

# Rochester Land Trust Hunting Policy

Board Approved, 2/04/2016

The Rochester Land Trust (RLT) recognizes that hunting is a traditional part of our rural heritage. Licensed hunting is allowed on RLT owned properties unless the donor of the land did not want hunting allowed or the property is too close to residences according to public guidelines.

Our hunting policies are based on Massachusetts state policy\*. All applicable state and federal laws apply on our properties concerning hunting. Additionally, hunters on RLT properties must follow Massachusetts gun laws. It is expected that hunters will respect private property rights, strictly adhere to residential safety zone distances, and exercise courtesy with RLT as the landowner and with our abutters.

Target shooting is not allowed on RLT properties.

Trapping is not allowed on RLT properties.

Hunters are expected to understand and respect that preserves are used by a variety of recreational users throughout the year. RLT properties, many of which have maintained trails, are also open to the general public for non-motorized uses. Hikers and outdoor enthusiasts must familiarize themselves with hunting season schedules as issued by Mass Wildlife, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife\*. All preserve visitors should wear blaze orange during spring and fall hunting seasons.

In addition, we ask that hunters respect and agree to the following:

- Hunting is permitted between sunrise and sunset on RLT land.
- Permanent structures may not be erected (blinds, permanent stands).
- Portable stands may be used seasonally but any tree stand which is fastened to a tree by nails, bolts, wire or other fasteners that intrude through the bark into the wood of the tree is prohibited.
- Trucks, dirt bikes, ATV's and snowmobiles are not allowed.
- Remove all kills from RLT land, do not dump carcasses or leave gut piles on RLT land.
- Training of hunting dogs and field trials are not allowed on RLT land.
- Baiting of wildlife is not allowed.
- Hunting is not allowed on any hiking trails.
- Leave no trace behind. Pick up spent cartridges and litter.
- All activities on RLT lands are undertaken at your own risk.
- Rochester Land Trust is not responsible or liable for any injuries occurring on RLT property.
- Rochester Land Trust reserves the right to ask visitors to leave who are not compliant with our rules and regulations.

\*Please get a copy of MA Wildlife Hunting Regulations at the Town Hall or by accessing their website:

<http://www.eregulations.com/massachusetts/huntingandfishing/>

For information on Massachusetts gun laws visit: [Mass.gov/cjis](http://Mass.gov/cjis)