

Town of Ogden Dunes

PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA

115 HILLCREST ROAD
OGDEN DUNES, INDIANA 46368-8501
TELEPHONE: (219) 762-4125
FACSIMILE: (219) 762-3000

October 11, 2013

Mr. Bob Porch, District 1 Wildlife Biologist
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
8163 Oak Tree Drive
Rensselaer, IN 47978-9560

RE: APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL PURPOSE DEER CONTROL PERMIT
TOWN OF OGDEN DUNES, PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA

Dear Mr. Porch:

Please find the enclosed application for the Town of Ogden Dunes to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for the issuance of a Special Purpose Deer Control Permit under IC: IC 14-22-28-1.

Sincerely,



Allen B. Johnson, Town Council President
Town of Ogden Dunes, Indiana

w/enclosure

Subject: **Ogden Dunes application**
From: johnabnk@aol.com
Date: Friday, October 18, 2013 1:18 PM
To: pmayer@dnr.in.gov, bporch@dnr.in.gov



RECEIVED
10-22-13
p.m.

Mr. Mayer, Mr. Porch,
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

This message is the request of your agency to suspend at once action on the Ogden Dunes Deer Control Permit until a revised application is received.

The revision should be in the mail today. It was found to be necessary to remove reference to the damage at one property location. The change will be evident to you when you receive the revision. When the revision dated 10/17/13 is received, the original application including a revised Attachment #4 and the several pictures related to the property removed should be destroyed as they will no longer be considered as part of the Town's application.

Thank you,

Allen Johnson
Ogden Dunes Town Council President

APPLICATION



RECEIVED

10-22-13
PM

Application for
Special Purpose Deer Control Permit
In accordance with IC: 14-22-28-1

Applicant:

Town of Ogden Dunes

115 Hillcrest Road / Ogden Dunes, (Porter County) Indiana 46368-8501

Principal Officer and authority:

Allen B. Johnson, President, Ogden Dunes Town Council: AC 219-762-5054

The Town Council at a regular council meeting held on August 5, 2013 authorized the Town Council President and/or his designees to prepare and submit a request for a special purpose deer control permit. A copy of the minutes of that meeting is at Attachment # 5.

Lead Contact:

Ogden Dunes Marshal James Reeder will be the lead contact. Marshal Reeder has overseen the cull here in Ogden Dunes the last two years and is well versed on the issues. The backup contact would be Deputy Chief Kevin Hughes. These officers may be reached at 219-762-4125.

Application for:

Special Purpose Deer Control Permit

In accordance with IC: 14-22-28-1

Cull Site Locations:

The cull sites used during December of 2012 were Suerenity Park, the mulch pile at the east end of what is referred to as the Sand Tracks and the bank of sand at the southeast corner of the firehouse.

At a meeting on September 26, 2013 the Ogden Dunes Park and Recreation Board voted to allow the use of Hillcrest Park as a cull site. As a result of the Park Board's decision The Town would plan to drop the mulch pile site and add Hillcrest Park, south of the firehouse and east of the Town Hall.

The Town would also request permission to use an additional cull site located near our western border on the west end of the Sand Tracks path, along the north edge of the Indiana American Water plant. That site is now a path and it was inspected for potential use for the cull of December 2012.

All of the requested cull sites, rear of fire hall, Hillcrest Park, Suerenity Park and west end of Sand Tracks are on property within the municipal boundaries of the Town of Ogden Dunes, Porter County, Indiana and upon property the Town owns or has an interest in as provided by

Allen B. Johnson
Rev. 10/12/13

IC: 14-22-28-1. Prior to operations the District Wildlife Biologist and Conservation Officer will inspect specific sites. A map exhibiting specific site(s) shall be available and on file in the Town Hall.

Time period of permit:

Effective on **10/29/2013** through **03/31/2014**.

Number of Deer to be taken:

No more than eighty (80) deer to be taken under this permit (or in combination with any other permit issued to the applicant for this time period).

Alternatives:

In June of 2012 the Town of Ogden Dunes applied to the DNR for the use of any or all non-lethal population management and vector control techniques. Requests were made for birth control methods, trap and relocate and pesticide application methods. The pesticide application procedure was for the purpose of applying a solution that would then kill ticks on the deer. The pesticide applications were to have been made by way of a device called a four-poster device (or similar product), which was a feeder that would apply a pesticide to a deer as it was feeding. In a response dated August 1, 2012 the DNR stated that none of those methods could be permitted.

Alternative, Indirect:

An indirect alternative would be that the National Park Service would hold a cull along our common borders. If the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Park were to begin and sustain culls in along our common border areas to the east, west and south it would help Ogden Dunes benefit from an over all lower number of deer. If this were to take place it may alleviate Ogden Dunes of the need to do annual culls. The Town of Ogden Dunes has held several meetings with the Park Service about this issue. Even at a recent meeting the Park Service could not commit on whether or not, or when, they would be holding a cull in our area.

Conditions/Authorizations:

Safety:

Town will assume all responsibility for safety while carrying-out the permit. The proposed cull sites are somewhat isolated and there will be clear markings, such as yellow police tape, orange road cones and other barriers. There will be a Town-wide mailing and hand-delivered letters to any residents nearby to the sites. We will post notices on the central mail racks and put a notice on the Town website. The sharpshooters will be elevated and be shooting into a backstop or into the ground.

The Town Marshal may designate not more than four (4) sharpshooters whose names must be provided to the Indiana DNR District Wildlife Biologist and on file and available upon request at the Town Hall, during normal business hours. The plan is to use the same two sharpshooters that have been used the past two years. They are unpaid and volunteer their services.

The requested cull sites near the fire hall and at Hillcrest Park are quite secreted. Casual viewing of harvested deer by a resident would be unlikely. The site at Suerenity Park is down in a depression from the adjoining road and is difficult, if it would be visible at all, to see from a vehicle. There are several houses up on the ridge line from where a resident, if they so wished, may be able to view the cull site. The requested site on the western Sand Tracks path would also be somewhat visible to a few houses on the ridge line to the north of the path.

Specific authorization is requested for the use of the same rifles as used the prior year, a .223 and a .308 caliber both with suppressors. The use of suppressors was permitted last year and their use substantially mitigated the reports of rifle fire. The Town may take deer from one half hour before sunrise through one half hour after sunset.

Town intends to use baiting during the cull to concentrate deer and the Town requests that the baiting may be permitted to start two weeks prior to the beginning of the authorized cull starting date.

Town intends that each deer taken under this permit must be utilized for human consumption. No part or portion of the carcass may be sold. Last year, the Portage Township Food Pantry received over 500 one-pound packages of ground venison from our cull. Contributions from the public were solicited in order to pay for the processing of deer. However, any deer taken that appear to be unfit for consumption or diseased shall be incinerated, buried or otherwise destroyed.

Town will provide an "Authorization to Possess Deer taken on a Deer Control Permit Form" with each deer taken that is to accompany deer at all times.

For any deer that has a total of more than seven (7) antler points, the Town will insure one antler is removed and surrendered or disposed of, as directed by a Conservation Officer or District Wildlife Biologist by the expiration of the permit.

Town will be responsible for the carrying out and abiding by all permit conditions.

Purposes/reasons/goals:

Damage:

The white-tailed deer population within the municipal boundaries of the Town of Ogden Dunes, Porter County, Indiana have damaged and continue to threaten with damage Town owned, other public, and private property.

Attachment 1 is a copy of a report by John Ervin, ecologist, dated October 4, 2013 assessing the vegetation in Ogden Dunes as a result of foraging deer. That report states that there was no significant visual difference in the 2013 vegetation when compared to the two previous years. The report also references browse lines, dominance of invasive species, stunting of yews, arborvitae, holly and deciduous shrubs in residential landscapes. One of the author's conclusions is that a large population of deer is still present.

The packages of pictures enclosed are indicative of deer damage from browsing at various locations throughout the Town of Ogden Dunes. Damage has occurred in the interior of Town as well as on the edges of Town. The pictures in the 6" x 9" brown envelopes were taken by Allen

Johnson from fall of 2012 through August of 2013. The large envelope contains seven 8 ½ by 11 inch pictures of deer in Ogden Dunes at various locations that were recently taken by Town Councilman Paul Panther. The smaller envelopes contain addresses of the various sites and are geographically spread over most of the Town. Not pictured is a deer trail through the dunes grass on the toe dune starting at the west end and running to the east. Neighbors have seen the deer using this trail.

6" x 9" brown envelopes – addresses:

70 Ogden Road-

76 Shore Drive-

The same type of shrubbery is shown at 70 Ogden and at 76 Shore. At 70 Ogden there is much damage, while at 76 Shore those shrubs appear untouched.

76 Ogden Road - tall shrubs on right of drive show browse line

151 Shore Drive- browse damage to shrubs

Aspen Rd.- 2 pictures of shrubs across from 37 Aspen and one at 17 Aspen

3 Cedar Trail- tall shrubs browsed

Cedar Trail and Cedar Court- bush in planter box has been browsed on plus bush at another location in town.

2 Bittersweet & 2 pictures at 55 Aspen- Selund property, see Attachment # 3 also, pictures of new plantings and pictures of other plantings which were browsed on

106 Diana Rd.- badly damaged shrub, not shown is a similarly damaged shrub located on the opposite side of the drive on what would be the left side of the picture

109 Diana Rd.- tall shrubs damaged at lower levels

Chrismar & Valerie- row of tall shrubs on edge of Chrismar that have been damaged at the lower level

16 Diana Rd.- pictures of deer trails through the vacant lot connected with 16 Diana Rd.

18 Diana Rd.- See Attachment # 2 also, pictures of the various deer repellents used by resident Bonander and of deer damage to plants surrounding the residence

15 Diana Rd. – Johnson – pictures of several types of damage

Purposes:

Town desires to maintain a healthy deer population while protecting other resources, where deer are not the driving force and the natural role of deer in the ecosystem is better maintained.

Protect habitat from unacceptable adverse impacts related to deer browsing of:

- Native plant species;
- Sensitive and rare species
- Wildflowers and grasses;
- Forests and green space;
- Landscaping, gardens and crops;
- Lower canopy and ground-nesting bird habitat;
- All of which changes the landscape, adversely impacts biodiversity and potentially promotes invasive plant species.

Reduce threat and potential for personal property damage, damage and injury to persons (e.g.: deer – human interaction, deer – pedestrian, motorized and non-motorized vehicle collisions).

Reduce threat and potential of deer overpopulation adversely affecting animal health (e.g.: animal starvation, and animal disease) and human health.

Long Term Management Plan:

Target:

Healthy deer density: approximately 10 to 15 deer/square mile.

Not including the waters of Lake Michigan, the Town of Ogden Dunes has less than 500 acres of land. On those acres, there are approximately 600 homes, several Town owned buildings, a drinking water treatment plant, a gas station and approximately 11 miles of roads.

A flyover infrared count of deer in or on the border of Ogden Dunes performed in February of 2012 reflected approximately 58 deer. Since that time, there have been deer born in the springs of 2012 and 2013. Since that flyover count there has been one cull conducted, December of 2012, that resulted in the taking of 40 deer. The math would indicate there are still numerous deer in Ogden Dunes. Attachment 6 is an email from Ogden Dunes Town Marshal detailing the days of the December 2012 cull. The cull was performed on 6 days out of 8 calendar days in December. The last two days of the cull, December 18 and 19, resulted in 11 deer being taken. This is another indication that deer were not becoming scarce. The locations of the cull sites used in the fall of 2012, were all on the eastern portion of Town. It is reasonable to assume that some number of the deer taken were walk-ins from the adjoining national park property. It is also reasonable to assume that the number of deer which consistently roam the western half of Town were not significantly reduced.

Steps:

Conduct culls within the boundaries of the Town of Ogden Dunes.

Maintain dialogue with the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Park to encourage the Park to conduct culls on their property along the borders of Ogden Dunes.

The plan would be that the numbers of deer residing in Town and nearby on land of the National Park could be significantly reduced with teamwork between the Town and the Park. Once it is determined that the deer population has been reduced to tolerable levels, it may allow for Ogden Dunes to discontinue culls for some time, especially if the Park would continue regular culls.

Attachments, Enclosures and References:

Attachments:

Attachment 1 is a copy of a report dated October 4, 2013, Three Years of the Vegetation of the Town of Ogden Dunes, Indiana, prepared by John Ervin, Ecologist.

Attachment 2 is an internet posting from resident David Bonander of 18 Diana Rd. detailing damage to his plantings. This goes with the envelope for 18 Diana Rd. containing pictures of the damaged areas.

Attachment 3 is a write-up and landscaper cost sheet from resident Judith Selund of 22 Bittersweet detailing damage to her plantings. This goes with the envelope for 22 Bittersweet containing pictures of the damaged areas. The landscaper's sheet attributed a cost of \$1,800 to deer damage.

Attachment 4 is a write-up of damage at 15 Diana Rd. provided by resident Allen Johnson.

Attachment 5 is a copy of the minutes of the Town council meeting on August 5, 2013 authorizing the President of the council to apply for a deer cull permit

Attachment 6 is an email from Ogden Dunes Town Marshal detailing the days of the December 2012 cull.

Enclosures, envelopes of pictures

By reference: Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Final White-Tailed Deer Management Plan