

City of St. Cloud Policy on Deer Management within the City Limits



Background:

On March 27, 2006 the St. Cloud City Council, through a public hearing process, authorized an archery deer hunt within the City Limits of St. Cloud to coincide with the MN Department of Natural Resources big game archery season. The intent and purpose of this special hunt is to eventually lower the deer population within the City limits to acceptable levels.

Purpose:

An aerial survey of the City revealed the deer population of 57 to 85 animals concentrated in approximately 3.5 square miles. The long-term goal is to reduce the deer herd to 15 to 20 animals per square mile.

Policy and Archery Hunt Rules:

1. **Season.** There will be two permitted hunts that take place during the regular Minnesota archery deer season. The first hunt will begin start of the regular Minnesota archery season and run through the end of October. The second season will begin the third Saturday of November and run through the end of the regular Minnesota archery season. Hunters may apply for either hunt but not both.
2. **City Archery Permitting Process.**
 - a) **Application.** Participates must apply each season. The application will be available on the City website.
 - b) **Selection.** After the application period closes, approximately 200 hunters (100 per hunt) will be drawn at random to continue in the permitting process. Approximately 50 alternates will be selected in case any selected hunters do not complete the permitting process.
 - c) **Bowhunter Education Certificate.** Selected hunters must complete a Bowhunter Education Course. Courses are available online and in-person. More information is available on the Minnesota DNR website. Proof of passing a Bowhunter Education Course will be required at the time the hunter takes their proficiency test.
 - d) **Proficiency Test.** To demonstrate competence, selected hunters must pass a proficiency test prior to issuance of their permit. Hunters will be given two attempts to shoot 4 out of 5 arrows at an approximate 6.25" circle at 20 yards. Testing location(s) will be posted on the City website.
 - e) **Permit Issuance.** Once proof of passing a Bowhunter Education Course and proficiency test are provided, the City will issue the hunter a permit.
3. **State Hunting License Required.** Hunters shall have a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources hunting license appropriate to the archery deer hunt.
4. **Proof of permit.** Hunters must keep a copy of their hunting permit with them at all times they are hunting in the City. An additional copy of the hunter's permit must be displayed in plain view on the dash of the hunter's vehicle.
5. **Applicable State Laws.** All Minnesota Department of Natural Resources rules and regulations shall apply in addition to City rules for this hunt on all property within the City.

6. Location. Archery deer hunting will only be allowed within the boundaries of the parcels of land indicated on the annually produced maps and aerial photographs. Hunters must stay within the area boundaries as indicated on the maps. Private property directly adjacent to these lands may be used for hunting provided they are at least 3 acres in size and land owner permission is granted.
7. Parking. Parking on private property is not allowed unless permission has been granted from the property owner. Hunters must also comply by any additional parking rules as indicated on the archery hunt maps, available on the City website.
8. Transport. All bows shall be cased while traveling on or near paved trails, paths or roads.
9. Tree stands, equipment and trimming of vegetation.
 - a. All hunting must be from a tree stand at least 5 feet off the ground.
 - b. Tree stands and other equipment may not be left unattended and must be removed after each hunt.
 - c. The use of following items are prohibited: Permanent stands, screw-in steps or foot rungs, screws, bow hangers, or any other item that damages the tree.
 - d. Cutting, mowing, sawing, trimming digging, injuring, or removing vegetation is prohibited.
10. Animal Removal and Disposal. All entrails of deer harvested shall be removed intact or in plastic bags and disposed of properly.
11. Registration Required. All deer harvested shall be registered at a MN Department of Natural Resources big game registration station.
12. Reporting to the City required. All hunters must report to the City the results of their hunting season in St. Cloud, regardless if a deer is harvested or not. Reporting can be done anytime throughout the season and will be open through January. A link for online reporting will be provided to each hunter selected.
13. Violations. Violation of any of these or any other applicable rules, regulations, ordinances, or directives of the City immediately revokes the hunting permission on City and private property and may result in criminal prosecution. The City maintains the right to remove personal property placed and maintained in violation of these provisions.
14. Liability. The City of St. Cloud shall not be liable for any personal injury, property damage, or theft suffered by the applicant while on city property. Further, the hunter will fully defend and indemnify the City of St. Cloud from any claims, lawsuits, causes of action, or judgments arising or resulting from the activities of the hunter.

Approved by:



Matthew Staehling, City Administrator

Date 7-15-2021