

CITY OF CLINTON

DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

A program designed to control excess deer within the city limits of Clinton

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT:

The 2006 City of Clinton Deer Management Committee had determined that deer management within the corporate limits is a necessary duty of the City to ensure that the health of the herd is maintained, that plant and animal life which make up the ecosystems of the natural areas of the city are not irreparably damaged or destroyed, and to ensure the safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the city and prevent major damage to their property by deer. The Committee recognizes that deer management is an ongoing process, which must be continued from year to year.

HISTORY:

In 2006, in response to citizen complaints, the City of Clinton Deer Management Committee was formed to recommend a deer management plan. The committee reviewed deer population, deer-vehicle accidents, plans from numerous communities, comments from citizens, and advice from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

For deer management purposes, the most commonly accepted number of deer an urban setting can sustain is 20 to 25 per square mile. Based on recommendations from the Iowa DNR and review of management plans from other communities, the Committee established the guideline that reduction must be implemented when the deer population exceeded 35 deer per square mile. At this level, deer pose a threat to the ecosystem.

Iowa DNR advises that the deer population in the City of Clinton exceeds the 35 deer per square mile and could be as high as 50 deer per square miles as the deer population has been unchecked for a number of years. More accurate estimates could be obtained by an Iowa DNR helicopter survey of the area after this upcoming hunting season.

MANAGEMENT GOAL:

The Clinton City Council has established the following management goals:

1. Limit deer populations within the city of Clinton below 20 deer per square mile.
2. Provide public education regarding deer, their habitats, impact on natural habitats, deterrents and population management, and health risks resulting from a large deer population to citizens of Clinton and to deer.
3. Encourage eligible property owners to allow qualified deer hunters on their property.
4. Discourage citizens from feeding deer.
5. Main goal of the hunt is ensure a healthy herd by reducing the deer herd by harvesting adult does.

The City Council should partner with the Iowa DNR for an aerial survey after this hunting season to determine the effectiveness of the deer management program and plan for future modifications to this program.

The Council has considered a number of options for deer management. Bow hunting is the least invasive, but can impact the deer population at a reasonable cost.

The proposed deer hunt would coincide with the Iowa deer hunting seasons, (these dates are set by Iowa Department of Natural Resources.) Hunting dates for future years will coincide with the hunting season as set by the Iowa DNR. Iowa DNR at its discretion may allow hunting within the Deer Management Zone to begin up to two weeks earlier than the regular hunting season once the Deer Management Program has been in existence at least one season.

All licenses would be issued for antler less deer only, or for any sex under the incentive program, within the City of Clinton. Tags received under the incentive program will be valid for the following hunting season.

The City of Clinton will be granted a specified amount of special deer permits from the Iowa DNR for each hunting season to be used within the City Limits inside the Deer Management Zone. These permits will be available to Iowa Residents only.

SPECIAL ZONE RULES:

The City of Clinton has implemented a Deer Management Zone and has designated selected publicly owned lands for hunting and will allow hunting on private property with a minimum of one (1) acre with the owner's permission within the Deer Management Zone.

Hunting on the following four (4) City owned Detention Basins will be permitted throughout the hunting season.

- May Ponding Area (located near Springdale Cemetery)
- Congregational Rear Ponding Area
- Congregational West Ponding Area
- Spring Valley Ponding Area (located behind Mercy Hospital)

Hunting on the following two (2) City owned Detention Basins WILL NOT BE PERMITTED at any time:

- 2nd Avenue Ponding Area (located near Whittier School)
- Congregational Front Ponding Area

Hunting will also be allowed on the following two (2) City owned properties ONLY at scheduled times that will be posted and made available to hunters applying for their permit.

- Eagle Point Park at the Equestrian Center
- Emma Young Park (South of the jogging trail and North of 4th Avenue North)

** A map highlighting the above areas and designating the entire Deer Management Zone is attached to this document and will also be available at the Erickson Center.

It is not necessary for specific permission to be granted nor the back of the permit signed for the above specifically listed City owned areas. It is the responsibility of the hunter to be sure where he/she is hunting and that proper permission has been obtained. Hunting is not permitted on any other park or City owned property.

Each hunter must possess a State of Iowa Hunting License and a City of Clinton Deer-Hunting Permit, which consists of the following:

1. Each hunter must show proof of having taken the International Bow Hunter Education Program, Iowa Department of Natural Resources Bow Hunter Education Program or the Iowa Hunter Education Course.
2. Each hunter must pass a shooting proficiency test annually which consists of five out of five shots to a nine-inch (9") target, twenty (20) yards away, from an elevated position using their actual hunting equipment.
3. Hunter agrees to comply with all Iowa DNR rules covering bow hunting of Deer.
4. Hunter agrees to maintain distance of one hundred fifty (150) feet from any property line or occupied building, unless permission granted from adjacent property owner, and seventy-five (75) feet from any unoccupied building, street or trail, and six hundred (600) feet from a school building.
5. Hunters are encouraged to take shots of seventy-five (75) feet or less, in order to maximize safety.
6. Hunter agrees to report to the Central Fire Station on the provided form the following: date, time and place of deer harvested, number of arrows shot, and any complaints received from citizens or landowners, within twenty-four (24) hours of taking the deer.
7. Only elevated portable stands, provided by the hunter, may be used or in lieu of an elevated stand all shots must be taken from an elevated position thereby ensuring that all shots have a downward arrow trajectory.
8. Hunter agrees to obtain permission from private property owners before hunting on private property, and have the landowner sign the back of the City of Clinton permit. Adjoining landowners could combine their property to create a 1-acre plot. Hunters must maintain distances from property owners not participating in the Deer Management program as defined in item 4.
9. Hunters on private property must abide by the rules of the property owner, in addition to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources rules, and special zone rules of the City of Clinton.
10. Use proper field dressing techniques. Entrails must be removed with the deer and properly disposed of.
11. Deer must be covered or enclosed when transporting.
12. No baiting, driving or stalking of deer is allowed.
13. Any violation may result in the revocation of the permit or criminal charges, as appropriate.

14. Hunters will also have knowledge of the special rules and regulations for hunting inside the city limits, including the following:

- a) Maintaining a minimum distance from residential areas and property lines.
- b) Reporting number of shots and/or deer harvested
- c) Reporting specific areas and times/day of hunt
- d) Registering all deer harvested

SAFETY COURSE:

All hunters within the City of Clinton must show proof of passing the Iowa or International Bow Hunter Safety Course or Iowa Hunter Education Course.

PROFICIENCY TESTING:

All hunters participating in the Deer Management Program must annually complete and pass a proficiency test. The test will be offered through City of Clinton Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Clinton, Iowa. Phone: 563-243-1260. Dates and location of the testing will be announced each year by the Dept. of Parks and Recreation. There will be no cost for this testing.

INCENTIVES:

The top hunters who harvest the most does (with a minimum of 3 does) by November 1st receive an any-sex tag. This format repeats beginning November 1st through the end of the hunting season. The any-sex incentive tag will be valid for the next hunting season. In addition, if hunters have an any-sex tag at the beginning of the season, they must harvest a doe before their any-sex tag will be issued. This is to provide an incentive to harvest does before November 1st. Other incentives may be added at the discretion of the committee.

SPONSORING AGENCIES:

The Deer Management Program is a joint effort between the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the City of Clinton. If you are interested in participating in the program or would like to apply for a City of Clinton Bow Hunting Permit, please contact the Erickson Center, 1401 11th Ave. N. at 563-243-1260, Monday through Friday during normal business hours.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

To hunt within the City of Clinton, the hunter must obtain a City of Clinton Deer Permit and an Iowa Hunting License. The City of Clinton Deer Permit application can be obtained from the Erickson Center, 1401 11th Ave. N., Monday through Friday, during normal business hours. ALL COMPLETED APPLICATIONS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE ERICKSON CENTER, 1401 11th Ave. N.,

Upon verification that all requirements have been met an authorization form will be issued to the hunter that will allow him to purchase his City of Clinton Deer Permit at R&R Sports Inc., 2014 N. 2nd St., Clinton, Iowa

Note: A hunter may purchase up to two (2) permits at one time. Additional permits are available as the hunter reports the harvest of a deer. Reporting of deer harvested must be provided to the City of Clinton.

REPORTING:

All City hunters must report the harvesting of deer taken within the city as part of this special Deer Management Program. Proper documentation must be completed and returned to Central Fire Station. Information regarding current number of does harvested and top hunters will be maintained at the Erickson Center, 1401 11th Ave. N.

Any complaints regarding the hunt will be compiled and handled by the City and Iowa DNR staff.

COST:

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources will issue the special City of Clinton Deer Permits for \$27.00 for the first permit and \$12.00 for each additional permit. Permit costs are set by the Iowa DNR and are subject to change. These permits will only be available for purchase in person from R&R Sports Inc., 2014 N. 2nd St., Clinton, Iowa during regular business hours. You must present your City of Clinton Deer Hunt Authorization form at the time of purchase.