



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT POLICY

I. General Purpose and Objective

To develop a policy and strategy for managing, in harmony with providing an opportunity to legally hunt, white-tailed deer, wild turkey, and other specific wild game, by archery or other designated means, consistent with MN DNR regulations on the properties known as Kings Island and the Anoka Nature Preserve in the City of Anoka.

II. Background

The long-range management goal of the white-tailed deer population density in specific regions of the State of Minnesota with proper habitat may range from 10 to 20 deer per square mile; in urbanized areas, those deer density goals may be significantly lower depending on the surroundings and available habitat. When a resident deer herd population exceeds the carrying capacity of the land, the available food and habitat for the deer is typically not sufficient to effectively support the herd. If deer populations are left unchecked, overfeeding will cause a decline in native plants and habitat.

In addition, public safety concerns are directly associated with the number of car/deer collisions in proximity to these locations.

III. Data Collection

Repetitive, land based visual/observation accounting may take place within each property by city staff and/or volunteers to establish baseline population densities.

City of Anoka may partner with Anoka County to perform winter aerial surveys of City properties as an additional method for counting and monitoring population densities, if applicable.

Data Surveys and carrying capacities may be used to establish the annual Harvest Objectives for each property.

IV. Management Tool

Based on existing statutes and regulations, the controlled archery deer hunt method has proven to be a legal, safe, and effective management used by several county, state, and local agencies throughout the Twin Cities and greater MN. The archery method, under the direction of Anoka County, has been successfully implemented for more than 10 years at several regional parks.

The archery hunt method is the most publicly accepted, safe, and cost effective deer control method. The limited shooting range for archery equipment, coupled with the tendency of archers to hunt from tree stands (which ensures a backstop for shots), makes archery hunting a safe and non-disruptive removal technique. Anoka City code permits archery hunting in parks and on city owned public property by special permit only.

V. Method

MN DNR Hunting and Trapping Regulations and season dates shall apply to any and all archery hunts allowed. Hunters must obtain the proper license by the MN DNR for archery in the appropriate hunting zone and for the lawful hunting season.

The City will establish application guidelines for selecting hunters and rules that must be strictly adhered to by all hunters selected for management hunts. If applicable, the City may impose shooting proficiency certifications for specific land parcels or game species as outlined in the rules and regulations established for the management hunt.

Annual harvest goals ~~will~~ may be established per parcel prior to issuing permits. ~~Annual Harvest information will be recorded and used in determining if harvest goals were attained.~~ All hunters harvesting deer on City of Anoka property must register the harvest at an official DNR Registration Site per state law, AND at City Hall ~~report the harvest to the City of Anoka by submitting using~~ the Annual Harvest form ~~provided in the permit packet.~~ ~~by the City.~~

The number of permits available may be based on the annual harvest goal. If the target harvest is achieved, prior to the end of the schedule management hunt, the City may terminate the hunt.

The City may choose to impose restrictions on when hunting can occur on a specific parcel, such as limiting to weekends only, weekdays, or limiting hunting hours.

As a general rule, one (1) hunter per twenty (20) acres of huntable habitat, within the identified allowable Hunt Zone per property, will be assigned. Hunt dates will be restricted and specified on each permit issued.

VI. Application Process

The City shall request applications from interested hunters prior to each pre-determined management hunt period. If more applications are received than permits available, a lottery will be held. A waiting list will be established in the same manner.

~~The archery deer hunting program is for residents of the city of Anoka.~~

~~If permits remain after all resident applications have been processed, City Employees and ACFD personnel of the Anoka Station will be allowed to apply.~~

~~In general, the archery deer hunting program is not available to non-residents of the city of Anoka.~~

VI. Financing

A nominal application fee may be charged to hunters interested in participating in management archery hunts. All monies received by the City from hunting applications shall be applied to program costs.

Policy History

Initially Adopted: 06.04.2012