

# **Boone County Conservation District**

## **Archery & Firearm Hunt Programs**

### **Information for Fall of 2023**



**The information found inside this packet is intended as a guide for a participant to enjoy a safe and enjoyable hunting season at Boone County Conservation District sites!**

## **Boone County Conservation District (BCCD)**

### **BCCD Hunt Programs Rules and Regulations**

#### **I. GENERAL**

1. The Boone County Conservation District reserves the right to immediately revoke a hunter's privileges as well as impose suspension of future hunting privileges if any of the RULES AND REGULATIONS are not followed.
2. Hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. No bow and arrow device shall be carried with the arrow in the nocked position, nor shall any firearm be loaded during hours when deer hunting is unlawful.
3. No participant shall hunt without a Boone County Conservation District permit which shall be issued on an annual basis.
4. To be eligible for a BCCD hunting permit, every applicant must possess a valid Illinois Hunting License, a valid hunter safety certification card, and an appropriate Illinois Deer Archery or Firearm Permit and/or Turkey Permit.
5. No participant shall go on private property bordering a conservation area without permission from the adjoining landowner.
6. All State and Federal Game Codes must be followed.
7. Any participant under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
8. All participants must clearly display the BCCD Identification Card, supplied by the District on the dashboard of their vehicle and/or when requested by a District employee or Conservation Officer.
9. No participant shall be intoxicated, possess, or consume alcoholic beverages or drugs before or while hunting.
10. All BCCD hunting participants must use the established parking lots or designated parking area. No parking along county or township roads.
11. No use of ATV's or motorized (gas, diesel or electric powered) vehicles or equipment allowed except as permitted by BCCD policy governing mobility devices.
12. Each participant must carry a safety whistle to be used in the event of a medical emergency and is exclusive for that purpose. Each participant hearing a whistle must respond immediately.
13. The District reserves the right to suspend hunting at any time in any area for any reason.
14. The BCCD Hunting Programs (archery and firearm) are lottery programs for both participation and site/stand placement.

## II. ARCHERY HUNTING

1. The BCCD Archery Hunt Program includes deer and turkey hunting. The Illinois seasons for deer and fall turkey hunting are coincidental. Participants will now be permitted to harvest deer and/or turkey following all State of Illinois rules and regulations as well as all BCCD Hunting Program rules and regulations. Participants will pay one archery hunt program participation fee and will be required to qualify as has been the tradition of the BCCD Archery Hunt Program. The BCCD does receive notice of IDNR citations, and these violations may trigger penalties for hunt program participants.
2. All Archery Hunters are expected to accommodate firearm hunt program participants' need to carry in and set-up stands. Additionally, Firearm hunters are required to set their stands within 50 feet of their designated hunt stand location. Occasionally, these stand locations will be near a stand site selected by an archery hunter. Please recognize that the firearm hunters **must** conform to the stand location they are assigned to. Risk management criteria was used to establish firearm hunt stand locations, so we cannot alter them.
3. **BCCD Property Borders, Trails, and Adjacent Inhabited Dwellings:** All hunters must remain at least 75 feet off all gravel or paved roadways. Hunters must be at least 30 yards inside conservation district property boundaries. At Kinnikinnick – All hunters must remain at least 100 feet from any adjoining property, which typically means remaining on the interior side the equestrian trail.
  - a. **Hunting Near Inhabited Dwellings:** Illinois State Hunting Regulations state: “*You cannot legally* hunt or allow a dog to hunt within 300 yards of an inhabited dwelling without first obtaining permission of the owner or tenant of the dwelling.” **Except:** A 100-yard restriction shall apply while trapping, hunting with bow and arrow, or hunting with shotgun using shotshells only, or on licensed game breeding and hunting preserve areas, on federally owned and managed lands, on IDNR-owned, -managed, -leased or -controlled lands.”
4. **Archery Qualifications:** Archery qualifications are held annually starting on the second Saturday in May (8 a.m. to 2 p.m.); the following Tuesday (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) and Thursday (noon to 7 p.m.). The qualifications are held at the Kishwaukee Valley Conservation Area located at 9416 U.S. Highway 20, Garden Prairie, Illinois. Each participant will pay a \$10 qualification fee as well as a \$55.00 non-refundable\* deposit, which will be collected at the qualification site. The \$10 fee helps defray the cost of BCCD staff conducting the qualifications and the \$55 deposit will be applied to the annual hunting fee (see fee schedule below). \*If a participant fails to qualify a refund will be issued.
  - a. Participants qualifying with a compound style bow are required to hit 4 out of 5 arrows in a 6” target at 20 yards.
  - b. Participants qualifying with a non-mechanical or recurve bow are required to hit 4 out of 5 arrows in a 6” target at 15 yards.
  - c. Participants qualifying with a cross bow are required to hit 3 out of 4 bolts in a 6” target at 20 yards.
5. **Archery Hunt Lottery:** Lottery Drawing Process:
  - a. Groups and individuals are assigned a lottery number placed on a poker chip. The lottery drawing will be video recorded.
  - b. First-round drawing for first choice rankings:
    - i. The site being drawn for is announced. Each group or individual hunter, that ranked that site as their first choice, will have their assigned chip/number placed into the container for the first-round drawing.
    - ii. A volunteer will draw a chip, read the number and the represented group or individual will be recorded on a sheet in the order the number was pulled. The order that groups or individuals are drawn will also be used to assign the order hunters can select stand site locations on “sticker day.”

iii. First-round drawing for each site continues until:

1. The capacity of that site is reached, or
2. All the hunters who ranked the site as their first choice have been drawn.
3. Any vacancies remaining will be available for the second-round drawing.

c. Second-round drawing:

1. Sites with remaining vacancies are identified.
2. All group and individual chips that have not been drawn will be placed into the draw container – unless a group or individual has indicated that they do not want to hunt an alternative site that is not their first-choice ranking.
3. In this round, as each chip/number is pulled the group or individual’s rankings will be consulted to determine whether-or-not one of their preferred sites has vacancies. If so, the group or individual will be placed at their highest ranked site. If not, the group or individual will be assigned to hunt at a site with the best match for remaining vacancies relative to the group size.
4. The order of assignment to sites will continue as an extension of the first-round list for purposes of the “sticker day” stand selection process.
5. The second-round drawing will proceed until each site reaches capacity. Once all the sites vacancies have been filled, the lottery drawing will conclude.

d. Additional drawing protocols:

1. **Capacity Issue:** A group is drawn that has more people than that site’s established/recommended capacity. Example, the site’s established/recommended capacity indicates two vacancies remain and a group of four people is drawn.
2. **Resolution** – the drawn group will be allowed to hunt the site and at that point the site will be deemed as having reached its total capacity.

5. **Site classifications:** Sites are grouped into 3 different classifications. Each class has a different number of available hunting days.

- a. Class 1 sites (18 hunting days) sites open to hunting on select Friday-Sunday weekends throughout the archery season.
  - LIB C/A
  - Ipsen Rd. C/A
  - Newburg Village C/A
  - Distillery Road C/A
- b. Class 2 sites (54 hunting days) sites open to hunting on select Friday-Sunday weekends until November 15<sup>th</sup>. Site open to hunting November 15<sup>th</sup> – January 14<sup>th</sup> except for firearm seasons.
  - Kinnikinnick Creek C/A
  - Piscasaw Fen C/A
  - County Line East C/A
  - Sewell C/A
  - Silberhorn C/A
  - Savanna Oaks C/A

- Kishwaukee Valley C/A
  - Funderburg North C/A(South of Woodstock Rd.)
  - Funderburg south C/A.
- c. Class 3 sites (85 hunting days) sites open to hunting from October 1<sup>st</sup>-January 16<sup>th</sup> except for firearm seasons.
- Ballard Farm C/A
  - Rainbow Gardens C/A
  - Beaver Bluffs C/A
  - Funderburg North C/A (North of Woodstock Rd.)
  - Luckey Woods C/A.

**6. Fee Schedule: All fees are due by September 1st, 2023. Fees paid after September 1<sup>st</sup> will incur a \$15 late charge. If fees are not paid in full by October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, hunting rights will be considered forfeited.**

- a. Class 1 site (18 hunting days)
- Boone County Resident – adult = \$55
  - Boone County Resident – youth = \$25
  - Non-resident – adult = \$80
  - Non-resident – youth = \$30
  - Program Participant Volunteers = Credited fee reduction
- b. Class 2 site (54 hunting days)
- Boone County Resident – adult = \$80
  - Boone County Resident – youth = \$50
  - Non-resident – adult = \$115
  - Non-resident – youth = \$60
  - Program Participant Volunteers = Credited fee reduction
- c. Class 3 site (85 hunting days)
- Boone County Resident – adult = \$110
  - Boone County Resident – youth = \$75
  - Non-resident – adult = \$165
  - Non-resident – youth = \$90
  - Program Participant Volunteers = Credited fee reduction

**7. Location & Placement of Hunting Stands – or Sticker Day:** Hunters will come to the BCCD Administration Office located at 603 North Appleton Road in Belvidere to select their archery stand locations by placing a sticker on an aerial photograph of their designated hunting area. The process will occur as follows:

- a. There is no distinction between deer or turkey hunter for hunting stand selection. Everyone follows this process.
- b. On Saturday, September 9th, 2023, qualified hunters will arrive at their designated time for sticker placement. Each conservation area will have a designated time – for example, hunters drawn to hunt at Kinnikinnick Conservation Area will have between 11:00 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. to enter the building and place their stickers on the aerial photograph to designate their hunting stand location.

- c. The order by which hunters will place their stickers will no longer be based on a first come basis. The order will be determined by the order each hunter or hunting group is drawn when the lottery for site selection is done. However, this method will require hunters to be at the office at the beginning of their time slot to place their stickers as everyone in attendance will be arranged in the order that they were drawn during the site selection lottery.
- d. If a hunter or hunting group is not able to arrive at the beginning of the time slot for their designated hunting area that hunter or hunting group will have the following options:
  - Arrival during their site’s time slot, but after the initial start time – may join the waiting line at their original placement or move ahead of the remaining individuals in line if they were drawn for an earlier selection number than those remaining in the line.
  - Arrival after their designated time slot – If a hunter or group representative arrives after the designated time-period for placing stickers at their designated hunting area; that person(s) will be permitted to walk-in and place their sticker or group’s stickers on the site map.
  - Participants not able to attend on September 9<sup>th</sup> – hunt program participants will be allowed to place stickers to designate their hunting stand location during regular business hours of the BCCD – or, if needed, arrange an appointment with a BCCD staff person to complete this task prior to hunting after sticker day.
- e. When it is your turn to enter the building, you will be provided with 1 to 4 stickers to mark your stand location, and if needed, the stand locations for other members of your designated hunting group. No one is permitted to place a sticker on a hunting map for someone who is not a member of their own hunting group.
- f. Hunters will write their hunting permit number on the sticker(s) and place them on the conservation area aerial photo map that corresponds with you and/or your hunting group’s designated hunting area.
- g. After you have placed your sticker(s) on the map of your designated hunting area we ask that you leave the building to keep the process moving.
- h. The official hunting stand maps will be kept at the administration office throughout the archery hunt season.
- i. Hunters may relocate their chosen stand site but must do so by coming into the office and making the change with BCCD staff assistance during regular business hours.
- j. If necessary, it may be possible to request an appointment (with sufficient advanced notice) to meet a staff person and make a stand location change outside normal business hours.
- k. **Schedule for September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, to place stickers and identify your hunting stand location:**
  - Beaver Bluffs Conservation Area: 8:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.
  - Distillery Road Conservation Area: 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
  - Ipsen Road & Newburg Village: 9:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.
  - Rainbow Gardens & Luckey Woods: 9:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
  - Kinnikinnick Creek Cons. Area: 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
  - Lib & Savanna Oaks Cons. Area: 10:30 to 10:45 a.m.
  - Piscasaw Fen Cons. Area: 10:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
  - Ballard Farm Cons. Area: 11:00 a.m. to 11:20 a.m.

- Kishwaukee Valley Cons. Area: 11:20 a.m. to 11:40 a.m.
- East County Line Cons. Area: 11:40 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.
- Funderburg Cons. Area North: 11:50 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.
- Sewell & Silberhorn Cons. Area: 12:05 p.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- Funderburg Cons. Area South: 12:15 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Conservation Area	Acres	Number of Hunters	Site Class
1. Ballard Farm C/A	233.13	8	3
2. Beaver Bluffs C/A	79.1	4	3
3. Distillery Road C/A	462.91	12	1
4. East County Line C/A	96.68	6	2
5. Funderburg North (North of Woodstock Rd.)	67	3	3
6. Funderburg North (South of Woodstock Rd.)	124.12	4	2
7. Funderburg South (North of Marengo Rd.)	105	3	3
8. Funderburg South (South of Marengo Rd.)	229.5	6	2
9. Ipsen Road and Newburg Village C/A	247.26	8	1
10. Kinnikinnick Creek C/A	429	14	2
11. Kishwaukee Valley C/A	124.85	7	2
12. LIB C/A	231.79	10	1
13. Luckey Woods C/A	24.31	2	3
14. Piscasaw Fen C/A	177	6	2
15. Rainbow Gardens C/A	93.51	9	3
16. Savanna Oaks C/A	28.17	1	3
17. Sewell C/A	200.82	3	2
18. Silberhorn C/A	25.13	2	2

\*\*\* Total number of hunters per site can be adjusted at BCCD staff Discretion. \*\*\*

#### 8. Hunting Stands:

- a. All archery program participants are allowed to set-up one (1) hunting stand.
- b. Procedures for moving a stand to another location:
  - Prior to physically moving the stand a hunter shall.
    1. Confirm the proposed stand location will not interfere with other hunter(s) by checking the current map of stand locations (stickers on aerial photo) with BCCD staff assistance.
    2. Once approved by BCCD staff, the hunting stand can be moved.



- c. **Sharing Hunting Stands:** Members of a hunting group may permit other members of their hunting group to hunt from their individual hunting stand. Groups may select to do this by checking the box on their hunting qualification paperwork indicating “I allow members of this hunting group to hunt from my stand.” Doing this will acknowledge the permission with all members of the hunting group.
9. No nails or spikes are to be driven into any trees. (No boot-type tree climbing aids are allowed.) Permanent tree stands are not allowed.
  10. All tree stands shall display an ID tag issued by the BCCD. The tag must be visible to read from the ground. Any tree stands or ground blinds not displaying a valid BCCD issued ID tag will be in violation and removed.
  11. All participants must use a safety harness specifically intended for use with elevated hunting stands.
  12. Deer or turkey harvested on District property must be properly tagged before field dressing or being moved.
  13. Harvested deer or turkey **must be reported to the BCCD** by the hunter who harvested the animal. The following information is required: 1) sex of the deer/turkey; 2) date & time deer/turkey was harvested; 3) conservation area where deer/turkey was harvested. Hunters may e-mail this information to the BCCD at: [Office@bccdil.org](mailto:Office@bccdil.org) or call 815-547-7935.
  14. All harvested deer **must be tested by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for Chronic Wasting Disease** provided the IDNR conducts the testing at no cost to BCCD Hunt Program participants.
  15. Any participant wishing to track a wounded deer or turkey in an adjoining conservation area that is part of the BCCD archery hunt program is allowed to search for the animal.
  16. Any participant wishing to track a wounded deer or turkey outside the approved conservation area must obtain permission from the private property owners.
  17. No field dressing of deer or turkey on hiking trails, along roadways, or in parking lot. Do not cover entrails with leaves, grass, etc.
  18. No participant may possess firearms while on District property and participating in the BCCD archery hunt program – except as permitted by state and/or federal law.
  19. No cutting of vegetation which has a stem diameter of larger than two inches. At Kinnikinnick, only minimal trimming of vegetation is permitted or allowed.
  20. Use of plastic flagging, spray paint or other non-removable methods to mark trails is strictly prohibited. All removable trail markers shall be removed by the same date that stands must be removed.



### **Special Information for Kinnikinnick Archery Hunters**

In addition to the rules and regulations listed on the Hunting Rules sheet, the District and the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission require the following provisions be followed at the **Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area**:

1. Minimal trimming is allowed for the deer stand. A portion of Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area is also a dedicated Illinois Nature Preserve, which is subject to strict rules and regulations of the state with respect to damage to trees, shrubs, or other vegetation. Do your best to only trim small (finger-sized) twigs and branches.
2. Hunters must remain at least **100 feet inside the property line** from any Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area boundary with an adjoining private property. In most circumstances this means hunting on the interior side of the horse trail, which follows the perimeter of the entire conservation area.
3. Note: To enter the service entrance off Harnish Road, you must park in the designated (mowed) parking area; vehicles are **not permitted** beyond the mowed parking area.

### III. Firearm Hunting

1. **Hunting Program Participants:** Selection of participants for the firearm deer hunt will be conducted via a lottery system. Interested participants can enter the drawing by completing an entry form. Limit of one entry per person. There is no cost to enter the drawing.

- a. *(Note: all entry forms must be filled in with the required information to be eligible for the lottery drawing. Incomplete forms will not be accepted.)*
- b. Each entry form can be completed online from the BCCD website. Entries completed online will receive a verification e-mail to confirm it was received, **all other forms of submittal will not include a verification of entry**. All entry forms must be received before 3:00 p.m. on Monday, July 24th, 2023, to be eligible for the lottery drawing held on Friday, July 28th, 2023 between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
- c. The following is required information on the entry form:
  - i. Name, Address, Phone Number (cell phone preferred), e-mail address.
  - ii. Hunter Safety Certificate Number (must show card to a BCCD staff member or include your date of birth so the District can verify the hunter safety certificate, to be eligible to enter the lottery drawing)
  - iii. Youth with accompanying adult: Youth may hunt with an accompanying adult but will be required to hunt from the same stand location. Both the adult and the youth must show a hunter safety card. The entry form will have a box to check designating the intent to hunt with a youth. Applicants must provide all the relevant information for the youth hunter on the entry form. Youth hunters must provide a signed statement allowing program participation by their legal parent or guardian. Youth hunters must successfully qualify to participate in this hunting program.
  - iv. Hunters with disabilities may hunt with an able-bodied partner, provided they both hunt from the same stand location. Hunters requesting this accommodation shall provide proof of P2A designation. All hunters must be able to hunt from an elevated stand that may be located up to ½ mile from designated parking area and accessed by walking on rough, uneven terrain.
  - v. Applicants may designate or rank their preference for each of four general locations. These locations include:
    1. Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area
    2. Piscasaw Fen and Funderburg (North) Conservation Areas
    3. Kishwaukee Valley Conservation Areas (Kishwaukee Valley; Hazelwood site; Rainbow Gardens)
    4. Kishwaukee Bottoms Conservation Areas (Ipsen Road; Ballard Farm; Distillery Road; Beaver Bluffs; LIB Conservation Areas)

2. **The Firearm lottery will be conducted in the following way:**

- a. A drawing for all hunters will involve pulling chips randomly from a container. Each chip represents a hunter entered in the drawing. The lottery drawing will be video recorded. There is no cost to participate in the lottery.
- b. Applicants do not need to attend the lottery drawing. Persons drawn to participate in the hunt will be contacted by phone and/or e-mail following the drawing.

- c. If drawn to participate, BCCD staff or designated lottery official(s) will review the applicant's ranking or preference for BCCD firearm hunt locations. A second numbered chip will be drawn from chips with stand numbers from the applicant's highest ranked preference for sites. If, the first ranked location of preference is already full, a chip will be drawn from the next highest ranked preference location still available. If no preference is selected on the lottery entrance form, the applicant will be drawn for a stand site that is still available.

3. **Qualification Requirements:** Persons drawn to participate in the firearm hunt shall first successfully complete the qualification process to participate. The qualification consists of demonstrating the ability to hit the kill zone of a deer (a six-inch target or target designated at qualification event) at 50-yards; shoot from an elevated stand; and place three out of four consecutive shots within the qualification target. Participants will be provided two attempts to successfully complete the qualification. A person who is unsuccessful in a first attempt may be directed to return to the back of the line and wait until other scheduled applicants have finished before they are given their second attempt. The range master will have the authority to disqualify any individual who, in their judgment, becomes problematic or unsafe in this process. The BCCD Firearm Program allows the use of any firearm that meets the legal criteria of state and federal hunting laws. Successfully qualified individuals are required to hunt with the firearm that was used to qualify for the BCCD firearm hunt program.

a. Qualification Dates for 2023:

- i. Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- ii. Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- iii. Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- iv. Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- v. Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- vi. Inclement Weather/ Re-Scheduling Date: Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Note: Depending on the number of participants, we may expand the number of qualification dates/times.

4. **Mandatory Orientation and Safety Meeting:** All hunters are required to review the rules, hunting stand location maps for the conservation area they were drawn to hunt at, and all safety requirements as a prerequisite to participating in the BCCD firearm hunting program. This activity may occur concurrently with the hunter qualification process; or it may occur as the result of a BCCD organized group meeting; and/or as an individual assessment confirmed by an authorized signature verification. The BCCD has formed a mentorship program to assist new hunters with orientation and other hunt program criteria. Any hunter can request assistance from a BCCD Hunting Program Mentor by checking the box marked "Request a Mentor" on the application form.

5. **Firearm Hunts:** The BCCD firearm hunting program will consist of three firearm hunts. For the fall/winter 2023 hunting period the following hunting dates are part of this year's firearm deer hunt program:

- a. The first firearm hunt (November 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023)
- b. The second firearm hunt (November 30<sup>th</sup> – December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023)
- c. The first CWD firearm hunt (December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023)

6. **Hunting Criteria - Stands & Set-up Information:**

- a. Hunters will be required to carry their unloaded firearm to and from the parking area to their stand location in a case.
- b. Persons participating in the BCCD firearm deer hunt program will be required to hunt from an elevated stand.

- c. Persons requiring an accommodation to participate in this program can request the assistance of an able body hunter. This accommodation is designated on the lottery ticket. The BCCD will not provide any stands or equipment; hunters must provide all their own hunting equipment and/or gear.
- d. Hunters must set-up their own stands. All participants must use a safety harness while in a stand.
- e. Hunters shall not clear shooting lanes or otherwise alter the area they are hunting.
- f. Hunters shall not permanently mark trails or clear pathways to the stand location they are hunting. Hunters may use biodegradable flagging (provided at hunter safety meeting) or removable, reflective clips. All markers shall be removed by the date that stands must be removed. There may be a penalty of \$50 imposed if markers are not removed or are not in conformity with these rules.
- g. Hunters must set-up their elevated stand within a fifty (50) foot radius of the stand location marker. Hunters can locate their stand position by using the GPS coordinates provided for that stand. Some locations may require the use of a tripod or other self-supporting stand as there may not be any trees near the stand marker.
- h. No field dressing of deer on hiking trails, along roadways, or in parking lot. Do not cover entrails with leaves, grass, etc.
- i. **Safety Information & Reminders:**
  - i. Hunter and public safety shall be every participant's first priority.
  - ii. Be sure of your target; be sure you know what is behind your target - before taking a shot.
  - iii. Do not shoot at running deer.
  - iv. All hunters should carry a cell phone if they have one.
  - v. Hunters must be attentive – People may unexpectedly appear on public conservation land, be polite and ask them to leave. Call the police or sheriff's department if the person or group refuses to leave. Provide your stand number and name of the conservation area you are hunting.
  - vi. **Emergency – Dial 911**
  - vii. Non-emergency police contact number: (815) 544-2144
- j. **Stands may be set-up on the following dates for the 2023 firearm hunt program:**
  - i. First Hunt: Sunday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023
  - ii. Second Hunt: Sunday, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023
  - iii. CWD Hunt: Sunday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023
  - iv. **Please note: Be considerate of Archery Hunters when scouting your stand site or setting up your stand!! Do your best to avoid and minimize hunter conflicts!**
- k. **Stand Removal:** Stands shall be removed within two days of:
  - i. The conclusion of the 2023 BCCD firearm hunt program, or
  - ii. The last day of a hunt that a hunter elects to no longer continue hunting.

7. **Reporting Harvested Deer:** Hunters that harvest a deer shall report their harvest to the designated check-in/check-out volunteer at the time of their daily check-out phone call. Any hunter that fails to notify the BCCD via the daily check-out process will lose all future hunting privileges. Successful hunters will also be required to check harvested deer as per the IDNR requirements (check stations) for that season.

8. **Tracking Deer:** Hunters shall not be allowed to carry a firearm while tracking deer. Deer may not be dispatched using a firearm unless the shooter is in their elevated stand. Hunters may not track deer beyond 100 yards or outside of a clear view of their stand - except between 9:30 AM and 2:30 PM (Mid-Day Period), and after the end of hunting for the day. Any participant wishing to track a wounded deer outside the conservation area must obtain permission from the private property owners.

9. **Harvest Disputes:** The last person to shoot a deer, regardless if it was previously wounded; shall be the person determined to tag that deer. Any disagreement between hunters shall be resolved by a single coin toss.

10. **CWD Testing:** Hunters that harvest a deer **shall submit their deer for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing provided by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.** This is a free service provided by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to BCCD hunters. Any hunter that fails to submit their deer for CWD testing will lose all future hunting privileges.

11. **Firearm Stand Locations:** A total of 59 stand sites have been established. The BCCD sites that were determined to have stand locations which meet or exceed all setback criteria specified in the Illinois regulations for deer hunting are listed in the table at the end of this document. Stand sites are depicted on a Boone County map and are shown as a red dot with a stand number. Each stand site is also shown with a 150-yard radius (black circle drawn around the red dot marking the stand site). The circle is drawn to depict a minimum distance of separation between stands. The district may or may not utilize all stand locations during any given firearm hunt.

12. **Hunting Time Criteria:**

a. **Daily Check-in Process:** Hunters must check in with the volunteer or staff person by phone or text, each morning of their hunt between 4:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. Hunters must arrive at their designated parking area by 5:30 a.m. each morning.

b. **Movement Restrictions:** (*Emergency Situations Exempted*)

i. **5:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. - Morning Period:** Hunters must remain in their stands to prevent hunter disturbance, no entry or departing your hunt stand is allowed. Hunters must stay at their designated stand location even if you harvest a deer.

ii. **9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. - Mid-Day Period:** Hunters may depart and return to their hunting stand location. No entry is allowed after 2:30 p.m.

iii. **2:30 p.m. to End of Day - Afternoon Period:** Hunters must stay at their designated hunt stand location until ½ hour after sunset, even if you harvest a deer. Hunters may move from their stand to look for a deer that has been shot but must remain within 100 yards and clear view of their stand.

iv. **Tracking & Recovering Deer:** *See Section 8, Tracking Deer*

c. **Daily Check-out Process:** **Hunters shall call or text to check out from their deer stand and report harvest information between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the end of each hunting day.** The call or text should be made during this time period, regardless of the time the hunter left the stand for the day, because this is the only time that the volunteer staffing the phone will be available to take the daily check-out calls. A cell phone number will be provided to all hunters once the volunteer(s) who will be taking the check-out calls is established for each hunting season. When checking out you should provide: the number of hours you hunted that day and report any deer you harvested. **Reporting any harvested deer to the designated check-in/check-out volunteer is mandatory. In the event it is not reported to the designated check-in/check-out volunteer, please report harvest date, time, and sex to [office@bccdil.org](mailto:office@bccdil.org).**

**13. Fees:**

- a. Persons who are drawn by lottery to participate in the firearm deer hunt and have satisfied the qualification requirements will pay a fee to participate in the hunt. The following fee structure applies:
  - i. Boone County Resident – adult = \$55
  - ii. Boone County Resident – youth = \$25
  - iii. Non-resident – adult = \$80
  - iv. Non-resident – youth = \$35
  - v. Program Participant Volunteers = Credited fee reduction
- b. All participants will be required to pay a \$15.00 fee to cover the qualification expenses.

**14. Program Participant Volunteers:** Participants who volunteer to help run the firearm hunt will be credited according to the current value of volunteer service in Illinois as determined by Independent Sector. Volunteers may contribute as much time as they would like - however the fee reduction may equal, but never exceed, the value of the individual's participation fee for the hunt program.

- a. Program Participant Volunteers can help with any volunteer program of the BCCD. However, there may be volunteer options specific to the hunting program – such as:
  - i. Daily check-in and check-out of hunters
  - ii. Pre-hunt set-up / stand evaluations / shooting lane assessments
  - iii. Help implement the mandatory orientation and safety meeting
  - iv. Coordination of standby hunters
- b. All Program Participant Volunteers must log their volunteer time with the BCCD Program Support Coordinator, Mark Freedland, to receive program fee reduction credits.

**15. Gates:** Many BCCD sites have gates at the entrance. During the hunt season these gates will be closed and locked. Hunters will be provided a code to unlock the gate and enter the site. Hunters will close and lock the gate when entering and leaving the site.

**16. Snow Removal:** The BCCD **will not** be plowing snow or maintaining any facilities at sites closed for the winter season (Between November 15<sup>th</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>).

**Any participant who violates any of these Rules and Regulations will have their permit revoked. The District reserves the right not to issue a permit to any person, for hunting is a privilege, not a right.**

## Boone County Conservation District Firearm Hunt – hunting stand locations

Site Name		Stand #s	GPS Coordinates		Other Information
			Latitude	Longitude	
Ballard Farm Conservation Area, located off of Shaw Road (former Shappert Property)		1			Stand #s: 1-7 will not hunted in - 2023
		2			
		3			
		4			
		5			
		6			
		7			
		8			
LIB Conservation Area	Kishwaukee Bottoms	9			
		10			
		11			
		12			
		13			
Distillery Road Conservation Area		14			
		15			
		16			
		19			
		20			
Nelson Ford Conservation Area		17			
		18			
		21			



Site Name	Stand #s	GPS Coordinates		Other Information
		Latitude	Longitude	
	22			
Anderson Bend/Woods Conservation Area	23 24 25 26 27			
Spencer Conservation Area	28 29 30 31			All four stands in Spencer will not be hunted in -2023
Beaver Bluffs Conservation Area	32 33 34			
Rainbow Gardens Conservation Area	35 36			
Kishwaukee Valley Conservation Area	37 38			
Hazelwood Site (Leased from Openlands)	39 40			
Piscasaw Fen Conservation Area	41			

Site Name	Stand #s	GPS Coordinates		Other Information
		Latitude	Longitude	
	42 43 44 45			
Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area	46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 57			
Ipsen Road Conservation Area	55 56			
Tuttle/Clarkson Natural Area	58			
Funderburg Conservation Area	59			

Note: A Boone County Map showing the general location of these hunting stand locations is available on the BCCD website.