

SPECIAL URBAN DEER TASK FORCE

ANNUAL REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS

TO THE AMES CITY COUNCIL

2009 – 2010

I. INTRODUCTION

In September 2006, the Ames City Council passed an ordinance allowing for the hunting of deer in population management zones. As part of that ordinance, the Council also established a Special Urban Deer Task Force. The responsibilities of the Task Force are to meet periodically to review the policies, procedures, effectiveness, and recreational benefits of urban bow hunting.

Additionally, the ordinance required that the Task Force report annually to the City Council concerning the status of the urban deer population and to make recommendations for changes in the policies and procedures regarding urban bow hunting.

The past several years have taught us that a hunting program designed to control the deer population in and around Ames can be legally and politically complex and publicly controversial. Development of a continued deer control program must be responsive to the population dynamics of the deer as well as the areas of conflict and concern. The efforts of the Special Urban Deer Task Force have been directed at the development of strategies that are likely to be effective over the long term, while simultaneously recognizing that citizen concerns often result from more immediate effects.

II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON WHITE TAIL DEER IN IOWA

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has studied the White Tail Deer for many years. What follows is some background information provided by DNR:

White-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus) were reported to be quite abundant when white settlers arrived in Iowa in the early 1800's. Although the clearing and cultivating of land for agriculture may have initially improved the suitability of the landscape for deer, uncontrolled exploitation for food and hides rapidly reduced deer numbers. By 1880 deer were rarely sighted in much of the state and in 1898 the deer season was legally closed. By this time deer had been virtually eliminated from all parts of the state.

Deer Do Well in Iowa

The white-tail's ability to thrive in Iowa is likely the result of an abundant, reliable food source and a winter climate where snow depths rarely exceed 12" for a prolonged length of time. These factors combine to allow deer to come through the "winter bottleneck" in excellent condition. The excellent nutrition also enables deer to have high reproductive rates. Many deer in Iowa have a single fawn their first year and 2 fawns each subsequent year. Deer in the wild can probably maintain these high reproductive rates until they are 10 years old. Past research in Iowa has found that 8 to 12% of adult does have 3 fawns.

Another reason that deer do so well in Iowa is that they are very mobile. Although many deer stay near the area where they were born, a significant number leave and travel to new areas before establishing a core area. These core areas may change seasonally with deer shifting between wintering areas and breeding areas. These movements allow deer to fill voids left open due to deaths and easily pioneer into new areas when habitat is suitable. High rates of movement occur during 2 periods of the year. The first is in the spring when deer move to their fawning areas. Many of last year's fawns are forced to find areas of their own at this time. The second period is in the fall during the breeding season. The breeding season begins in mid-October and runs through mid-January, although the peak of activity occurs during the first 3 weeks of November.

Careful management of deer populations by man has also played a crucial role in allowing deer numbers to return to the levels enjoyed today. Management consists of carefully regulating the harvest since hunting provides the only major source of mortality for deer today. Unchecked, Iowa's deer herd could grow at a rate of 20% to 40% each year. At this rate, deer numbers would double in as few as 3 years. With Iowa's abundant agricultural crops providing food, densities could potentially reach 100 or more deer per square mile before natural regulatory mechanisms would begin to affect deer health and slow the rate of growth. Deer numbers this high would cause economic hardship to Iowa's landowners as well as alter the natural vegetative community. Maintaining a deer population in balance with the wants and needs of the people in the state is a difficult task, but hunting is the only viable management option to achieve this goal.

III. URBAN DEER TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP

As outlined by city ordinance, the City Manager or designee shall appoint members to the Special Urban Deer Task Force. The task force shall consist of the following:

- One or more representatives from Iowa State University with expertise in animal ecology, entomology, or other relevant fields,
- a wildlife management specialist from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources,
- a representative from the Izaak Walton League,
- one or more representatives from Neighborhood Groups or Associations in City Deer Management Zones,

- a representative from the Story County Conservation Board,
- a representative from the City of Ames Animal Control office,
- a representative from the City of Ames Police Department,
- a representative from the City of Ames Parks & Recreation Commission, and
- the City's hunter coordinator.

The following persons have been appointed to the Task Force:

- Bill Bunger, Depredation Biologist, Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- Charles Cychosz, Police Chief
- Erica Fuchs, Ames Citizens for Non-lethal Urban Deer Management
- Debbie Gitchell, Northwood Drive Neighborhood Representative
- Michael Hamilton, Parkview Neighborhood
- Ken Holscher, Associate Professor, Iowa State University Department of Entomology
- Jerry Keys, Education Coordinator, Story County Conservation
- Erv Klaas, Citizen (Ex-Officio)
- Leo Milleman, Parks & Recreation Commission Member
- Lorna Lavender, City Animal Control Supervisor
- Steven A. Martens, Emma McCarthy Lee Park Neighborhood Representative
- James L. Pease, Ph.D., Retired Extension Wildlife Specialist (Ex-Officio)
- Rebecca Christoffel, Ph.D., Extension Wildlife Specialist, Iowa State University Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management
- Tom Gard, Izaak Walton League

IV. INITIAL CONCERNS ON THE DEER POPULATION

In July 2005, thirty-six residents living in the Northwood Drive, Duff Avenue, Kellogg Avenue, and Thompson Circle areas petitioned the City Council to resolve deer problems in their neighborhood. They were concerned about the increase in the deer numbers which was causing damage to their properties and possible health risks. Two of the neighbors had been diagnosed with Lyme disease.

The City Council referred the matter to City staff for study. This study was assigned to the Police Department and the Animal Control Division.

V. ACTIONS BY CITY STAFF AND CREATION OF THE SPECIAL URBAN DEER TASK FORCE *CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS*

Following a referral to City staff, an information meeting was held with a representative from the Northwood Drive neighborhood along with Dr. James Pease - ISU wildlife specialist, Dr. Ken Holscher - ISU Entomologist, Bill Bunger – Depredation Biologist for the Iowa Department of Natural resources, and City staff members Lorna Lavender and Loras Jaeger. Following discussion of the neighborhood concerns and the information

necessary to develop a management strategy, additional information was gathered including data from an aerial deer survey.

The Iowa DNR reported a common goal for communities is to limit the deer population to 30 per square mile. Within the areas studied, Segment 2 was found to have nearly twice that density (51.7 deer/sq. mile). Another area (segment 8), which included Munn Woods, was also found to have a large population of deer, with 34 deer and a density of 59.6 deer/sq. mile.

The Police Department then conducted a survey to determine what other cities were doing to manage deer herds.

Iowa City was the only city that was found to hire sharpshooters to control the deer population. In 1997, they established a deer management committee and used 20 to 25 deer per square mile as the most commonly accepted number of deer an urban setting can sustain.

Based on recommendations from the DNR and review of management plans from other communities, they established the following guidelines for the City's long-range management plan:

0-24 deer/square mile:	Educate residents about living with deer.
25-34 deer/square mile:	Review on an area-by-area basis. Educational material may be recommended or killing methods implemented depending on the management area, number of complaints, and/or evidence of types of damage.
35+ deer/square mile:	Reduction must be implemented. At this level, deer pose a threat to the ecosystem.

Iowa City was able to obtain permission from the Department of Natural Resources to kill deer by the use of hired sharp shooters. The deer meat was then processed and distributed free of charge. In the 2005-2006 hunt a private sharp shooter contractor was hired and killed 150 deer. The contractor was paid \$48,735.38 to cover labor and reimbursable expenses. A local meat locker charged approximately \$75 per deer to field dress, process, and freeze the meat. The total costs incurred for hunting, processing, and distribution was \$61,300. Iowa City continues to use this method of population control with similar annual expenditures.

All other cities in Iowa that responded to the survey indicated that they allow bow hunting in their communities. These include the following cities:

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| - Coralville | - Dubuque |
| - Elkader | - Cedar Rapids |
| - Des Moines | - Davenport |

- West Des Moines
- Algona
- Urbandale
- Iowa Falls
- Denison

Cedar Rapids allows bow hunting only on private property, and at the time of this review, did not allow hunting in its public parks.

It should be noted that in 2006, the Iowa City Deer Task Force voted five for and three against a recommendation to permit bow hunting, in addition to sharpshooting. Iowa City's City Council rejected the recommendation for bow hunting, and continued to approve only the use of sharp shooters to reduce deer numbers.

VI. DEER / VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

The Ames Police Department records accidents involving vehicles vs. animals. Some of these accidents are also reported to the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT), generally because the damage amount was greater than \$1,000. From 2002 through 2006, the following vehicle accidents involving animals were reported to the DOT:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL REPORTED</u>	<u>TYPE OF ANIMAL</u>
2002	11	Unknown
2003	11	9 deer, 1 raccoon, 1 unspecified animal
2004	8	7 deer, 1 unspecified animal
2005	19	19 deer
2006	13	11 deer, 1 large bird, 1 dog
2007	19	19 deer
2008	27	26 deer, one dog
2009	23	23 deer

From 2002 through 2006, the following vehicle collisions with deer were reported to the Ames Police Department, which also includes those reported to the DOT:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL REPORTED</u>
2002	42
2003	40
2004	54
2005	50
2006	38
2007	32
2008	43
2009	43

VII. SUMMARY OF HUNTING ACTIVITY

Our own city's Task Force has traditionally endorsed public education regarding various deer-human conflict, a ban on deer feeding, and various forms of managed hunting activity. Regulated hunting has been used as one of the primary methods used to manage deer herds in Iowa.

As shown in this report, the two methods used in communities across Iowa to control the deer population are sharp shooters (approved by DNR only in Iowa City) and bow hunting. As was experienced in Ames, concern over hunting in parks can include real or perceived safety concerns and social attitudes toward killing animals.

Sharpshooting involves hiring expert marksmen to shoot deer over a baited area after dark. This method is costly as demonstrated by the cost in harvesting 150 deer in Iowa City (\$61,300 or \$408.66 per deer). The use of sharpshooting at night has reportedly helped alleviate some public safety concerns voiced by those living near hunting areas.

Bow Hunting, which as approved by the Ames City Council, involves shooting an arrow from a fixed elevated stand. With the imposition of hunter education and rules adopted by the City Council, as well as the use of elevated stands and restrictions on distance, hunters in Ames must comply with an extensive set of restrictions to participate in the program.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PERMITS</u>	<u>TOTAL REPORTED</u>
2006	11	3
2007	11	5
2008	15	7
2009	22	13

VIII. JANUARY AERIAL SURVEY

Ames Aerial Deer Survey Results 2010

The table below shows results of deer observed by helicopter survey during January each year using a Robinson R44 helicopter. Observers were Bill Bunger and Tom Litchfield. Conditions for the survey on January 26, 2010 were very good in all habitat types flown. Snow depth was over 6" and no beds were observed. The sky was mostly clear and wind was light from the northwest at 10-15mph. Temperatures were at or near 11degrees. Most deer were bedded and remained so unless pushed.

The areas surveyed were flown with transects and areas were circled if necessary when deer were spotted. Segments flown are identified on the attached aerial map.

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Segment	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	% Change
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Survey	Deer	Deer	Deer	Deer	Deer	Area	Deer/	Deer/	Deer/	Deer/	Deer/	From
Segment	Observed	Observed	Observed	Observed	Observed	(Sq. Mi.)	Sq. Mile	Sq. Mile	Sq. Mile	Sq. Mile	Sq. Mile	2009-10
Segment 1	13	70	39	53	37	0.82	16	85	48	65	45	-31%
1a**		59	28	37	26	0.39		151	72	95	67	-29%
1b**		11	11	16	11	0.43		26	26	37	26	-30%
Segment 2a	83	143	100	104	85	1.7	49	84	59	61	50	-18%
Segment 2b	53	26	26	31	20	0.93	57	28	28	33	22	-33%
Segment 3	17	11	9	28	11	0.4	43	28	23	70	28	-60%
Segment 4	8	24	14	39	23	0.38	21	63	37	103	61	-41%
Segment 5	40	47	58	64	79	1.57	25	30	37	41	50	22%
Segment 6	*	23	15	22	63	0.49	*	47	31	45	129	187%
Segment 7	*	44	23	39	1	0.73	*	60	32	53	1	-98%
Segment 8	34	25	26	25	75	0.57	60	44	46	44	132	200%
Segment 9	37	50	71	76	62	1.48	25	34	48	51	42	-18%
Totals	285	463	381	481	456	9.07	31	51	42	53	50	-6%

385 Total using same survey segments as in 2006.

* Not surveyed in 2006. These are all strictly rural areas.

**Future surveys will use this additional breakdown of surveyed locations. (2007)

The number of deer observed in each area is listed in the above table. Overall, deer numbers were down 6% from last year. Many of the urban survey sections were down slightly while a few were up considerably. Areas 5, 6 & 8 show increases which may, in part, coincide with decreased numbers seen in nearby rural areas.

License* sales were 29 licenses sold in the Ames perimeter zone with 12 deer harvested for a 41% success rate. Twenty-two licenses were sold in the Ames urban area and 13 deer were harvested.

IX. AMES TASK FORCE 2010 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Options were developed and discussed at the March 30, 2010 Task Force meeting. These were subsequently circulated to Task Force Members for a “vote”. The results of this vote for the strategies shown below are as follows:

1. Publicize the program so both private property owners and bowhunters are more aware of the options.

(Members voted 7-0-1 in favor of this recommendation)

2. Similarly, promote participation in the early and late season hunts which seem to have different character. Ensure that all license vendors, police staff, and others have accurate information about which tags can be used and the seasons.
(Members voted 7-0-1 in favor of this recommendation)
3. Allow city property to be used to establish the 3 acre minimum if safe hunting can occur.
(Members voted 7-1-0 in favor of this recommendation)
4. Allow the hunt administrator to waive the rules limiting how far from the trail or house a hunter must be if a private landowner chooses to enroll in the program and requests that the rule(s) be waived.
(Members voted 7-1-0 in favor of this recommendation)
5. Request that the DNR allow a buck incentive—for every five antlerless deer taken, one buck tag may be available. Request this option and each antlerless deer harvested allows one entry into the draw for the buck tag.
(Members voted 7-1-0 in favor of this recommendation)
6. Facilitate contact between eligible urban bowhunters and property owners. Facilitate hunter inspection of possible hunting locations in order to advise on the suitability of neighborhood actions.
(Members voted 7-1-0 in favor of this recommendation)
7. Contact Iowa State University, Ames Community Schools, and other owners of large tracts of wooded land to invite participation in the program.
(Members voted 7-1-0 in favor of this recommendation)
8. Continue to support and encourage perimeter deer hunting on city and private property.
(Members voted 7-0-1 in favor of this recommendation)
9. Seek DNR approval to employ contracted “sharpshooters” to reduce the deer herd
(Members voted unanimously against this recommendation)

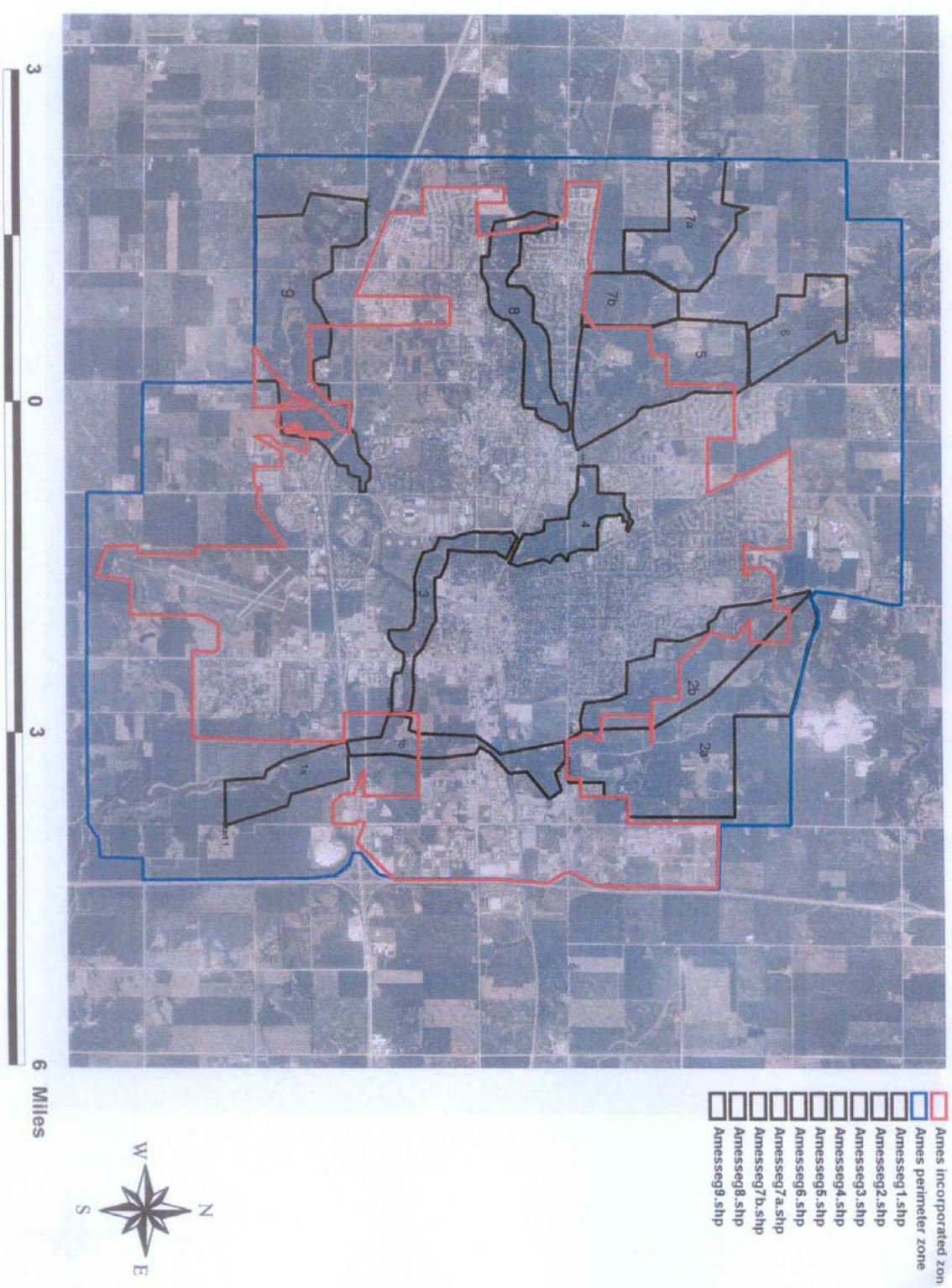
XI. SUMMARY

The effects of 30 or more deer per square mile in part of Ames, over the long term, brings with it damage or elimination of some plant species in our community. In addition, this concentration of deer increases the risk of motor vehicle crashes and raises other concerns for residents. By implementing a variety of strategies, including bow hunting, perimeter hunting, diminished feeding, and public education, deer-related conflict stemming from the deer population in and around Ames can be stabilized or reduced.

The challenge to the community has been to find a way to implement these whitetail deer control strategies while also respecting the interests of park users and those who enjoy the presence of these animals. Initial hunting efforts have been very tightly restricted in order to minimize

disruption to park users while simultaneously giving the City experience in managing this program. **Given the promising trend regarding the effects of hunting in reducing deer densities and the amount of deer habitat that exists on property other than that which the City owns, it seems prudent to emphasize expansion of current urban bow hunting practices onto other public and private properties (Recommendations #1 thru #8).**

Ames area deer survey segments.



Appendix A
City Ordinance

The final ordinance was passed on third reading on September 26, 2006.

ORDINANCE NO. 3891

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF AMES, IOWA, BY ADDING SECTIONS 3.601 – 3.604 FOR THE PURPOSES OF PRESERVING ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY BY CONTROLLING ANIMAL POPULATIONS WITHIN THE CITY CORPORATE BOUNDARIES, PROVIDING RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS, AND THE OVERALL HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE GENERAL POPULATION; REPEALING ANY AND ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT TO THE EXTENT OF SUCH CONFLICT; PROVIDING A PENALTY; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED, by the City Council for the City of Ames, Iowa, that:

Section One. The Municipal Code of the City of Ames, Iowa shall be and the same is hereby amended by adding section 3.601 as follows:

DIVISION VI. HUNTING

3.601 PURPOSES. For the purposes of preserving ecological integrity by controlling animal populations within the city corporate boundaries and adjacent communities, providing recreational opportunities for residents, and the overall health, safety and welfare of the general population, this section hereby declares that it shall be unlawful for any person to engage in hunting activity within the corporate city limits using a rifle, shotgun, bow and arrow or any other means either on public or private property, on land or in the water, except as in this division.

3.602. HUNTING IN DEER POPULATION MANAGEMENT ZONES. Hunting is permitted within an area designated by the Iowa department of natural resources (DNR) as a special deer management zone and which has been designated as a City of Ames deer population management zone (DPMZ) by a resolution of the city council and subject to the following provisions:

- 1.*** Hunting in a DPMZ shall be limited to the harvesting of antlerless deer. The city manager or designee may authorize an issuance of licenses for the harvesting of antlered deer under an incentive program authorized by the DNR.
- 2.*** Hunting shall be limited to bow and arrow and shall be restricted to dates and hours established by the DNR. The city manager or designee may issue regulations to shorten the dates and hours for hunting within a DPMZ.
- 3.*** The number of permits issued for each DPMZ shall be fixed by the city manager or designee.

4. All hunters participating in this program must apply for and receive a City of Ames DPMZ permit. In order to receive the permit, a hunter must present a valid state of Iowa special urban deer license and show proof of the following:

- a. Successful completion of a one time bow hunter safety education course approved by the International Bowhunter Education Foundation (IBEF).
- b. Successful completion of an authorized archery proficiency test using the bow that the hunter will use to hunt. Testing must be administered by a certified IBEF instructor. Testing must be performed under rules approved by the City of Ames Special Urban Deer Management Task Force. The proficiency test must be successfully completed each hunting season.

5. Designation of a DPMZ within city park lands shall be first referred to the City of Ames Parks and Recreation Commission for approval and then may be established by resolution of the city council. Designation of a DPMZ on other city owned lands shall be by resolution of the city council.

3.603. SPECIAL URBAN DEER TASK FORCE. There is established a Special Urban Deer Task Force, which will meet periodically to review the policies, procedures, effectiveness, and recreational benefits of urban bow hunting.

1. The task force shall consist of the following:

- a. One or more representatives the Iowa Sate University with expertise in animal ecology, entomology, or other relevant fields.
- b. A wildlife management specialist from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.
- c. A representative from the Izaak Walton League.
- d. One or more representatives from Neighborhood Groups or Associations in City Deer Management Zones.
- e. A representative from the Story County Conservation Board.
- f. A representative from the City of Ames Animal Control office.
- g. A representative from the City of Ames Police Department
- h. A representative from the City of Ames Parks & Recreation Commission.
- i. The City's hunter coordinator.

2. The Task Force shall report annually to the city council concerning the status of the urban deer population and to make recommendations for changes in the policies and procedures regarding urban bow hunting.

3. The city manager or designee shall appoint the Special Urban Deer Task Force.

4. The city manager or designee, upon recommendation of the Special Urban Deer Task Force, may promulgate additional regulations, not inconsistent with this section, to administer this program and or ensure the safety of the public.

Section Two. *Anyone found to be hunting without a valid permit would be in violation of this ordinance. Violation of the provisions of this ordinance shall constitute a municipal infraction punishable by a penalty of \$50 for a first violation and \$100 for each repeat violation.*

Section Three. *All ordinances, or parts of ordinances, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict, if any.*

Section Four. *This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage*

Rules were modified by the City Council following concerns voiced by several neighborhood representatives living near parks where deer hunting could have occurred. The final rules were adopted in October 2006.

Appendix B Rules

City of Ames Urban Deer Management Hunting Rules

All participants in the controlled urban hunt must abide by the following rules:

Proficiency Test:

- 1. Hunters must pass an authorized archery proficiency test each year with the weapon they will use to hunt with in Ames. The tests will not allow for any warm up shots and will only allow for a maximum of two attempts each year to successfully complete the test.*
- 2. The test will consist of 20 total shots: ten at 15 yards and ten at 20 yards. The hunter must score at least an 80% in the vital area of a life-sized 3-D target.*
- 3. Tests must be administered by a certified International Bowhunter Education Foundation (I.B.E.F.) instructor.*
- 4. State law requires the passage of a one time Bow Hunter safety course.*

Tree Stands

- 1. All shots must be made from an elevated stand toward a deer that is not more than 75 feet from the hunter's location.*
- 2. Elevated stands must be at least eight (8) feet off the ground.*
- 3. Stands must be located at least 85 feet from any maintained roads, recreation trails or organized activity site, and at least 200 feet from any residence or building.*
- 4. The elevated stands must be portable with no permanent stands erected.*
- 5. There can be no screw in steps, with no nails or lag screws driven into trees.*
- 6. Tree stands can be erected no sooner than one week prior to local season and removed no longer than one week after.*

General Rules:

- 1. The Urban Deer Management season is November 1, 2006 to January 21, 2007.*
- 2. Bow hunting hours are limited to one half hour before sunrise to two and one half hours after sunrise and then two and one half hours before sunset and one half hour after sunset.*
- 3. After completion of the proficiency test and safety course hunters must obtain a special use permit for the area to be hunted from the Ames Police Chief or designee's office located at 515 Clark St. in Ames. Hunters must be 18 years of age or older.*
- 4. Hunters must meet with or receive and acknowledge understanding of the detailed instructions from the hunter coordinator or designee.*

5. *Hunters must comply with the City of Ames Hunting ordinance as well as Department of Natural Resources (DNR) rules and regulations for the State of Iowa.*
6. *Hunters must know the boundaries of the DPMZ.*
7. *All bows must be cased while traveling to and from the hunting stand site.*
8. *The number of hunters allowed in each DPMZ at a time may be controlled and subject to a waiting list to avoid congestion.*
9. *Hunters are allowed to harvest only antlerless deer.*
10. *Shots shall not exceed 75 feet and must be oriented away from maintained roads, trails and structures.*
11. *Hunters must be aware of what is downrange and always attempt to retrieve arrows.*
12. *A hunter shall not dispose of deer entrails on public property.*
13. *All deer taken shall be processed for meat or the meat given to charity.*
14. *A hunter who wounds a deer and is unable to locate the deer shall report to the Ames Police Department within three (3) hours of the wounding.*
15. *Hunters must always carry their Iowa hunting license, proof of paid habitat fee, and special use permit.*
16. *A hunter shall not harvest more than three (3) deer in a single day under a DPMZ permit. A state license shall be required for each deer.*
17. *If necessary to cross private property to access a DPMZ, permission first must be received by the hunter from a property owner who has agreed to allow access.*
18. *Hunters must remove themselves immediately from any harassment situation and contact the Ames Police Department at 239-5133.*
19. *Hunters must cover harvested deer or have them enclosed so they are not visible when transporting from hunting area/zone.*
20. *Deer management notification signage will be posted in parking lots and other appropriate locations within each identified park during the authorized bow hunting season.*
21. *Hunters must report any violators to these rules to Ames Animal Control at 515-239-5530.*
22. *Hunters found in violation of any of these rules will be subject to having their permits revoked.*

Authorized Deer Population Management Zones (Hunting Areas determined annually)

Zone 1 - Wooded City Property south of Hunziker Youth Sports Complex:

- DNR legal hunting hours beginning November 10 (after conclusion of the youth sports season)

Zone 2 - City Property north of the Landfill in east Ames off Edison Street:

- DNR legal hunting hours beginning September 12

PARKLAND AREAS

Zone 3 - South River Valley Park:

- Weekdays: One-half hour before sunrise ending by 4 PM, September 12- October 31 (hours not used by sport leagues)
- Weekends: One-half hour before sunrise ending by 8 AM, September 12- November 2 (hours not used by sport leagues)
- Daily beginning November 3: DNR legal hunting hours (after conclusion of sport league season)

Zone 4 - Gateway Park: Restricted to the west timber fringe outside the Disc Golf Course

- Daily: DNR legal hunting hours until 10 AM, beginning September 12

Zone 5 - Homewood Golf Course:

- Daily: DNR legal hunting hours, beginning November 3 (course is closed)

Additional Locations

Additional hunting locations can be approved if they are at least 3 acres in size and all landowners or those in control of the property agree to allow participation. Applicants must submit a map and any additional rules proposed for the property to the Ames Police Department, Urban Deer Hunt Manager for review. If approved, property owners must sign a participation agreement. Hunters must have written permission to hunt the property in their possession. All other Urban Deer Management rules apply.

Properties included in the urban deer hunt shall be marked with one or more signs indicating that bowhunting may occur on the property.

All dates subject to adjustment by the Ames Police Department for safety related issues. Hunting may be temporarily suspended by the Ames Police Department in any location for safety-related reasons

Reporting Harvest:

Hunters must report harvest within 12 hours to the Ames Police Department by calling 515-239-5395. A recording will ask you to leave a message. State your harvest information, your name and return phone number. If you do not hear back from the Police Department within two business days, assume your message was not properly recorded and call them back. Data is important to the overall success of this hunt and we will keep a tally.