Common Misconceptions about Hunting

Some New Jerseyans have misconceptions about hunting and hunters. New Jersey is a diverse state, so it's helpful to take the time to understand each other

Misconceptions	Hunters Explain
People who want to reduce deer herd numbers are unkind. X	White-tailed deer are vital in our natural landscape. We deeply respect our natural world and want to foster safe human communities, and sustainably healthy deer herd numbers for generations to come. ✓
We won't be able to enjoy seeing deer. X	We will always be able to enjoy seeing deer because we support stewarding herd numbers responsibly ✓
Neighborhoods provide refuge for deer against a dangerous world. X	Our neighborhoods have supercharged the population of deer because we provide a year-round landscaping buffet, plenty of sunlight for the favorite plants to grow quickly, and hunting has declined. ✓
Humans are encroaching into deer's land. X	Human buildings and roads are creating deer's favorite habitat -- the edge of the woods where there's more light. Human development creates far more deer than the closed-canopy forest does. ✓
Deer herds are harmless. X	Deer herd overabundance is a major issue. Many people are particularly concerned about traffic accidents, tick-borne illnesses, destruction of local crops / food supply, and loss of diverse species. ✓
Hunting is dangerous. X	Hunting is state-regulated, responsible and safe in comparison to other outdoor activities. Hunting results in less than 1% the rate of injuries per 100,000 participants compared to football, basketball, soccer, bicycle riding, baseball/softball and ATV riding. There is also ½ to 1/5 the rate of injuries versus hiking/camping, according to sources including National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, and state-level hunter education data. ✓
Hunters do not appreciate nature. X	Hunters deeply appreciate nature and support a balance in nature. They also support people's ability to feed themselves through their own labor. They are ethically opposed to waste. ✓
Hunters act selfishly. X	Hunters in NJ donate over 1,000 deer each year to local soup kitchens in great need of healthy protein for people in need. A single average deer provides over 140 servings of high-quality local protein. There are nearly 1,000,000 food insecure people in New Jersey, including 270,000 children. The State's largest foodbanks – and many of the soup kitchens they support –ask for more venison donations from community-supported hunting programs. ✓
Hunting causes animal suffering. X	Hunters train to make accurate shots that reduce suffering. Responsible herd management results in healthier deer herds, and higher survival rates for many different animal species. ✓
Hunting isn't accountable to state or local officials X	State law sets hunting rules, supported by highly skilled state Conservation Police Officers, the NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife, and the NJ Fish and Game Council. Local ordinances in many places provide further guidance to hunting. ✓
Hunters aren't like me. X	Men and women who hunt are among us in almost every walk of life. Most participate because they provide meat for themselves sustainably, locally and healthfully, love being outdoors, inherited the tradition passed down for generations, and/or want to preserve healthy forests and ecosystems for our children. Outdoor ethics, safety and following the law are of paramount importance to hunters. ✓

Let's Find Balance for Our Forests, Farms and Families

Mission: To achieve natural balance in New Jersey by leading a deer stewardship movement for the people, wildlife and land we love.

Vision: A future where New Jersey's land, wildlife, and communities thrive in natural balance—stewarded by the people who call this place home

We collaborate to support stewardship of deer towards a balance with biological and cultural goals

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