

# Ohio Department of Natural Resources

MIKE DEWINE, GOVERNOR

MARY MERTZ, DIRECTOR

Kendra S. Wecker, Chief

Division of Wildlife 2045 Morse Rd, Building G Columbus, Ohio 43229 Phone: (614) 265-6300

Special Conditions Letter for Deer Damage Control Permit #18048

September 20, 2023

Nick Derico Mill Creek Metroparks 7574 Columbiana Canfield Rd. Canfield, Ohio 44406

Dear Mr. Derico,

Your request for a deer damage control permit to conduct a white-tailed deer population management program within the Mill Creek Metroparks in Mahoning County has been received and thoroughly reviewed in accordance with the requirements of Ohio Administrative Code 1501:31-15-08 and Ohio's Deer Damage Procedure (Procedure 58). Your proposal request focusing on vegetative analysis within the park creates a baseline assessment for working towards vegetative management goals within the park. In addition to the vegetative analysis in your request, the multiple site visits and continued conversations about deer management within your parks have helped justify the need for the use of a Deer Damage Control Permit (DDCP) to assist in managing the deer population within the Mill Creek Metroparks.

The Division of Wildlife issues DDCP's to address situations where the use of hunting has not or cannot adequately address identified issues. The Division of Wildlife appreciates that the park district has begun utilizing hunting in several of their park properties and encourages the park district to continue to evaluate the use of hunting on all of its properties and to utilize it where it is practical.

Because this is the first year for utilizing targeted deer removal in Mill Creek Metroparks, I have approved you for the 30 deer requested as we both evaluate the use of targeted deer removal as a management technique in Mill Creek Metropark. As is afforded to all targeted deer removal programs, the park district reserves the right to request an increase in the number of deer if those 30 deer are close to being fulfilled as long as justifications are submitted for the increase.

Please be aware of the following additional stipulations of the permit:

- 1. Due to a research project in South Euclid, any ear tagged deer or deer with a collar that is shot, or observed, should be reported to Geoff Westerfield within 24 hours of it being shot or observed.
- 2. Technical direction and assistance by Ohio Division of Wildlife personnel may be periodically given during the implementation of the permit.

- 3. No more than 20% of the total deer harvested under this permit may be antlered deer. Any antlers from deer shot must be removed and must be destroyed, or disposed of by landfill, by the staff of the person this permit was issued to or a contractor operating under this permit. No antlers taken under authority of this permit may be possessed by anyone other than that until they are destroyed or disposed of, and no one thereafter.
- 4. A final written report detailing the results of the deer reduction effort must be provided to Geoff Westerfield by email no later May 1<sup>st</sup> of the year the permit expires using the supplied template from the Division of Wildlife. The report shall include at least the following:
  - a. Results for any disease testing (ex. CWD) done on any of the deer shot.
  - b. Summary of sex (male or female) and age (<1 year, 1 year, 2-3 year old, and 4+ old) for all deer shot. The Division of Wildlife can provide information about how to age deer if requested.
  - c. Total pounds of meat donated and which donation facility accepted the deer meat.
  - d. For any deer not donated to a facility, a list of who was receipted each of the deer.
- 5. Prior to a deer leaving city limits, each deer must have a tag with this permit number on it. This tag must remain on the deer until it reaches a processing facility or is given to someone.
- 6. Deer shot may not use funds from a hunter donation program (ex. FHFH, Sportsmen Against Hunter, etc.) to cover costs for any part of your deer management program, however hunter donation programs may be utilized to facilitate the donation of the deer and/or deer meat.
- 7. There is no restriction on the hours when deer may be shot. In addition, deer may be shot during any open deer hunting season.
- 8. Any deer shot as part of this permit must be reported within 3 business days of the deer being shot using the online system described within the permit. When reporting each deer, the first name of the shooter should be who shot the deer (ex. USDA, PD, contractor name, etc.) and the last name should reference the location where it was shot (ex. Water Treatment, Smith Rd, park name, unit name, etc.).

It should be noted that white-tailed deer populations are regulated by the Division of Wildlife across the state using harvest management and if not controlled the populations can exceed both the sociological and biological carrying capacities. For this reason, the Division of Wildlife supports programs like this one which strive to balance the number of deer to the available habitat while also assisting residents with management for sociological goals.

Sincerely,

Geoff Westerfield

Heaff Westerfield

Assistant Wildlife Management Supervisor

cc: Tom Frank, Mahoning County Wildlife Officer Scott Peters, Wildlife Management Supervisor Scott Angelo, District Manager John Paul Seman, USDA-Wildlife Services Control Permit Number: 18048 Key: 24799095670

# Division of Wildlife Ohio Department of Natural Resources DEER DAMAGE CONTROL PERMIT

DNR 9004

The following permit is issued to:

Nick Derico		(330) 702-3000
(Name of Landowner, Lessee, or Agent)		(Phone No. w/Area Code)
7574 Columbiana Canfield Rd.	Canfield	44406
(Mailing Address)	(City)	(Zip Code)
This permit may be utilized on the following propertial Address (c	ties in Mahoning County: closest road intersection if no address)	
1.  Mailing Address (if checked)		
2. Mill Creek MetroParks Properties		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
	uing deer utilizing this Deer Damage Control Permit: spouses, and children) must have a current Ohio hunting license to be denied as a shooter if they have been convicted of a prior wildli	
Shoot	ter's Legal Name	Date of Birth
1. USDA Wildlife Services		1/1/2000
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
This permit shall be in effect from September 20, 2023 to This permit authorizes the killing of a total of 30 deer on proof The following types of deer may be killed:  The following must be notified: (not required to notify if "N/n before shooting each day: N/A at ( )	operties listed on this permit. ss deer Antlered deer A" is written).	
after shooting each day with the number of deer sh	A STATE OF THE STA	
Special conditions of this permit: Special conditions are o	outlined in the letter emailed to you and shall be attached to th	is permit.
(Initials)  Control activities on the listed property(ies).  I certify that I have read and understood all of the permit. Further, I understand that any failure to and that any misuse of this permit will result in p	must have written permission from the landowner prior to utilizing the rules and conditions for the use of this permit listed on the front a comply with all of the provisions of this permit will result in its imme prosecution. I also understand that this permit does not supersede, hat perfain to the roperties where this permit will be utilized.	and back of this ediate revocation
ND I certify that all statements made by me in this a	application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, inform y providing false information and applying for this permit/license is	
Hink	( ) i	9/20/23

#### PERMIT CONDITIONS

- 1. The permittee will be responsible for providing a copy of this permit to all shooters. Shooters must possess a copy of this permit and, if required, a valid hunting license when operating under authority of this permit.
- 2. This permit may be utilized from sunrise to midnight unless otherwise noted in the special conditions section of this permit.
- 3. This permit may NOT be utilized during any open deer gun season unless otherwise noted in the special conditions section of this permit.
- 4. The permit does NOT allow shooting from a motor vehicle contrary to ORC 2923.16.
- 5. The permittee shall attempt to make arrangements for deer killed to be consumed or used as the person issuing the permit directs. All deer not given away, kept by the permittee/landowner/listed shooter must be disposed of pursuant to ORC 941.14. Deer or parts (excluding antlers) thereof given to anyone must be accompanied with a copy of the Deer Damage Carcass Tag.
- 6. Prior to moving a deer killed under this permit, the shooter shall either create a Deer Damage Carcass tag for each deer killed or report the deer online as stated on page 3 of this permit. No shooter shall leave a deer carcass unattended unless the completed Deer Damage Carcass tag or Deer Damage Permanent Tag number is attached to the carcass. The completed Deer Damage Carcass tag or Deer Damage Permanent Tag number shall remain on the carcass until final disposition. You MUST check the deer in using one the methods described on page 3 of this permit within 5 business days of the deer being killed.
- 7. All antiers must be removed from each antiered deer killed under the authority of this permit within 24 hours of the deer being killed and destroyed or buried within seven days of the deer being killed. Under no circumstances may antiers from a deer killed under authority of this permit be possessed by anyone after being destroyed or buried.
- 8. Pursuant to OAC 1501:31-15-08 this permit is subject to revocation if the permittee and/or a shooter violates any of the listed conditions of this permit or an investigation by the Division of Wildlife determines a violation of ORC 1533.171 has occurred.
- 9. The permittee understands that the Division of Wildlife will provide the names of Deer Damage Control Permit holders to anyone upon request per ORC 149.43.
- 10. In granting this Deer Damage Control Permit, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife authorizes the permittee and/or permittee's agent(s) to shoot deer in order to reduce the effects of damage inflicted upon the permit holder's crops and/or property. The State of Ohio, Department of Natural Resources does not limit the scope of shooting activities allowed unless expressly prohibited and/or regulated by the stated "Conditions" of this permit, nor does it warrant any shooting activity conducted by the permittee and/or permittee's agent(s) to be safe, legal and applicable for the circumstances and/or locality for which this permit was issued.

By accepting this permit, the permittee and/or permittee's agent(s) assumes full responsibility for conducting all shooting activities in a safe, legal and responsible manner and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the State of Ohio-Department of Natural Resources, it's employees, officers, and agents from all liability associated with personal injury and/or property damage, loss and expense, including, but not limited to, damages, legal expenses and cost of defense, in any matter arising from the permittee's shooting activities.

Wildlife District One 1500 Dublin Road Columbus 43215 (614) 644-3925

Wildlife District Two 952 Lima Avenue Findlay 45840 (419) 424-5000

Wildlife District Three 912 Portage Lakes Drive Akron 44319 (330) 644-2293

Wildlife District Four 360 E. State Street Athens 45701 (740) 589-9930

Wildlife District Five 1076 Old Springfield Pike Xenia 45385 (937) 372-9261



### Step 1 – TAGGING THE DEER

Tagging your deer killed on a Deer Damage Control Permit is very similar to temporary tagging a deer during hunting season. Every person who kills a deer under a deer damage permit must immediately:

- Make a Deer Damage Carcass Tag with shooter's name, date & time of kill, and Deer Damage Permit # (see example below)
- Attach the completed Deer Damage Carcass Tag to the deer at the place where it fell



# **Deer Damage Carcass Tag**



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

### **Division of Wildlife**

The permitee shall attempt to make arrangements for deer killed to be consumed or used as the person issuing the permit directs. All deer not given away, kept by the permitee/landowner/shooter must be disposed of pursuant to ORC 941.14.

Deer or parts (excluding antlers) thereof given to anyone must be accompanied by a copy of this carcass tag.

You can make copies and use this tag or make up your own with the same information below on it

		,			
Shooter's name	e:				
Date of Kill:					
Time of Kill:					
Deer Damage F	Permit #:				
	Antlered	Antlerless	Points:	p	

## Step 2 – REPORTING THE DEER

Within 5 business days of a deer killed on a Deer Damage Control Permit you <u>MUST</u> report it to the Division of Wildlife. There are 3 options for reporting your deer:



 The easiest and quickest option is to report your deer online at <a href="http://apps.ohiodnr.gov/wildlife/wildlifedamage/tagentry">http://apps.ohiodnr.gov/wildlife/wildlifedamage/tagentry</a> (you will need the permit and key number, located on the permit, to report your kill)



2) Don't have internet? Check your deer by calling the district office that covers the county where the deer was killed (phone numbers on page 2 of the permit). You can call Mon.-Fri. between 8am-5pm.



Don't have internet access or phone access? Mail in a copy of your Deer Damage Carcass Tag to a district office (addresses located on page 2 of permit).

# Step 3 – WHAT TO DO WITH THE DEER

- If the deer has antlers, remove them and dipose of them according to the permit conditions.
- If you take a deer killed on a Deer Damage Permit to a processor for processing, you must provide them a copy of the Deer Damage Carcass Tag.
- If the deer is not getting utilized, properly dispose of the deer according to the permit conditions.



# Ohio Department of Natural Resources

MIKE DEWINE, GOVERNOR

MARY MERTZ, DIRECTOR

Kendra S. Wecker, Chief Division of Wildlife 2045 Morse Rd, Building G Columbus, Ohio 43229 Phone: (614) 265-6300

RE: Request for allowance for removal of 20 additional deer

November 24, 2023

Nick Derico Mill Creek Metroparks 7574 Columbiana Canfield Rd. Canfield, Ohio 44406

Dear Mr. Derico,

While it is not the normal process for me to supply a letter of explanation for a decision regarding a request for an increase in allowed number of deer on a Deer Damage Control Permit (DDCP), I felt it was warranted in this situation to provide some insight into my decision regarding this request due in part to emails and concerns we have received regarding the request, and deer management in general, at Mill Creek Metroparks.

I try to not take lightly any request for a DDCP, including requests for increases. In this situation not only have I taken into consideration the emails we have received, information contained in your deer management plan, and the data/information you provided with the request for an increase but also conversations with both you and USDA-Wildlife Services. However, in addition to all of that I also did a site visit this week to get a first-hand assessment of the area myself. Finally, I took into consideration the overall time for removals and sex of deer removed from the deer removed on 10/11/23.

On my most recent site visit on 11/21/23, between 6:45am and 9:30am I observed 16 independent antlerless deer and 5 unique bucks while driving between 5-10 mph on W. Golf Dr. The area I will address in this letter is the area that I assessed from Shields Rd to US-224. I also drove the cart path on the golf course to increase the percentage of the park observed. In a few instances I also left the vehicle to look in some of the woodlots which could not easily be seen due to a hill or other factors impeding observations. I would estimate that I had clear observation of approximately 50% of the park area. It should be noted that there was no structured survey protocol followed (i.e. transects) and observations were simply opportunistic and therefore the number of deer observed certainly do not account for all the deer that were within the park during my time there not does it account for deer outside the park boundaries that still utilize the park as part of their home range. It would be very conservative to assume that the deer I observed equated to 50% of the deer within the park area.

While the park isn't managing deer for a particular deer density, looking at the deer density can help determine the level of deer using the park. The park area between Shields Rd and US-224 is .9

square miles. Using the information from my site visit the deer density within the park currently is 47 deer/sq mile (21 deer \*2 divided by .9 square miles). This density number is post removal of the original 30 deer permitted and is still substantially higher than what is typically tolerable for positive vegetative growth in a forest. This would mean a pre-removal density of 80 deer/sq mile (21 deer \* 2+30 divided by .9 square miles). Again, this analysis takes into assumption that I observed 50% of the deer that use the park area being managed which very well may be an overestimate of the true number of deer that utilize the park and a recruitment factor that is much lower than other targeted deer removal programs.

It is important to state that this is the first year of deer management in Mill Creek Metroparks. So, there is a significant importance in 2024 to evaluate the vegetation in the sampling plots and to compare them with the data from the 2023 survey of the plots. Doing so will help the park district understand how the level of removals this year impacted the level of damage mitigated in the park.

After much consideration, I am comfortable at this point with approving an increase of 14 deer able to be removed in the park from the area between Shields Rd and US-224 with some additional special conditions:

- 1) Only one night of operations can be utilized for attempting to remove those 14 deer, and
- 2) Of the 14 additional deer permitted, no more than 7 of those deer removed should be antlerless deer, and
- 3) No additional increases of deer will be permitted for the area from Shields Rd to US-224 for this deer removal season (through March 31, 2024).

If the park district is successful in removing the additional 14 deer, using the data contained in this letter it would result in a density of between 30-35 deer/square mile and I feel would allow the park district to have made significant progress towards managing deer within that area of the park and allow the park district to assess how those removals impact deer utilizing that area of the park throughout the summer/early fall of 2024. I also strongly suggest the park look at conducting a helicopter snow count survey, if feasible, this winter to include in the least the park area from Shields Rd to US-224 plus a 1.5 mile buffer around that entire area. This survey, along with the other surveys the park conducts, will allow us to evaluate the deer population in the park, the impacts these deer are having on the ecology of the park, and to know the recruitment factor of deer into the park area for making future management decisions on deer management within the park.

Sincerely,

Geoff Westerfield

Herff Westerfiled

Assistant Wildlife Management Supervisor

cc: Tom Frank, Mahoning County Wildlife Officer Scott Peters, Wildlife Management Supervisor Scott Angelo, District Manager John Paul Seman, USDA-Wildlife Services Control Permit Number: 18048 Key: 24799095670

# Division of Wildlife Ohio Department of Natural Resources DEER DAMAGE CONTROL PERMIT

The following permit is issued to:

Nick Derico		(330) 702-3000
(Name of Landowner, Lessee, or Agent)		(Phone No. w/Area Code
7574 Columbiana Canfield Rd.	Canfield	44400
(Mailing Address)	(City)	(Zip Code
This permit may be utilized on the following properties in Maho		
	ad intersection if no address)	
1. Mailing Address (if checked)		
2. Mill Creek MetroParks Properties		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
Only the below listed shooters may be present while pursuing deer utiliz  All shooters (except for Ohio resident landowners, their spouses, and  All shooters are subject to a background check and may be denied as	children) must have a current Ohio hunting license to ta	ke deer under this permit. or weapons offense.
Shooter's Legal N	lame	Date of Birth
1. USDA Wildlife Services		1/1/2000
2.		
3.		A COLUMN TO THE PARTY OF THE PA
4.		
5.		
This permit shall be in effect from September 20, 2023 to March 31, 20	124	
This permit authorizes the killing of a total of <u>44</u> deer on properties listed		
The following types of deer may be killed: X Antlerless deer	Antlered deer	
The following must be notified: (not required to notify if "N/A" is written).		·
before shooting each day: N/A at ( )		
after shooting each day with the number of deer shot: N/A	at (_)	normit. This normit notes
Special conditions of this permit: <u>Special conditions are outlined in the an increase from 30 to 44 deer and shall replace the previously iss</u>	e letter emailed to you and snall be attached to this led permit.	permit. This permit notes
I acknowledge that if I am not the landowner, I must have wrong control activities on the listed property(ies).		
(initials)  I certify that I have read and understood all of the rules and of permit. Further, I understand that any failure to comply with and that any misuse of this permit will result in prosecution. adhere to, any local laws, rules, or ordinances that pertain to	all of the provisions of this permit will result in its immedialso understand that this permit does not supersede, a	iate revocation
I certify that all statements made by me in this application are and that I understand that knowingly and willfully providing fa Section 2921.13 of the Ohio Revised Code for which I am-su	lse information and applying for this permit/license is a	ion, and belief violation of
Mid	(Signature of Landowner, Lessee, or Agent)	129/23

#### PERMIT CONDITIONS

- 1. The permittee will be responsible for providing a copy of this permit to all shooters. Shooters must possess a copy of this permit and, if required, a valid hunting license when operating under authority of this permit.
- 2. This permit may be utilized from sunrise to midnight unless otherwise noted in the special conditions section of this permit.
- 3. This permit may NOT be utilized during any open deer gun season unless otherwise noted in the special conditions section of this permit.
- 4. The permit does NOT allow shooting from a motor vehicle contrary to ORC 2923.16.
- 5. The permittee shall attempt to make arrangements for deer killed to be consumed or used as the person issuing the permit directs. All deer not given away, kept by the permittee/landowner/listed shooter must be disposed of pursuant to ORC 941.14. Deer or parts (excluding antlers) thereof given to anyone must be accompanied with a copy of the Deer Damage Carcass Tag.
- 6. Prior to moving a deer killed under this permit, the shooter shall either create a Deer Damage Carcass tag for each deer killed or report the deer online as stated on page 3 of this permit. No shooter shall leave a deer carcass unattended unless the completed Deer Damage Carcass tag or Deer Damage Permanent Tag number is attached to the carcass. The completed Deer Damage Carcass tag or Deer Damage Permanent Tag number shall remain on the carcass until final disposition. You MUST check the deer in using one the methods described on page 3 of this permit within 5 business days of the deer being killed.
- 7. All antiers must be removed from each antiered deer killed under the authority of this permit within 24 hours of the deer being killed and destroyed or buried within seven days of the deer being killed. Under no circumstances may antiers from a deer killed under authority of this permit be possessed by anyone after being destroyed or buried.
- 8. Pursuant to OAC 1501:31-15-08 this permit is subject to revocation if the permittee and/or a shooter violates any of the listed conditions of this permit or an investigation by the Division of Wildlife determines a violation of ORC 1533.171 has occurred.
- 9. The permittee understands that the Division of Wildlife will provide the names of Deer Damage Control Permit holders to anyone upon request per ORC 149.43.
- 10. In granting this Deer Damage Control Permit, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife authorizes the permittee and/or permittee's agent(s) to shoot deer in order to reduce the effects of damage inflicted upon the permit holder's crops and/or property. The State of Ohio, Department of Natural Resources does not limit the scope of shooting activities allowed unless expressly prohibited and/or regulated by the stated "Conditions" of this permit, nor does it warrant any shooting activity conducted by the permittee and/or permittee's agent(s) to be safe, legal and applicable for the circumstances and/or locality for which this permit was issued.

By accepting this permit, the permittee and/or permittee's agent(s) assumes full responsibility for conducting all shooting activities in a safe, legal and responsible manner and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the State of Ohio-Department of Natural Resources, it's employees, officers, and agents from all liability associated with personal injury and/or property damage, loss and expense, including, but not limited to, damages, legal expenses and cost of defense, in any matter arising from the permittee's shooting activities.

Wildlife District One 1500 Dublin Road Columbus 43215 (614) 644-3925

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#### Step 1 – TAGGING THE DEER

Tagging your deer killed on a Deer Damage Control Permit is very similar to temporary tagging a deer during hunting season. Every person who kills a deer under a deer damage permit must immediately:

- Make a Deer Damage Carcass Tag with shooter's name, date & time of kill, and Deer Damage Permit #
  (see example below)
- Attach the completed Deer Damage Carcass Tag to the deer at the place where it fell



# **Deer Damage Carcass Tag**



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

#### **Division of Wildlife**

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Deer or parts (excluding antlers) thereof given to anyone must be accompanied by a copy of this carcass tag.

You can make copies and use this tag or make up your own with the same information below on it

Shooter's name:
Date of Kill:
Time of Kill:
Deer Damage Permit #:
Antlered Antlerless Points:

## Step 2 – REPORTING THE DEER

Within 5 business days of a deer killed on a Deer Damage Control Permit you <u>MUST</u> report it to the Division of Wildlife. There are 3 options for reporting your deer:



 The easiest and quickest option is to report your deer online at <a href="http://apps.ohiodnr.gov/wildlife/wildlifedamage/tagentry">http://apps.ohiodnr.gov/wildlife/wildlifedamage/tagentry</a> (you will need the permit and key number, located on the permit, to report your kill)



2) Don't have internet? Check your deer by calling the district office that covers the county where the deer was killed (phone numbers on page 2 of the permit). You can call Mon.-Fri. between 8am-5pm.



Don't have internet access or phone access? Mail in a copy of your Deer Damage Carcass Tag to a district office (addresses located on page 2 of permit).

# Step 3 – WHAT TO DO WITH THE DEER

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- If you take a deer killed on a Deer Damage Permit to a processor for processing, you must provide them a copy of the Deer Damage Carcass Tag.
- If the deer is not getting utilized, properly dispose of the deer according to the permit conditions.