

City of Rock Island

Deer Management Rules and Restrictions



The City of Rock Island is permitting a 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.

For the 2025-2026 season a limited number of hunting sites will be approved within the City of Rock Island. A hunting site must meet minimum requirements and will be contingent upon property owner approval. Hunting sites will be selected based on criteria including deer concentration, safety, and overall impact. 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.

Hunters

Obtaining a Permit

Hunters must obtain a permit in order to participate in the Rock Island Deer Management Program. In order to obtain a permit, hunters will need to provide the following:

- Completed Rock Island Deer Management Application Form
- Proficiency Certification from approved providers; R & R Sports, Bettendorf, Ia.
- Written permission from the property owner(s) of the site they desire to hunt.
- Hunters are encouraged to obtain permission from adjacent and abutting property owners, these properties will be considered part of the hunting site.
- Copy of Illinois Hunting License
- \$50.00 application fee for each hunter due prior to the issuance of a permit but **NOT** due at the time of application.

Hunting Rules and Regulations

- Hunters must adhere to all State of Illinois and Department of Natural Resources, guidelines, rules, and restrictions.
- Hunters must obtain appropriate state permits and tags.
- Hunters must have a valid City of Rock Island permit.
- Hunters will harvest at least two does before harvesting a buck.
- All deer harvested as part of the deer management program must be checked in at the two identified fire stations. (Entire deer).
- All remains must be removed from the hunting site.

- Hunters will obtain permission from property owners before tracking or retrieving a deer that travels out of the approved hunting area. Illinois is not a right to retrieve state.

Hunting Sites

Sites will be approved by the City based upon criteria including deer concentration, safety, and overall impact.

Restrictions and Requirements

- Consist of no less than 3 contiguous acres.
- 100 yards from a school, park, church or occupied dwelling.
- Situated in a manner that all shots are taken at a downward angle.
- Shots must not be taken in a way they may carry into an open or occupied area.
- Only one hunter active per site at any time.
- Certain sites may have a time restriction when hunting is allowed.
- All sites will be signed with signage obtained from the Rock Island Police Department. This signage will be placed in manner that is visible to neighboring and abutting property owners when hunters are active.
- Hunters cannot use nails, screws or other hardware to affix stands. Only straps or other non-injuring attachment may be used in trees.

Youth Hunters

- Hunters under the age of 16 may apply with an adult hunter
- Youth hunters will be required to be with adult hunter at all times

Multiple Hunters

- Additional hunters may be allowed when using a separate stand at a density of no more than 1 active hunter per 5 acres.
- Property owners may coordinate with multiple hunters to utilize a site, but only one hunter may actively use a stand at any one time.

Property Owners

- Property owners reserve the right to deny hunting on their property.
- Property owners wishing to hunt or allow hunting on their property must submit their site for approval to the Deer Management Program Manager.
- Property owners with objections or concerns regarding hunting in their vicinity should state their concern in writing or contact the Deer Management Program Manager.

Public Lands

Hunters who are unable to locate a suitable site within Rock Island are eligible to hunt on selected public lands such as golf courses or other specifically identified areas. The hunters will follow all of the requirements identified for hunting on private land. In addition the following procedures will be used to determine who will hunt on those lands. Larger private properties such as cemeteries may follow a similar process.

- Hunting stand areas will be identified by the “controlling agency”, a department, board, or designated individual.
- Hunter will enter their name into a lottery for a chance of being awarded permission to place a hunting stand designated areas.
- Public Lands will have one hunting seasons. October 1st, 2025 through January 18th, 2026.
- Names will be selected through a drawing with each of the names noted in order.
- Hunters who are awarded an area, must obtain their City of Rock Island permit before any hunting takes place.
- If a hunter exhausts their supply of deer tags and the season is still open, they are to notify the controlling agency. The controlling agency is then responsible for contacting the next eligible hunter.
- The hunter will notify the controlling agency in advance when they plan to be active. This shall be done by emailing Lt. Jacks at jacks.norman@rigov.org
- \$50.00 application fee for each unter once the hunter has been selected from the lottery. This fee will be due prior to the issuance of the hunting permit but is **NOT** due at the time of application.

Non-Permitted Hunting

- Any hunting which takes place without appropriate permits will be considered poaching and treated as such.
- Any hunting on property which is not approved by the City will be considered poaching and treated as such.
- Hunting on property without the property owners explicit permission is impermissible.
- Any violation of the Deer Management Program rules and guidelines will result in the permanent revocation of City hunting privileges and subject the hunter to a possible fine for violating the enabling Ordinance.