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## **LOTTERY FOR BOW HUNTING IS JULY 22**

Summit Metro Parks will allow hunting by bow and arrow or crossbow in more than 20 selected areas by permit this fall as part of its ongoing deer management program.

Each permit, determined by lottery Friday, July 22, is good for up to four adults and two juveniles. Only Summit County residents may enter the lottery, but individuals whose names are chosen may add non-Summit residents to their permits.

Lottery applications are available online beginning Tuesday, June 7, at <http://www.summitmetroparks.org/deer-management.aspx>. Applications must be postmarked by Saturday, July 16, and all applicants must provide a valid email address. Applications are to be mailed to: Archery Program, P.O. Box 5250, Akron, OH 44334.

Lottery winners will be notified by email no later than Tuesday, August 2, and the individuals named on permits will have to pass a supervised test at the park district's public archery ranges on dates to be determined.

Several box blinds will be installed in locations for hunters requiring wheelchairs. Wheelchair-bound hunters may live outside of Summit County.

For details about the wheelchair-bound lottery, contact project manager Eric Fitch at [efitch@summitmetroparks.org](mailto:efitch@summitmetroparks.org), or 330-753-5789.

Up to three hunting permits will be assigned per location. All areas are remote and have limited public access. Hunters must follow park rules and regulations and the hunting guidelines established by the Ohio Division of Wildlife. Hunting season is September 24 to February 5.

Through eight previous seasons of the archery program, participants have taken a total of 728 deer.

Regionally and throughout the state, changes in habitat and the elimination of natural predators have allowed deer herds to grow to unnatural densities, threatening biodiversity.

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Summit Metro Parks manages 14,100 acres, including 16 parks, several conservation areas and more than 125 miles of trails, with 22.4 miles of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. Annual attendance averages 5 million visits.

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