

City of Marshalltown
Special Urban Deer Hunting Season
Rules and Regulations 2025-2026

Begins the 3rd Saturday of September - Saturday, 9/20/2025, and ends Saturday, 1/10/2026.

The Urban Deer Bow Hunting Program is a cooperative effort between the City of Marshalltown and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). The purpose of the program is deer management within the City limits. The IDNR controls the number of deer hunting licenses issued for hunting within the City limits. An urban bow hunting license is for hunting of antlerless deer only during this annually specified season. To receive an urban bow hunting permit, hunters must meet all the requirements established by the IDNR for bow hunting and City regulations, when more restrictive than State regulations.

URBAN BOW HUNTER PERMIT: The City issues a permit necessary to then obtain urban deer hunting licenses. With a \$10 fee, a permit may be issued at the Parks and Recreation Department, 10 West State, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The IDNR special urban license for **Zone 78** may be purchased in Marshalltown from Theisen's.

The City of Marshalltown requirements to receive an Urban Bow Hunting Permit:

1. Hunters must be age 18 years or older on the first day of the hunt.
2. Hunters must provide proof of successful completion a hunter safety education program.

*(The Iowa DNR website has this program information at
<https://www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Hunter-Education/Bow-Hunter-Education>)*

3. Hunters must provide results of an annual archery proficiency test using the same weapon to be used to hunt within the City. This proficiency test must be administered by a Marshalltown Park & Rec certified proficiency tester.

Archery testing: 80% proficiency with a 10" target with 10-arrows at 20 yards and 10-arrows at 15 yards.

Crossbow archery testing: 100% proficiency with a 9" target with 5-arrows at 25 yards.

Special Bow Hunting Rules:

1. The Urban Deer Bow Hunting season begins the 3rd Saturday of September, and ends January 10, the last legal deer hunting season day, as set by the Iowa DNR.
2. The boundaries are described as everywhere within **Zone 78** of the City limits that comply with the bow hunting distance requirements. Some public areas, specifically parks or trails, may have additional restrictions.

Parkland Area Restrictions:

Riverview Park is excluded between the dike and Woodland Street.

Nicholson-Ford OHV Park is excluded as an eligible hunting area.

3. Hunter must carry with them at all times while hunting:

- A City issued photo ID card with permit number and expiration date; and
 - A signed Landowner Permission Form permitting hunting on this private or City owned property; and
 - A license for **Zone 78** special bow hunting, issued by the Iowa DNR; and
 - All Iowa DNR required licenses
4. Hunter cannot hunt within 200 feet of a house or building and cannot shoot an arrow back into any distance of separation.

Exceptions:

Hunting on the hunters' own property and adhering to the distance separation requirements from a house or buildings of adjoining property owners. OR

Property owner's written waiver of distance requirement on file with the City on a permission form.

5. Hunter shall not position or use an elevated stand within 75 feet of a recreational trail, road or right-of-way and no shot shall be taken that may cross or enter this same area.

6. All shots must be in a downward trajectory from an elevated stand at least 8 feet above the ground and at a distance less than 75 feet from a deer. Retrieval of all arrows must be attempted.
7. All elevated stands must be portable, clearly marked with the hunter name and City issued permit #. No permanent stands may be erected. Stands on public property cannot be erected using nails or screws. Stands may be erected no sooner than one week prior (9/14/2025) to the start of the season and must be removed within one week following (1/17/2026) the end of the season.
 - A Waiver of Elevated Deer Stand may be requested where not feasible to hunt from an elevated stand; or the possibility of hunting success would be greatly improved by hunting from the ground or a ground blind. The location for the exception must meet approval, as determined by two deer committee members who review the location. The acceptable area and any limitations such as direction of shots may be noted to insure no shot would be elevated. Shots must be downhill unless an acceptable backstop exists behind the target for shots parallel to the ground. If a ground blind is made of natural cover materials from the area, the usage of that material must be agreed to by the property owner.
8. All bows must be cased while traveling to and from the hunting site.
9. Hunters must cover harvested deer before moving or transporting deer.
10. Field dressing is not allowed on any public or private property.
11. If a deer is mortally wounded and wanders from the property being hunted onto other property, the hunter shall attempt to notify the other property owner before entering the property to recover the deer.
12. A hunter who wounds a deer and is unable to locate the deer shall report this situation to the Marshalltown Police Department at (641) 754-5725, as soon as possible.

Additional Program Information:

- Hunters must immediately remove themselves from any harassment situation and contact the Marshalltown Police Department at (641) 754-5725.
- Hunters in violation of rules may have their hunting permit revoked.
- The City reserves the right to control the number of hunters in any designated area, when deemed necessary.
- Hunters are asked to report violations of rules to the Marshalltown Police Department ((641) 754-5725).
- A vehicle tag will be issued with each permit to display and identify the presence of a hunter in the area.

REQUIREMENT: Report ALL Harvested Deer within 24 hours:

1. Hunters must report harvests to the Iowa DNR, as required by law; **AND**
2. Hunters must report harvests to the Parks & Recreation Department, as required by this program, (including the number of deer harvested, location of the harvest, and type of deer harvested; **AND**
3. Hunters must have each deer harvested **visually verified** at the Parks and Recreation office **or** the Marshalltown Fire Department.

Incentive Program of Iowa DNR Special Issue Any-Sex Tag, and Minimum Requirements:

Any-sex deer licenses are issued through the Electronic Licensing System of Iowa (ELSI) from the opening date to the closing hunt date of the following year/season within this deer management **Zone 78**.

Eligibility:

1. A minimum of three doe (adults, yearlings, or fawns) harvested during this current 2025-2026 season.
2. All harvested deer must be visually verified at Marshalltown Parks & Recreation office **or** Fire Department.
3. All deer harvests must be reported to and registered with both the Parks & Recreation office and Iowa DNR.

Female deer not both visually verified and reported to Park & Rec and the IDNR will not be eligible to qualify for an any-sex deer incentive license. Antlerless male deer (button, spike, or shed buck) are legal quarry, but **will not** count toward an incentive license.