

**DRAFT – SUBJECT TO COUNCIL
DISCUSSION AND REVISION (2/20/16)**

**Resolution Establishing a Wildlife Management Plan within the
Borough of Saddle River.**

WHEREAS, the Saddle River Borough Council amended Chapter 109 of the Borough Code to allow for the discharge of weapons in accordance with a wildlife management plan lawfully adopted by resolution of the Saddle River Borough Council.

WHEREAS, the Saddle River Borough Council may regulate the discharge of weapons to protect the safety of the general public.

WHEREAS, the Saddle River Board of Health declared in October 2014 that the deer population in the Borough of Saddle River is a public health risk and that urgent action must be taken to reduce the deer population.

WHEREAS, in September 2015 the Saddle River Environmental Commission and the Saddle River Wildlife Management Commission each voted to recommend that the Borough Council pass an ordinance allowing for the discharge of bows to facilitate regulated deer hunting in Saddle River.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Saddle River, County of Bergen that an individual (hereafter “hunter”) is authorized to discharge a bow arrow or bolt for the purpose of hunting deer under the following conditions:

(a) The hunter is at least 21 years old and in possession of a valid and current deer hunting license issued by the State of New Jersey.

(b) The hunter must be a resident of Saddle River, be an immediate family member of a Saddle River resident or be in receipt of a special permit granted by the Saddle River Borough Council. For purposes of this resolution, an immediate family member shall be defined exclusively as a child, parent or sibling of a current Saddle River resident or the spouse of a person who is a child, parent or sibling of a current Saddle River resident.

(c) The hunter must agree to use best efforts to take at least five deer during the hunting season with the first two deer being does. All deer not used for personal consumption shall be donated to a non-profit food bank within the state of New Jersey.

(d) The bow is discharged on land owned by the hunter or by a hunter in possession of a current and valid letter on file with the Saddle River Police Department that evidences that the hunter is in receipt of prior written permission of the landowner.

(e) All discharge of bows is conducted in a manner providing the proper safeguards for the protection of life and the property of others.

(f) The discharge of a bow is fully compliant with the laws of the State of New Jersey and all wildlife management regulations adopted by the Saddle River Borough Council.

(g) The discharge of a bow is conducted from an elevated position with the bow aimed downward towards the ground.

(h) The bow's arrow or bolt is not fired across a property boundary line unless the property owners on both sides of such property line have granted prior written permission allowing such activity.

(i) The hunter has registered with the Saddle River Police Department immediately prior to the commencement of any discharge of bows with a letter providing the hunter's name, a copy of the hunter's current bow hunting license, a copy of his/her insurance certificate, his/her wireless telephone number, his/her vehicle license plate number (if applicable) and copies of all letters evidencing permission to hunt or cross property boundaries to track an injured deer. Each hunter shall have a working wireless telephone in his/her possession while hunting and will also be issued a permit tag to be left in the front window of his/her vehicle or to be carried by the hunter while hunting.

(j) The hunter shall use best efforts to notify the owners of all contiguous properties at least one week in advance of the date of bow discharge. Notification via registered and return receipt U.S. Mail will be considered to be one notification method that qualifies as best efforts under this section. Notification shall include a written request to allow the hunter to track an injured deer across a property boundary for the sole purpose of removing the deer in a safe and convenient manner. In no event shall permission to cross a boundary be construed to allow the discharge of a weapon on such property unless prior permission of the landowner is specifically granted.

(k) In the event a deer is wounded and runs to adjacent property upon which the hunter does not have prior written permission to cross onto for the purpose of retrieving the deer, the hunter shall immediately notify the Saddle River Police Department and report the location of the wounded deer and consider the matter closed. Under no circumstances may a hunter trespass onto private property for any reason without prior permission.

(l) Each hunter who discharges a bow pursuant to this resolution must have a current sportsman liability insurance policy with no less than one million dollars of coverage. Such insurance shall be presented to the landowner prior to any bow discharge.

(m) After a deer is harvested, the hunter responsible must remove all parts of the deer from the Borough of Saddle River. The hunter responsible shall also notify the Saddle

River Police Department within forty-eight hours after the harvest of each deer and such notice shall include the location of the harvest and the gender and approximate size or weight of the deer killed.

(n) Bow hunting on property owned by the Borough of Saddle River will be subject to the same rules as apply to private owned property. No hunter shall discharge a bow on municipal owned property without the prior written permission of the Saddle River Borough Council.