



Deer Hunting

The City of Rock Island is permitting an archery hunting program for deer in an effort to better control the deer population counts within the boundaries of the City. The intent is to give control of hunting to the property owners, yet enable archery hunters to harvest the deer for their use or to provide meat for Social Agencies. Hunting sites are to be selected using property owners who wish to have hunting on their property, and matching them with locations that have higher numbers of deer concentration as identified by counts. There are stipulations required of the hunters in an effort to make the program as safe as possible, yet achieve the goal of thinning the numbers of deer within the city limits.

Property Owners

- Property owners have the ability to determine if they wish to have hunting on their property, however, these must be approved by the city prior to approval for hunting. There are a limited number of sites that will be approved.
- Property Owners are asked to collect names and addresses of property owners who wish to be included in the hunting site, and select one individual who will be the contact person for the overall hunting site. Those names and addresses are to be brought to the police department so they can be plotted on a map for potential selection.
- Sites will be approved by the city based upon areas with high population levels and complaints / incidents between people and the deer.
- A hunting site must be a minimum of 3 adjacent acres with the “stand” used in such a way that all shots will be taken at a downward angle and not continue into an open or occupied area.
- A hunting site that has a number of acres can be divided up into 5 acre “stands” enabling two or more hunting locations.
- Property owners can permit more than one hunter to share a stand, but only one hunter may occupy a stand (with the exception of a son or daughter) at any one time.
- The hunter will be required to sign the hunting area to notify others that there is hunting taking place in a permitted hunting area.
- Property owner may allow the hunter to leave a tree stand in a specific location for more than one day. No nails, screws or other intrusive appliance may be used to attach

the stand or steps to a tree. Stands can be strapped to the tree, or other means that do not enter the tree or branches.

- Property owners should identify hunting areas that have the approval of adjacent property owner to the back of their property as well as those beside their property.
- If there is a safety or specific concern with an adjacent neighboring property that does not want hunting in that area, they are to state their concern in writing to the Police Department who will take one of two actions. One, is to pull the permit for hunting if there is an obvious safety issue. Two, send it to the deer hunting committee for review for the possible revocation of hunting in that area.

Hunters

- Hunter must obtain permission from the land owners who have an approved site for hunting.
- All Hunters must have all of their appropriate state permits and deer tags.
- All Hunter must purchase a permit from the City of Rock Island. Failure to do so will result in loss of all hunting privileges.
- All Hunters must pass a proficiency shooting test that is stamped by a city approved archery range.
- Hunters must harvest two or more does before harvesting a buck. Button does do not count as a buck.
- All deer that are harvested must be checked in at the two identified fire stations to report what has been harvested, where they were harvested from, and the number harvested. The whole carcass is to be brought to the check in site.
- All remains must be removed from the hunting site and no remains left on site.
- Deer that travel onto property that is not in the hunting area requires the hunter to obtain permission from the representative of that property before retrieving the deer. Illinois does not have a hunter retrieval law.
- Stands must be elevated in such a way that all shots taken must be at a downward angle, and not carry into an area of human or pet habitation.
- Stands and steps shall not use nails, screws or other intrusive appliances to attach to trees.
- The hunter must post hunting area signage around the perimeter of the hunting area so that non hunting property is aware that hunting is taking place in an approved site. The hunter must make sure that these are in place every time they are hunting in an approved site.

Hunting on Public Property

The city may approve hunting on public lands such as golf courses or specific identified areas. The hunters will follow all of the requirements identified for hunting on private land. In addition the following procedure will be used to determine who will hunt on those lands. Larger properties such as cemeteries may follow a similar process.

- Hunting stand areas will be identified by the “controlling agency”.
- Hunters will enter their name into a lottery for the chance of being awarded a hunting stand area.
- The names will be selected through a drawing with each of the names noted in order.
- Hunters who are awarded an area must purchase the state tags, city hunting permit, and pass the proficiency test before hunting.
- If the hunter has harvested all the deer they purchase tags for, and the season is still open, they are to notify the controlling agency so that another hunter can take advantage of the stand area.
- The hunter must notify the controlling agency that they are hunting on site on any day that they are hunting. (This may be in person, or by agreed upon notification process)
- The hunter must “sign” the perimeter of the hunting area so that others who might be using the area are aware of hunting taking place.

Hunting without permits

- Any hunting that takes place without appropriate permits will be considered to be poaching and will be treated as such.
- Any hunting on property that is not previously approved by the city for hunting will be considered to be poaching.
- Any hunting on property with or without approved hunting designation is considered to be trespassing.