

Fall/Winter Recreational Activities

Hunting Seasons:

Bear Hunting – September 10th – October 26th

Small Game/Bird Hunting – September 15th – March 21, 2019

Archery Deer Hunting – October 1st – December 1st

Gun Deer Hunting – November 15th – November 30th

Muzzle Loading Deer Hunting – December 7th – December 16th

During these hunting seasons other fall/winter recreational activities may generate contacts from residents and visitors regarding allowable activity, safety concerns and potential conflicts with the hunting and shooting recreational activities. Marquette Township does not regulate recreational activities, hunting, or shooting within our boundaries by ordinance or in any other manner. These recreational hunting and shooting activities are regulated by the State DNR rules and regulations as published on their web site (www.michigan.gov/dnr) and in handbooks available at their Regional Offices in Harvey, and at many sporting goods counters around the area. The most often asked question deals with established “safety zones” where hunting and non-hunting related conflicts may occur; such zones have been established by the DNR as:

“Safety zones are all areas within 150 yards (450 feet) of an occupied building, house, cabin, or any barn or other building used in a farm operation. No person, including archery and crossbow hunters, may hunt or discharge a firearm, crossbow or bow in a safety zone, or shoot at any wild animal or wild bird within a safety zone, without the written permission of the owner or occupant of such safety zone. The safety zone applies to hunting only. It does not apply to indoor or outdoor shooting ranges, target shooting, law enforcement activities or the discharge of firearms, crossbows or bows for any non-hunting purpose.”

The last two sentences are important – non-hunting shooting activities are exempted from the safety zone restriction; and can legally occur adjacent to other more passive recreational pursuits. It is generally recommended that all venturing afield and into the woods during hunting seasons make themselves visible, preferably in blaze orange, and keep pets under close control.