

Sudbury Bow Hunting Program

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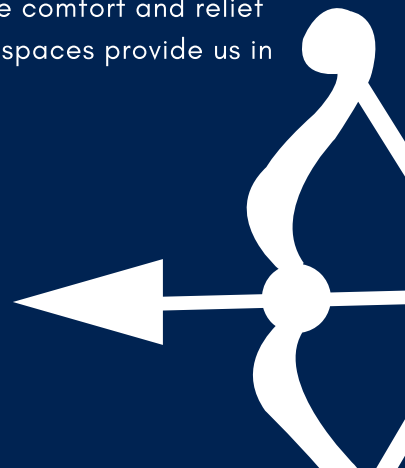
Since 1999, the Sudbury Conservation Commission has been administering a program to help manage the deer population in Sudbury, which continues today. This was implemented due to the negative impacts that were occurring due to the perceived overpopulation of deer. These include over-browsing of our native flora, malnourishment of the deer population, increase in ticks and tick-borne diseases, and increased car/deer interactions. To help manage the deer population, the Commission permits a small number of archers to hunt deer, with bow and arrow, from October through the end of the December on a number of conservation properties.

Sudbury has been lucky to have a dedicated group of archers, some that have been with us since the program's inception, that have not only helped trim the deer population, but their presence has reduced the opportunity for illegal hunting from occurring. Archers in the program additionally benefit the Town by providing a minimum of two hours of service to manage Sudbury's conservation lands. On average, roughly a dozen deer are removed from Sudbury through this program. This year, the Commission expanded the program to allow Junior Archers into the program. Junior archers are age 17 and under and are under the direct supervision of an archer licensed in the program.

Locations where the Commission allows bow hunting include Nobscot, Piper Farm, Libby Conservation Land, Poor Farm Meadow, Frost Farm, Davis Farm, Wake Robin Woods (inclusive of Parkinson Land, Howe Land and Broadacres), Lincoln Meadows, Hop Brook, Mahoney Farm, and Tippling Rock.

Reducing the deer population is not the only thing that we as humans can do to improve the health of the deer population. Increases in the human population lead to increased development pressures on our natural spaces, creation of artificial landscapes with non-native species, loss of habitat, degradation of natural flora with the introduction of invasive species that reduce that amount of food available to deer, and increases the number of cars on the road that can interact with deer. The deer population used to be kept in check by predators, but humans have removed these predators from the area. Every new house that is built, results in a reduction in deer habitat. The reduction in native vegetation results in the deer over eating the native species that are left, leading to loss of our ephemeral flowers and understory vegetation.

The Conservation Commission works hard to balance protecting our natural spaces with development. We are greatly appreciative of the extensive number of residents that have chosen to leave the areas surrounding their houses natural and/or have taken on the challenge of remove invasive species. We all must do our part to minimize our impact on the natural world, if not for our native deer, then for the comfort and relief that walking through these spaces provide us in this stressful world.



Bow Hunting Locations

