



Readington Township



Deer Management Program

Permit Application

2026-2027 Season

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

FRIDAY JUNE 12, 2026, AT 4:30 PM

NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS TIME

Applicants must submit the **completed** application to:

Township of Readington
Municipal Clerk's Office
509 Route 523
Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889

Deer Management Program Goals:

Manage white-tailed deer populations with Readington Township at socially acceptable levels that provide recreational and educational opportunities as well as provide opportunities for maintaining and preserving a healthy woodland habitat.

Rules and Regulations:

All State and local regulations pertaining to parks and to hunting apply, including specific season dates and bag limits for white-tailed deer as established or amended by the New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife for management zones 8, 10, and 12. In addition, the following special rules apply:

1. Only permitted hunters are allowed to participate in this program.
2. In order to obtain a permit, all prospective hunters are required to submit an application.
3. Only completed applications submitted in person by New Jersey licensed hunters who are eighteen (18) years of age or older, together with proof of \$1 million general liability insurance, who are not prohibited by law from possessing a firearm, have not been convicted of a felony, have no significant state or local background check violations within the past ten (10) years, and who submit a \$100 non-refundable fee (made payable to: Township of Readington), shall be eligible for a municipal deer management permit.
4. Applications and other pertinent information will be available in the Clerk's office of the Township Municipal Building at 509 Route 523 Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889, or may be downloaded from the Township's website.
5. The application deadline is **4:30 pm on Friday, June 12, 2026**.
6. Successful applicants will be notified by the Municipal Clerk's office.
7. Successful applicants are required to complete the Township's hunter safety and orientation presentation being held at 7pm in a location to be determined on: **Wednesday, July 22, 2026**. Do not submit an application if you cannot attend. No permit will be issued unless you complete this orientation.
8. Only one hunting permit, one parking permit per applicant, and signage will be issued.
9. Property permits will be issued by the Township via a random lottery based on previous hunting season performance criteria. At the hunter safety and orientation course, each successful applicant will be entered into one of five different rounds of random property selections. The round of property selections you, as a successful applicant, will be placed are based on the following:
 - a. 1st Round: Hunters who harvested 6 or more deer in the 2025/26 hunting season who have auto renewed their hunting spot for 2026/27.
 - b. 2nd Round: Hunters who harvested 6 or more deer in 2025/26 who choose to select a different property.
 - c. 3rd Round: Hunters who harvested 5 deer in 2025/26.
 - d. 4th Round: Hunters who harvested 3 – 4 deer in the 2025/26 season and new successful applicants to the Readington Deer Management Program.

e. 5th Round: Hunters who did not harvest their 2025/26 quota (0-2 deer)

This process will continue until all property permits have been issued. Refer to #21 & 22 below.

10. All permits are non-transferable.
11. Hunters are only authorized to hunt the property for which they have been issued a permit and are responsible for knowing where they are within the parcel property lines at all times.
12. Each hunter's permits must be prominently displayed on their persons and vehicle dashboard whenever the hunter is on the property.
13. Motorized vehicles are restricted to public roads and designated parking areas except that ATVs may be used by hunters with disabilities for the purpose of deer recovery, hanging/removing tree stands, and filling feeders. The vehicle path must be discussed and agreed upon in advance with the Township and the permit holder shall be responsible for repairing any damage. The vehicle must bear a handicapped placard and may only be used by the individual disabled permit holder.
14. The Township shall provide and post hunting notice signs on the properties to be hunted. Prior to any hunting activities taking place, permittees shall inspect the boundaries of the properties for which they have received a permit and confirm that they see hunting notice signs in the places designated by the Township. Permittees shall have a continuing obligation to notify the Township of any missing signs during the hunting season.
15. Hunting permitted from elevated tree stands, which shall be a minimum of 10' in height. No permanent stands shall be constructed, and screw-in steps are prohibited. Stands must have permit identification numbers visibly marked on the stand. Stands left in place shall be done so at the hunter's own risk, the Township will not be liable for loss or any damage to stands. All tree stands must be removed within fourteen (14) calendar days after the close of the hunting season unless the hunter has met their prospective auto-renewal quota and intends to auto renew that hunting spot for the subsequent season. Two (2) tree stands per permit holder may be left on the property during the hunting season. Ground blinds are prohibited **except** with approval from the Wildlife Advisory Subcommittee, Environmental Commission, and written consent from the Township. A formal ground blind request must be submitted along with proposed location on the Township property map.
16. Target practice is strictly prohibited. Discharge of a crossbow prior to transporting is not considered target practice. A field target, such as the Rinehart RFT, is recommended to discharge crossbows.
17. Firearms and bow hunting are permitted on Township-owned properties where specifically designated as part of the successful applicant's township-issued hunting permit. All hunting shall be conducted pursuant to state law and Fish & Wildlife safety zones.
 - a. Hunters shall not hunt or possess a nocked arrow within 150 feet of any building or possess a loaded firearm within 450 feet of a building, even if not occupied, without possessing written permission from the owner or lessee.
 - b. Where permitted on Township-owned properties, firearms hunting shall be from elevated tree stands only, no exception.
 - c. Hunting is not allowed on Sundays.

- d. All firearms hunting, where permitted on Township-owned properties, is prohibited between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. except as follows:
 - i. Six (6)-day firearm season (always starts the second Monday after Thanksgiving)
 - ii. Properties without posted Township trails.
 - e. Hunters shall hunt subject to the safety zones shown on the particular map created and supplied by the Township for each property being hunted. Hunters should also verify the presence of any additional safety zones as dictated by NJ Fish and Wildlife regulations that have not been previously identified.
 - f. There shall be no hunting on Christmas Day.
18. Hunting may begin one half hour before sunrise and must end one half hour after sunset. Access to the property is permitted up to 1 ½ hours before and after legal hunting hours to allow for set-up and/or tracking purposes.
 19. Baiting is allowed.
 20. Only white-tailed deer may be hunted; the hunting, shooting, killing, pursuit or removal of any other wildlife is strictly prohibited.
 21. The season harvest quota is three (3) deer per permit holder. Bucks and does will count towards your Township harvest quota, however, an emphasis on harvesting does is significantly encouraged. All hunting must be conducted in accordance with all NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife game laws and associated bag limits.
 22. Hunters will be judged on their previous year's harvest numbers for future hunting seasons. For property selection for the 2026-27 season, Hunters that harvested six (6) or more deer in the 2025-26 hunting season will be given the option to renew the same property for the following season. If the hunter would like to switch properties, they would be offered the first choice of remaining properties after renewals are established. Hunters must reapply each year.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** While all deer (does and bucks) harvested as part of the Readington Deer Management Program count towards your harvest quotas, the Township strongly encourages and emphasizes harvesting female deer (does).
23. Readington Township will pay a vendor designated by the Township for all donations made to the Hunters Helping the Hungry (HHH) venison donation program. Copies of all HHH receipts must be submitted with your Readington Township online harvest report submission within 24 hours of harvest. Please make sure that your donation receipt is legible before leaving the butcher.
 24. Hunters are required to submit all appropriate harvest report details, including a NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife confirmation number, and be made within 24 hours to the program's online harvest reporting system or they will NOT count towards your quota.
 25. Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while on the property is prohibited.
 26. Littering is prohibited.
 27. Hunting program issues should be submitted in writing to the Municipal Clerk, 509 Rt. 523, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889 with a copy to the Wildlife Advisory Subcommittee and Township Administrator at the same address. Concerns regarding violations shall be reported to NJ Fish &

Wildlife officers. Any issues involving local law shall be reported to the Readington Township Police Department. For emergencies, please call 911 (Contact info is provided on back of permits).

28. Hunters shall provide proof of insurance with a minimum liability of \$1,000,000. A copy of a valid insurance card or policy must be submitted with the application. You are responsible to update/renew your policy as needed and provide a copy, showing proof of coverage and expiration date, for your file with the Township before you can hunt.
29. Several hunting parcels may contain restricted, or limited times/dates/and hunting areas that could change. Permitted hunters will be notified of these restrictions in advance.
30. The Township Committee reserves the right to make all final decisions regarding the permit process and permit recipients as deemed to be in the best interest of the Readington Township Deer Management Program.

Violations or Non-Compliance:

Violation or non-compliance of any Deer Management Program rule or regulation or any applicable State law or local regulation will result in the immediate loss of hunting privileges on the property, will subject the hunter to any applicable penalties, and will permanently remove the individual from future program participation. Readington Township reserves the right to withhold or revoke program participation at any time for any reason, in its sole and absolute discretion. All decisions made by Readington Township shall be final and binding, without recourse of any kind.

Appeal Process:

Appeals of any decisions of this Program shall be submitted in writing to the Municipal Clerk's office. The appeal shall consist of a plain, concise, and complete written statement on the grounds for the appeal. The appeal panel will consist of one (1) member appointed by the Township Committee, one (1) member from the Environmental Commission not serving on the Wildlife Advisory Sub-committee, and one (1) member from the Wildlife Advisory Subcommittee. Any decision of the appeal panel shall be made by majority vote. All decisions of appeal panel are final.

PROPERTIES AVAILABLE FOR 2026/2027 SEASON

(See property maps attached)

Property ID	Property	Block/Lot	Property Acreage	Hunters per Property	Bow/Firearms
P1	Taylor's Mill Rd	03/03, 3.01	44.6	2	Bow/Firearms
P2	Route 523 (Merck/Unicom)	09 / 01	38	2	Bow/Firearms
P3	Old Highway 28	13 / 21	19.7	2	Bow/Firearms
P4	Old Highway 28 (E Whitehouse Greenway)	13 / 54, 34.01, 31	77	3	Bow/Firearms
P5	Highway 22 East (W of Rockaway Creek)	21 / 4, 30	74.58	3	Bow/Firearms
P6	Route 523 (Vislocky)	25 / 19, 20	85.4	3	Bow/Firearms
P7	Coddington Rd (Fitzgerald)	38 / 38.01	28.7	2	Bow/Firearms
P8	Ridge Rd (Gallo)	39 / 10	36.2	2	Bow/Firearms
P9	Chambersbrook Rd	39 / 14.02	13.2	1	Bow/Firearms
P10	Dreahook Rd	44 / 04.03	8.5	1	Bow only
P11	Dreahook Rd	44 / 04.04	22	1	Bow/Firearms
P12	Dreahook Rd (Holland Brook Headwaters)	45 / 26.06	55.4	2	Bow/Firearms
P13*	Route 523 (DPW-Cornhuskers)	46 / 05.07, 5.99, 6.02	50	2	Bow Only
P14	Holland Brook Rd	46 / 10.99	35.8	2	Bow/Firearms
P15	Bloy Tract	50/13	21.45	1	Bow Only
P16	Chamberlain Rd - Backland	52.01/13.90	32.32	2	Bow/Firearms
P17	Holland Brook Rd	53 / 07.90	47.8	2	Bow/Firearms
P18	Roosevelt Rd	55/1.91, 1.92	59.91	2	Bow/Firearms
P19	Thor Solberg Rd	57 / 02	50.7	3	Bow/Firearms
P20	Woodschurch Rd (Round Mountain)	63 / 24, 27, 66, 68	31.2	2	Bow/Firearms
P21	River Trail	72 / 36.99	69	3	Bow/Firearms
P22	Rockafellow's Mill Rd (Saums)	74 / 04.05	49.6	3	Bow/Firearms
P23	Summer Rd	75 / 15.01, 16.02	34.1	2	Bow/Firearms
P24	Van Neste Rd (Arman's Trail)	75 / 17.90	35.2	2	Bow only
P25	Route 202 South	76 / 03, 03.01	34	2	Bow/Firearms
P27	Summer Rd. (Lazy Brook Greenway)	94 / 08	143.7	3	Bow/Firearms
P28	Groendyke	55 / 7.09	25.09	2	Bow Only
P29	Hillcrest/Morning Star	66 / 25.99	63.5	2	Bow only
P30	Delaware Rd	70 / 42.90	19.71	2	Bow only
P31	Stover Way	73 / 6.14	25.78	2	Bow only
P32	Pleasant Run-Chamberlain	64 / 41	25.61	2	Bow/Firearms
P33	Forest Hill	93 / 1	23.25	2	Bow only
P34	Johnson Road	45.03 / 28.90	15.93	1	Bow only
P35	Reno (Cole Rd)	46 / 22.04	10.09	1	Bow only
P36*	Brookview	68 / 3	9.99	1	Bow Only
P37*	Hillcrest Park	55 / 21.02, 23.03	22	2	Bow Only
Total Acreage:			1,439.01	72	

* = *New property addition to Readington Deer Management Program*

2026-2027 READINGTON TOWNSHIP DEER MANAGEMENT PERMIT APPLICATION

- The applicant must submit the application in person to the Clerk's Office by **Friday, June 12, 2026.**
- Only complete applications will be processed; incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Permits will be issued through a random lottery system. The lottery and **mandatory** hunter orientation meeting will be held at a location to be determined on **Wednesday July 22, 2026, at 7:00 PM.**
- All applications require a \$100 non-refundable fee paid at the time of submission. Check or money order shall be made payable to: Township of Readington
- You must submit a copy of the following documentation when you submit your application:
 - Copy of valid driver's license
 - Copy of current (and valid) hunting license
 - Copy of liability insurance coverage policy (minimum of \$1 million coverage)
 - If necessary, please provide a copy of NJ State Federation of Sportsmen's Club membership card.

Photocopies of the above documents should be attached to your application.

Note: When submitting your application to the Township of Readington, detach and retain the instruction form pertaining to dates, the rules and regulations page, and the Township maps of the hunting properties.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Age: _____ *Must be 18 years or older on or before the first day of Fall Bow

Conservation Identification Number (CID#): _____

Cell phone Number: _____

Have you ever possessed a Readington Township Deer Management Permit? YES NO

Vehicle Information

Year: _____

Make: _____

Model: _____

Color: _____

License Plate # _____

Liability Insurance

Insurance Carrier: _____

Policy Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

***If your liability insurance is through New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Club?
Please provide a copy of your membership card with your number, name, and expiration date.

Emergency Contact

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Relationship: _____

The Township of Readington, Readington Township Deer Management Advisory Committee et. al., shall be held harmless from all suits, judgments, costs, fees, and liabilities arising out of or related to the hunting activities of the hunters. If your insurance policy expires once the hunting season starts and you want to continue hunting, you must provide an updated policy to the Township of Readington. Your issued permit is not valid without valid insurance.

KNOWINGLY OR PURPOSELY PROVIDING FALSE INFORMATION ON THIS APPLICATION FORM SHALL BE CAUSE FOR THE APPLICATION TO BE DENIED AND/OR PERMIT REVOKED.

Applicant Name: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____

Date: _____

TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON CONSENT FOR BACKGROUND CHECK

I hereby authorize the Readington Township Police Department and/or the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife to conduct a background and hunting license check for the purpose of determining if I have been convicted of a felony, other significant state or local violations, or violated the NJ Fish and Wildlife Code within the past ten (10) years.

Legal Name (print): _____

Date of Birth: _____

NJ Conservation ID#: _____

Driver License # & State: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____