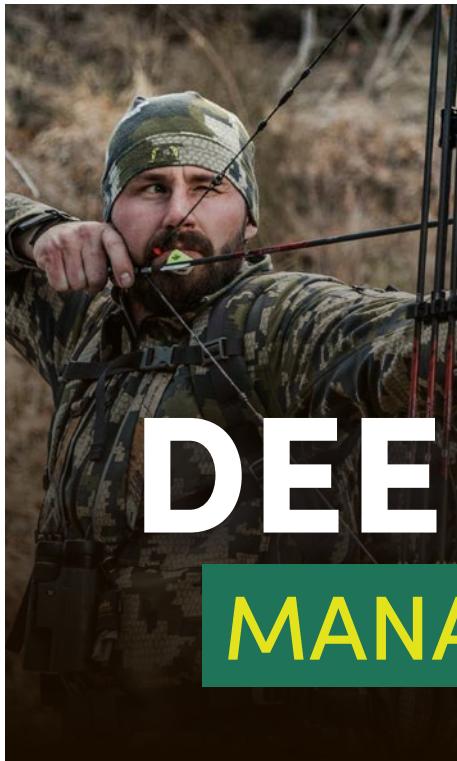


CITY OF DUBUQUE



DEER



MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

2025-2026



SEPTEMBER 20, 2025 - JANUARY 10, 2026

A program to control excess deer within the city limits of Dubuque and the surrounding outlying area.

PROGRAM GOALS

- Limit deer populations within defined areas in the city of Dubuque below 20 deer per square mile.
- Provide public education regarding deer, their habitats, impact on natural habitats, deterrents and population management, cost of property damage if nothing is done, and potential health risks resulting from a large deer population to citizens of Dubuque and to deer.
- Encourage eligible property owners to allow qualified deer hunters on their property.
- Discourage citizens from feeding deer.
- Monitor for and prevent the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

**PROFICIENCY
TESTING
INFORMATION
ON PAGE 3**

SPECIAL ZONE RULES

Each hunter must possess a State of Iowa deer hunting license and a City of Dubuque deer hunting permit which consists of the following:

1. Show proof of certification from the International Bow Hunter Education Course or the Iowa DNR Bow Hunter Education Course.
2. Pass an annual shooting proficiency test which consists of three out of five shots to a 9-inch target, 20 yards away.
3. Comply with all Iowa DNR rules covering bow hunting of deer.
4. Maintain a minimum distance from residential area and property lines, at the property owner's and neighbor's discretion, OR 75 feet from any property line, occupied building or street/trail, whichever is agreed upon by abutting property owners. A minimum distance requirement of 75 feet from any property line, street or trail is required for public property.
5. Hunter agrees to report to the City the following: date, time, type and location of deer harvested, number of arrows shot, and any complaints received from citizens. Hunters must also report deer harvested in the DNR ELSI system. Location of harvest must match location on indemnity form.
6. Check-in deer at Fire Headquarters, 11 W. 9th St., daily from 7 a.m.–9 p.m.
7. Only portable stands provided by the hunter are allowed on City property. These stands must be removed by the end of the season and clearly marked with the hunter's name and telephone number.
8. Hunter agrees to obtain permission from property owners before hunting on private land.
9. A minimum of 3 acres is required for private property hunting. Hunting on less than 3 acres of property is permissible if the following criteria are met, subject to approval by the City:
 - No homes/businesses within 150 ft. of property
 - Adjacent to a 3-acre or greater parcel of habitat
 - Timber, field/prairie
 - CRP
 - Crop field
 - Tree planting
10. Hunters on private property must abide by the rules of the property owner, in addition to the Iowa DNR rules.
11. Field dressing on City property is not allowed.
12. Deer must be covered or enclosed when transporting.
13. No baiting, driving, or stalking of deer is allowed.
14. Must be an Iowa resident.

FOR DROP OFFS - PLEASE PHONE AHEAD

Permit and landholder forms may be mailed or dropped off at City Hall Annex, 1300 Main St. **For drop offs, PLEASE PHONE AHEAD! Our staffing and office times are subject to change: 563-589-4181 or health@cityofdubuque.org.**

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

To hunt within the city of Dubuque, the hunter must obtain:

- Iowa or International Bow Hunter Safety Course Certificate
- Iowa small game hunting license
- Habitat stamp
- City of Dubuque special hunt permit
- Completed indemnity agreement for private and/or City property. **Each hunter must have their own individual indemnity agreement signed by the landowner.**

Indemnity landowner permission forms are available by calling 563-589-4181, the Health Services Department, City Hall Annex, 1300 Main Street, and also at locations where licenses are sold. Permission must be obtained from property owners every season (including the City for city property), through a signed indemnity agreement.

Multiple hunters may not be listed on each landowner agreement. Failure to complete indemnity forms may affect incentive eligibility or program participation.

HUNTING ON CITY PROPERTY

City property available for hunting includes (see map on page 4):

- Veteran's Memorial Park
- Roosevelt Park - Beginning September 20
- Bunker Hill Golf Course
- Eagle Point Park - Beginning November 3
- Dubuque Arboretum and Botanical Gardens - Beginning October 27. Must contact Arboretum Director Jenna Hirtz for indemnity agreement at 563-556-2100 or director@dubuquearboretum.net.
- Behind Medical Associates West Campus
- Behind Dubuque Technology Park, Hwy. 151/61
- Land south of the Fremont Bridge, following the creek and railroad
- Dubuque Industrial Center South (DICS) open space

HUNTING TIMES IN CITY PARKS

OCTOBER 27, 2025 – JANUARY 10, 2026

1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

Roosevelt Park hunting is allowed on September 20.

LICENSES

Iowa Department of Natural Resources issues special antlerless deer management zone licenses for \$28.50 for the first tag and \$15 for each additional antlerless deer tag. Tags and incentive tags will be available August 15, 2025, at the following locations:

- Bait Shack, 2095 Kerper Blvd., 563-582-9395
- Tri-State Archery, 2100 White St., 563-582-8514 ext. 3

REPORTING

FIRE HEADQUARTERS, 11 W. 9TH ST. DUBUQUE

All City hunters must check-in killed deer or coyotes at Fire Headquarters in Dubuque between 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. daily for reporting purposes and to be eligible for the incentive program. If firefighters are out on a call, please report back at a later time. Information required at the time of check-in:

- Date/time of harvest
- 9-digit tag number
- Location/Zone
- Type of deer
- Hunters must remove one ear from female deer at the time of check in

Hunters must also report killed deer to the IDNR to be eligible for the incentive, either by phone at 1-800-771-4692 or online at www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Report-Your-Harvest or text your 9-digit registration number to 1-800-771-4692 and follow the prompts.

SAFETY COURSE

All hunters hunting within Dubuque city limits must show proof of passing the Iowa or International Bow Hunter Safety Course. This is a requirement of the City bow and arrow hunting permit. Bowhunter safety course information is available on the DNR website at www.bowhunter-ed.com/iowa

If you do not have internet access, contact Connie at the Health Services Department at 563-589-4181 for assistance.

DEER FOR THE NEEDY

HUSH LOCKERS

Help Us Stop Hunger (HUSH) - Refer to the DNR **2025-2026 Iowa Hunting, Trapping & Migratory Game Bird Regulations** booklet, or www.iowadnr.gov/things-do/hunting-trapping

PROFICIENCY TESTING

AUGUST 21 AT TRI-STATE ARCHERY

All hunters must complete and pass an annual proficiency test which consists of three out of five shots to a 9-inch target, 20 yards away.

Proficiency testing will be held on Thursday, August 21, at Tri-State Archery, 2100 White St. Crossbow testing is 3-4 p.m., and bow testing is 4-6:30 p.m. **Hunters are strongly encouraged to do proficiency testing on this date.** Landowner forms and permits will also be available



MAKE-UP PROFICIENCY TESTING

Make-up proficiency testing will be done by appointment only, by calling Connie at the City of Dubuque Health Department, 563-589-4181. **Testing will be conducted at the City Park Maintenance Headquarters, 2295 Lincoln Avenue. See map on page 4.**

INCENTIVES

The hunters who harvest a minimum of three (3) does by the end of the season will be eligible to purchase a dedicated either-sex license for 2026-2027 hunting season. Button buck, spike buck or other unantlered male deer classified as antlerless do not qualify for the incentive licenses, **only female deer.**



TAG REIMBURSEMENT INCENTIVE

Hunters who harvest an adult doe will be eligible for a \$15 reimbursement for the cost of their second deer tag. Reimbursement will be automatic and taken from the check-in sheet at Fire Headquarters.

COYOTE INCENTIVE

For each coyote harvested, the hunter will receive a \$28.50 reimbursement for the cost of a deer license. Hunters must harvest coyote with a bow and record harvest on check-in sheet at Fire Headquarters, similarly to deer, including zone harvest location to receive reimbursement. You do not need to tag a coyote.

IOWA DNR INFORMATION

www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Deer-Hunting



IMPORTANT

Each hunter must have their own individual indemnity agreement signed by the landowner, including City property. Multiple hunters may not be listed on each landowner agreement.

Hunters must report killed deer to the IDNR to be eligible for incentive licenses.

All City hunters must check-in killed deer or coyotes at Fire Headquarters in Dubuque.

CITY PROPERTY ELIGIBLE FOR BOW HUNTING DEER & COYOTE

INTERACTIVE HUNTING MAP:



Scan with a smartphone
to access an interactive
deer/coyote map

Proficiency Test Location

City Properties Eligible for Hunting

