

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



TOWN MANAGER
TOWN OF THOMASTON
13 VALLEY STREET
THOMASTON, MAINE 04861-0299
TEL: (207) 354-6107

November 17, 2023

Thomaston Regulates Hunting in the Town Forest and Spray Fields

Effective November 17, 2023, the Town of Thomaston will no longer allow hunting in the Thomaston Town Forest and the Thomaston Environmental Department spray fields per regulations of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The Thomaston Town Forest has become a popular destination as a place for the community to walk, hike and bike. Side Country Trails sponsors bike race fundraisers to support the maintenance of the trails that draws nearly 100 bikers from the area. At any given time, there are up to 100 visitors that frequent the Town Forest trails night and day. The trails are maintained year-round by a group of dedicated town staff and volunteers from the Georges River Land Trust and Side Country Trails. The Town is implementing this new policy to ensure the safety of our community, reduce liability risks to the Town, and ensure compliance with DEP.

The Environmental Department spray field access is limited to authorized personnel only. No hunting of any kind is permitted in these areas nor placement of tree stands or other related equipment. This is mandated by Federal and State laws and is not subject to the discretion of the town, its staff, or anyone working for the town. Anyone hunting, placing tree stands, or other equipment in the Town Forest or spray fields are considered trespassing and will be warned, asked to leave, and are to remove their equipment. Any repeat offenders will be reported and turned over to the Maine Warden Service or other proper authorities.

The Environmental Department operates and maintains a service road from the Treatment Plant extending 1.6 miles to the end of spray field number five. Gates are located just before the spray fields and at its end. When the gates are closed no public access is allowed. When the gates are open, public access is allowed after checking-in at the Environmental Department office located at 33 Clark Street.

Georges River Land Trust and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife are excellent resources for advising hunters on areas available for hunting, safety laws and regulations, and any other questions you may have. Please visit www.georgesriver.org or www.maine.gov/ifw/ for more information.

If you should have questions regarding this new policy, please contact the Thomaston Environmental Department at (207) 354-2136 or email the superintendent at eharris@thomastonmaine.gov.

###