

Allegan County Policy

Title: Hunting on County Services Complex Property

Document Code No.: FM1
Department: Facilities Management
Effective Date: Immediately
Approved: September 22, 2011
Type of Action: Establish Policy for Hunting on County Services Complex Property

1.0 SUBJECT TITLE: County Services Complex Wildlife Management.

2.0 PURPOSE: To establish policy for Allegan County residents to hunt waterfowl or deer during specific times on County Services Complex property to help control wildlife population.

3.0 ORGANIZATIONS AFFECTED:

Allegan County residents.

4.0 REFERENCES:

Department of Natural Resources.

5.0 DEFINITIONS:

5.1 County Services Complex: The 240 acres between 33rd Street on the west and 122nd Street on the south.

5.2 Safety zone: An area within 500 feet of any occupied building where bow and firearm use and hunting of any kind are not allowed.

5.3 Motorized vehicle: Any 2 (or more) wheeled motorized automobile, truck, 4-wheel drive, or ATV.

5.4 Tree stand: Any structure or compartment that is placed in a tree to offer stealth positioning to provide a hunting advantage.

- 5.5 Ground blind: Any ground structure with four sides and a top whether custom-made or professionally manufactured that is designed to camouflage location and movement. The use of any ground blind must not create any permanent changes to the property on which it is used.
 - 5.6 Bait: Items such as fruit, vegetables, or salt blocks used to attract deer or waterfowl.
 - 5.7 Designated parking areas: The asphalt areas specifically designated for parking by each of the 13 County buildings within the County Services Complex.
 - 5.8 Allegan County Hunting Permit: The County form which must be completed by individuals desiring to hunt deer or ducks within the County Services Complex and submitted to the Facilities Management Department and approved by same.
- 6.0 RULES:** The following rules apply to the 240 acres designated as the County Services Complex. Law enforcement officers will be called to deal with any violations of law including, but not limited to, adherence to all applicable hunting laws and recreational trespass laws.
- 6.1 Applicants are required to obtain an appropriate and valid Michigan DNR hunting license prior to a County permit being issued.
 - 6.2 Hunters must follow all Michigan hunting laws and regulations and all rules set forth in this policy.
 - 6.3 Hunters must maintain a safe distance from property lines. Property lines are specifically marked on the east by page wire fencing, the west by 33rd Street, the south by 122nd Avenue, and the north by Dumont Lake.
 - 6.4 A specified area from any building (500 feet) is considered a "safety zone." No shooting of a bow or firearm or hunting of any kind is allowed in a safety zone.
 - 6.5 No motorized vehicles of any kind are allowed on County land or open space lands except in designated building parking areas and drives.

- 6.6 The use of bait to attract deer or waterfowl for the purpose of hunting is prohibited.
- 6.7 No tree stands are to be used.
- 6.8 Only portable and temporary ground blinds may be used. Ground blinds may only be placed while occupied. Advance placement or leaving ground blinds overnight is prohibited. The name, phone number and address of the owner must be attached to any blind.
- 6.9 No cutting, removing or gathering of natural materials is allowed for any purpose.
- 6.10 No person while on County property shall be in possession of, discharge, or set off a pistol, rifle, shotgun, slingshot or any other instrument which discharges a projectile by air, explosion or any other force except for a duly appointed law enforcement officer carrying out the duties and responsibilities of his or her position, unless for the purpose of hunting while in possession of a valid County permit as described in this policy.
- 6.11 Only bowhunting of deer is permitted. Firearms and crossbows are not allowed for deer hunting. Each firing of a bow and arrow for deer hunting shall be limited to a single arrow that is tipped with a legal broadhead for hunting purposes. Practicing with a bow and arrow while on County property is prohibited.
- 6.12 Hunting on the County Services Complex without a valid County permit is not allowed and violators can and will be prosecuted. Hunters with a permit may hunt only during the specific time period and area authorized on the permit.
- 6.13 Hunting hours are limited to weekends only, and are Friday from 5:00 PM until one-half (1/2) hour after sunset, Saturday from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to one-half (1/2) hour after sunset, and Sunday from sunrise to sunset only.
- 6.14 Hunting for deer will only be permitted during bow and arrow season (October 1 to November 14 and December 1 to January 1) and hunting for waterfowl will only be permitted during duck season as determined by the MDNRE for Allegan Township (South Section).

- 6.15 The number of permits issued for each day is limited to 2 for waterfowl and 2 for deer.
- 6.16 Deer hunting is limited to the area north of Human Services, excluding lagoons (see attached map).
- 6.17 Waterfowl hunting is limited to the fenced-in area at the lagoons (see attached map).
- 6.18 Permit availability is limited to individuals who are residents of Allegan County at least 18 years of age and who furnish proof of hunter safety course completion.
- 6.19 Use/possession or previous consumption of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances within the County Services Complex is prohibited.
- 6.20 Waterfowl hunters must only use shotguns with MDNRE approved non-toxic shot. Using any other firearms or a bow or crossbow to hunt waterfowl is prohibited. Target practice is prohibited.
- 6.21 Individuals must possess all applicable Michigan DNR hunting license requirements for either waterfowl or deer depending on their specific hunting request.
- 6.22 Should a hunter be approached by a law enforcement officer, the hunter is required to place his or her weapon on the ground and produce all requested documents such as State I.D., hunting licenses and permits to be on County property.
- 6.23 No person shall willfully vandalize, destroy, deface, alter, change or remove any property from the premises, natural or man-made, including, but not limited to, stakes, posts or blaze marking or designating any boundary line, survey line, or reference point.
- 6.24 No fires are allowed on the County Services Complex for any reason.
- 6.25 Littering of any kind is prohibited, including the leaving behind of spent shotgun shells.

- 6.26 Waterfowl hunters are limited to 12 shotgun shells per day and subject to all bag limits. Waterfowl hunters are limited to hunting waterfowl and may not possess a bow and arrow for the taking of deer and vice versa.
- 6.27 The tracking and attempted retrieval of any game requires permission of adjacent landowners before continuing onto adjacent properties. All efforts to retrieve downed game are required.
- 6.28 No equipment may be left on County property. Anything left on County property will be removed and confiscated by the County.
- 6.29 Except for lawful deer and waterfowl hunting consistent with this policy, no person within the confines of County property shall hunt, molest, harm or kill any wild bird or animal, or rob or molest any bird nest or take the eggs of any bird.
- 6.30 The County may revoke a hunting permit based on a trespass or violation of any law or any provision of this policy. Such revocation may also result in ineligibility for a permit in the future.

7.0 PROCEDURE:

- 7.1 Application Process for Obtaining Permit:
 - 7.1.1 Pick permit form up at the reception area of the County Services Building, 3283 122nd Avenue, Allegan Township, or download form from the Facilities Management webpage on the County website at www.allegancounty.org/facilities.
 - 7.1.2 Submit completed and signed permit form no later than five (5) business days prior to the start of hunting season.
- 7.2 Issuing Process for Permit:
 - 7.2.1 Obtain approved permit from Facilities Management Department.
 - 7.2.2 Permits will be issued based on date of application (first come, first served) and availability of dates requested.

7.2.3 Approved permits are non-transferrable.

8.0 RESPONSIBILITIES:

8.1 Facilities Management shall issue Allegan County Hunting Permits in accordance with this policy to individuals who wish to hunt deer or waterfowl on the County Services Complex.

8.2 Hunters must carry the approved permit and all required state and federal licenses while hunting as proof of permission to hunt.

9.0 IMPORTANT NOTE: The County does not represent, warrant or guarantee that any game taken from County property is fit for human consumption. Each hunter should carefully examine the game for evidence of illness or disease or other problems in the same manner that game from other areas would be examined if used for human consumption.

10.0 APPENDICES:

10.1 Quick Reference for Hunting Policy

10.2 Allegan County Hunting Application

10.3 Map of County Services Complex

Created: June 2011

Updated:

**Allegan County
Quick Reference
Hunting Policy**

	WATERFOWL	DEER
TIME	Weekends only: Friday – 5 PM to ½ hr after sunset Saturday – ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset Sunday – Sunrise to sunset	Weekends only: Friday – 5 PM to ½ hr after sunset Saturday – ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset Sunday – Sunrise to sunset
AREA (See map)	Fenced-in area at lagoons	North of Human Services, excluding lagoons
METHOD	Shotgun (non-toxic shot)	Bow and arrow (excluding crossbow, and no stands or bait piles)
NO. OF PEOPLE	2 maximum per day	2 maximum per day
ELIGIBILITY	Licensed, and must be 18 years or older and a resident of Allegan County	Licensed, and must be 18 years or older and a resident of Allegan County
WHEN	Duck season as determined for Allegan Township (South Section) by the MDNRE (http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10363_10859_32209-31173--,00.html)	Bow and arrow season: October 1 through November 14 and December 1 through January 1

ALLEGAN COUNTY
APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL HUNTING PERMIT
AT ALLEGAN COUNTY SERVICES COMPLEX

AND

CONSENT, WAIVER AND LIABILITY RELEASE

Name of Applicant (PRINT)

Street Address

City, State, ZIP

Telephone Number

Permit Fee: \$ 5.00 per day OR
 \$10.00 per weekend

Check Permit Type: Waterfowl _____
 Deer _____

Requested Date(s): _____

I, the undersigned, have applied for a special permit to hunt on Allegan County property at the Allegan County Services Complex.

In consideration of me being issued a hunting permit by Allegan County, I freely, voluntarily and without duress agree to the following:

1. Assumption of Risk. I understand that there are risks involved in hunting on Allegan County property, including the risk of **property damage, personal injury, or death**. I assume full responsibility and risk, including financial responsibility, for any and all losses, injuries, or damages, including medical expenses, which I may sustain when on or about the property of Allegan County or when participating in any activity related to hunting on the property of Allegan County.

2. Waiver, Release and Indemnification. I, for myself and my heirs, administrators, personal representatives or assignees, release, waive, and discharge, and further agree to indemnify, hold harmless, defend and/or reimburse Allegan County and its elected officials, officers, employees, agents, attorneys, representatives, insurers, and others acting on their behalf, for and from all claims, demands, and actions which I or any other person or legal entity may have or claim to have, known or unknown, directly or indirectly, for any losses, damages, injuries or death arising out of, during, or in connection with my being on or about the property of Allegan County or participating in any activity related to hunting on the property of Allegan County.

3. Law and Policy. I agree to comply with all applicable Allegan County policies, rules and regulations, and all local, state and federal laws, including, but not limited to, those relating to hunting. I understand that if the infraction constitutes a potential violation of the law, the appropriate authorities will be notified. I acknowledge that I have received and read a copy of all applicable Allegan County policies, rules and regulations.

4. Other. I agree that this Release is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the State of Michigan, and that this Release is governed by and will be interpreted according to the laws of the State of Michigan. I agree that should any part of this Release be ruled invalid by a court or other tribunal, the other parts will remain valid and continue to be in effect.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THIS ENTIRE CONSENT, WAIVER AND LIABILITY RELEASE, AND VOLUNTARILY AGREE TO ITS TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

Applicant's Full Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:

EMAIL

hcekkku@allegancounty.org




MAIL

Allegan County Facilities Management
3283 122nd Avenue
Allegan, MI 49010




FAX

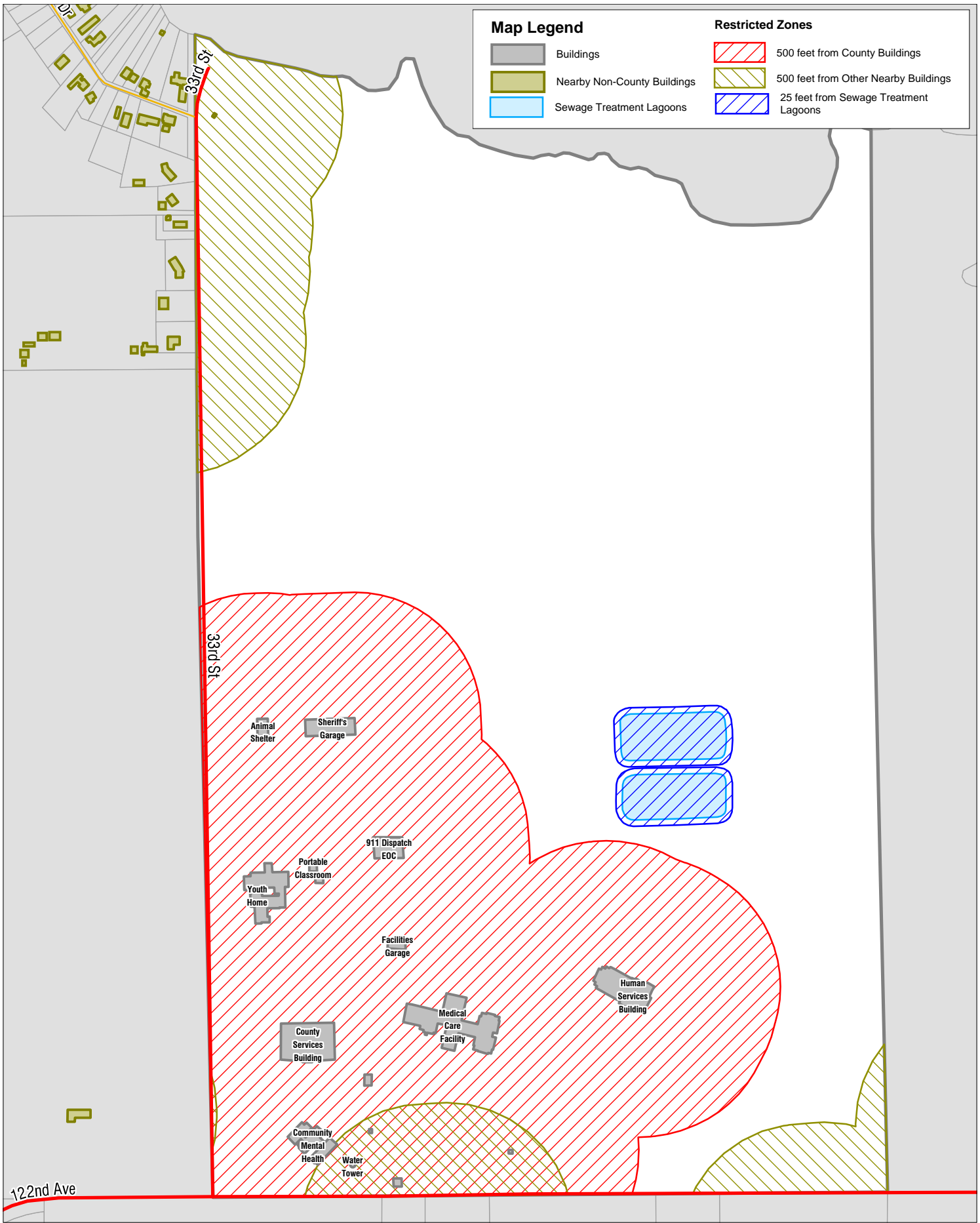
269-673-0303

Map Legend

-  Buildings
-  Nearby Non-County Buildings
-  Sewage Treatment Lagoons

Restricted Zones

-  500 feet from County Buildings
-  500 feet from Other Nearby Buildings
-  25 feet from Sewage Treatment Lagoons



**Dumont Lake Complex
Hunting Policy Map**

1 inch = 500 feet (1:6000)
Map Printed: 7/15/2010

Allegan County Land Information Services assumes no liability for the conclusions drawn from the use of these data