



City of Hudson Parks

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Scott N. Schroyer, Assistant City Manager

FROM: Eric Hutchinson, Parks Superintendent

DATE: November 19, 2012

SUBJECT: Hunting on Park Property

The Park Board met on November 19, 2012 and reviewed its current policy which prohibits hunting on park property. After careful consideration, the Park Board agreed that it would prefer that this policy continues.

The Park Board arrived at this conclusion for several reasons. First, there is a potential safety issue as park users currently access undeveloped park land through privately owned lands. This would make securing a perimeter around a closed park very challenging. Second, the Park Board is concerned about potential negative publicity from allowing deer hunting on park land. Protests and potential litigation can result when hunting policies are enacted. Finally, the Park Board is aware of a potentially significant deer die-off in the past year as epizootic hemorrhagic disease has impacted local populations. Perhaps, given time, a better understanding of this disease's impact on the deer population can be realized.

The Park Board does understand that a deer problem exists in Hudson. However, in this case, the Board members felt that the possibilities of negative consequences exceeded the potential benefits of allowing hunting on park property.