



DRIFTLESS

AREA LAND CONSERVANCY



Wild Oaks Preserve/ Mt Pleasant Deer Hunting Program (2024)

Program Overview, Hunter Requirements, Application for Permit, and Hunter Survey

INTRODUCTION

The Driftless Area Land Conservancy (DALC) and the BadgerLand Foundation (BLF) co-manage the 416-acre Wild Oaks Preserve, located at 277 Brunson Rd, Belleville, WI. Additionally, BLF manages the nearby, 78-acre Mt Pleasant property. Our shared goal for these properties is rooted in promoting sustainable land use and diverse ecological communities. Both are envisioned as places for restored wildlife habitat, sustainable agriculture, and recreation to come together for the mutual benefit of each.

The goals of our deer hunting program are to maintain the deer population at a density that minimizes harm to the plant biodiversity we are working to foster, reduce incidence of disease within the deer herd due to overpopulation, provide a sustainable food source for hunters and their families, and to ensure safety for hunters and other visitors to the property.

The hunting permit system works by people volunteering their time to help restore and preserve the ecosystems at Wild Oaks Preserve and Mt Pleasant. Hunting privileges are earned by those who contribute volunteer hours and comply with the hunter guidelines and all applicable laws.

HUNT UNIT ASSIGNMENTS & THE WAITING LINE

For the 2024 program year, there are seven hunt units defined for Wild Oaks and two at Mt Pleasant. We anticipate more applicants than we can accommodate in these units. Therefore, we will be instituting a waiting line for new applicants to gain access to hunting privileges in future years. The outline of the process is as follows:

- You enter the waiting line on the date of your first volunteer work at either Wild Oaks or Mt Pleasant.
- Once you reach the front of the line, you can choose from amongst the available hunt units, or decide to wait in line to see what hunt units become available in the subsequent year(s).
- Once you choose/ accept a given hunt unit, you have the option of keeping it for a period of three years, provided you meet the annual volunteer work requirements and follow the other guidelines listed below.
- If you decide you don't want to hunt in your chosen unit prior to the three-year mark, you may re-enter the waiting line.
- We allow family and friends to share a hunt unit. The maximum number of people sharing a unit is three. In this case, whoever reaches the front of the line first can pull forward their related people, provided each of them has reached their annual volunteer work requirement.

- In order to keep your place in line, as well as to maintain access to your hunt unit once assigned, you must complete 12 hours of volunteer work per year.
- Once you have hunted for three years, you can re-enter the waiting line.
- Note that for the 2024 program year, there are four hunters that have already been in the program and have assigned units. In other words, for 2024, we have capacity to accept three new hunters at Wild Oaks and two at Mt Pleasant.
- You can find out what hunt units are available and the status of the waiting line by contacting one of the site stewards.
- Form year-to-year, we reserve the right to modify the hunt unit boundaries (and potentially add or combine units) as we continue to learn. We will work with hunters already in the program to re-assign you to a new spot in case of a reduction in units.

HUNTER GUIDELINES

DALC and BLF wish to promote good relationships with and amongst hunters on the site, and with our neighbors. We can learn from hunters' experiences, and we want your experience to be safe and rewarding. DALC/ BLF reserve the right to revoke any permit if these requirements are not being met. This program is also likely to evolve as we learn more about the land, deer behavior at the site, and the practicalities of allowing multiple different hunting parties onto the land together.

Before you hunt:

- Every hunter must apply for and possess a permit from DALC/ BLF to hunt at Wild Oaks Preserve or Mt Pleasant. One hunting permit per individual, per hunting season. Hunting permits may not be transferred or sold. As described above, each permit is associated with a specific hunt unit. The permits are valid for the entire hunting season (bow & gun).
- Hunters must accrue 12 hours of volunteer time in the year prior to the start of (bow) hunting season (September 16, 2024). A key goal of volunteering is to better understand the land, the other hunters, and our goals for the overall project. Regular volunteer workdays occur the first and third Saturday of each month from 9am – 1pm as well as additional, sporadic dates TBA. See <https://www.driftlessconservancy.org/volunteer> or contact a Site Steward for more details.
- Every hunter must possess a valid Wisconsin Deer Hunting License in addition to the permit from DALC/ BLF.
- Hunters must understand and follow all [state regulations](#) pertaining to deer hunting in Wisconsin, including regulations regarding Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). For complete hunting and trapping laws, consult the Wisconsin State Statutes Chapter 29 or Chapter 10 of the Administrative Code of the Department of Natural Resources.
- Hunters are responsible for knowing the property boundary and remaining within it. The Preserve is surrounded by private property. There shall be no trespassing on neighboring properties for any reason, including tracking or retrieval of wounded animals. Doing so is a violation of the law and will result in immediate and permanent revocation of hunting rights on Wild Oaks Preserve and Mt Pleasant. If there is *any* reason hunters feel they need to access adjoining private lands, contact a Site Steward (listed below) first, and *not* the neighboring landowners.
- Hunters must provide personal contact information to DALC/ BLF and allow us to share it with other individuals who hold hunting permits at Wild Oaks Preserve/ Mt Pleasant. Hunters are responsible for contacting each other to ensure safe hunting conditions. A map of management zones will be included with the permit and shall be used to communicate where hunters plan to hunt on any given day.

- We encourage communication and coordination with other hunters in the program. We will share contact information (phone and email) amongst hunters engaged in this program. You are strongly encouraged to attend an in-person orientation lead by the site stewards (date TBA). We will review hunt parties, their respective hunt units, appropriate ways to access those units, and so on.

During your hunt:

- Hunters must carry their DALC/ BLF permit with them when hunting (this can include a digital copy on your phone).
- Hunters are required to “earn a buck” – you must harvest at least one antlerless deer prior to attempting to harvest any antlered deer (bucks). We require proof of this kill – a photo sent to the site steward will suffice in most cases.
- Temporary tree stands and/or ground blinds are allowed under the following conditions:
 - Each hunter may place up to two temporary deer stands, provided they do not require any nails or screws placed into trees.
 - Each hunter may place up to two ground blinds, provided they are well secured and do not blow away in the wind.
 - All tree stands and ground blinds must be labeled with the name and address of the owner.
 - Tree stands and ground blinds may be placed *after* the DALC/ BLF hunting permit is in hand. All must be removed by February 15 of the following year.
 - Tree stands and ground blinds must be placed at least 100 yards inside of any Wild Oaks Preserve or Mt Pleasant boundaries.
 - DALC/ BLF will remove any tree stands or ground blinds that do not follow the above requirements. DALC/ BLF are not responsible for theft or damage to tree stands/ ground blinds.
- Trail cameras are allowed under the following conditions:
 - The location of trail cameras shall be reported to DALC/ BLF.
 - All cameras shall be labeled with the owner’s name.
 - Trail cameras must be placed once the DALC/ BLF hunting permit is in hand and must be removed by February 15 of the following year.
 - DALC/ BLF will remove any trail cameras that do not follow the above requirements. DALC/BLF are not responsible for theft or damage to trail cameras.
- Deer drives are not allowed unless DALC/ BLF gives specific permission to do so in writing.
- Alteration of vegetation (e.g. preparation of shooting lanes) is not allowed unless DALC/ BLF gives specific permission to do so in writing.
- No baiting is allowed.
- Hunters must pack out any trash they generate.
- Hunters understand and acknowledge that other activities will be occurring at Wild Oaks Preserve and Mt Pleasant during the hunting season, including but not limited to habitat restoration and educational events. We expect to have our first proper hiking trail opening in late summer 2024 to support general visitors. It is possible we may close Wild Oaks to all visitors including hunters for special event hosting, although such cases will be rare. Wild Oaks will be closed to the general public for the primary gun hunting season (Nov 23 – Dec 1, 2024).
- Motorized vehicles are not allowed. Hunters are encouraged to use a wagon, bike trailer, or travois to haul gear and carcasses. If you need help retrieving carcasses, contact the volunteer site steward.

After your hunt:

- Hunters must complete a survey after they are finished hunting for the season and send it to a site steward by February 15. Please fill out the survey for every day that you hunt. This information is important for managing our program.

APPLICATION

To obtain permission to hunt at Wild Oaks Preserve or Mt Pleasant during the 2024 deer gun and archery/crossbow season, please fill out and return the attached application via mail or email to: Driftless Area Land Conservancy, 206 South Iowa Street, Dodgeville, WI 53515, or info@driftlessconservancy.org with the subject line "Wild Oaks Hunt".

We are still assessing the maximum number of hunters that can safely operate at these properties. Assuming hunters are fairly stationary and are communicating/ coordinating amongst themselves, this number may be as high as six or seven. DALC reserves the right to limit the number of permitted hunters. Any hunter who has failed to follow the guidelines as described above may be declared ineligible for future hunting at DALC properties.

YOUR SITE STEWARDS ARE:

Zach Pacana, Driftless Area Land Conservancy, 608-930-3252, Zachary@driftlessconservancy.org
Fil Sanna, BadgerLand Foundation, 608-636-6222, filsanna@yahoo.com

APPLICATION, 2024 Deer Hunting Season at Wild Oaks Preserve

Name:

Mailing address: (Street, City, State, Zip)

Phone:

Email address:

Dates you volunteered at Wild Oaks and/ or Mt Pleasant:

Please circle for which season(s) you expect to hunt: Deer-gun Deer-archery Deer-crossbow

Please indicate your first and second choice(s) of hunt unit:

Are you willing to take a different hunt unit if the above listed unit is unavailable?

Vehicle Information

Please provide the following information for any vehicles that may be present at the preserve during your hunt. List additional vehicles on reverse if necessary.

Make:	Model	Color	License plate
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Your signature below indicates you:

- Are knowledgeable of the risks and dangers involved in the permitted activity and that you assume all risk of injury to persons, property, or death that may be sustained in connection with the stated and associated activity in and around the Wild Oaks Preserve/ Mt Pleasant and that you further agree to release and indemnify Driftless Area Land Conservancy and BadgerLand Foundation from any liability in connection with your activities on the property; and
- You understand and agree to follow the requirements of the Wild Oaks Preserve/ Mt Pleasant Deer Hunting Program (pages 1-4 of the document above).
- You agree to allow your contact information to be shared with other hunters in this program.

Signature _____

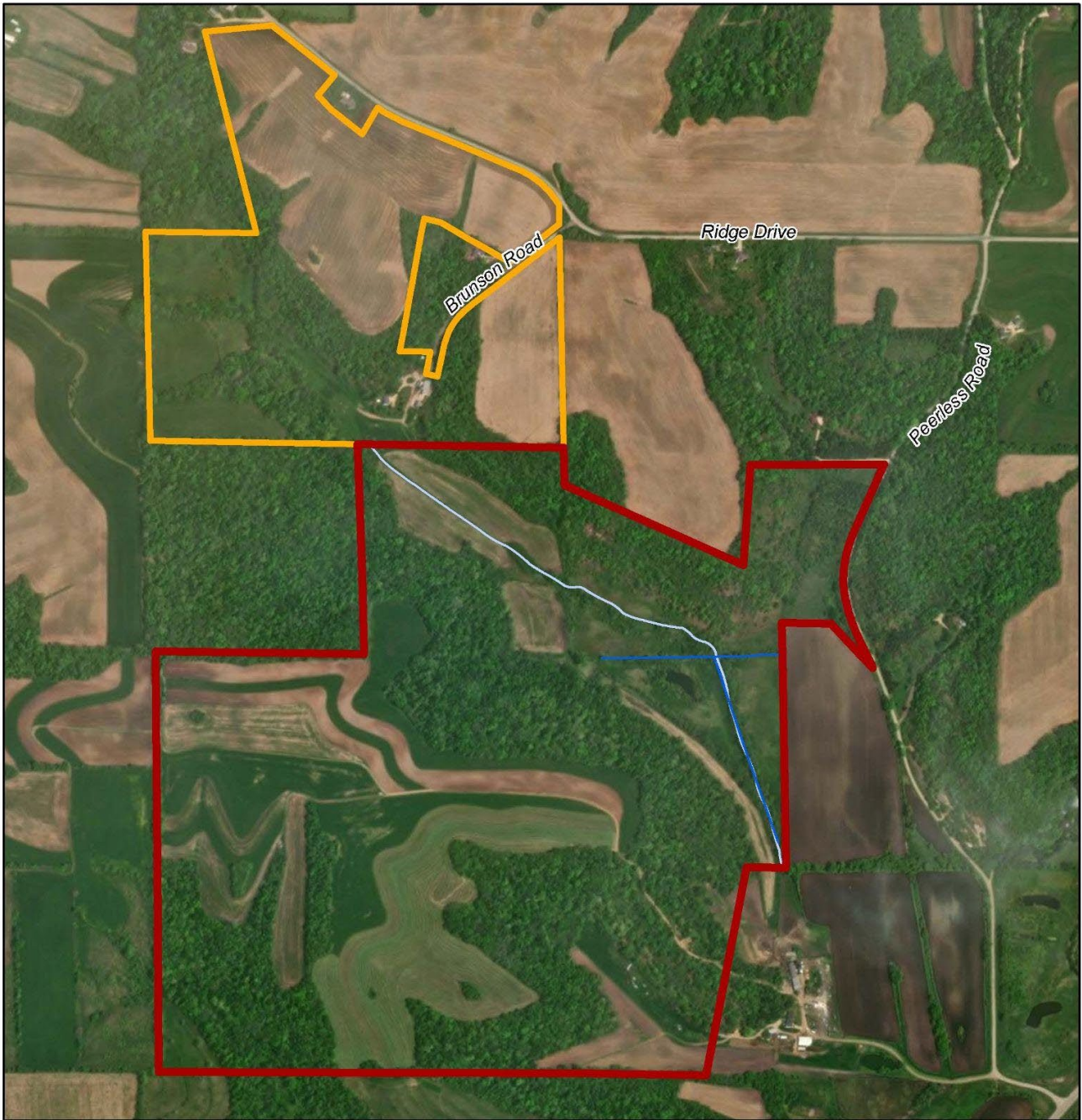
Date _____

Printed name: _____

Wild Oaks Preserve, a cooperative project of Driftless Area Land Conservancy & BadgerLand Foundation

Dane County Town of Primrose, T5N, R7E, Sec. 35

Date: 7/31/2023



Legend

-  Driftless Area Land Conservancy (308 acres)
-  BadgerLand Foundation (108 acres)
-  Waterway to Ditch
-  Ditches



2024 Driftless Area Land Conservancy/ BadgerLand Foundation Deer Hunter Survey

Name of Hunter: _____

Property (circle one): Wild Oaks Preserve

Mt Pleasant

Date	Hours Hunted	Deer Seen		Deer Harvested		Deer tested for CWD?	CWD test results (pos/neg)	Other wildlife observed/comments
		Antlerless	Antlered	Antlerless	Antlered			

PLEASE RATE YOUR EXPERIENCE

Rate the quality of your hunting experience? Excellent Good Fair Poor

Comments:

Rate the level of safety while you hunted? Excellent Good Fair Poor

Comments:

How would you rate the hunting pressure on the property? High Medium Low

Comments:

Did you observe any unusual or unlawful activity on the property, or witness people violating the hunting or general property guidelines?
If so, please contact us as soon as possible.

Additional comments or suggestions: