NEW HANOVER TOWNSHIP

2026 – 2027

White-Tailed Deer Regulated Archery Hunting Program

RULES AND REGULATIONS

MANAGEMENT GOALS and OBJECTIVES

Whitetail deer are an important big game species in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the overpopulation of which can generate public health and safety concerns related to traffic accidents, Lyme disease density, Chronic Wasting Disease, depletion of the understory of woodlands, and damage to private landscaping. It is the responsibility of the Township to recommend and enact means of deer population controls that help mitigate these concerns. Regulated hunting using guidelines established by the Pennsylvania Game Commission is an important tool. Through a regulated white tail deer hunting program on the Township's Properties, New Hanover Township seeks to better manage the whitetail doe population by permitting the harvesting of whitetail doe populations on such property consistent with current seasons, bag limits and objectives established by the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

The regulated hunting on the Township's Properties will be permitted in limited areas, as depicted on the attached Deer Management Program Maps, and will only be authorized by permit issued by the Township to qualified archery hunters. This controlled hunting permit is limited to antlerless deer only using **Pennsylvania Game Commission's Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP**). Participants will be issued a DMAP coupon which they can use at any issuing agent to purchase their DMAP tag.

SAFETY STATEMENT

Hunting within the boundaries of New Hanover Township's Properties is a privilege granted by the New Hanover Township Board of Supervisors through the New Hanover Township Deer Management Program. Archery hunting will be allowed by permit only. New Hanover Township conducts these hunts in an effort to scientifically manage wildlife populations within the Township and in an effort to preserve a balanced ecosystem while providing ongoing viewing opportunities for the general public. The future success of these hunts depends on the ethical and safe conduct of all those who participate in these hunting programs. If these programs are to continue, each participant must make their personal safety and the safety of the public, the first and foremost priority.

All applications must be completed and returned to New Hanover Township by July 30, 2026.

- Pennsylvania Wildlife Management 5C archery deer seasons run from September 19,2026 to December 12, 2026 and from December 26, 2026 to January 23, 2027.
- We will split those dates into an Early Season (9/19/26 – 10/31/26), a Middle Season (11/1/26 – 12/12/26), and a Late Season (12/26/26 – 1/23/27).
- Half of those picked will be placed in the Early Season slots and half will be placed in the Middle Season Slots. Both groups of individuals will be eligible to hunt the Late Season slots within their zone.
- For this year we will have slots for 32 hunters.

1. APPLICANT SELECTION PROCESS

    1. Applications must be submitted to and received by New Hanover Township 2943 N Charlotte St Gilbertsville, PA 19525 either in person or by mail no later than 5:00 PM on 7/30/26.

    2. Applicants must be 18 years old by September 20, 2026.

    3. New Hanover Township residents who submit an application, who pay the requisite processing fee, and who satisfy all requirements herein will be issued a hunting permit unless the total number of applicants outnumbers the total number of permits to be issued as established by the Township. Under those circumstances, applicant permits will be issued by random drawing conducted on 8/4/26 at New Hanover Township Municipal Building at 6:30 PM.

4. The Township has authorized a total of 32 permits. Non-Residents of New Hanover Township may also submit an application. When more than the maximum number of permits are received for a zone, the second-choice zone will be used. If there are more than the maximum in the second choice, then the 3rd, until space is found in a zone. If space is not available in the applicant's selection, they will be assigned to another zone.

5. Applicants seeking to obtain a permit to participate in the Regulated Deer Hunting program must submit a completed application, the form of which is attached hereto, together with information regarding the applicant's archery experience, game law compliance record, and criminal record. Applicants shall also submit an executed copy of the Participant Acknowledgment Form.

6. Applicants who are chosen by the Township to become participants in the Regulated Deer Hunting Program shall complete and execute the Indemnification Agreement attached hereto. The failure of an applicant to submit an executed Indemnification Agreement shall disqualify the applicant from obtaining a permit.

7. Applicants who are chosen by the Township for a permit, must demonstrate proficiency with the archery tackle to be used (while hunting) in order to qualify for a New Hanover Township property archery hunting permit.

8. Proficiency testing shall be conducted by the Township at:

   Frontier Archers Association
   2950 Chestnut Hill Road
   Pottstown Pa 19465

   On the following dates:

   Saturday 8/8/26 8-11 AM

   Wednesday 8/12/26 6-8 PM

   Wednesday 8/19/26 6-8 PM

   Saturday 8/22/26 8-11 AM

9. Only those individuals selected to receive a permit may participate in the proficiency process. Each individual must pass the proficiency testing to participate in the Township property archery program. Pass or fail, there is a $10 cash donation to Frontier Archers Association.

10. The proficiency test shall require individuals using compound, recurve, or longbow to place three (3) of four (4) arrows in an area of a target at twenty (20) yards equivalent in size to the vital area of medium-size whitetail deer. Individuals using crossbows shall be required to place three (3) of four (4) bolts in an area of a target at 30 yards equivalent in size to the vital area of medium size whitetail deer. The bow and arrows to be used for hunting shall be used for the proficiency testing, with the exception that arrows shall be equipped with field points during the proficiency testing. This same rule applies to crossbows and crossbow bolts.

11. All participants are **required** to attend the annual Pre-Hunt Safety Deer Management Meeting in September to receive their permits. This meeting is scheduled on 9/8/26 at the New Hanover Township Municipal Building at 6:30 PM.

2. RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR HUNTING

    1. Archery hunting will be allowed by permit only.
    2. This program will utilize the Pennsylvania Game Commission Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP).
    3. Hunting on New Hanover Township owned property is restricted to archery only. Longbow, recurve bow, compound bow, and crossbow hunting are permitted. Archery tackle must conform to that which is specified by the Pennsylvania Game Commission for use during the season.
    4. The use of any type of firearm is strictly prohibited.
    5. Participants must carry their Township Archery Hunting permit any time they are hunting.
    6. BAG LIMITS - Only antlerless deer may be harvested. Harvesting a buck is prohibited. Only DMAP tags may be used. Bag limits on antlerless deer are in accordance with PA Game Laws.
    7. BAITING - It is the policy of New Hanover Township that baiting shall not be permitted on New Hanover Township's property.
    8. Pennsylvania Game Commission Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) will be utilized. Only DMAP **tags** can be used. Selected participants will receive a DMAP **coupon** at the Pre-hunt Safety meeting which they can use to obtain a DMAP **tag** from either an authorized issuing agent or online at huntfish.pa.gov. Participants must possess a valid DMAP **tag**. If the participant harvests a deer, they will be issued another DMAP **coupon** which they can use to purchase another DMAP **tag**. These DMAP **coupons** and **tags** are valid only for hunting on designated New Hanover Township owned properties.
    9. GENERAL PROCEDURES - Participants must log in and out each time they hunt using the designated online phone app. Hunting zones have been established for the whitetail deer management program for each Township site. The archery hunting zones are identified on the respective Deer Management Program Maps, which are forwarded to all participants with their hunting permits and DMAP coupons. Additionally, the Township will post outwardly facing signs to inform residents: that a particular area is part of the Whitetail Deer Archery Hunting Program and that residents should wear brightly colored clothing to ensure visibility. In the event that a Participant observes that his/her designated archery hunting zone is not so posted, the Participant shall immediately notify the Township and shall not hunt in the said area unless and until such signs are erected.
    10. PARKING - Participants must park their vehicles in the area designated for the assigned hunting area and must display a Township parking permit.
    11. Participants must wear a blaze orange hat and vest/coat that meet the minimum square inch requirements specified by the PA Game Commission during the overlapping muzzleloader/shotgun seasons.
    12. Participants must hunt a minimum of 10 hours during the 2026 season from September 19, 2026 to January 23, 2027 to be considered for future archery programs as they may occur. *Failure to do so may result in revocation of hunting privileges at the discretion of the Township.*
    13. HUNTING ZONES - Archery-only hunting on specific New Hanover Township owned properties is restricted to archery only. Longbow, recurve bow, compound bow, and crossbow hunting are permitted. Archery tackle must conform to that which is specified by the Pennsylvania Game Commission for use during the season. DMAP tags only.

14. Participants may hunt in their assigned zone only and possess a valid DMAP tag. Safety zone boundaries may exceed the 50-yard minimum, as is established statewide by the PA Game Commission for a variety of reasons including safety and respect for adjacent landowners. It is imperative that all hunters adhere to their area boundaries and safety zones accordingly. Deer Management Program Maps illustrating all archery hunting areas will be issued to participants.

15. TREE STANDS - Participants may use blinds and/or tree stands. Portable tree stands; the self-climbing type of tree stand is allowed. Fixed-position stands will be considered, but the type of stand and the proposed location(s) of stands must be approved by the Township. Steps or other devices that pierce the outer and inner bark of trees are not permitted. Participants must supply their own tree stands and blinds. Tree stands and blinds may be left in place during the season only at the participant's risk. Tree stands and blinds must be removed within 1 week of the close of the participants assigned hunting season. **Participants must label tree stands and blinds with their permit number so that it may be seen from ground level**.

16. The Pennsylvania Game Law and the New Hanover Township Ordinances and Regulations shall apply. Hunters shall abide by all of the Pennsylvania Game Laws.

17. The Township reserves the right to discontinue the program at any time.

18. Permits are not transferable.

19. The Township reserves the right to revoke a permit holder's permit at any time.

20. Permit holders who cannot participate in the management program are asked to call the Township to allow staff to make timely adjustments.

21. Participants are permitted to field dress a harvested deer on the Township's property provided that such is generally out of sight of residents. Remains may be left behind but must be placed away from likely human access.

22. Participants shall not make any attempt to harvest a deer while any non-archer is within sixty (50) yards of the targeted deer.

23. Participants shall not make any attempt to harvest a deer within fifty (50) yards of a residence or right of way for access to a residence.

24. Hunting will be for antlerless whitetail deer only. Trapping and/or hunting of furbearers or any other mammal or bird is strictly prohibited.

25. Participants may be checked by law enforcement officers from the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and New Hanover Township Police Department. Each participant must carry and if requested, provide photo identification, hunting licenses, and Township permits.

26. Participants who observe individuals hunting on Township property without a Township-issued permit displayed are requested to notify the New Hanover Township Police Department.

27. All participants are **required** to attend the annual Pre-Hunt Safety Deer Management Meeting in September to receive their permits. This meeting is scheduled on 9/8/2026 at the New Hanover Township Municipal Building at 6:30 PM.

28. Participants shall not be permitted to bring onto the premises, possess or consume any alcoholic beverage or illegal drugs of any kind; no participant shall enter the Township Property for the purpose of hunting in an intoxicated state or otherwise be under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances.

29. Participants must remove all material brought into the hunting area, with the exception of tree stands and blinds as provided in # 15 above.

30. Hunting is only permitted as published by the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

31. Participants who wish to donate their harvest to a charitable organization such as the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Hunters Sharing the Harvest are encouraged to do so. Additional information can be provided.

3. VIOLATIONS

1. PARTICIPANT VIOLATION OF OR DEVIATION FROM THE NEW HANOVER TOWNSHIP ARCHERY HUNTING PROGRAM RULES AND REGULATIONS SET FORTH IN THIS BOOKLET, AND/OR THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME LAW AND THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE REGULATIONS SHALL NOT BE TOLERATED. SUCH CONDUCT, WHETHER WITNESSED BY OR REPORTED TO THE TOWNSHIP STAFF, MAY BE CONSIDERED GROUNDS FOR PERMANENT EXPULSION FROM PARTICIPATION IN THE NEW HANOVER TOWNSHIP HUNTING PROGRAM.

2. The New Hanover Township Police Department is authorized to enforce the Rules and Regulations set forth herein.

3. The Pennsylvania Game Commission is authorized to enforce all Pennsylvania game laws and regulations.

4. **The Township may revoke or suspend a Participants permit for any violation of the Rules and Regulations.**

NEW HANOVER TOWNSHIP

2943 N. Charlotte St. Gilbertsville, PA 19525

Application for Hunting Permit-- **Open Space Archery Program**

APPLICATIONS FOR A HUNTING PERMIT WILL BE ACCEPTED NO LATER THAN July 30, 2026. MAIL OR DROP OFF THIS APPLICATION TO THE TOWNSHIP, Attn: Deer Management Program

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Telephone No.: _____ Age: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Cell Phone No.: _____ E-mail: _____

2026/27 PA CID #_____ 2026/27 Archery License Required

Volunteer of New Hanover Township? Yes_____ No_____. If yes list organization_____

Emergency Contact: Name: _____ Relation: _____

Address: _____ Telephone No.: _____

Please indicate your Hunting Zone Preference by entering the hunting zone number from your first choice to your third choice in the following boxes. The zones can be found on the hunting zone maps. Please specify the zone number in each of the following boxes as your first through third choice. Please choose your preferred hunting zone(s):

1st_____ 2nd_____ 3rd_____

Please indicate preferred hunting time period:

Sept 19, 2026 to Oct 31, 2026 _____ Nov 1, 2026 to Dec. 12, 2026 _____

DETAILED INFORMATION

1. Number of years of experience in archery hunting: _____

2. Have you attended an archery/bow/crossbow hunting education course? □ Yes □ No If Yes, what year? _____

3. Have you been charged with or convicted of a game law violation? □ Yes □ No If Yes, please describe:

4. Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony? □ Yes □ No □ Prefer not to reply. If Yes, please describe:

5. List the number of Big Game species that you have harvested in the past three (3) years and the sporting arm used:

Year	Big Game Species	Sporting Arm
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

6. Why do you wish to participate in a regulated antlerless archery program in New Hanover Township?

_____

_____

_____

RELEASE AND INDEMNIFICATION

By signature below, I hereby RELEASE and forever discharge New Hanover Township and all of its officials, employees, staff and agents of and from all actions, causes of action, suits, demands, claims, and judgments whatsoever in law or equity, arising out of the use of Township owned lands for hunting purposes of any kind whatsoever. By signature below, I also hereby agree to indemnify New Hanover Township, its officials, employees, staff and agents from any liability, injury, loss, accident, or damage to person(s) or property arising out of or relating to any activities I undertake on New Hanover Township owned Lands. I further agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the 2026 – 2027 White Tail Deer Regulated Archery Hunting Program of New Hanover Township.

_____ _____

Signature Date

_____

Print Name

Participant Acknowledgement

I, _____, do hereby acknowledge that I have read the 2026— 2027 White Tail Deer Regulated Archery Hunting Program and understand the rules and regulations as set forth in this booklet, including that I agree to indemnify and release New Hanover Township, its officials, employees, staff and agents, as provided in the Release and Indemnification Agreement required by the Program rules and regulations. I understand that I am voluntarily participating in any hunting activities on New Hanover Township owned property AT MY OWN RISK, acknowledging that dangerous conditions of the property may be present and that there are dangers inherent in hunting activities. I also understand that any deviation from or violation of the New Hanover Township Hunting Program Rules and Regulations, the Pennsylvania Game Law, or the US Fish and Wildlife Service Regulations shall not be tolerated. Such conduct or behavior, whether witnessed by or reported to the New Hanover Township staff and/or Police Department, may be considered grounds for permanent expulsion from the New Hanover Township Hunting programs. Conduct or behavior that is in violation of the New Hanover Township Hunting Program Rules and Regulations may also result in non-traffic citations amid other penalties.

ACKOWLEDGEMENT

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

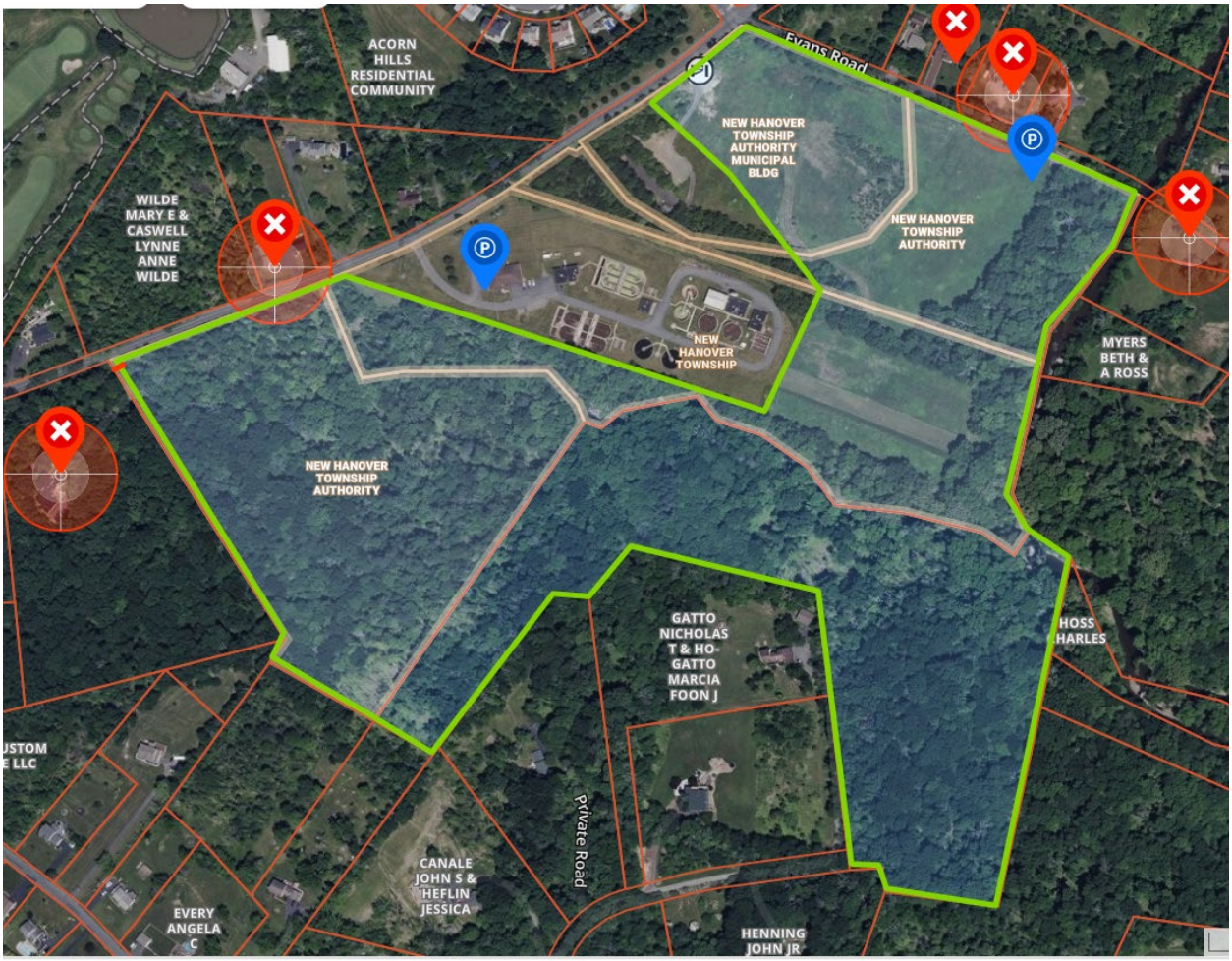
Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone No.: _____ Age: ____ Date of Birth: _____

- **Zone 1. Wassmer Tract**: Center point GPS coordinates,40.305.09 – 75.58309. Located behind the New Hanover Township Building 2943 N Charlotte St. Gilbertsville. 99 acres. About **54 acres** of this tract is included in the program. This section is bounded on the west by the RP Wynstone property, the soccer fields and Trotter's Gait**. 4 hunters**.

- **Zone 2. New Hanover Township Authority** Center point GPS coordinates,40.29057 – 75.60842. 2990 Fagleysville Rd. Gilbertsville – 73 acres. Approximately 11 acres through the center of the property is not included in the program. About **62 acres** are included in the program. There is a small section of Safety Zone along Evans Rd. Swamp Creek and Evans Rd provide natural line markers for some of the property. **4 hunters.**



- **Zones 3 & 4. Moyer Tract North, Moyer Tract South:** 35 Acres. The north side of this tract (Zone 3) Center point GPS coordinates,40.29057 - 75.60842. A riparian area of about **2 acres** is included (**1 hunter**). The south side (Zone 4) Center point GPS coordinates, 40.28734 - 75.61031contains about **7 ½ acres** that are included (**2 hunters**). **Total 3 hunters**

- **Zone 5. Deep Creek Park:** Center point GPS Coordinates 40.34794 - 75.53863. Deep Creek Road (North of Pleasant Run Park), Perkiomenville. Three Safety Zones affect this area. – **10.83 acres**. **2 hunters**.

- **Zone 6. Parestis Open Space:** Center point GPS Coordinates 40.3421 - 75.554861 Rte. 663&Little Rd – 19 Acres. No hunting in the open field. **7 ½** wooded acres included in the program. **2 hunters**

- Zone 7. **Hickory Park:** Center point GPS Coordinates 40.31542 - 75.56691. 2140 Big Road. 20 acres. The **4 ¾ acres** section on the south side of the park near the Public Work's brush pile is included in the program. The area is bounded by the brush pile on the north, Liberty Development Corp on the east, and Swamp Creek on the south and west. **1 hunter.**.