



Blue Hills Reservation White-Tailed Deer Management Program: 2025 Overview & Results

Overview

Archery hunting was permitted in designated areas of Blue Hills Reservation for a total of fifteen (15) days, Mondays through Thursdays, between November 3 and November 26, 2025. There was no hunting on Thursday, November 27, 2025, in observance of Thanksgiving.

Licenses hunters applied via an online form. The application was available from August 5 through September 27, 2025. A total of 221 applications were submitted. All applicants completed a hunter orientation before being eligible to receive an access permit.

In total, 201 access permits were issued. Access permits were valid for all fifteen (15) days of the hunt. All permitted hunters were required to purchase at least two (2) antlerless deer permits. This year, hunters were permitted to use either Zone 10 or Zone 11 [Wildlife Management Zone](#) (WMZ) antlerless deer permits depending on which zone they were hunting.

Applications were submitted by residents of Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Table 1 breaks down applicants and permittees according to state of residence.

Table 1. 2025 Blue Hills Reservation White-tailed Deer Management Program Applicants and Permittees by State of Residence

State of Residence	Number of Applicants	Number of Permittees
Maine	1	0
Massachusetts	214	199
New Hampshire	5	2
Vermont	1	0
Total	221	201



Designated Hunt Areas

Archery hunting was limited to certain areas of Blue Hills Reservation. Approximately 3,900 acres of the Reservation's 7,000 acres were open for hunting. Hunters were not separated into groups or assigned specific areas to hunt in. Hunters could only hunt in areas where they had the appropriate Zone 10 or Zone 11 WMZ doe tags. No hunter conflicts were reported. Figure 1. shows designed hunting areas as well as Zone 10 and Zone 11 WMZs.

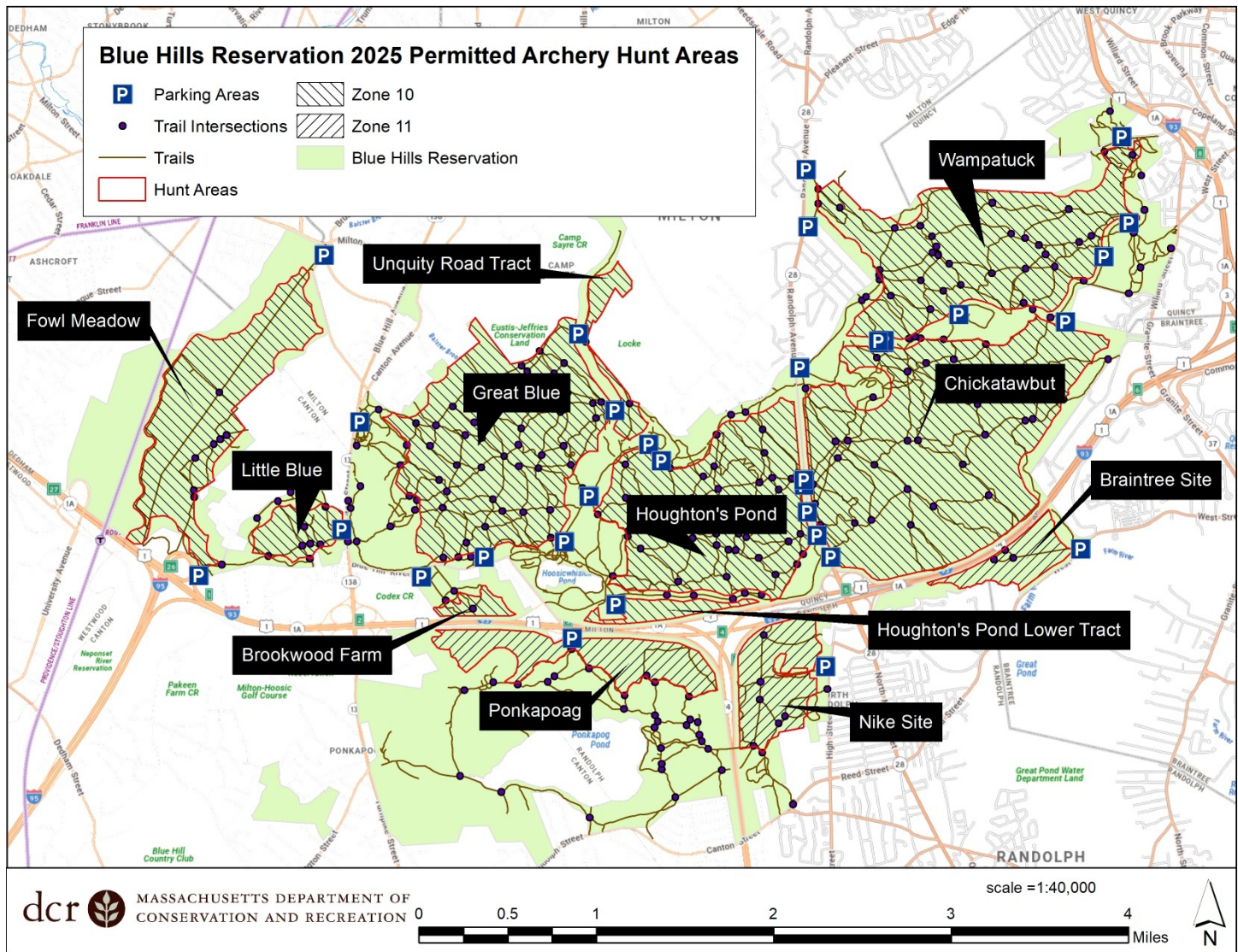


Figure 1. 2025 Blue Hills Reservation White-tailed Deer Management Permitted Hunting Areas. Areas north of Route 1/Route 93 are in Wildlife Management Zone 10 and include Fowl Meadow, Little Blue, Great Blue, Unquity Road Tract, Houghton's Pond, Brookwood Farm, Chickatawbut, and Wampatuck. Areas south of Route 1/Route 93 are in Wildlife Management Zone 11 and include Ponkapoag, Nike Site, and Braintree Site.



Harvest Results

Hunter Participation and Harvest Results

A total of forty-nine (49) deer were harvested during the hunt. An average of thirty-nine (39) hunters participated on each day of the hunt. Table 2 shows the number of hunters who participated each day of the hunt and how many deer were harvested.

Table 2. 2025 Blue Hills Reservation White-tailed Deer Management Archery Hunter Participation and Deer Harvest Results

Hunt Day	Number of Hunters	Deer Harvested
Monday, November 3, 2025	70	16
Tuesday, November 4, 2025	32	2
Wednesday, November 5, 2025	46	6
Thursday, November 6, 2025	26	0
Monday, November 10, 2025	31	2
Tuesday, November 11, 2025	50	2
Wednesday, November 12, 2025	36	2
Thursday, November 13, 2025	38	2
Monday, November 17, 2025	23	2
Tuesday, November 18, 2025	34	2
Wednesday, November 19, 2025	40	3
Thursday, November 20, 2025	34	5
Monday, November 24, 2025	52	1
Tuesday, November 25, 2025	41	2
Wednesday, November 26, 2025	29	2
Daily Average	39	3
Total	582	49



Detailed Harvest Results, Annual Harvest by Deer Sex and Harvest Type

Harvest results were higher this year compared to the previous several and highest of any previous archery only year.

Forty-nine (49) deer were harvested in 2025. Thirty four (34) of the deer harvested were male, and fifteen (15) were female. Figure 2. shows the number of deer harvested by sex for each year of the hunt, 2015 through 2025.

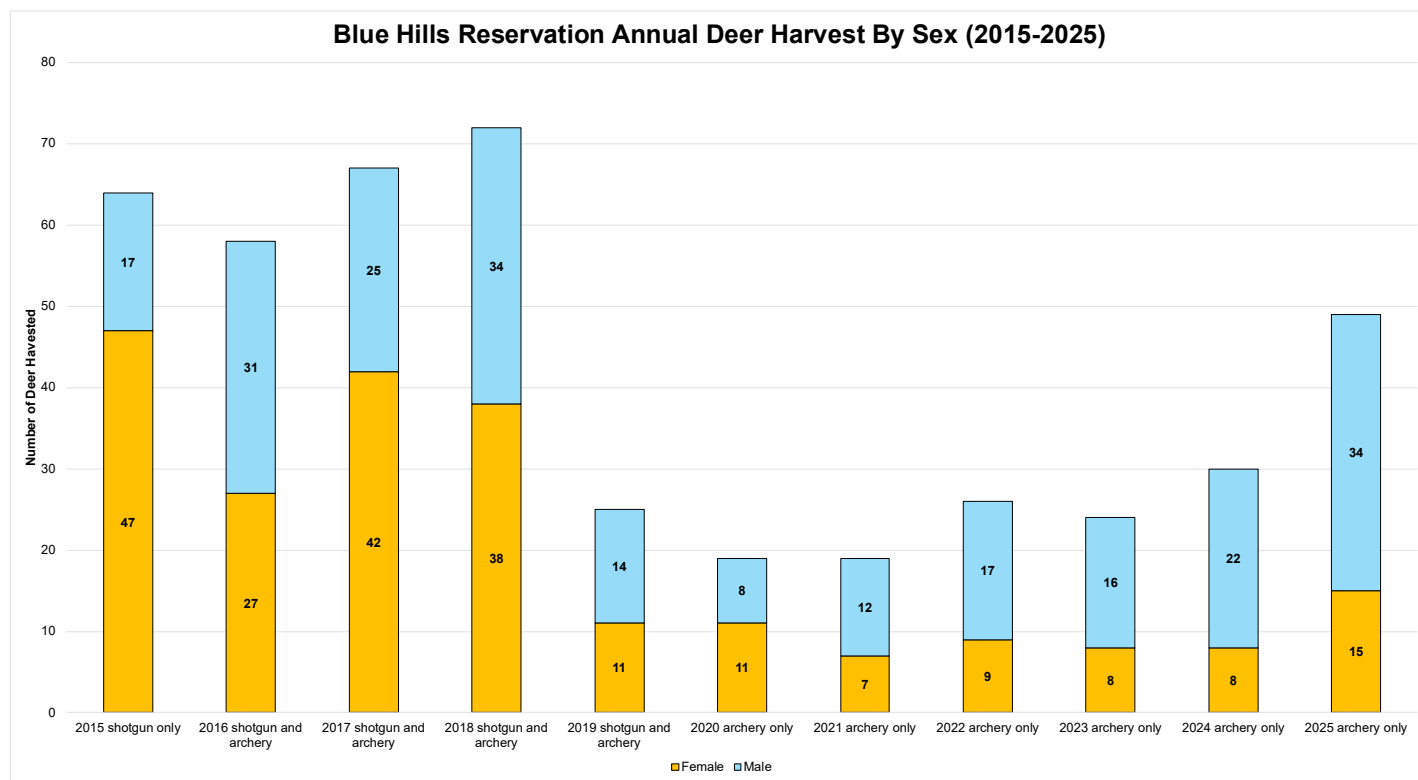


Figure 2. Blue Hills Reservation White-tailed Deer Management Annual Deer Harvest by Sex, from 2015 through 2025.



Over the years, the Blue Hills Reservation White-Tailed Deer Management Program has had shotgun only hunting, shotgun and archery hunting, and archery only hunting in any given year. Archery has been the only permitted harvest method since 2020. Table 3 shows harvest results by both harvest method and by sex of deer harvested.

Table 3. Blue Hills Reservation White-tailed Deer Management Annual Harvest Results by Permitted Harvest Method and by Deer Sex

Year	Hunt Type	Harvest by Shotgun	Harvest by Archery	Female	Male	Total Harvested
2015	Shotgun only	64	0	47	17	64
2016	Shotgun and Archery	51	7	27	31	58
2017	Shotgun and Archery	57	10	42	25	67
2018	Shotgun and Archery	49	23	38	34	72
2019	Shotgun and Archery	8	17	11	14	25
2020	Archery only	0	19	11	8	19
2021	Archery only	0	19	7	12	19
2022	Archery only	0	26	9	17	26
2023	Archery only	0	24	8	16	24
2024	Archery only	0	30	8	22	30
2025	Archery only	0	49	15	34	49
	Total	229	224	222	231	453

Synopsis

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 2025 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 2025 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. A change from prior years, hunters were able to use their Zone 10 and/or Zone 11 deer tags instead of purchasing special Blue Hills Reservation specific deer tags. The successful execution of this plan and support from permitted hunters for the overall goal of safety represents a significant achievement. Like the previous nine controlled hunting programs, the 2025 program demonstrated that hunting can be safely conducted in a suburban/urban setting.