

Urban Deer Hunt Program Protocol

Purpose: The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) supports the use of regulated hunting as the most effective and efficient way to manage wildlife populations. As part of a cooperative effort, the AGFC will provide technical assistance and regulation framework in order to aid municipalities wishing to manage urban deer populations and/or address urban deer issues through the use of archery hunting. The AGFC recognizes that each municipality varies greatly with regards to its governance, population, demographics, land-use patterns, and to the acceptance of urban deer management. Therefore, the AGFC has established an urban deer hunting program which may be adapted to meet the municipalities' needs.

Operating Rules:

All participating urban deer hunters are required to:

- Possess a valid Arkansas (resident or nonresident) big game license if 16 years or older.
- Be a minimum of 6 years of age.
- Possess a valid Urban Bowhunting Tag (Tags will be issued to the city by AGFC and individual tag numbers and hunter information recorded by the city administration). Tag will be city specific and valid only for that year.
- Possess a valid dash vehicle dash placard issued by the city.
- Use a longbow, recurve, or compound bow with at least a 35-pound pull and broadheads at least 7/8-inch wide (the use of mechanicals is permissible); string-locks are not permitted.
- Hunt in designated areas, and if hunting on private property, hunters must possess written permission from the property owner.
- Hunt at least 50 yards from any occupied dwelling without written permission.
- Hunt at least 100 feet from the centerline of any road.
- Attend an urban hunt orientation conducted by the participating city
- Harvest a female deer (doe) first.
- Donate first deer to Arkansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry (a 501C-3 charitable organization).
- Check their harvest to the appropriate Urban Deer Zone via online at www.agfc.com , using the AGFC app, or by telephone toll-free at 866-305-0808 within 24 hours of harvest.
- Record their harvest confirmation number and date of harvest on the back of their vehicle dash placard.

The municipality may additionally decide to require or allow hunters to:

- Use crossbows with minimum draw weight of 125-pounds and a mechanical safety.
- Hunt at least 50 yards from designated trails or parks.
- Shoot from ground blinds or shoot from deer stands that are at least 10 feet above the ground.
- Pass a shooting proficiency test.
- Pass the International Bowhunter Education Program.

**(Municipalities may consider requiring additional guidelines which increase safety precautions.)*

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

All municipalities participating in the Urban Deer Hunt Program are required to:

- Provide a completed and signed urban hunt application to the AGFC by May 15th.
- Conduct an urban hunt orientation for its hunters prior to its hunt.
- Provide hunters will a list of “Rules of the Hunt” for their city.
- Issue vehicle dash placards to its hunters which legibly show the hunter’s name, address, phone number, and date of birth.
- Issue urban hunt tags to its hunters and record all necessary information requested on the urban hunter registration ledger (provided by the AGFC).

**(Municipalities are encouraged to provide maps to their hunters which illustrate areas that are permissible or off-limits to hunting.)*

Deer Bag Limit: No bag limit. The first deer taken must be a doe, and must be donated to Arkansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry; all subsequent deer harvested may be either-sex. All deer harvested under the Urban Deer Hunt Program are considered bonus deer and do not count in the hunter’s seasonal bag limit. No antler restrictions apply.

Urban Hunt Season: All urban deer hunts will open September 1st and close February 28th. However, a participating municipality has the option to shorten its season within these available dates.