



News for Immediate Release

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Controlled Deer Hunts to be Held at Ridley Creek State Park

Media – Ridley Creek State Park near Media, Delaware County, will host two days of regulated hunting for white-tailed deer on Thursday, Dec. 4, and Thursday, Dec. 11, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources announced today.

Conducted for antlered and antlerless deer, and restricted to only hunters holding permits, the hunts are designed to decrease the number of deer in the park and increase the ecological diversity of its more than 2,600 acres. Participating hunters were selected by random drawing in October.

To ensure the safety of park users, all of Ridley Creek State Park, as well as a section of Gradyville Road within the park, will be closed to all activities on Thursday, Dec. 4, and Thursday, Dec. 11.

"An overpopulation of a single living species can be a serious detriment to the natural environment," said Ridley Creek State Park Manager Mike Kutzmonich. "Here at Ridley Creek we have an overabundance of deer that can reduce the diversity of species, both plant and animal.

"This opens the door to many invasive species that do not support the native environment. Since we have been holding annual control hunts, we have seen more tree regeneration as well as an increased presence of wildflowers and other growth," Kutzmonich said.

Biologists have determined annual hunts are necessary at Ridley Creek to maintain a healthy population level for the state park's entire ecosystem.

Kutzmonich noted safety zones, no-hunting areas and park boundaries will be posted and regulations will be strictly enforced. Extra park rangers, Pa. Game Commission Wildlife Conservation Officers and state police will be stationed throughout the park during the hunts.

For more information on forest regeneration, visit the DCNR website at www.dcnr.state.pa.us; select "Forestry" under "Quick Links" then "White-tailed Deer in Pennsylvania's Forests."

For details on Ridley Creek and Pennsylvania's other 119 state parks, call 1-888-PA-PARKS between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday; or visit www.dcnr.state.pa.us (select "Find a Park").

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