



**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP WHITE-TAILED DEER CONTROL PROGRAM
2016-2017 HUNTING PERMIT APPLICATION
Hunting on Township Open Space**

Franklin Township will begin issuing white-tailed deer hunting permits for Franklin Township's Open Space Preserves.

Applications can be picked up between normal Township business hours at the Township Clerk's Office or in the Township Engineering Office located in the Municipal Building at 475 DeMott Lane, Somerset. Applications can also be downloaded from the Township's website at <http://www.franklintwpnj.org>.

Applications must be completed and returned by 4:00pm on Friday, August 5, 2016.

The application can be mailed to the attention of the Township's Land Preservation & Management Coordinator located at the Municipal Building, 475 DeMott Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873 postmarked no later than Friday, August 5th. Scanned & emailed to Karen.buckley@twp.franklin.nj.us received no later than Friday, August 5th by 4:00pm or faxed no later than Friday, August 5th by 4:00pm to 732.873.5391.

All applications, in order to be considered complete shall include the following:

- 1. Completed Hunting Permit Application Friday, August 5, 2016 by mail/scanned &emailed/fax.**
- 2. *Signed "Indemnification and Hold Harmless Agreement" which is included in the Hunting Permit Application***
- 3. *Must submit proof, a copy, of a New Jersey hunting license***
- 4. *Must submit proof, a copy, of a minimum of \$1 million liability insurance***

***** PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FOLLOWING HUNTING DATES AND TIMES ARE TENTATIVE. Final hunting dates and times will be approved at August 9th Township Council Meeting. Final dates and times will be sent with issued permit paperwork.**

Participants in last year's hunt, who had returned the mandatory survey in a timely manner and who re-submit their application along with the above-described required information will have their permits renewed if they choose to hunt the same property. All other permits will be issued through a lottery that will occur at 12 Noon on Thursday, August 11th in the Municipal Building. Those selected during the lottery and those having their permit renewed will be mailed a permit(with final rules and regulations) shortly thereafter.

For more information, contact the Township's Land Preservation & Management Coordinator, Fran Varacalli at frances.varacalli@gmail.com or 732 873-2500 x6230.

**White Tail Deer Management Program
Hunting on Open Space 2016-2017**

The Franklin Township OSAC has determined that the large population of white-tailed deer in the Township is having a negative impact on the regeneration of the Township's forests. Accordingly, in an on-going effort to reduce the population of white-tailed deer, the OSAC is opening up several parcels of Township-owned open space to hunting of white-tailed deer for the 2016-2017 season, in accordance with the following:

1. **Permitted Hunting Times: 30 minutes before Sunrise to 30 minutes past Sunset.**
2. **There is no hunting on Sundays. Non-hunters may enter the hunting zone on Sundays.**

Restricted public access during the following period:

{Bow only locations: Elizabeth Ave., Willow Ave., Weston Road, Wilson Road, DeMott Lane, Butler Road Natural Area, Bunker Hill(part of Ten Mile Run Greenway).

[Bow/Firearm/Shotgun/Muzzleloader Locations: Negri-Nepote Grassland, Griggstown Grassland(part of Ten Mile Run Greenway).]

Season 1: Bow-Only Season. September 10 – October 28, 2016.
Hunters and Public Access.

ALL LOCATIONS.

During this Franklin Township open-space-bow-only season, bow-hunters with township-issued hunting permits will be permitted in the designated hunting areas.

Both hunters and non-hunters (walkers, etc.) will be utilizing the open space property. For this reason, it is imperative that bow-hunters familiarize themselves with the locations of the hiking trails and are not permitted to aim their bow toward a hiking trail.

Season 2: Bow/Firearm Season. December 5 - December 10, 2016.
HUNTERS ONLY - NO PUBLIC ACCESS. ALL LOCATIONS.

There is a six day hunting-only firearm/bow season during which public access is not allowed. During these six days, ONLY HUNTERS ARE PERMITTED ON THE PROPERTY. HIKERS, WALKERS, BIRDWATCHERS, ETC. ARE NOT PERMITTED ON THE PROPERTY FOR THESE SIX DAYS.

Season 3: A. Bow Season. October 29 - December 24, 2016 Excluding Thurs. November 24, 2016 (Thanksgiving);
December 26, 2016 - February 18, 2017.

Hunters and Public Access. ALL LOCATIONS.

During this bow-only season, both hunters and non-hunters (walkers, etc.) will be utilizing the open space property. For this reason, it is imperative that bow-hunters familiarize themselves with the locations of the hiking trails and are not permitted to aim their bow toward a hiking trail.

Season 3: B. Firearm(Shotgun and/or Muzzleloader as permitted by state regulations).
Hunters and Public Access(see below). Negri-Nepote Grassland and Ten Mile Run Greenway(parts of Griggstown Grassland).

Firearm Hunting allowed: November 21, 22, 23, 25, 28, 29, 30; December 2, 5-10, 12, 13, 17- 24, 26-31; January 2 through February, 11 2017.

Firearm Hunting excluded on the following dates: Nov 24; Nov 26-27; Dec 3-4; Dec 11; Dec 25; Jan 1. November 19, 2016 – Youth Firearm Day – Not allowed on Twp. property

DURING THIS HUNTING SEASON: the day is divided as follows between public access and hunters:
* Pending Council Approval on August 9th, this may change. Hunting with firearms is restricted to 1:30 PM to sunset. Hunters may not take a firearm onto the property prior to 1:30 PM.

Hunters May Use Either Bow Or Firearms during the dates and times permitted on the property.
Hikers, Walkers, Birdwatchers, Etc. Are Not Permitted On The Property during the restricted times and dates listed above.

Insurance. In order to obtain a Franklin Township-issued hunting permit for the hunting of white-tailed deer on Franklin Township-owned open space, the applicant for the permit must sign a “Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement” (attached) and provide the Township with proof that the applicant has at least \$1 million in personal liability insurance.

**Hunting Rules and Regulations
2016-2017 Deer Management Program**

Franklin Township Open Space Property

1. Hunting shall only be on the property that is listed on the permit. Only hunters who have obtained a Franklin Township issued hunting permit are permitted to hunt on Township-owned land.
2. All State and local regulations pertaining to parks and to hunting apply, including specific season dates and bag limits.
3. All tree stands must be portable and be removed two weeks after hunting season closes.
4. One non-antlered deer must be taken from your approved Township-owned hunting area before a buck may be taken from the area. A licensed adult must accompany all hunters under the age of 16.
5. All hunting results will be reviewed. This will help us determine if the hunter will be invited to hunt again in following years.
6. Vehicles are restricted to public roads and designated parking areas (map will be provided).
7. Only deer may be hunted; any other hunting is strictly prohibited.
8. Hunters are only authorized to be on the property for which they have been issued a permit and are responsible for knowing where they are at all times. Each hunter's permit must be prominently displayed whenever the hunter is on the property.
9. Target practice is prohibited.
10. Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while on the property is prohibited.
11. Littering is prohibited—including leaving empty shotgun shells on the ground.
12. Violation of any special condition or any applicable State law or local regulation will result in the immediate loss of hunting privileges on the property for the remainder of the hunting season and will also subject the hunter to any applicable penalties.
13. Hunting is restricted to the portions of the properties designated as open to deer hunting (maps will be provided).
14. Hunters are not permitted to hunt or possess a loaded firearm within 450 feet of any building or school playground or any posted safety zone area. It should be noted that some trails are posted as safety zones on open space.
15. Hours of hunting: Bow hunting is permitted from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes past sunset. * Pending Council Approval on August 9th, this may change. *Hunting with firearms is restricted to 1:30 PM to sunset. Hunters may not take a firearm onto the property prior to 1:30 PM.*
16. To ensure the safety of any non-hunters who may inadvertently enter the open space during this period, hunters must familiarize themselves with the location of all trails on the property and they shall not aim in the direction of the trail whenever their stand is within 450 feet of the trail.
17. Hunting is not permitted on Sundays.
18. Hunting Parking Permit must be displayed on the dashboard of your vehicle.
19. Hunting permit number must be clearly displayed on any tree stand. Failure to display the permit number will result in the removal of and the discarding of the stand.
20. No fires of any kind.
21. Hunters must carry cell phones when on the Township property.
22. Hunting in the Bunker Hill Natural Area(part of Ten Mile Run Greenway), the Wilson Road Natural Area, the DeMott Lane Open Space Area, the Elizabeth Avenue Open Space Area, the New Brunswick Road Open Space Area and the Butler Road Natural Area is restricted to bow only.
23. To ensure the safety of non-hunters who may be using the trails during periods when bow hunting is permitted, bow hunters must familiarize themselves with the location of all trails on the property and they shall not aim their bow in the direction of the trail whenever their stand is within 450 feet of the trail.
24. Property owners living adjacent, determined the by the WCC, to an open space parcel on which there is hunting, may apply to the township's Wildlife Control Committee (WCC) for a special neighbor-hunting-permit. Said permit may be issued, in addition to permits given out through the normal process, at the discretion of the WCC. In determining whether or not to issue the special neighbor-hunting-permit, the WCC shall consider all requirements for a normal permit, the total number of permits to be issued and whether or not the size of the open space property can sustain additional hunter.
25. Special December 5 – December 10, 2016 hunting-only season: Non-hunters are not permitted on the property for this six day season in December and those issued permits for firearm hunting may hunt from sunrise to sunset during these six days. To ensure the safety of any non-hunters who may inadvertently enter the open space during this period, hunters must familiarize themselves with the location of all trails on

the property and they shall not aim their firearm in the direction of the trail whenever their stand is within 450 feet of the trail. During this Special December hunting-only season, the provision that states, "One non-antlered deer must be taken from your approved Township-owned hunting area before a buck may be taken from the area," is waived.

26. **The "Hunter's Report" that will be attached to your permit, must be completed and returned to the Township no later than Monday, March 6, 2017, in order to be considered for participation in obtaining a permit for the following year.**

27. All NJ Fish and Wildlife Regulations must be followed. See their hunting regulations at <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/njregs.htm> - Regulation Set #8

Indemnification and Hold Harmless Agreement

In order to qualify for a Franklin Township-issued hunting permit on Township-owned open space, the following Indemnification and Hold Harmless Agreement must first be signed by the applicant for the hunting permit. Additionally, the applicant must provide the Township with proof that the applicant has at least \$1 million in personal liability insurance.

I _____ indemnify and hold harmless the Township of Franklin and assume the risks of all conditions existing in the open space area covered by the hunting permit, and shall assume liability for loss, damage or injury sustained by any person whatsoever by reason of negligence of my actions. I also agree that the use of said open space premises shall be used exclusively for the sole purpose stated above.

