

Deer Bow Hunting Season has Begun in Sudbury.

Archery deer hunting season is governed by the State Fish and and Wildlife regulations. This year the season runs from Oct. 16 through Dec. 30. Hunting with a firearm is strictly prohibited on town conservation lands. Firearms may be used on state and federal property with proper permits from these agencies. The Town has no control over hunting on these parcels. Land owners with large parcels may also provide written permission to hunt. There is no hunting statewide on Sundays.

The Town of Sudbury issues approximately 22 permits per season to bow hunters to harvest deer from most town conservation lands and two other town parcels. Sudbury residents are given preference with all other factors (experience, past success, background, etc.) being equal. Bowhunting is not being offered as a sport in Sudbury. It is tightly controlled to place hunters in areas where deer herds are causing harm to the ecological and diverse values of the land. Culling a large herd helps maintain the health of the overall deer population, reduces deer-car collisions, and may help in reducing the population of ticks, as deer, along with rodents, are a vector for spreading ticks.

The areas open to the public where bowhunting is permitted are:

Hop Brook conservation land (ONLY on the west side of Hop Brook)
Davis Farm
Frost Farm
Poor Farm Meadow
Lincoln Meadows
Nobscot
Tippling Rock Trail
Barton Farm
Parkinson (town-owned wooded area only behind TI-Sales)

Bowhunters must follow a strict set of Town rules and regulations, including hunting only from a fixed tree stand. They are shooting down from the tree stands at distances that usually do not exceed 30'. All bowhunters must pass an interview and a proficiency test. We have had law enforcement, firefighters, EMTs, and bowhunting instructors in the program. Having legal hunters on the properties keeps out the illegal hunters who do not follow the stringent rules. The program has been in place since 1999. It benefits the deer population as well as humans by helping to maintain safety and a healthy balance in our woods.

Please contact the Conservation office at 978-440-5471 or concom@sudbury.ma.us with any questions.