



Resolution Number 2024-04
Introduced 07/08/2024
Adopted 07/08/2024
Effective 07/08/2024

Resolution Authorizing Joint Town of Washington Grove and Montgomery County Parks Deer Management Bow Hunting Sessions in Conservation Meadow and Piedmont Crossing Local Park

WHEREAS, the Town Council affirms the following:

- (1) the Forest Stewardship Plan prepared by Bill Bond, a Maryland registered forester, for the East Woods and West Woods of the Town of Washington Grove made management recommendations to include the impact of deer on forest health, and which Plan was approved by the Town Council in December 2015; and
- (2) the continuing overpopulation of white tail deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) has raised public health and safety concerns over the risk of deer-vehicle accidents and the increased risk of deer tick-borne disease; and ongoing concern over damage to private property and landscaping from foraging; and
- (3) the Town seeks to better manage the white tail deer population within the Town's corporate boundaries to respond to these concerns; and because a portion of the deer herd regularly moves between our Forest Preserves and Washington Grove Conservation Meadow Park/Piedmont Crossing Local Park, the effectiveness of our program will be materially enhanced if these parks are included in the Montgomery County Parks (MCP) archery managed deer hunting program; and
- (4) the State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Montgomery County have established safety regulations for bow hunting of deer within the County, and the MCP has a program for authorizing established groups of qualified individuals for managed bow deer hunting in County parks; and
- (5) Town representatives have met with MCP officials and with County-authorized groups of State-licensed archery hunters to explore extending Town and County-authorized bow hunting deer management during the 2024-2025 White-Tailed Deer Archery Season to the Washington Grove Conservation Meadow and Piedmont Crossing Local Park; and
- (6) the Town continues to explore other methods for managing the impacts of deer in the Town-owned properties to protect sensitive areas such as protective barriers for individual plantings, and other proposals to reduce deer browsing within these Town-owned properties; and
- (7) Article I, Sec. 12(b)(2) of the Washington Grove Code of Ordinances provides for deer management bow hunting sessions in the Town-owned East and West Woods; and, in consultation with and concurrence from MCP, in the Conservation Meadow, by Town Council Resolution; and

- (8) the State of Maryland has established September 6, 2024, to January 31, 2025, as dates for the 2024-2025 White-Tailed Deer Archery Season for the portion of the State that includes Montgomery County; and
- (9) the MCP has established Managed Deer Hunting Program Regulations, Group Leader Expectations, and Archery Participant Expectations and Procedures.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Town Council, in accordance with Article I, Section 12(b) of the Code of Ordinances, hereby approve and authorize the following:

- (10) joint Town-MCP bow hunting deer management sessions conducted in the Conservation Meadow Park and Piedmont Crossing Local Park and all sessions are in accordance with the Maryland Hunting Regulations for the 2024-2025 White-Tailed Deer Archery Season specific for Montgomery County (Region B) starting September 6, 2024; and
- (11) the Town-MCP authorized bow hunting will be limited to a Town-MCP selected volunteer group of Maryland DNR-licensed and Maryland DNR/MCP-qualified bow hunters such as the Bow Hunting Fire Fighters of Maryland (BHFFMD); and
- (12) the Town-MCP authorized bow hunting must be conducted in accordance with all applicable Maryland State and Montgomery County rules and regulations; and
- (13) where possible, deer harvested during bow hunting sessions will be processed and the meat donated to food banks, food pantries, and/or soup kitchens to feed the hungry; and
- (14) the Town-MCP authorized bow hunting shall comply with the applicable provisions of the Montgomery County Department of Parks Managed Deer Hunting Program Regulations, Group Leader Expectations, and Archery Participant Expectations and Procedures, as amended.

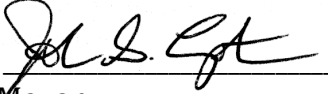
And **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor shall coordinate with MCP to ensure that

- (15) each participating volunteer bow hunting group to provide a text message notification to the "Town Contact" (Mayor or other person as designated by the Mayor) upon arrival in and departure from the Conservation Meadow and the Town Contact will subsequently notify the Town Office/Town Clerk; and
- (16) hunting to occur from portable tree-stands to meet the elevated height requirement (minimum platform height of 10 feet from the ground); and
- (17) mandatory reporting of deer harvest and other general observational data on a weekly basis of hunting activity; any citizen interactions or other urgent incidents will be reported promptly within 24 hours (to be provided by bow hunter via text message or email to the Town Contact and MCP); and
- (18) the Town Contact will ensure all records of arrivals and departures, reports of harvest, observational data, citizen interactions, any incidents, and summary reports are maintained in an organized and secure manner to support this deer management program; and

(19) the Mayor and Town Council reserve the right to take corrective action if needed, including adjustment or termination of this deer management program.

Adopted and effective this day, July 8, 2024.

Approved by Mayor and Town Council:


_____/s/ 7/9/2024
Mayor

Attest: _____/s/_____
Town Clerk