

Deer Hunting on City Property – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Do I have to be a city resident to apply?

No. Regardless of residency, anyone who meets the requirements may apply to hunt on city property.

Who can hunt?

- Must apply through the City
- Must hold a valid Michigan DNR license
- Residency is not required

How do I apply?

Applications are available on the City's website or at City Hall. Hunters must:

- Designate which eligible city properties they would like to hunt on.
- Rank their location preferences (1st choice, 2nd choice, etc.) on the application.
- Pay the \$10 fee.
- Undergo a standard background check (as part of the process to ensure safety).

Why is deer hunting allowed on city property?

The City allows controlled hunting to help manage the urban deer population. Overpopulation can cause traffic hazards, damage landscaping, and negatively impact native habitats.

What types of hunting are permitted?

Only limited and controlled bow, archery, or crossbow hunting is allowed. Firearms are not permitted.

Is there a lottery system?

Yes. If more hunters apply than spaces allow, a lottery will be held to assign hunters to a two-week hunting period based on the order of names drawn.

When is the lottery?

The lottery drawing will be held on **the second Monday in September**. Hunters will be notified of their assigned hunting location and period shortly after.

How long can I hunt if selected?

Each selected hunter will be assigned a two-week period during the designated bow season; October 1 to January 1.

Where can hunting take place?

Hunting is only allowed on specific city-owned properties designated by the City Council. Hunters must indicate and rank their preferred properties on the application. All hunting must be done from a **temporary elevated tree stand or tripod stand** — ground hunting is not permitted.

Are there safety rules?

Yes. Hunters must:

- Follow all Michigan DNR hunting regulations.
- Hunt only within their assigned city property and timeframe.
- Use elevated tree stands where required.
- Display the city hunting permit while on city property.

Can the public access hunting areas during season?

Yes. Hunting areas remain open to the public, but hunters are required to follow all safety protocols and remain mindful of other users.

What happens if I break the rules?

Violations may result in loss of hunting privileges on city property, fines, or other penalties under state law.

Who do I contact with questions?

City Hall – 231.894.4048 or the city's website at <https://cityofwhitehall.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Updated-Hunting-Ord-with-Maps.pdf>

**CITY OF WHITEHALL
MUSKEGON COUNTY, MICHIGAN
ORDINANCE NO. 25-01**

An ordinance to amend Chapter 51: ANIMALS

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITEHALL HEREBY ORDAINS:

That Ordinance §51.10 shall be added as follows;

§51.10 DEER CONTROL

(A) FEEDING

No person shall intentionally feed; cause to be fed; bait; provide for or make available food or other substances for the consumption by deer within the City. This section shall not apply to naturally growing vegetation or their seed; planted vegetation growing in yards or flower beds for landscaping; planted vegetation for human consumption; bird seed, grain, or corn if contained in an elevated bird feeder and not purposely deposited on the ground or in a feeder trough; or public employees acting within the scope of their authority for purposes of health, safety, or wildlife management.

(B) HUNTING

Limited and controlled bow, archery, or cross-bow hunting during bow hunting season as designated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), or any subsequent controlling State agency, is allowed within the City for purposes of limiting the urban deer population that may cause a threat to vehicular traffic, damage landscaping, impact the health and regeneration of native vegetation, decrease the overall health of the deer population, and increase the risks of disease transmission.

(C) ELIGIBLE PROPERTY

Owners of private property may apply annually to the City for designation as an eligible property for purposes of hunting deer in accordance with this ordinance. The City Council, in its sole discretion, may approve or deny an application. Eligible property shall be located within the City and comprise no less than three contiguous acres. Adjacent landowners may jointly apply for designation as eligible property. The City Council reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to revoke any property as eligible property. The City Council may establish fees for eligible property applications.

Designated areas of city owned property as recommended by the City Manager and Public Works Director and approved by the City Council will be eligible property for purposes of this ordinance. On the second Monday of September in each calendar year, the City Clerk will conduct a lottery for the rights to hunt on city property from a pool of applicants having submitted a completed application form and payment of any non-refundable fee as may be established by the City Council. Applications must be received at city hall no later than noon the day of

the lottery. The lottery will draw all applicants and place them on a list in descending order in which they are drawn. The list will be used to award future hunting rights for the immediate fall and winter season. Hunting permits on city property will be valid for two weeks at a time.

(D) HUNTERS

Licensed bow, archery, or cross-bow hunters meeting the requirements established by the DNR may apply annually to the City for a permit to hunt deer on approved eligible properties. The application shall include consent from the eligible property owner. Hunting may not occur within 150 feet of any building or public street of the eligible property. All shots must be taken from a temporary elevated stand and shot no further than 150 feet. The City Council reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to revoke any hunting permits. The City Council may establish fees for hunting permits.

This Ordinance is to become effective ten (10) days after publication.

Ayes: J. Holmstrom, S. Sikkenga, S. Brown, T. Ziemer, D. Hillebrand, T. Cabala, S. Salter
Nays: None
Absent: None

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned, being the duly qualified Clerk of the City of Whitehall, Muskegon County, Michigan, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of an ordinance adopted by the City Council of the City of Whitehall, at a regular meeting of the City Council on the 26th day of August, 2025, at which meeting a quorum was present and remained throughout, and that the meeting was conducted and public notice was given pursuant to and in full compliance with Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan of 1976, as amended, and that minutes were kept and will be or have been made available as required thereby.

Date: September 9, 2025


Brenda Bourdon
City Clerk

Adopted: September 9, 2025
Published: September 21, 2025
Effective: October 1, 2025



City of Whitehall Hunting Areas

- Hunting may not occur within 150 ft of any building or public street
- All shots must be taken from a temporary elevated stand and shot no further than 150 ft.

Funnell Field



Peterson & Lewis



Ullman's Way

DPW



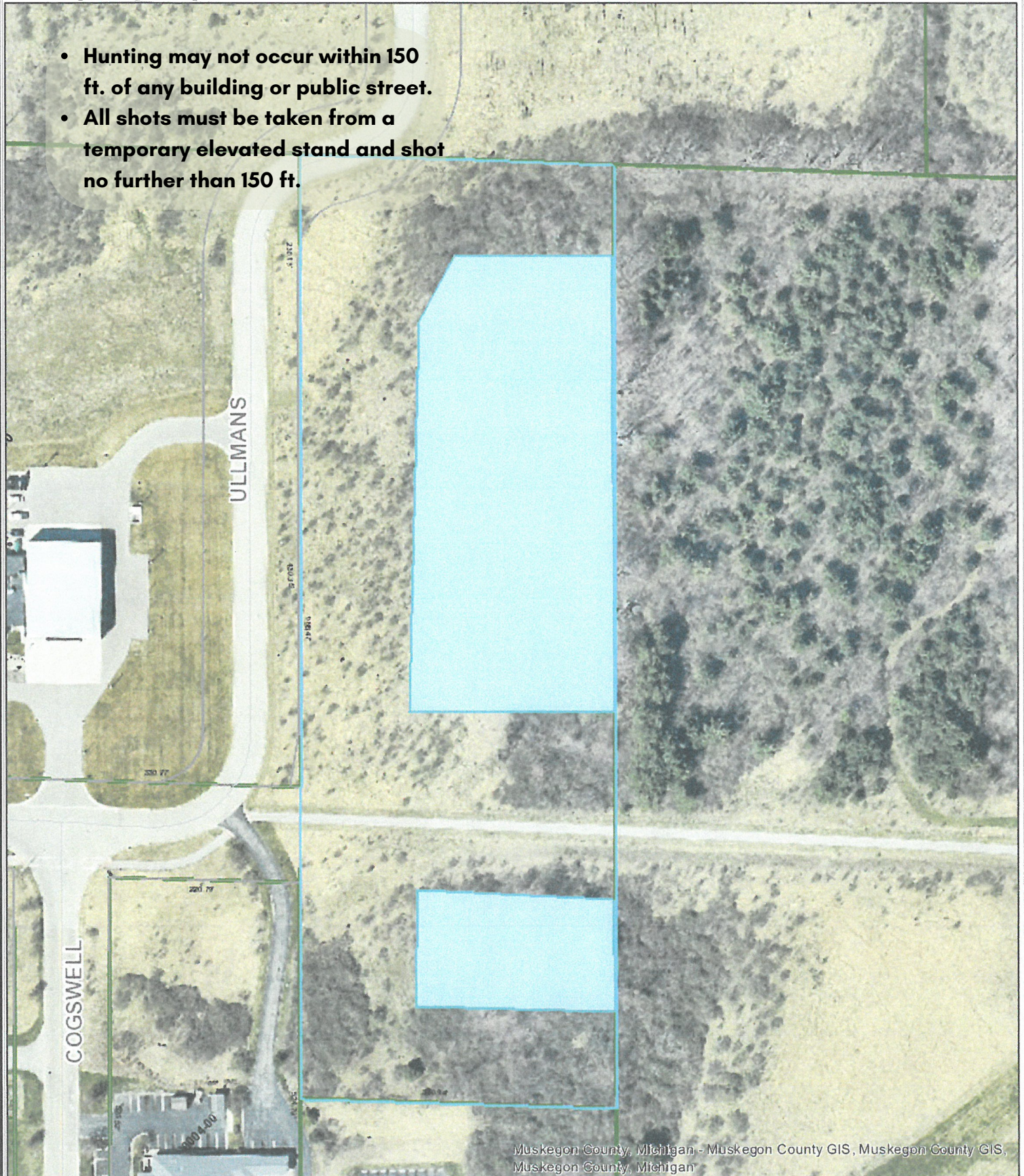
GIS

Muskegon County Property Report

Report generated 9/2/2025 at 3:45:14 PM

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- Hunting may not occur within 150 ft. of any building or public street.
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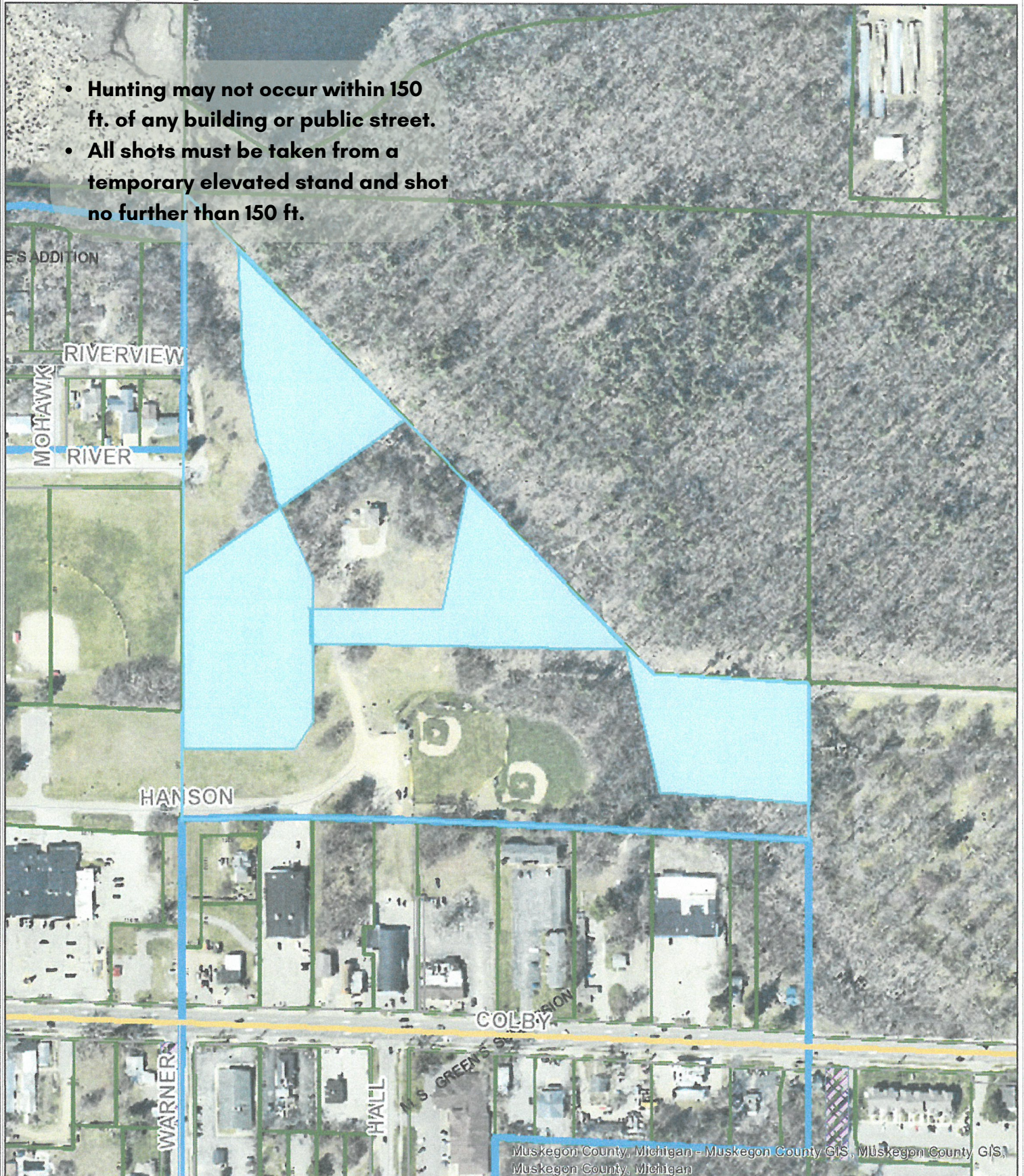
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Muskegon County Property Report

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GIS

Muskegon County
Property Report

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GIS

Muskegon County Property Report

DPW Property

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