



# HUDSON PARKS

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**DATE:** May 14, 2013

**TO:** Anthony Bales, City Manager  
Scott Schroyer, Assistant City Manager

**FROM:** Eric Hutchinson, Parks Superintendent

**CC:** Frank Comeriato, Public Works Director  
Tom Munn, Public Works Superintendent

**RE:** Hunting on the Former Youth Development Center Property

Frank Comeriato, Tom Munn and I have met recently to review the City of Hudson hunting policy and how it may apply to the property which formerly housed the Cuyahoga County Youth Development Center. It is our understanding that City Council hoped to have staff review this issue and provide a recommendation. As a result of our discussions, we would formally recommend that hunting not be permitted on this parcel in the fall 2013 hunting season. This recommendation is based on several items that are highlighted below:

- A significant portion of the property is covered by a conservation easement. While hunting could be confined to a small area, a wounded animal could easily escape into these conservation areas. It is our belief that allowing passage into this area would be in contradiction to the conservation easement covenant. In fact, hunting, in and of itself, may be contradictory to the intent of the conservation easement.
- The establishment of a hunting zone would require a physical barrier to keep other property users from wandering into the hunting zone. This barrier, or potential fence, would be difficult to establish and maintain.
- During this coming fall season, it is likely that many individuals may be on the property as demolition of the campus will be concluding. Inviting hunters near an active construction site has its own issues that would need to be addressed.
- Allowing hunting on one parcel that measures about one hundred acres in size would not have a significant impact on the size of the deer herd. Potential gains from allowing hunting in this area could easily be offset by the increased liability issues.

While we certainly are aware of the advantages of culling the deer herd, in this instance, we believe that it is not in the City's best interest. Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Please let us know if you have any questions.