

Wilton Deer Committee Controlled Hunt 2022 Hunter Questions

Summary of Responses

1. Which properties did you hunt and how many deer did you harvest in Wilton? Please exclude the number harvested on private property if any:

	# of does	# of bucks	Total	2021
City Lake	5	9	14	14
Sackett	0	0	0	2
Comstock	14	9	23	15
Vista Road	4	1	5	5
Gregg / Belknap	6	0	6	7
Diversion Parcel	3	0	3	6
Crystal Lake	2	2	4	3
Eugenia Slaughter Field	2	2	4	1
Wrens Thicket	2	0	2	1
Middlebrook Farm	0	0	0	0
Coulhane	3	0	3	1
Popes Pond	2	0	2	4
Chessor	0	1	1	0
St. Johns / Chicken St	1	0	1	2
Seeley Road / Pen Central	2	2	4	5
Thayer Pond	0	0	0	0
Total	46	26	72	66

2. Did you have any deer that you were not able to recover / confirm harvest? If yes, please provide details (number of deer, property, etc). Two noted lack of sufficient blood trail to locate deer.

3. How often did you hunt?

- a. 1-2 times per week c) 1-2 times per month
b. More than 3 times per week d) Rarely

Most hunters responded "a" or "b" with a few having extenuating circumstances (eye surgery, unexpected work commitments, other sickness, etc) that limited time in woods.

4. Did you hunt during the following seasons and which implement did you use? Mark all that apply.

September 15 through November 16th

Rifle Season (November 16th through December 6th)

Muzzleloader (December 7th – 31st)

January

Bow / Crossbow	Rifle / Shotgun	Muzzleloader
	N/A	N/A
	N/A	
	N/A	N/A

Most people used all implements available. A few hunters noted that don't have a muzzleloader.

If you did not, use a hunting implement noted above please note why you did not take the opportunity to utilize it:

5. Did you hunt in January (if the property you were assigned to was not open for January hunting please note as not applicable)? If the property you were assigned had the opportunity to hunt in January and you didn't hunt, please explain why you didn't hunt and why you think you should be invited back to participate in next year's hunt.
Many noted that mild January allowed for more time in woods vs. years past. Some had work or other conflicts but seems like hunters were able to hunt full season.
6. Did you utilize bait? If no, why not?
Only property that noted no bait used was Sackett as had signs from the Town that warned of bears in the areas.
7. Did you utilize a mechanical feeder as was encouraged by the Deer Committee during our kick off meeting? If no, why not?
Most hunters noted use of mechanical feeder
8. If applicable, how often did you communicate with the surrounding property owners?
Varied by hunter from each time hunt to rarely based on desires of what surrounding property owner requested.
9. Did you have trouble gaining full access to the properties you had permission to hunt? If yes, please explain.
NW corner of Popes Pond has been a difficult one. Lost key property to allow access to Peninsula. Working with Mike C. to regain.
10. Were there any impediments to a more successful season? Please specify.
SNEW – if able to get earlier access to properties may allow for more success early season.
11. Did you have any problems / confrontations with trespassers (please be as detailed as possible to provide insight into how we can try to limit these in the future)?
Nothing significant to note.
12. Did you notice any significant coyote activity and do you think that had any effect on the hunt? Any other observations of other animals that would be of interest?
Mixed responses. One hunter noted he could have shot more coyotes than deer but that seems to be isolated.
13. Any suggestions for the Deer Committee to consider on improvements to the program?
Nothing noted.
14. Are you planning to participate in this program again next year? If no, why not?
All hunters noted that they would like to participate again this year.
15. Other general comments / observations / suggestions?
Gregg Belknap – early in the seasons several anti-hunting stickers were left on the park closed signs. Town / PD / DEEP notified.
Vista – caution tape across entrances taken down by trespassers in November that had to be replaced.
Gregg Belknap – Mayapple entrance has hikers that ignore park closed signs and caution tape.

Eugenia Slaughter Field – mowing of grass could be helpful to allow deer to move more freely in field.
Hikers on trail noted during hunting hours.
General – lack of acorns kept deer out of woods and on fringe