



**Little Forks Conservancy – Riverview Natural Area (43.641312, -84.335317)**

### **2019 Deer Season Protocol**

There is evidence of deer browse impacting the habitat therefore, by managing for deer we are providing a new recreation opportunity in Midland County and improving the quality of habitat for other wildlife.

**Method of Hunting:** Bow hunting: Oct 1-Nov 14; Dec 1- Jan 1. No Hunters will be on the property during firearm season

**Area of Hunting:** Of the 419 acres we hope to open 123 acres of forestland to hunting (see Map) in the north section of Riverview inside the loop of trail and in the floodplain east of the yellow loop. Hunters will park in the field along the private drive passed a gate on 5-mile road; access will be granted using a coded lock that will be changed yearly and code will only be given to hunters with permits. A parking area (blue star) will be defined by mowing and logs or posts will be placed in the ground.

**Number of hunters:** twelve hunters maximum will be allowed to hunt on the property at a time. A check-in station will be placed at the Shed and no more than 36 permits will be handed out per season.

**Determining Hunters:** The Stewardship Coordinator will meet with all hunters individually or as a group to discuss the rules and regulations. A meeting will be held August 23rd to meet the hunters, go over details of rules and answer any questions and hand out permits. Hunters must show proof of a valid Michigan Hunting license. We hold the right to forbid a hunter if they cannot follow the rules and laws in place.

**Encouraging the Next Generation to Hunt:** Apprentice Hunters which is defined by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as a person who does not yet have a hunter safety certificate and is between the ages of 10-16 years. On this preserve, the permitted hunter is responsible for the safety of the apprentice hunter and to ensure they follow the rules listed. If the Apprentice hunter has violated these rules the *hunter's* permit will be revoked. Apprentice Hunters count as one hunter towards the 12 hunters allowed on the property at once.

**Payments:** It is acknowledged that there are costs associated with maintaining a large property, however we will not require a payment to hunt on the property; Hunters are encouraged to make a donation to the organization or volunteer their time assisting with maintenance of the property or monitoring other hunters; i.e. let us know if you see someone violating the rules, and know you would be left anonymous during the season.

**Preserve Usage:** The preserve will still be open during deer hunting season and trail users will still be using the property. Hunters will respect all forms of wildlife, fellow hunters, and other visitors of Riverview Natural Area. Signage will be posted in the parking area and after the stairs to warn trail users of hunting in progress and asking them to wear orange.

**Little Forks Riverview Hunter Application** – returning hunters can skip Hunter Information; if no changes are needed.

Name:

\*Attach copy of hunting license to application\*

**Hunter Information**

E-mail:

Phone:

Car Information (make/model/Plate #):

Address:

How did you hear about this opportunity? Are you familiar with Little Forks Conservancy?

**Hunting Preferences**

Would you bring an Apprentice Hunter?

How often would you be hunting?

Can we share your name/phone # to other people hunting?

Other Comment/Questions?



**These are the rules and regulations all hunters must follow as determined by Little Forks Conservancy staff and the Stewardship Committee.**



1. Only park vehicles in designated location with Car Permit visible. ORV use is not permitted.
2. No bait piles.
3. No cutting vegetation for shooting lanes or any other purposes.
4. No hunting within 100 feet of a trail or 150 yards (450 feet) from a structure or residence. LFC will provide hunters link to an interactive map.
5. Be respectful of other hunters especially when tracking a deer and seek approval of neighboring landowner before tracking deer off the Preserve.
6. Only Temporary tree stands i.e. with no nails or screws into the trees.
7. All hunting structures must be labelled with name and contact information and only allowed on property September 30- January 5th. All stands and any flagging must be removed by January 5<sup>th</sup>.
8. Report harvest data (male/female) to Little Forks by January 15<sup>th</sup> via email or Google Forms. For bucks, look for 4 points on one side as recommended by QDMA.
9. Hunters must comply with all federal, state and local hunting laws. (A Hunter's Digest will be provided if needed)
10. Permits are nontransferable.
11. The permitted hunter is responsible for the safety of the apprentice hunter and to ensure they follow the rules listed. If the Apprentice hunter has violated these rules the hunter's permit will be revoked.

I \_\_\_\_\_ understand the above rules and violation of these rules can be grounds for revocation of Little Forks Hunting Permit.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_