

# **Muskegon Conservation District**

## District Hunting Land Use Guide 2023



## Parcel Details

Parcel #	Location	Acres	Max. number of permits	Firearm Zone	Accessibility
1	Whitehall TWP, Section 25	120	6	Rifle	Lorenson Rd & Crystal Lake Rd
2	Whitehall TWP, Section 35	80	4	Rifle	Benston Rd & White Lake Rd
3	Whitehall TWP, Section 36	40	2	Rifle	Benston Rd & Gibson Rd
4	Fruitland TWP, Section 3	22	1	Rifle	Simonelli Rd
5	Fruitland TWP, Section 22	75	3	Rifle	Riley Thompson Rd & Weber Rd
6	Fruitland TWP, Section 22	40	2	Rifle	Duck Lake Rd
7	Fruitland TWP, Section 36	20	1	Rifle	Hyde Park Rd
8	Fruitport TWP, Section 20	80	4	Shotgun	Cooley Rd
9	Fruitport TWP, Section 28	80	4	Shotgun	Farr Rd & Hilton Park Rd
10	Sullivan TWP, Section 14	60	3	Shotgun	Maple Island Rd & Devo Rd
11	Sullivan TWP, Section 14	40	2	Shotgun	Maple Island Rd & Devo Rd
12	Sullivan TWP, Section 14	80	4	Shotgun	Sullivan Rd & Sahara Rd
13	Sullivan TWP, Section 21	20	1	Shotgun	Easement from Hilton Park Rd
14	Sullivan TWP, Section 22	40	2	Shotgun	Hilton Park Rd
15	Sullivan TWP, Section 23	80	4	Shotgun	Maple Island Rd & Sternberg Rd
18	Ravenna TWP, Section 34	40	2	Shotgun	Pontaluna Rd
19	Fruitport TWP, Section 21	40	2	Shotgun	Hilton Park Rd



Whitehall and Fruitland Townships  
Parcel Overview Map



Fruitland Township  
Parcel Overview



Fruitport and Sullivan Townships  
Parcel Overview Map

Ravenna Township  
Parcel Overview Map



# Hunting Seasons and Applicable Permits

## Spring Turkey Permit

A general permit is issued that allows access to ALL District Lands. The cost of the permit shall be \$30.00 per hunter. The applicable permit period begins in April and is good through the month of May. This permit in general can be purchased and utilized for any MDNR Spring Turkey Season. Permit sales for Spring Turkey Season will begin the 1st business day in March annually. Permits will be sold during normal business hours (Tuesday-Friday 7:00 AM-5:30 PM). Permits must be bought in person at the district office by the person who will be using the permit. Hunters that buy an all season permit the previous year will be given a \$5.00 discount off their Spring Turkey permit.

## All Season Permit

This permit is issued for an individual wishing to utilize a given parcel for a period generally described as September 15th- January 1. This permit includes all specials seasons denoted in the Archery, Firearm, and Late Season permits. Hunters may only hold a permit on the same parcel for three consecutive years.

## Archery Permit

September 15th - November 14. This permit may also be purchased and utilized for early doe seasons, youth seasons, liberty hunts, and all other special hunt periods sanctioned by MDNR occurring between September 1 and October 1. This permit is primarily issued for the harvest of whitetail deer during the archery season, however, individuals may also harvest other game species on the permitted parcel in season as designated by MDNR (Fall Turkey, small game, etc.).

## Firearm Permit

November 15 - November 30. This permit is primarily issued for the harvest of whitetail deer during the firearm season, however, individuals may also harvest other game species on the permitted parcel in season as designated by MDNR (Squirrels, rabbits, etc.).

## Late Permit

December 1 - January 1. This permit is primarily issued for the harvest of whitetail deer during the late seasons; however, individuals may also harvest other game species on the permitted parcel in season as designated by MDNR (Squirrels, rabbits, etc.).

## Permit Sales

In 2016, permit purchasing policy at the District changed significantly. In order to establish better long-term stewardship for District lands, returning All Season permittees in good standing with the District will be offered the chance to reserve parcels prior to the general sales date for no more than three consecutive years per parcel. General permit sales on District parcels will be held at a lottery drawing occurring on the first business Tuesday in August annually. This event will be held at 8:00 am. Participants will be randomly assigned a number. When a number is drawn that participant will have first choice at any available permits. Left over permit sales will be conducted on a first come first serve basis. Hunters purchasing a partial season such as archery, firearm, or late season must wait until 10 days before season opener to purchase permits.

## “Locking a Parcel Up”

A single individual or group of individuals may “lock up” a parcel by purchasing the maximum number of all season permits available for a given parcel. Locking up a parcel ensures that you or your group will be the sole hunters on that parcel, with the exception of the spring turkey season. If a parcel has been locked up by an individual that individual may invite visitors to hunt with them, provided the number of hunters on the parcel at any given time never exceeds the number of permits issued for that parcel. The permitted individual will be held responsible for actions carried out by visiting individuals. Inviting visitors may only be allowed when a parcel has been locked up. Visitors will be given a permit to carry on their person and a parking pass to display in the windshield of their vehicle by the permit holder. Hunters may not lock up the same parcel for longer than three consecutive years.



# Rules & Regulations

**Scouting properties will be closed once hunting season begins. Please call office for parcels that for special permission to scout on vacant parcels.**

1. Hunter density shall remain at or below 1 hunter per 20 acres of land.
2. No nails, screws, spikes, hardware, or permanent metal attachments may be used in any trees for any purpose including but not limited to tree steps, bow hangers, or tree stand set screws.
3. Blinds and tree stands must be labeled with your name and phone number. Structures that are found without the label will be taken down by District staff and **will not** be returned.
4. Cutting of trees and other vegetation should be limited to branches with diameter less than that of your index finger for the sole purpose of creating shooting lanes. Dead material shall be used for the creation of natural ground blinds.
5. Trail entrance/ exit to blind and tree stands is limited to flagging and tree tacks (all flagging/tacks must be removed before permit end date). Trail blazing trees with axes and other trail blazing techniques that damage trees is not permitted.
6. No permanent structures (including tree stands and box blinds) may be built or left on the property beyond the end date of your permit period.
7. Hunters in good standing may deposit a nonrefundable \$100 to keep tree stands up beyond the end date of your permit period (the District is not responsible for stolen hunting equipment), this excludes box blinds and hunters without an all-season pass. The deposit will go towards the cost of the following year's permit cost. Deposits must be turned in by **December 16th**. You must remove all structures by the end of your permit if you do not make a deposit. Structures left beyond the permit period without a deposit will be removed by District staff and **will not** be returned.
8. Permit holders will carry out all trash and refuse daily.
9. Permit holders shall not use or be under the influence of alcohol or controlled substance while on district lands.
10. Permit holders will obey all State, Federal, and local regulations, and laws. This includes hunting seasons, baiting regulations, shooting hours, etc.
11. Permit holders will notify the District promptly after encountering an issue with an adjacent landowner or law enforcement official.
12. Permit holders will provide proof of hunting licenses upon the request of the District.
13. It shall be the duty of the Permit holder to thoroughly scout prior to purchasing a permit.
14. Individuals understand that the District does not have control over adjacent landowners and passerby's and that the District will not be responsible for actions carried out by anyone other than District staff.
15. Permit holders will carry a District issued permit on their person at all times. Permit holders must also place a District parking pass in their vehicle windshield.
16. Permit holder agrees to respect District signage and adjacent property signage.
17. Permit holder understands that District staff may enter the property at any time they deem necessary.
18. Permit holders must read and understand the District Land Use Guide and will abide by all rules within it
19. Permit holders are liable for actions carried out by individuals in the permit holders party.
20. Hunters may bring one partner not carrying a weapon, this partner will always remain within 50 ft of the permit holder.
21. Individuals invited by a permit holder to utilize a permit shall follow all rules and regulations designated for the permittee. The permittee will be responsible for all actions conducted by the visitor. Only one "hunter" is allowed per issued permit.
22. Permit holder will make a reasonable effort to retrieve wounded game.
23. Permit holders will obtain permission from adjacent landowner before entering property when tracking game.
24. Individuals found not to be abiding by the District rules and regulations will have their permit rights revoked and their permit fees will not be returned. These individuals will not be issued permits in subsequent years.
25. Hunters must fully complete the MCD Hunter Experience survey to be able to remain eligible for the hunting program for up to three years per parcel. Surveys will be sent by mail in January and are due by **February 28<sup>th</sup>**.
26. Hunters may hold a permit on the same parcel for no longer than three consecutive years. If a hunter holds multiple permits on the same parcel, the three years of access begins with the permit purchased at the earliest date. Example: A hunter buys a permit for parcel one in 2023, in 2024 he renews his permit and purchases another permit for parcel one. The hunter gained another permit but not another year of access. He can renew both permits on parcel one until 2025.

## Permit Fee Table

(Except Spring Turkey)

# Of Permits	All Season Sept 15– Jan 1
1	\$300.00
2	\$600.00
3	\$900.00
4	\$1,200.00
5	\$1,500.00
6	\$1,800.00

## Cost Per Day

(All Season Pass Only)

(Sept 15- Jan 1) (108 Days)	
# of Permits	Cost Per Day
1	\$2.77
2	\$5.55
3	\$8.35
4	\$11.11
5	\$13.89
6	\$16.67

Each parcel costs the same amount per season. In order to “lock up” the parcel, the permittee must buy all permits for that parcel. Total cost of each parcel is listed under the parcel description. Hunters that want to hunt only archery, firearm, or late season will be able to purchase a permit no sooner than 10 days before season opener. Permits will be priced as follows in the table below.

	Archery	Firearm	Late Season
# of Permits	Oct 1-Nov 14 (45 Days)	Nov 15 - 30 (16 Days)	Dec 1 - Jan 1 (32 Days)
1	\$185.00	\$66.00	\$131.00
2	\$370.00	\$132.00	\$262.00
3	\$555.00	\$198.00	\$393.00
4	\$740.00	\$264.00	\$524.00
5	\$925.00	\$330.00	\$655.00
6	\$1,110.00	\$396.00	\$786.00

## Parcel 1

General Description: This 120 acre parcel is located E1/2, SW ¼ and SW ¼, SW1/4, Section 25, Whitehall Township, in Muskegon County, Michigan. The majority of the tree cover is natural occurring oak / pine forest. A small section of red and scotch pine also exists on the parcel. A forest thinning was conducted in 2011. This property will be logged in 2022. A prescribed burn will be conducted in 2022/2023.

(North)



## Parcel 2

**General Description:** This 80 acre parcel is located W ½, SE ¼, Section 35, Whitehall Township, in Muskegon County, Michigan. The southern boundary is White Lake Rd and the northern boundary is Benston Rd. The southern 44 acres is a mixture of native hardwoods including white pine, black oak, and white oak. The northern 36 acres was logged in 2018 to harvest red pine leaving regenerating oaks. A prescribed burn will be conducted in 2022/2023.



(North)

## Parcel 3

**General Description:** This 80 acre parcel is located W ½, SE ¼, Section 35, Whitehall Township, in Muskegon County, Michigan. The southern boundary is White Lake Rd. and the northern boundary is Benston Rd. The southern 44 acres is a mixture of native hardwoods including white pine, black oak, and white oak. The northern 36 acres was logged in 2018 to harvest red pine leaving regenerating oaks. A prescribed burn will be conducted 2022/2023.

(North)



## Parcel 4

**General Description:** This 22 acre parcel is located S  $\frac{1}{2}$ , NW  $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 3, Fruitland Township, Muskegon County, Michigan. It is located 1/8 mile south of White Lake Dr. on the west side of Simonelli Road. Most of this property is forested with a mixture of pine trees planted in the mid 1940's. The remainder of the property surrounds Mill Pond Creek with steep slopes and native hardwood trees. The red pine on this parcel was thinned in 2022.

(North)



## Parcel 5

**General Description:** This 75 acre parcel is located N  $\frac{1}{2}$ , NE  $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 22, Fruitland Township of Muskegon County, Michigan. The parcel is at the southwest corner of Riley-Thompson Road and Weber Road about 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles west of Whitehall Road. Red pine is the dominant vegetation with some areas of pitch pine. The red pine on this parcel was thinned in 2020.

(North)



## Parcel 6

**General Description:** This 40 acre parcel is located SE  $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 22, Fruitland Township. It is on the north side of Duck Lake Road  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile west of Weber Road. The north  $\frac{1}{3}$  is a natural mixed hardwood stand that borders a small creek. The parcel was logged in 2019 removing all red pine.

(North)



## Parcel 7

**General Description:** This 20 acre parcel is located N  $\frac{1}{2}$ , SE  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 36, Fruitland Township in Muskegon County, Michigan. The parcel is  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile north of River Road on Hyde Park Road. The eastern boundary of the property is Hyde Park Road. The western  $\frac{3}{4}$  of this property is forested with a mixture of pine trees planted about 50 years ago. A thinning harvest was completed in 2019. The remaining east  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the property is about 5-10 feet lower in elevation and was probably never planted to pine because of the high water table. The vegetation is a mixture of gray and red-osier dogwood bushes, honey suckle, cherry, red maple, and ash trees.

(North)



## Parcel 8

**General Description:** This 80 acre parcel is located N  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 20, Fruitport Township, Muskegon County, Michigan. The property is on the east side of Cooley Road,  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile north of Sternberg Road. The water table in this area is high resulting in seasonal standing water in places throughout this parcel. A gas line runs though this parcel. This parcel consists of white pine and mixed hardwood/brush forests. The parcel was logged in 2017 for red pine. In 2018, ditch plugs were installed to restore the historical hydrological features to this parcel. 5 acres of pollinator mix and grasses were also planted.

(North)



## Parcel 9

**General Description:** This 80 acre parcel is located E  $\frac{1}{2}$ , NE  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 28, Fruitport Township, Muskegon County, Michigan. It is  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile south of Sternberg Road on Hilton Park Road. The dominant vegetation is mixed hardwood dominated by red maple. This parcel was thinned in 2015 and has new beach regrowth. The parcel is located on sandy soil with the water table near the soil surface for part of the year. In 2018, ditch plugs were installed to restore the 6+ acres of hydrological features. This parcel was thinned again in 2021 for maple and white pine.



(North)

## Parcel 10

**General Description:** This 60 acre parcel is located W ½, NW ¼ and SW ¼, section 14 of Sullivan Township in Muskegon County, Michigan. The parcel is north of Devo Road (Hile) on Maple Island Road. The northeast section is lower in elevation than the rest of the property and is forested with a mixture of lowland hardwood trees. Norris Creek runs through this portion of the property. In 2016 the upland portion of the property was cleared of red pine and the remaining trees are composed of young quaking aspen, red maple, American beech, white pine, black cherry, and oaks.

(North)



## Parcel 11

**General Description:** This 40 acre parcel is located NW1/4, SW1/4, section 14, Sullivan Township in Muskegon County, Michigan. The parcel is south of Devo Road (Hile) on Maple Island Road. In 2016 the property was cleared of red pine and the remaining trees are composed of young quaking aspen, red maple, American beech, white pine, black cherry, and oaks.

(North)



## Parcel 12

**General Description:** This 80 acre parcel is located NE  $\frac{1}{2}$ , NE  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 14 of Sullivan Township in Muskegon County, Michigan. The parcel is 1 mile north of Ellis Road on Sullivan Road. A drainage ditch and Norris Creek runs through the property. The area surrounding the creek is lower in elevation than the rest of the property and is forested with a mixture of lowland hardwood species. The higher ground was logged in 2013 to remove diseased red pine. The remaining forested area is comprised of mostly red maple and oaks. An agricultural drain and spillway was installed in 2018 creating a 2 acre hydrological feature, and a dry sandy prairie was also installed on the northwest corner of the of the property

(North)



## Parcel 13

**General Description:** This 20 acre parcel is located in the E  $\frac{1}{2}$ , SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 21 of Sullivan Township in Muskegon County, Michigan. The parcel is  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile east of the intersection of Hilton Park Road and Mt. Garfield Road. It is landlocked but can be accessed through parcel #9 which is directly to the southeast. The northern portion of this property contains Norris Creek and lowland forest, while the southern portion was logged in 2015 and is dominated by red maple.



(North)

## Parcel 14

**General Description:** This 40 acre parcel is located in the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 22 of Sullivan Township in Muskegon County, Michigan. The property is at the NW intersection of Hilton Park Road and Mt. Garfield Road  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile south of Sternberg Road. In 2015 diseased red pine was removed from the property leaving a sparse understory of red maple, American beech, black cherry, and oaks. 2 acre dry sandy prairie was installed in 2018.

(North)



## Parcel 15

**General Description:** This 80 acre parcel is located SW  $\frac{1}{2}$ , NW  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 23, Sullivan Township, Muskegon County, Michigan. This parcel is located 6 miles south of M46 on Maple Island Road at the NE corner of the intersection of Maple Island and Sternberg Road. The parcel was logged in 2011 and has regenerated to very thick stands of red maple, white birch, aspen, black cherry, white pine, etc. A drainage ditch separates the western 60 acres from the eastern 20 acres. The east  $\frac{1}{4}$  was thinned in 2020.

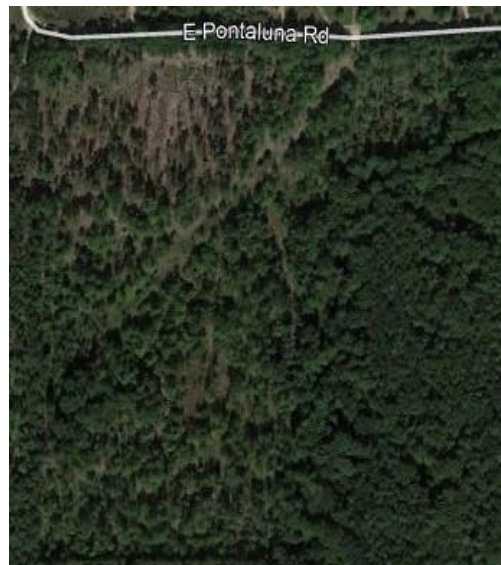
(North)



## Parcel 18

**General Description:** This 40 acre parcel is located in the NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 34, Ravenna Township, Muskegon County, Michigan. It is 1 mile west of Blackmer Road on Pontaluna Road. The property is comprised of predominately lowland hardwoods. A tributary of Crockery Creek runs through a portion of the property. The parcel was logged in 2017 for red pine. The SE corner was logged in 2021.

(North)



## Parcel 19

**General Description:** This 40 acre parcel is located SW  $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 27, Fruitport Township, Muskegon County, Michigan. Located on the east side of Hilton Park Road, where Farr Road intersects Hilton Park Road. A drainage ditch runs along the south side of the property. The property was thinned in 2015.

(North)





## Michigan Department of Natural Resources RAP (Report All Poaching) Line

### REPORTING A VIOLATION

If you witness a natural resource violation, **report it immediately. You can do this by texting or calling 800-292-7800, phone lines are open 24/7.** You may remain anonymous!

Please give as much detail as possible:

- What was the violation?
- When and where did it occur?
- What weapons or equipment were used?
- What vehicles or crafts were used?
- Registration numbers and descriptions are important!
- How many people were involved?
- Describe the people, including their physical description and clothing.
- What evidence is still at the scene?
- Did the violator(s) take evidence of the crime with them?



## Why is checking your deer at a check station important?

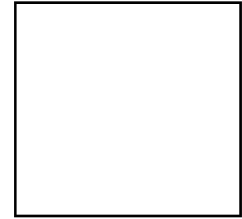
Checking in deer is more important than ever. The Michigan DNR make management decisions based off the data they collect from check stations. They collect information on the sex (antler size and number of points), age, and deer health. This helps the DNR get a better understanding on what is happening to the overall health and population dynamics of our deer. Other surveys that once helped determine deer population can no longer be conducted because of baiting restrictions. Help your future deer population by checking in your deer this year and get a fun patch for participating! For more information about deer stations, check out:

<https://www.midnr.com/Publications/pdfs/ArcGISOnline/interactiveMaps/deercheck/>



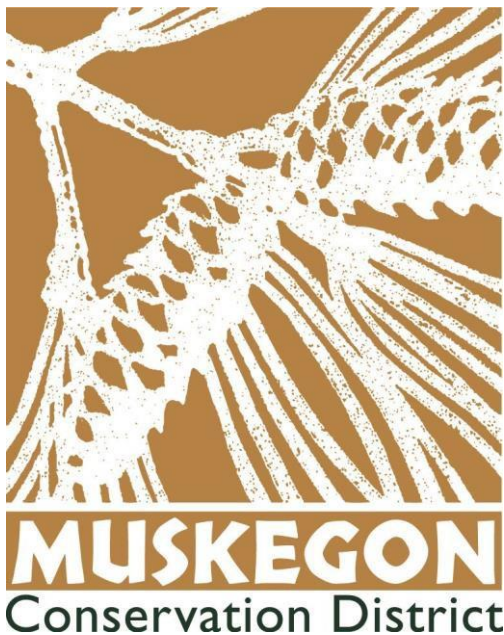
4735 Holton Rd  
Twin Lake, MI, 49457  
P 231.828.5097  
muskegoncd.org

Open Tue - Fri, 7 :00 AM - 5:30 PM



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## District Land Use Guide



Updated Parcel Maps

Updated Property Descriptions

Updated User Regulation

