



## Rhode Island

Department of Environmental Management

### DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

To whom it may concern,

Through a cooperative agreement between the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM), Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and the Town of Bristol, four town owned properties will be open to legal regulated **archery deer hunting only**. You're receiving this letter as you are a property owner abutting one of the four properties (Minturn, Hopeworth, Skaters Pond, and 100 Acre Woods) where the hunting will occur. This was established to reduce the deer population within the town of Bristol, thus reducing the negative impacts (deer vehicle collisions, tick borne illnesses, and property damage) associated with high deer densities. The archery deer hunting season takes place from **September 15<sup>th</sup> – January 31<sup>st</sup>** annually. Parking areas have been identified and will be marked with DFW signage prior to the hunting season. You can find maps of the properties listed on [www.dem.ri.gov/wildlifehuntered](http://www.dem.ri.gov/wildlifehuntered) under the dropdown for "Hunting & Trapping Resources" under "Hunting Area Maps." All hunters are required to pass a hunter education safety course prior to purchasing a hunting license and deer permit, and must obtain an Archery Proficiency card from the DFW.

To put hunting's safety into perspective, compared to hunting with a firearm, a person is,

- 19 times more likely to be injured snowboarding.
- 25 times more likely to be injured cheerleading or bicycle riding.
- 34 times more likely to be injured playing soccer or skateboarding.
- 105 more times likely to be injured playing tackle football.

With that being said, these properties are **archery only**, which is safer than hunting with a firearm. In addition, most hunting accidents that do occur, are from hunters falling. Nonetheless, we recommend all users of these properties to wear fluorescent orange vests and hats as an additional safety precaution.

DEM works to protect and enhance wildlife habitat in Rhode Island to ensure healthier, more diverse, and abundant wildlife populations. Hunting has a long tradition in Rhode Island, supporting family customs, connecting people with nature, and attracting tourism to the state. Hunters provide funding for wildlife conservation through their purchase of firearms and ammunition through the Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Program, and through the purchase of their state hunting licenses. Hunters and anglers purchase around 70,000 licenses, permits, stamps, and tags each year and contribute more than \$235 million to Rhode Island's economy.

If you have questions regarding hunting rules and regulations, please contact Dylan Ferreira at the DFW at 401-789-0281. To report hunting violations, please contact the DEM, Division of Law Enforcement at 401-222-3070.

#### **Dylan Ferreira**

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