

Blue Hills

STATE RESERVATION

White-Tailed Deer Management Program

2023 Program Overview & Results

The results of the 2023 hunt area as follows.

Archery hunting was permitted in certain designated areas of the Blue Hills Reservation for a total of eleven (11) days. The hunt ran on Mondays through Thursdays between November 6th and November 22rd, there was no hunt on the last Thursday, November 23th, due to observance of the thanksgiving holiday. In accordance with state hunting regulations, hunters were allowed to hunt one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

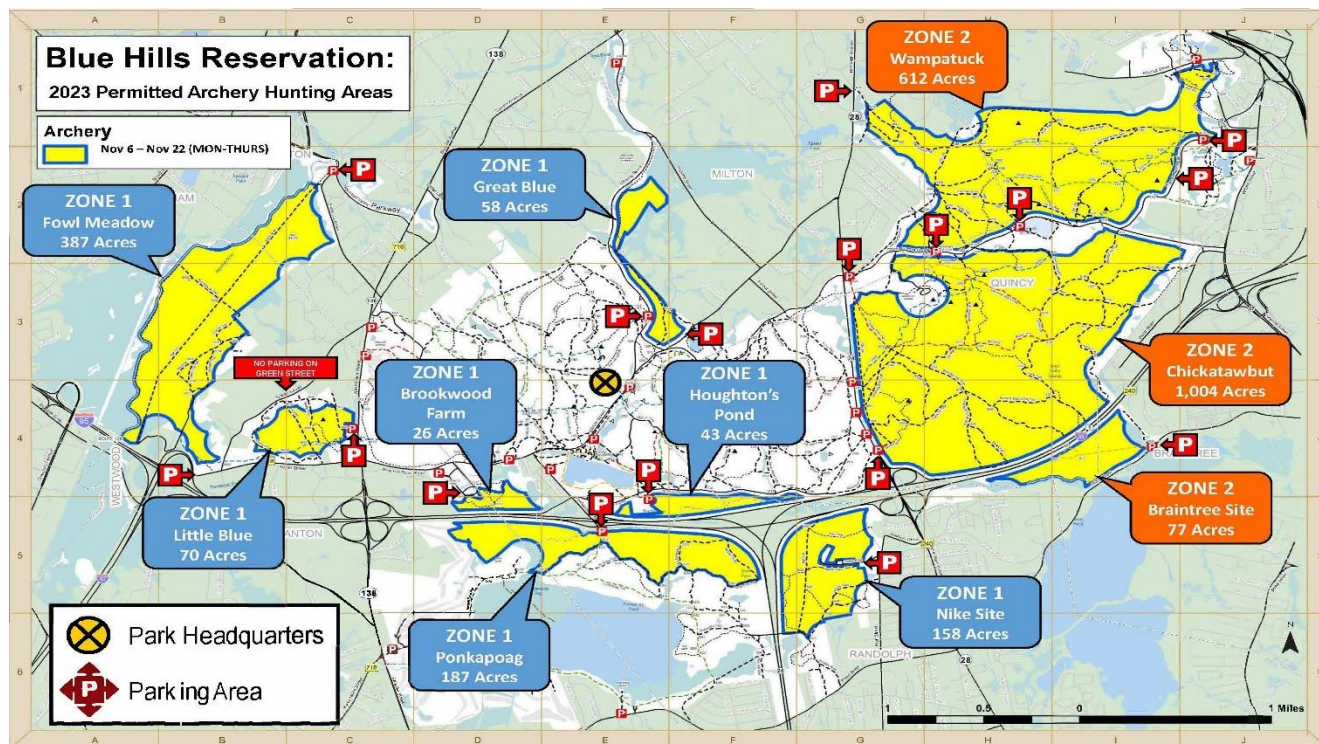
Licensed hunters were offered the opportunity to apply on-line using a web-based form. The application process was open from September 18th through September 27th, 2022. A total 201 of hunters submitted applications for the permitted archery hunt.

In total, 165 access permits were issued. Access permits were valid for all eleven days in which archery hunting was allowed. Once registered hunters completed the orientation, they were eligible to purchase doe tags.

The table below provides archery hunt applicants and permittees according to state of residence:

State of Residence	Number of Applicants	Number of Permittees
Connecticut	1	0
Massachusetts	196	162
New Hampshire	3	2
Rhode Island	1	1
TOTAL	201	165

Archery hunting was limited to the areas outlined on the map below. A total of 2,622 acres of the reservations 7,000 acres were opened to permitted archery hunting across ten (10) management areas. Archery hunters were separated into two groups and each group was assigned to one of two archery zones. Each zone included several management areas. Hunters assigned to Zone 1 were permitted to hunt in any of the management areas listed within that zone. Hunters assigned to Zone 2 were permitted to hunt in any of the management areas listed within that zone.



2023 Harvest Results

A total of 24 deer were harvested from approximately 4.1 mi² of forest land opened to hunting. Over the 11-day hunt, there was an average of 32 hunters who checked-in to participate each day. The table below provides more detailed information of deer harvest results:

Date	# Hunters Checked In	# Deer Harvested
Monday, November 6, 2023	53	4
Tuesday, November 7, 2023	33	3
Wednesday, November 8, 2023	29	2
Thursday, November 9, 2023	18	2
Monday, November 13, 2023	37	2
Tuesday, November 14, 2023	32	2
Wednesday, November 15, 2023	21	4
Thursday, November 16, 2023	31	2
Monday, November 20, 2023	39	0
Tuesday, November 21, 2023	43	3
Tuesday, November 22, 2022	19	0
TOTAL	355	24

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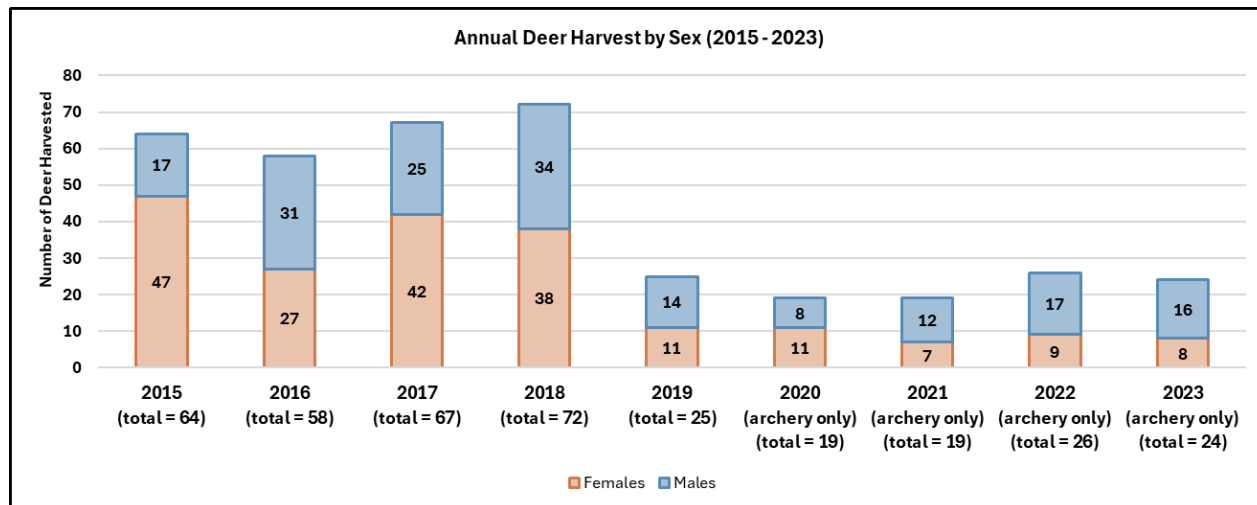


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Harvest results from this year's archery hunt (24 deer) were slightly lower than the 2022 results (26 deer). The chart below provides annual harvest results (by sex) for each of the nine controlled hunts conducted thus far:



Synopsis of the 2023 Deer Management Program

As was acknowledged in the initial [Blue Hills Deer Management Plan](#), effective deer management programs must incorporate and maintain a good degree of flexibility in order to make modifications and adjustments that are grounded in experience and ongoing assessment.

The 2023 permitted archery hunt represents continued progress toward addressing deer overabundance and its impacts in the Reservation.

From the perspective of public safety, all agencies involved in the coordination and implementation of the 2023 controlled hunt were satisfied. Considerable time was spent assessing a myriad of operational aspects associated with conducting controlled hunting within the Reservation and developing a plan that addressed these operational concerns. The successful execution of this plan and support from permitted hunters for the overall goal of safety represents a significant achievement. Like the previous eight controlled hunting programs, the 2023 program demonstrated that hunting can be safely conducted in a suburban/urban setting.

