



# DRIFTLESS AREA LAND CONSERVANCY

## Wild Oaks Preserve Deer Hunting Program

Hunter Requirements, Application for Permit, and Hunter Survey

### INTRODUCTION

Driftless Area Land Conservancy (DALC) co-manages the Wild Oaks Preserve with the Badgerland Foundation. The Wild Oaks Preserve totals 416 acres, of which DALC owns 308. Our shared goal for the Preserve is rooted in promoting diverse and sustainable land use and diverse ecological communities. We envision incorporating wildlife habitat restoration and management, sustainable agriculture, and opportunities for public use.

The goal of the deer hunting program is to maintain the deer population at a density that minimizes harm to the plant biodiversity we are working to enhance and maintain, and to ensure safety for hunters and other visitors to the property.

The hunting permit system works by people volunteering their time to help restore and preserve the ecosystems at Wild Oaks Preserve. Hunting privileges are earned by those who contribute volunteer hours and comply with the hunter guidelines and all Wisconsin hunting and trespassing laws.

### HUNTER GUIDELINES

DALC wishes to promote good relationships with and amongst hunters on the site, and with our neighbors. We can learn from hunters' experiences, and we want your experience to be safe and rewarding. DALC reserves the right to revoke any permit if these requirements are not being met. This program is also likely to evolve as we learn more about the land, deer behavior at the site, and the practicalities of allowing multiple different hunting parties onto the land together.

#### *Before you hunt:*

- Every hunter must apply for and possess a permit from DALC to hunt at Wild Oaks Preserve. One hunting permit per individual, per hunting season. Hunting permits may not be transferred or sold.
- Every hunter must possess a valid Wisconsin Deer Hunting License in addition to the permit from DALC.
- Hunters must understand and follow all [state regulations](#) pertaining to deer hunting in Wisconsin, including regulations regarding Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). For complete hunting and trapping

laws, consult the Wisconsin State Statutes Chapter 29 or Chapter 10 of the Administrative Code of the Department of Natural Resources.

- Hunters are responsible for knowing the property boundary and remaining within it. The Preserve is surrounded by private property. There shall be no trespassing on neighboring properties for any reason, including tracking or retrieval of wounded animals. Doing so is a violation of the law and will result in immediate and permanent revocation of hunting rights on Wild Oaks Preserve. If there is *any* reason hunters feel they need to trespass, contact a Site Steward (listed below) first, and not the neighboring landowners.
- Hunters must provide personal contact information to DALC and allow DALC to share it with other individuals who hold hunting permits at Wild Oaks Preserve. Hunters are responsible for contacting each other to ensure safe hunting conditions. A map of management zones will be included with the permit and shall be used to communicate where hunters plan to hunt on any given day.
- Hunters must accrue 8 hours of volunteer time in the year prior to the start of hunting season (September 17, 2023). A key goal of volunteering is to better understand the land, the other hunters, and our goals for the overall project. Regular volunteer workdays occur the first and third Saturday of each month from 9am – 1pm. See <https://www.driftlessconservancy.org/volunteer> or contact a Site Steward for more details.

*During your hunt:*

- Hunters must carry their DALC permit with them when hunting (this can include a digital copy on your phone).
- Hunters are required to “earn a buck” – you must harvest at least one antlerless deer prior to attempting to harvest any antlered deer (bucks).
- Temporary tree stands are allowed under the following conditions:
  - Each hunter may place up to two temporary deer stands, provided they do not require any nails or screws placed into trees.
  - All tree stands must be labeled with the name and address of the owner.
  - Tree stands may be placed once the DALC hunting permit is in hand. Tree stands must be removed by February 15, 2024.
  - Tree stands must be placed at least 100 yards inside of any Wild Oaks Preserve boundaries.
  - DALC will remove any tree stands that do not follow the above requirements. DALC is not responsible for theft or damage to tree stands.
- Trail cameras are allowed under the following conditions:
  - The location of trail cameras shall be reported to DALC.
  - All cameras shall be labeled with the owner’s name.
  - Trail cameras must be placed once the DALC hunting permit is in hand and must be removed by February 15, 2024.
  - DALC will remove any trail cameras that do not follow the above requirements. DALC is not responsible for theft or damage to trail cameras.
- Deer drives are not allowed unless DALC gives specific permission to do so in writing.
- Alteration of vegetation (e.g. preparation of shooting lanes) is not allowed unless DALC gives specific

permission to do so in writing.

- No baiting is allowed.
- Hunters must pack out any trash they generate.
- Hunters understand and acknowledge that other activities will be occurring at Wild Oaks Preserve during the hunting season, including but not limited to habitat restoration and educational events.
- Motorized vehicles are not allowed. Hunters are encouraged to use a wagon, bike trailer, or travois to haul gear and carcasses.. If you need help retrieving carcasses, contact the volunteer site steward.

*After your hunt:*

- Hunters must complete a survey after they are finished hunting for the season and send it to a site steward by February 15. Please fill out the survey for every day that you hunt. This information is important for managing our program.

APPLICATION

To obtain permission to hunt at Wild Oaks Preserve during the 2023 deer gun and archery/crossbow season, please fill out and return the attached application via mail or email to:

Driftless Area Land Conservancy, 206 South Iowa Street, Dodgeville, WI 53515, or [info@driftlessconservancy.org](mailto:info@driftlessconservancy.org) with the subject line "Wild Oaks Hunt"

Permits are available on a first-come, first-serve basis to anyone meeting the 8-hour volunteer eligibility requirement as described above. We are still assessing the maximum number of hunters that can safely operate at the Preserve. Assuming hunters are fairly stationary and are communicating/ coordinating amongst themselves, this number may be as high as six or seven. DALC reserves the right to limit the number of permitted hunters. Any hunter who has failed to follow the guidelines as described above may be declared ineligible for future hunting at DALC properties.

YOUR SITE STEWARDS ARE:

Zach Pacana, Driftless Area Land Conservancy, 608-930-3252, [Zachary@driftlessconservancy.org](mailto:Zachary@driftlessconservancy.org)  
Fil Sanna, Badgerland Foundation, 608-636-6222, [filsanna@yahoo.com](mailto:filsanna@yahoo.com)

**APPLICATION, 2023 Deer Hunting Season at Wild Oaks Preserve**

Name:

Mailing address: (Street, City, State, Zip)

Phone:

Email address:

Dates you volunteered at Wild Oaks:

Please circle for which season(s) you are applying: Deer-gun      Deer-archery      Deer-crossbow

**Vehicle Information**

Please provide the following information for any vehicles that may be present at the preserve during your hunt. List additional vehicles on reverse if necessary.

Make:	Model	Color	License plate
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

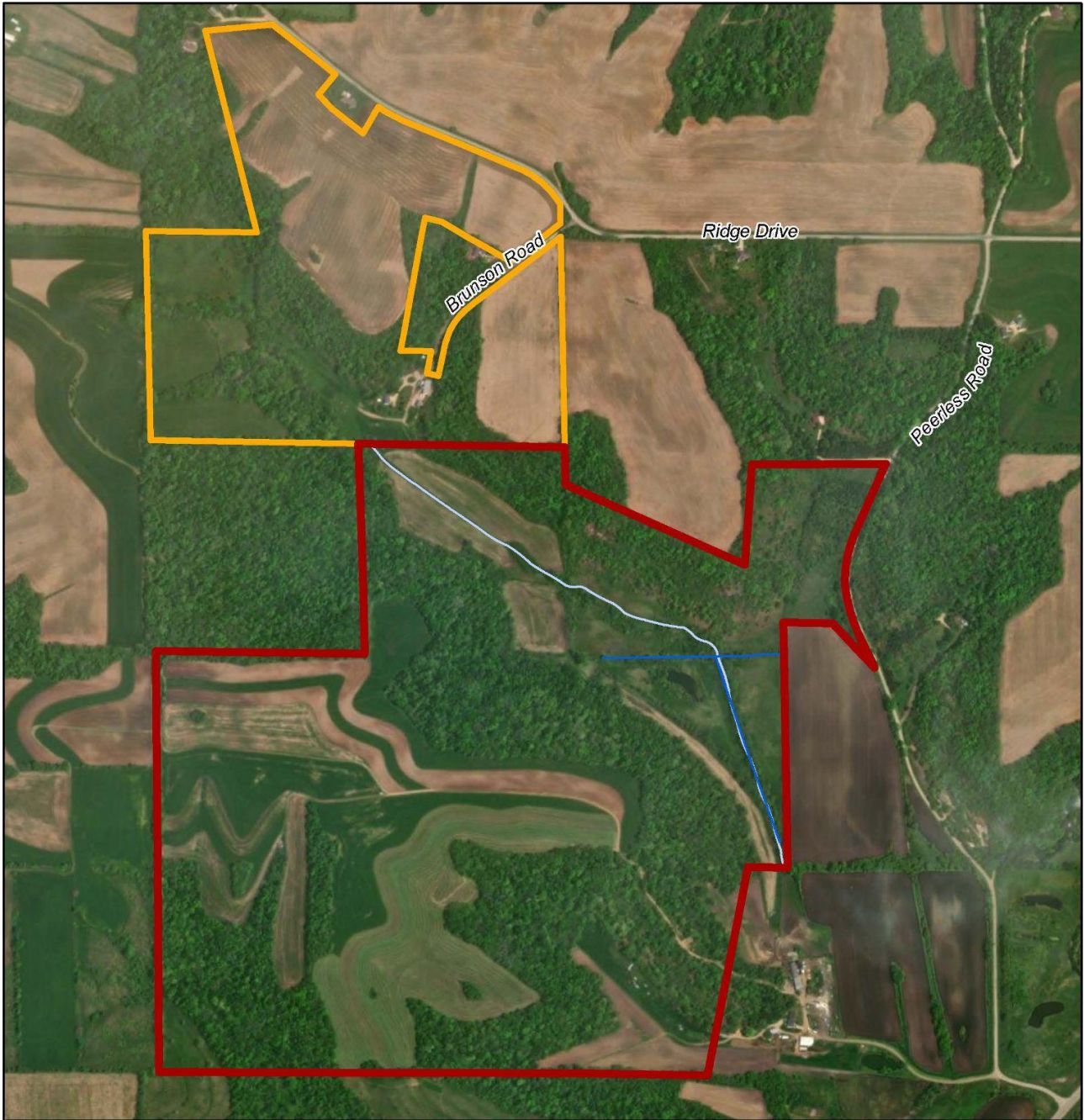
Your signature below indicates you:

- Are knowledgeable of the risks and dangers involved in the permitted activity and that you assume all risk of injury to persons, property, or death that may be sustained in connection with the stated and associated activity in and around the Wild Oaks Preserve and that you further agree to release and indemnify Driftless Area Land Conservancy from any liability in connection with your activities on the property; and
- You understand and agree to follow the requirements listed on pages 1-2 of this document.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_



**Legend**

-  Driftless Area Land Conservancy (308 acres)
-  BadgerLand Foundation (108 acres)
-  Waterway to Ditch
-  Ditches



## 2023 Driftless Area Land Conservancy Deer Hunter Survey

Name of Hunter: \_\_\_\_\_

Property: Wild Oaks Preserve

Date	Hours Hunted	Deer Seen		Deer Harvested		Deer tested for CWD?	CWD test results (pos/neg)	Other wildlife observed/comments
		Antlerless	Antlered	Antlerless	Antlered			


**PLEASE RATE YOUR EXPERIENCE**

Rate the quality of your hunting experience?    Excellent        Good        Fair        Poor

Comments:

Rate the level of safety while you hunted?    Excellent        Good        Fair        Poor

Comments:

How would you rate the hunting pressure on the property?    High        Medium        Low

Comments:

Additional comments or suggestions:

Return this completed form to Driftless Area Land Conservancy at 206 S. Iowa St., Dodgeville, WI 53533 or email to [info@driftlessconservancy.org](mailto:info@driftlessconservancy.org)