

Hunting Policy - Town of Chilmark October 20, 1998

The following properties may be hunted:

- a. Fulling Mill Brook Preserve
- b. Englander
- c. Chilmark Landfill
- d. Proposed Future Landfill off Middle Line Road
- e. Town Forest
- f. Upper Chilmark Pond/Lucy Vincent Beach Property

All hunting regulations and laws of the commonwealth and the town shall be observed at all times by people using town properties.

Hunting shall only be permitted between October 16th and February 28th of each year. Hunting shall be permitted on a Monday through Saturday basis during "deer week"; hunting shall be permitted on a Tuesday through Saturday basis during all other game seasons. Hunting shall only take place during daylight hunting hours. No hunting is permitted at or near the landfill during LDO operating hours. No Black-powder hunting is allowed on the Fulling Mill or Lucy Vincent Beach property. Animal entrails shall not be left in areas frequented by the public.

Deer, ducks, geese, pheasant, rabbit and raccoon may be hunted on open properties, subject to the restrictions contained in other sections of this policy. No other species may be hunted.

Town properties shall be closed to the public each year during deer week but shall be open to the public during all of the other game seasons.

The town shall erect signs each year at all public accesses to the properties being hunted and at regular intervals around the property boundaries reading "hunting by written permission only" and informing the public of the hunter/non-hunter coexistence policy. During "deer week" additional signs shall be erected notifying the general public that the property is closed entirely.

DEER WEEK

No one shall hunt on town property without a hunting permit issued by the town. There is no charge for this permit. Any person holding a valid Massachusetts hunting or sporting license and an FID card or License-to-carry-firearms is entitled to apply for a town hunting permit.

A town hunting permit for deer week shall specify a hunter's name, address, hunting license number and FID or LTCF number, telephone number, date(s) for which it is valid and vehicle make and license number of vehicle likely to be used during hunting.

A limited number of individual permits will be issued for each hunting date for each property:

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

A list of those hunters who have received permits shall be compiled each year. This list shall identify which game, which dates (for deer week) and on which properties each hunter has been permitted to hunt. This list shall be published and held for public inspection in the town clerk's office.

Town hunting permits (which, for hunters' safety, shall be red, green or orange) shall be pinned, in a sturdy holder, to a hunter's outer clothing or cap so as to be readily identifiable to Massachusetts environmental police officers or other law enforcement officers or town personnel.

The prevailing federal and commonwealth game limits on game are in effect.

Endangered and/or threatened species and habitats are given special protection. No species which appears on any endangered, threatened or "of special concern" list of the federal or commonwealth government shall be hunted or possessed or *disturbed* on town property.

Archers and hunters may use any legal hunting tools and firearms.

Hunters shall collect their spent shells and other litter prior to leaving town properties.

Hunters shall confine themselves to town property and shall not enter on abutting private property without the prior written permission of the abutting landowners.

No town hunting permit shall be issued without the recipient's first having signed the release which appears as Appendix A to this policy. The release certifies that the permit holder has read, understood and agrees to abide by these regulations and, further will hold the town harmless for any liability in the event of injury.

The Massachusetts environmental police will be provided with a list of all hunters who have been issued town hunting permits. These and all other law enforcement officers, including any special town officers, are hereby authorized to rescind any permit if they find that its holder has violated any of these regulations or any regulation of the commonwealth or town.

Any hunter who violates any provision of these regulations may permanently lose the privilege of hunting on town properties.

<u>Property</u>	<u>Maximum number of permits per day</u>
Fulling Mill Brook Preserve	4
Lucy Vincent Beach/Upper Chilmark Pond	2
Chilmark Landfill	4
Proposed Future Landfill off Middle Line Road	4
Town Forest (deed restriction?)	4

A lottery shall be established to issue permits. Public announcements will be printed in the Vineyard Gazette identifying the first and last dates that requests will be accepted. No late requests will be accepted.

Hunters shall submit their names for each hunting date desired, and both individual and party requests may be made; parties may have to be made smaller if granting permission to a full party would exceed the total number of permits available for each property. No name may appear on more than one request for each hunting date; should this occur, such requests shall be disqualified and removed from the lottery.

A property map will be issued with each hunting permit. The hunting permit will warn hunters not to trespass on adjoining private property.

Town hunting permits may be transferred to other hunters but only with the express written consent of the town. The original permit shall be submitted to the town and a substitute permit for the new hunter issued in its place.

ALL OTHER GAME

No one shall hunt on town property without a hunting permit issued by the town. There is no charge for this permit. Any person holding a valid Massachusetts hunting or sporting license is entitled to apply for a town hunting permit.

A town hunting permit for deer week shall specify a hunter's name, address, hunting license number, telephone number, date(s) for which it is valid and vehicle make and license number of vehicle likely to be used during hunting.

Permits will be issued on a game-specific basis and for one year at a time. Hunters may apply for these permits at any time, but no permits will be issued more than one full year in advance.

A permit allows its holder to hunt on any of the listed town properties at any time during the specified season. The town makes no effort to coordinate the number of hunters on one property at any one time.

A portfolio of maps will be distributed with each hunting permit. The hunting permit will warn hunters not to trespass on adjoining private property.