



Seneca Parks
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MISSION: to preserve, protect, manage, and promote our natural resources; to educate and develop an appreciation of the natural, rural, historical, and cultural aspects of Seneca County.

Board of Park Commissioners: Jakob Boehler, Lori Hall, Lee Martin, Chris Monsour, Jacob Price

News Release

For Immediate Release

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New Deer Hunting Lottery Opening For Clary-Boulee McDonald Nature Preserve

With the donation of Clary-Boulee McDonald Nature Preserve (CLARY) this year from the Black Swamp Conservancy, the Seneca Parks is pleased to open a new 67-acre public hunting area this fall.

Opportunities to archery deer hunt will be determined by random lottery drawing. To encourage more local hunting, the lottery will only be open to residents of Seneca County beginning this year, with the drawing held in mid-October.

Interested hunters may enter once per person online, at www.SenecaCountyParks.com, through October 19 to be eligible to enter the lottery. The random drawing will be held October 20. All hunters will be notified by email of the drawing results.

Hunting will be available on the southeast half of the nature preserve, divided by Wolf Creek. A designated hunters parking lot is located off State Route 12, about 2 miles from Bettsville, Ohio. The parking lot will only be available for hunters to park during the designated hunting season, no hikers are permitted to park or use this side of the creek.

“This ended up being a perfect site to allow simultaneous but separate hunting and hiking areas,” said Betts, “without having to close trails, like we do at Steyer Nature Preserve. We are using Wolf Creek as a very visible divide between those areas and even allows separate parking lots, one on the north for hikers, one on the south for hunters.”

Betts went on to say that providing more hunting acres was a priority for the residents of the county, and was included in the County-wide Comprehensive Plan. “This is what the community said they wanted and the Parks were happy to be able to make it happen,” prior to accepting this property donation, the Parks made sure that hunting would be allowed by the Black Swamp Conservancy in their conservation easement that remains on the property.

Lottery entry will only be available online at www.SenecaCountyParks/about/hunting.

Other lottery requirements:

- Overall hunting season this year runs from November 1 – January 31, but is divided into 2 sessions with 4 lottery winners chosen per session.
- Names will be randomly drawn and those selected will be assigned to a specific time in one of 2 hunting units available.
- Hunters must possess a valid Ohio hunting license to enter the drawing. Youth are eligible, but must be accompanied by a legal parent or guardian each time they hunt. The parent or guardian automatically becomes the designated “partner.”
- Hunters will be permitted to hunt with a partner; the partner is not required to enter the drawing, but must meet all ODNR hunter requirements including having a valid Ohio Hunting License and tags.
- Legal game: any legal White-tailed Deer, taken by archery only. No dogs permitted.
- ODNR Wildlife Officers, Seneca County Sheriff, and State Highway Patrol may patrol the area and enforce all applicable laws.
- Other special regulations will be posted on line and sent to lottery winners directly after the drawing.

“We want to see hunting opportunities continue in this county,” said Betts, “We see hunting as an essential tool for efficient deer management and a great way to put meat in the freezer for many families.” She went on to describe that hunting is the best method for deer population management in the state and that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) provides many opportunities for residents of Ohio to hunt cooperatively on both public lands and private lands. Land owners can check out information on enrolling their property in the OLHAP system (Ohio Landowner/Hunter Access Partnership Program) or entering other lotteries to hunt on private and public property throughout the state. Search the ODNR website, <https://ohiodnr.gov> for more information about the OLHAP system and other public hunting Wildlife Areas.