

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



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## **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. The 2020 City of St. Cloud Archery Hunt will take place from October 17, 2020 to December 31, 2020.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. State Hunting License Required. Hunters shall have a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources hunting license appropriate to the archery deer hunt.
5. City Archery Permitting Process. Hunters must apply for a drawing each year for the special hunt through the City website at [www.ci.stcloud.mn.us](http://www.ci.stcloud.mn.us). Approximately 200-250 will be selected to continue in the permitting process.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Transport. All bows shall be cased while traveling to and from the portable stand.
9. Placement of Portable Stands and Trail Cameras. The following standards apply to placement of portable stands and trail cameras upon public property during the special deer hunt:

- a. Portable stands and trail cameras may not be placed on City property more than 7 days prior to the hunt season. Stands and cameras must be removed from City property no more than one day following the season.
  - b. A minimum distance of 150 feet must be maintained from a portable tree stand and trail camera to any occupied dwelling, road, or right of way.
  - c. All hunting must be done from a portable stand at least 5 feet in height, unless special permission for the disabled is granted by the City.
  - d. All stands and trail cameras must be clearly identify with the hunter's first and last name and be visible within 5 feet of the ground.
  - e. The use of following items are prohibited: Permanent stands, the use of screw-in steps or foot rungs, screws, bow hangers, or any other item that damages the tree.
  - f. 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 mid-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 9-25-2020