

Wildlife Management:

New Bird Feeding Rules

-Lower Peninsula Deer Bait Ban



By order of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources baiting or feeding deer is banned in the Lower Peninsula to prevent the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

As of Jan. 31, 2019, baiting or feeding deer is illegal anywhere in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. This includes both public and private lands, as well as inadvertent feeding such as at bird feeders. It does not include planted food plots or crops, but does include salt licks and similar baits.

Illegal Baiting Fine: \$50 - \$500 or up to 90 days in jail

At Home:

You can still feed the birds, but only as long as your feeders don't attract deer!

- Place feeders at least 6 feet off the ground to prevent deer from reaching them, preferably with a platform beneath to prevent the seed from falling to the ground.
- Use foods that deer are unlikely to eat, such as thistle seed, suet or hummingbird nectar, rather than sunflower seed, seed mixes or corn.
- Only put out as much food as the birds will eat in one day, so that the feeders are empty at night when deer are most active.
- Place a woven wire fence around your feeders and the ground beneath such that deer cannot reach through or over to get to the food.

Bird Feeding is Not Allowed in Oakland County Parks.

Park visitors may not feed birds or other wildlife at any time. This includes bird feeders attached to or around RVs and trailers at campgrounds, regardless of whether they're attracting deer.

Please contact OCPR Natural Resources Management with any questions:

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