

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 valid urban bowhunting plastic tags. These 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, hunter specific, and valid only for that season.
- Possess and display a valid 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.
- Only 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 unless possessing written permission from the owner
- 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 adult deer to Arkansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry (a 501C-3 charitable organization). The following information must be attached to all donated deer: a valid plastic urban bowhunting tag, gamecheck confirmation number received after checking the animal, and the hunter's name.
- Qualified urban bowhunters will be required to "purchase" and add the free Urban Bowhunter Privilege to their AGFC account/license before hunting in an Urban Deer Zone.
- Check their harvest to the appropriate Urban Deer Zone (i.e. the city) online at www.agfc.com, using the AGFC phone app, or by telephone within 12 hours of harvest using the Urban Bowhunter Privilege on their license.
- 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 elevated deer stands.
- Pass a shooting proficiency test.
- Pass the International Bowhunter Education Program (IBEP).

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

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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 1st
- Conduct an urban hunt orientation for its hunters prior to its hunt.
- Provide hunters with 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 city maps to their hunters which illustrate areas that are permissible or off-limits to hunting.*

Deer Bag Limit: No bag limit. Each hunter should first harvest a female (doe) deer; all subsequent deer harvested may be either-sex. Each hunter should donate the first adult deer that they harvest to Arkansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry. All deer harvested under the Urban Deer Hunt Program are considered bonus deer and do not count towards the hunter's seasonal bag limit. No antler restrictions apply.

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

Urban Deer Hunt Program Application

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City Contact Information:

Participating municipality: Bull Shoals

Point of contact person: Joseph Gentry Phone number: 870 733-4343

Mailing Address: 6085 Hwy 202E, Flippin, AR. 72634

E-mail: joey.Gentry34@yahoo.com

Urban Deer Hunt Rules: (These are rules which are defined by the city and are in addition to those mandated by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission as outlined in the Urban Deer Hunt Program Protocol).

- 1) Will your city require a minimum urban hunt participant age other than 6 years old?
o Yes No
- 2) What will the minimum age requirement of your urban hunt participants be? 6 yrs
- 3) Will your city allow the use of crossbows? Yes o No
- 4) If your city allows the use of crossbows will there be any guidelines placed on who may use them? o Yes No If so, who may use crossbows? _____
- 5) Will you allow hunters to hunt from the ground or require that they hunt out of elevated stands only? Elevated, except ADA (list any exceptions)
- 6) If you require hunters to hunt from an elevated stand what will the minimum stand-height requirement be? 10 Feet
- 7) Will you require that hunters hunt a minimum distance of 50 yards from designated trails or parks? Yes o No
- 8) Will you require your hunters to pass a shooting proficiency test? Yes o No

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9) Will you require your hunters to have passed the International Bowhunter Education Program (IBEP)? Yes No

10) The approved time frame to conduct an urban deer hunt is September 1st – last day of February. What dates will your city conduct its hunt this season?

Sept 1st thru Feb 28th

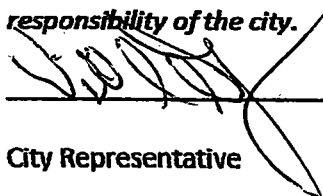
Additional urban deer hunt rules defined by the city:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Cities participating in the Urban Deer Hunt Program will be required to:

- Provide a completed and signed urban hunt application to the AGFC Deer Program Coordinator by May 1st.
- 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.
- Have a city-approved administer on site at an urban hunt orientation to sign/approve hunter dash placards, issue urban hunt tags to its hunters, and record all necessary information requested on the urban hunter registration ledger (provided by the AGFC).
- Maintain a location within the city during the remainder of the urban hunt season to sign/approve hunter dash placards, issue urban hunt tags to its hunters, and record all necessary information requested on the urban hunter registration ledger (provided by the AGFC).

Urban Deer Hunt City Approval Signature. By signing, the city agrees to participate in the 2025-2026 Urban Deer Hunt Program and enter into a partnership with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. The city also agrees to the hunt guidelines outlined above and to those outlined in the Urban Deer Hunt Program Protocol. The implementation of any pre-hunt qualification will be the responsibility of the city.



City Representative

4-16-25

Date