

I strongly oppose any expansion of Ct's liberal bowhunting policies which threaten the safety of our residential neighborhoods where adults, children and pets play. I advocate changes in the existing regulations to ensure the safety of children playing in our neighborhoods which become hunting grounds for 4 months, while multi acre preserves only allow hunting for 3 months, and now to allow on Sundays, while children play, is grossly irresponsible.

*Over 45 deer per year are killed by non-indigenous bow hunters in neighboring yards without any notice to the Darien residents by the private landowners.' Undisclosed hunters sit in trees shooting animals with lethal arrows only accurately hitting the deer 50% of the time, resulting in brutal injuring of the animal. Our **children and pets are at risk** with this barbaric hunting practice in highly congested suburban neighborhoods. Bowhunting is outlawed through most of Europe.*

We need to amend the private hunting statute for the safety of our children.

We need **no hunting zones** in highly congested areas, especially where we have high populations of children. We have a population density of 20,000 people in 12 square miles with little green space and nearly **7000 children under the age of 18** roaming the streets, parks and playgrounds. *We suggest no hunting zones where the penetration of children is greater than 25%*

We need **private land owners to notify neighbors and post signs** where the hunters sit. We need a **list of all private land owners printed in the newspaper** prior to hunting season.

We need **acreage limits** on where hunting can occur. *We suggest 5 acres.*

We need Darien law enforcement **to enforce the licensing of out of bowhunters and the others that join them, and to enforce the no trespassing law** .*We suggest fines of \$10,000 for trespassing on neighboring property, not wearing clothing specified in the law and not producing appropriate documentation.*

We need **setbacks from all public property, especially schools.**

We need a revamped Deer Management Committee to include **safety** in its charter and to seriously explore non lethal deer management solutions. The Darien Deer Management Committee does not reflect the citizens of the town represents the interests of "out of town" bowhunters.

Usually, children, representing 1/3 of the entire population of Darien , feel safe walking the streets, playing in the woods and the playgrounds. Liberal hunting policies in Fairfield County attract bow hunters from around the country and allow them to sit in our neighborhoods perched in trees, hidden from children, baiting animals with apples. The neighbors who allow the hunts are not required to notify neighboring property owners and never post sign indicating the hunters are sitting in trees while the children walk to school bus stops and pets walk close by. Furthermore, no setbacks from private or public property exists so a bow hunter can actually sit in a blind in tree by a school playground which has been documented repeatedly by [Darien High School](#) .

Many reports exist of strange men with weapons trespassing property to collect deer kills. With a 50% wound rate the deer usually travel 100 yards before falling. Because of the cruelty of the death, local residents including children have witnessed disturbing injured deer bleeding and crippled, ultimately attracting other predators such as coyotes. One such report occurred in Tokeneke last year while others were cited in Delafield Island and Cedar Gate. Furthermore, the Darien police are not, educated on the law and therefore not enforcing the law requiring hunters to wear the appropriate clothing, carry and present licenses, and do not trespass on other private and public land to collect killed animals.

Approximately 45 deer a year are killed with bows on private property-this is a lot of unmonitored and unpublished hunting in our usually safe backyards.

This comes off a national hunting website:

Connecticut deer hunting season is one of the most liberal in the United States with 120 days of possible time afield. Bowhunters have an incredibly long season. The bowhunting season on private land, depending on the zone that you hunt, runs from September 15 through January 31, that is a lot of time in the woods and reason enough to take up bowhunting. There are also state land bowhunting only areas that

are open September 15 through December 31. You are allowed 4 deer with a bow in Connecticut with the exception of zones 11 and 12 (Fairfield County). In those zones you are issued replacement tags and you may harvest as many deer as you can.

Why are we allowing so many strangers with weapons in our neighborhoods, when non lethal methods such as birth control exist? The links between animal abuse and domestic violence are well documented.

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