

TO: Thomas Thomas, City Manager

Number: 14-011

SUBJECT: 2013 Deer Hunt

Date: 02/24/14

In the fall of 2013 the Rock Island City Council approved the first controlled deer hunt within the City of Rock Island. The Council limited the number of sites to four (4) private sites and four (4) public sites. The hunt started on December 13, 2013 and concluded January 19, 2014 to coincide with the remainder of the State of Illinois deer hunting season.

There were approximately 45 hunters that applied to hunt either a private property site, public property site, or both. There were a total of 12 private property sites submitted for consideration, from which the allotted four sites were chosen. The approved sites extended from 17th Street/31st Av, east to the area adjacent to the south side of Saukie Golf Course (See Attachment). A total of six (6) different hunters were granted permission to hunt the private sites.

There were two public sites located at Highland Springs and Saukie Golf Course, and one Cemetery site at Memorial Park. Twenty six hunters registered to be in the lottery for the stand locations at the golf courses. Each of these locations allowed two (2) hunters to hunt throughout the course of the five weeks. Combined, there were seven hunting sites with 12 hunters.

During the course of the hunt six (6) deer were harvested to include five (5) does and one (1) buck.

The hunt was successful in the fact that during this trial period, there were no safety issues raised and no negative citizen / hunter encounters. The trial period has shown that a deer harvest program can be safely instituted and managed.

At the conclusion of the hunt, a meeting was held at the police department in which seven out of twelve hunters attended. The meeting was held to gather feedback from the hunters as to their experience or suggestions that would identify challenges and suggest ways to improve the program for future hunts.

The overwhelming suggestion was to expand the program to coincide with the entire deer hunting season. By expanding the program to coincide with the regular hunting season, hunters would have a longer period to hunt (3 ½ months), more daylight hours, better weather, and foliage on the trees to give hunters more concealment.

The weather was identified as a major obstacle because of the harsh temperatures limiting the movement of deer and the time hunters were able to sit on stand. The hunters all reported seeing deer each time they hunted, however, it was a matter of being close enough or being in the right place at the right time. The numbers of deers reported by hunters ranged from a couple to as many as 20 + in one sitting. The hunters at Highland Springs asked about the possibility of moving their

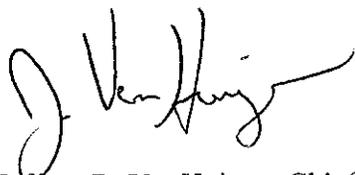
stand sites to coincide with deer movement and proximity to other hunter locations near the property lines.

All hunters who participated in the meeting were very complimentary towards City staff. They felt that the commitment shown by the City and attention to detail **made for a successful trial run and all stated that they would participate again, given the opportunity.**

RECOMMENDATION:

The Deer Hunting Committee would recommend that the City Council support an extension of the archery deer hunt for the 2014 – 2015 season with the following recommendations:

- Full hunting season October 1, 2014 – January 18, 2015
- Expand the private hunting locations from four (4) to eight (8)
- Expand the public hunting locations from four (4) to six (6)
- Increase the administrative fee to \$50 per hunter to help offset costs associated with staff time
- Maintain the requirement that two (2) does be harvested before a buck
- Work with a local processor for donated deer to be given to local shelters
- Increase/Encourage the number of hunters on private land to meet the maximum potential
- Maintain current safety guidelines and requirements



Submitted by: Jeffrey R. VenHuizen, Chief of Police

APPROVED: Thomas Thomas, City Manager

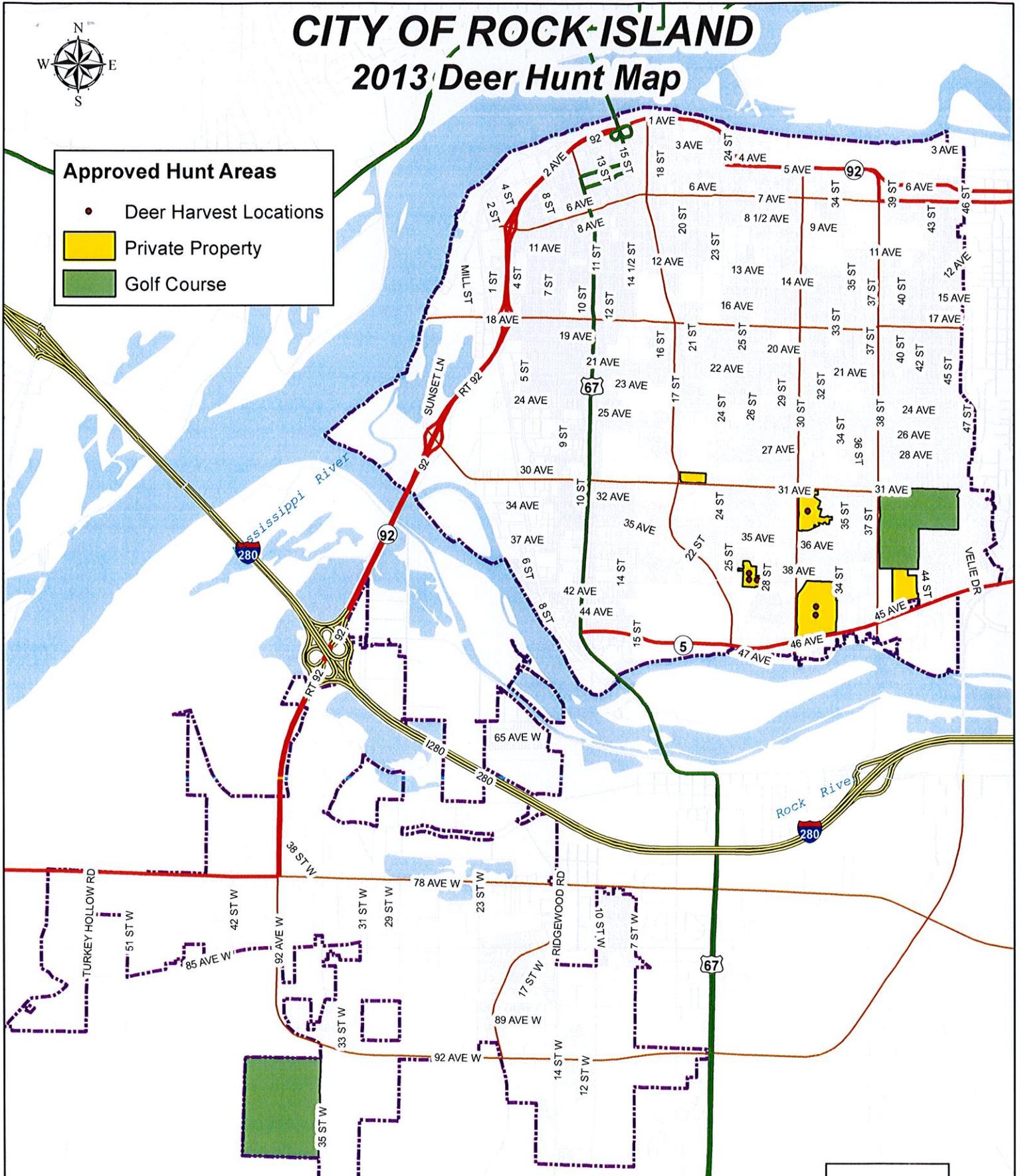
CITY OF ROCK ISLAND

2013 Deer Hunt Map



Approved Hunt Areas

- Deer Harvest Locations
- Private Property
- Golf Course



H_DATE	DEER_TYP	SITE
December 14 2013	Doe	Site 2
December 21 2013	Doe	Memorial Park Cemetery
December 31 2013	Doe	Site 2
January 10 2014	Doe	Memorial Park Cemetery
January 11 2014	Doe	Site 4
January 12 2014	Buck	Site 2



Prepared By: City of Rock Island,
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