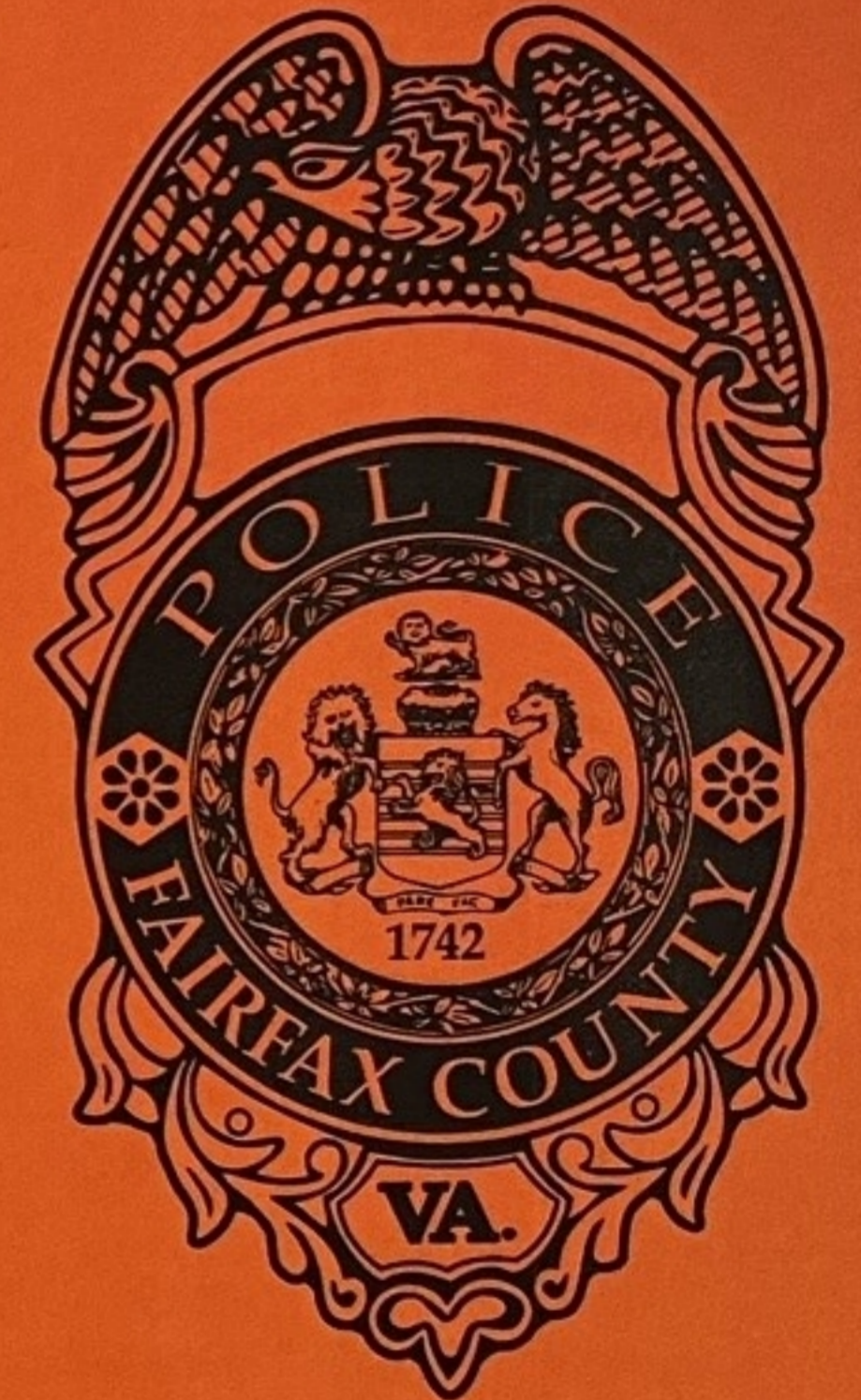
TO

February 18, 2023

Except Sundays

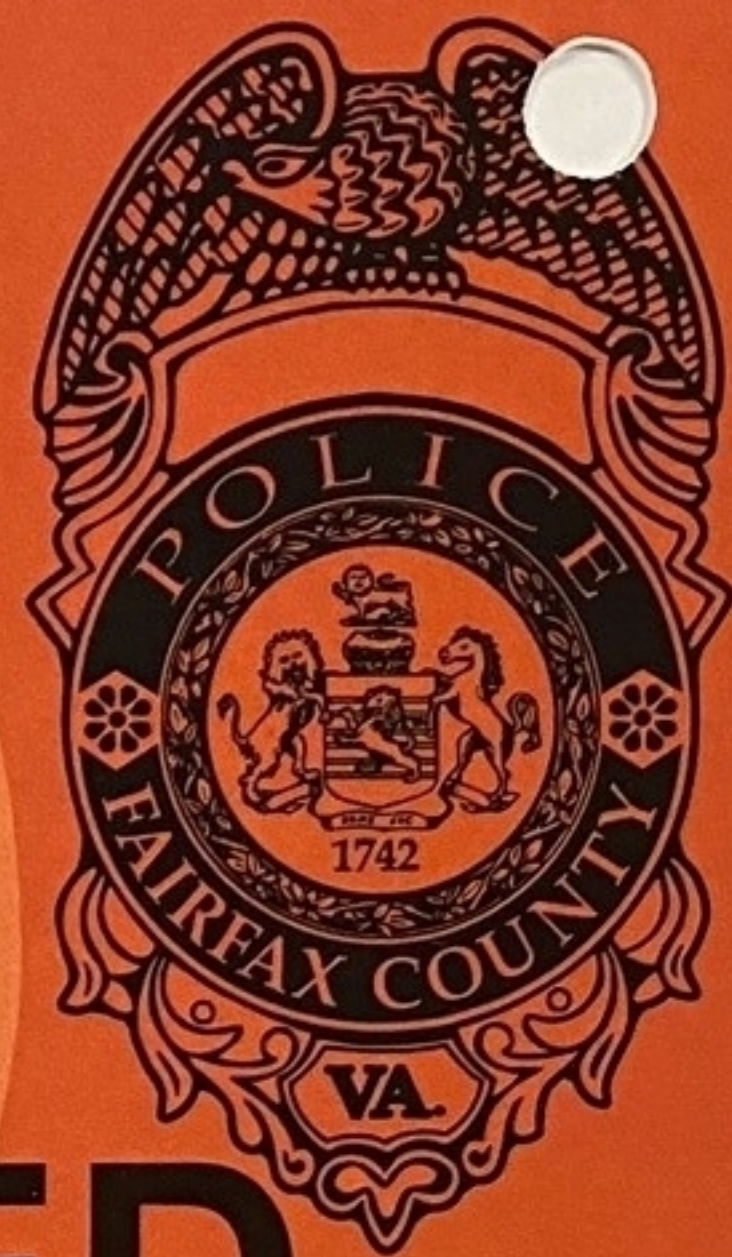
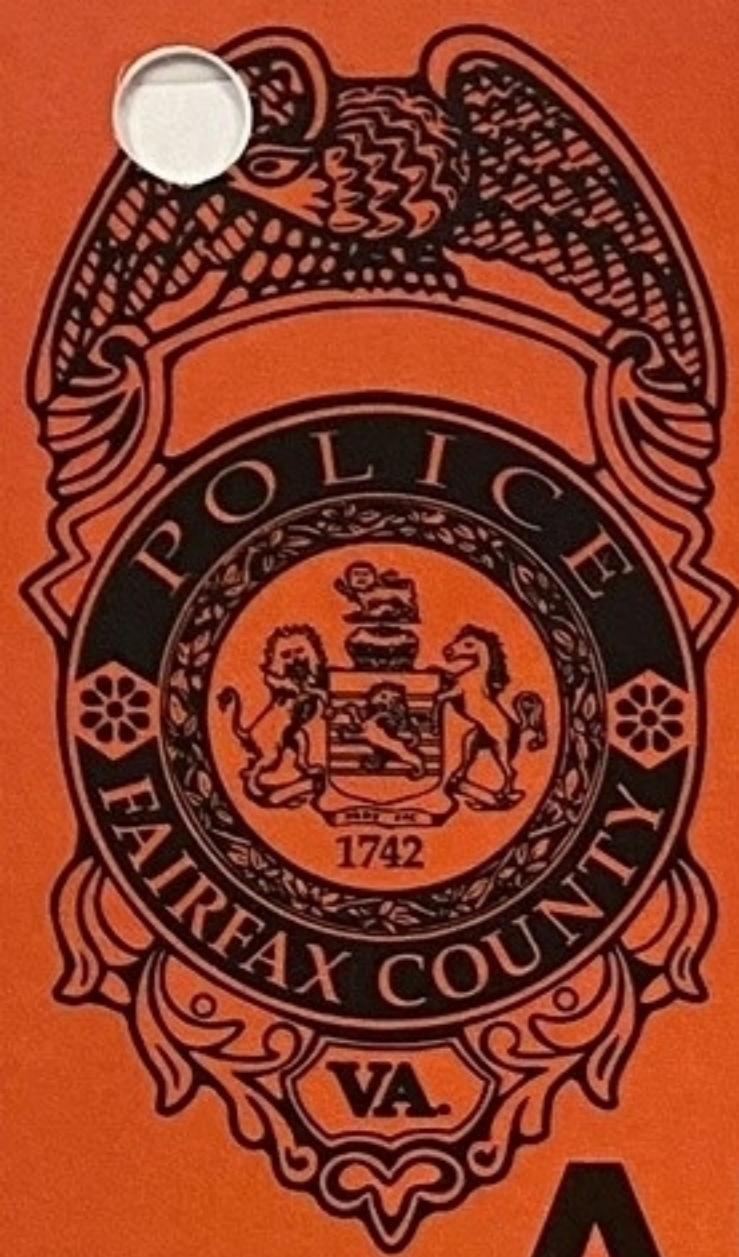
Stay on established trails

Keep all dogs on leash as required by law



Per County Code 2-1-7 and 2-1-8; No person who shall willfully damage, destroy, deface remove, any property belonging to the County. The violator shall be liable to the County for the replacement or repair of the County Property affected in addition be guilty of a misdemeanor.

More information available at 703-246-6868 or
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/wildlife/archery-program>



AUTHORIZED PARKING AREA DEER MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

(Only APPROVED MEMBERS of the Fairfax County Archery Program may hunt this designated park)

**September 10, 2022
TO
February 18, 2023**

Per County Code 2-1-7 and 2-1-8; No person who shall willfully damage, destroy, deface remove, any property belonging to the County. The violator shall be liable to the County for the replacement or repair of the County Property affected in addition be guilty of a misdemeanor.

More information available at 703-246-6868 or
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/wildlife/archery-program>

PARKING PERMIT

2022-23



**FAIRFAX COUNTY
ARCHERY PROGRAM**

22

