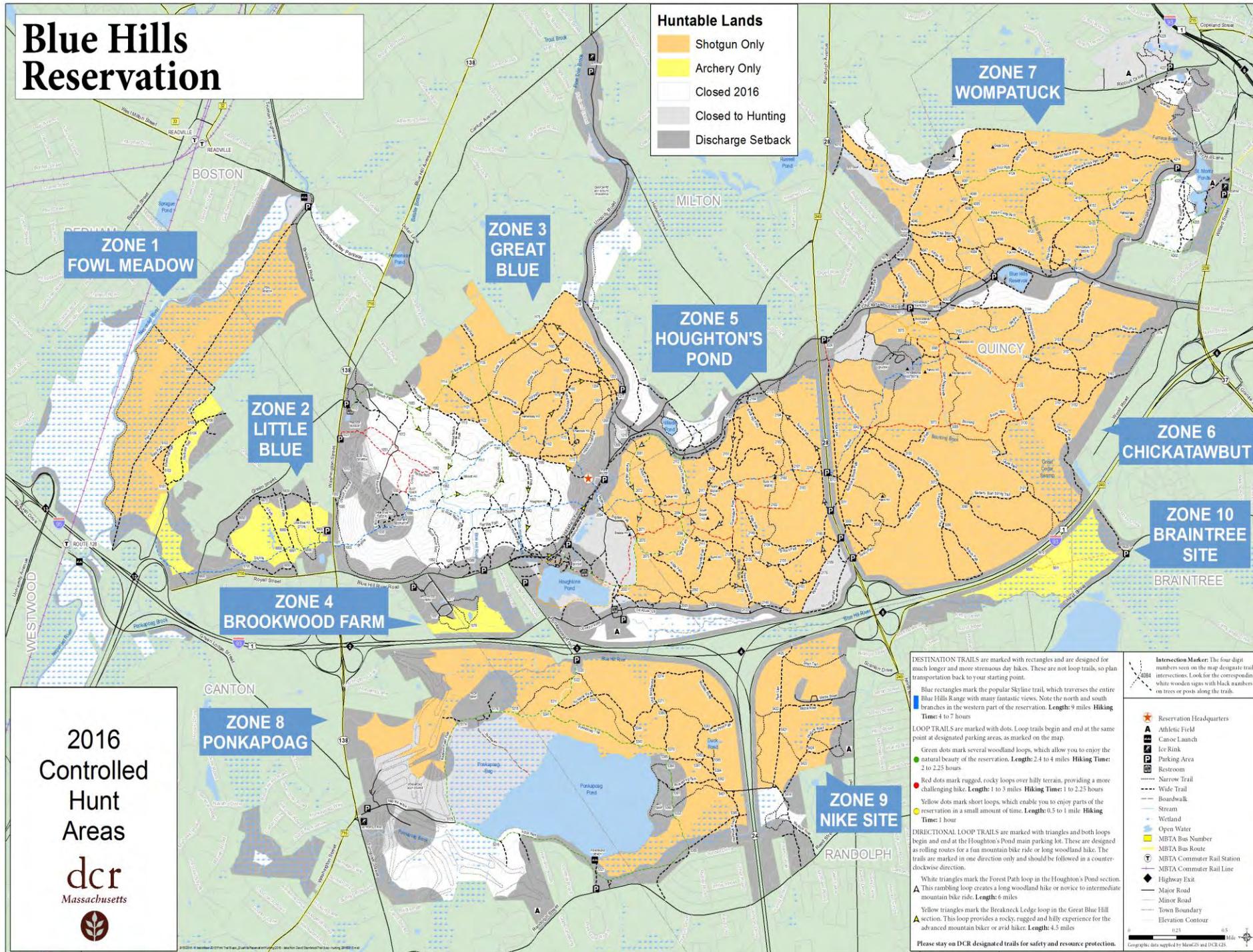


# Blue Hills Reservation



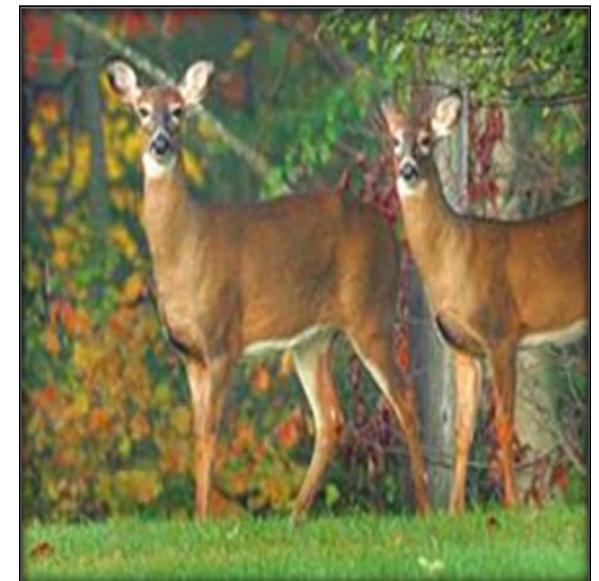
2016  
Controlled  
Hunt  
Areas



## Blue Hills Reservation Deer Management to Improve Forest Health

### Controlled Deer Hunt 2016

- Tuesday, November 29
- Wednesday, November 30
- Tuesday, December 6
- Wednesday, December 7



## Deer Management in the Blue Hills Reservation to Improve Forest Health

From the canopy to the understory, healthy forests are made up of trees and plants of multiple age classes and a diversity of vegetation. This forest system also provides habitat for a rich and varied wildlife population.



## Impacts of Too Many Deer

Forests with high deer densities prevent forest regeneration as deer over-browse on the forest's vegetation. Extremely high deer densities also contribute to the growth of invasive species and reduce biodiversity.



*The photo on the left shows heavy deer browse removing the understory vegetation. The photo on the right shows a healthy, forest ecosystem.*

In 2013, MassWildlife conducted a deer population survey which estimated that there are 85 deer per square mile in the Blue Hills Reservation. Optimum deer densities for healthy forests in the state is between 6 and 18 deer per square mile.

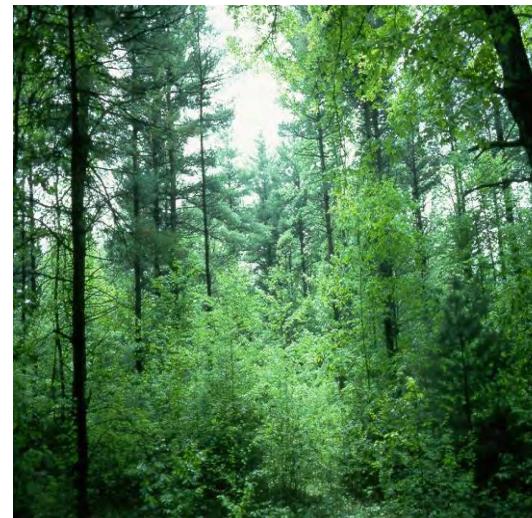


## Long-Term Deer Management

The Blue Hills Deer Management Program is part of DCR's long-term effort to manage high deer densities within the Blue Hills Reservation. The primary objective is to maintain an ecologically sustainable deer density that allows for the continuous growth and development of forest regeneration. In particular, DCR wishes to reduce the negative impacts that high deer densities have on the regenerating forest to ensure a healthy forest composed of adequate diversity of species and age classes.

To initiate deer management within the Blue Hills, DCR and MassWildlife developed and successfully implemented the first-ever controlled deer hunt within the Reservation during the 2015 shotgun season.

To continue the successful efforts undertaken in 2015, a second controlled deer hunt will be implemented in the Blue Hills Reservation during the 2016 shotgun season.



## 2016 Controlled Deer Hunt

The 2016 controlled permitted deer hunt will take place on 4 days:

- **Tuesday, November 29**
- **Wednesday, November 30**
- **Tuesday, December 6**
- **Wednesday, December 7**

The 2016 controlled permitted deer hunt will only take place in designated areas of the Blue Hills (see trail map on reverse side). These areas will be restricted to permitted hunters only during the 4 days of the controlled hunt.

Non-hunters, please be aware that permitted hunters will be in designated areas of the park during the controlled hunting days.

**No hunting allowed south of Wolcott path in the Great Blue Hill section and the southwest areas of Ponkapoag. (See map on reverse side)**

DCR encourages the general public to utilize the trails and amenities that are available south of Wolcott Path in the Great Blue Hill section as well as those in the southwest areas of the Ponkapoag section (including Ponkapoag Golf Course).

For more information, contact the DCR Blue Hills Reservation at 617-698-1802 or visit our website: [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr)