

Palisades-Kepler State Park

Deer Management Hunt

Archery Only: October 1, 2026 through January 10, 2027

1. All hunters must qualify by passing an archery proficiency test. The test is hitting a 9" target, at 20 yards, 3 out of 5 times. Contact Lewis Access Outfitters in Palo, IA at 319-343-0269 or stop by the store to qualify. If you can verify a qualifying archery proficiency test has already been passed, this will qualify as your proficiency test. Proficiency tests that are deemed more stringent (i.e. Hitting the kill box, at 15 yards, 5 out of 5 times), will qualify as your proficiency test.
2. Hunters will follow all state laws including but not limited to: no screw-in tree steps; no cutting of natural vegetation; no permanent blinds or stands; temporary stands can be placed from 7 days prior to the start of season until 7 days after the conclusion of the season; deer tag must be attached to the deer within 15 minutes of kill or before the deer is moved (whichever occurs first).
3. Deer Licenses for this special hunt can only be purchased at Mount Vernon Ace Hardware.
4. Parking is allowed in designated parking lots only. **HUNTERS - NO PARKING IN CAMPGROUND OR ON CAMPSITES**
5. Hunting must be from an elevated position, unless you have a permanent physical impairment that would prevent you from climbing. There will be no driving or stalking deer.
6. Tree Stands may be placed on September 24th and must be removed by January 17. **Remember no screw-in steps or other objects may be driven into a tree.**
7. Boundaries: Tree stands must be a minimum of 50 yards from trails, roads, private property lines, campgrounds, cabins, picnic areas, parking lots, and buildings.
8. Remove yourself from any harassment situation and immediately report the incident to DNR officials.
9. Retrieving deer: You may access using designated roads. No driving off roads or on trails. If parked on the roadway, engage the vehicle's 4-way flashers. **DO NOT field dress deer along roadways or trails.**
10. Deer check-in: Contact one of the following when you have harvested a deer. Lucas Wagner 319-471-2686 (Park Ranger) or Jason Dykstra 319-330-9116 (Park Ranger)
11. Harvest Reporting: In addition to the online or phone harvest registration, there is also a self-registration/harvest report form provided below. Failure to return this form by January 12 will eliminate hunting privileges for future Palisades-Kepler State Park Hunts. **FORM MUST BE RETURNED EVEN IF NO DEER ARE TAKEN.**
12. Incentive Hunt: We will be offering an incentive this year. If you harvest **3 female deer** in the 2026-27 hunt, you will qualify for an **any-sex tag** for next year's hunt. Please see attached for incentive license rules.

*In order to count your female deer harvest towards the any sex tag for next year we need to physically see your deer in person. Within 24 hours of your harvest, contact one of the below:

1. Lucas Wagner 319-471-2686
2. Jason Dykstra 319-330-9116
3. Park Office 319-895-6039

Return to Palisades-Kepler State Park no later than January 12, 2027

Hunter Name: _____

1st License - Date of Harvest _____

Sex of Deer ☐ Doe ☐ Button Buck

2nd License - Date of Harvest _____

Sex of Deer ☐ Doe ☐ Button Buck

3rd License - Date of Harvest _____

Sex of Deer ☐ Doe ☐ Button Buck

4th License - Date of Harvest _____

Sex of Deer ☐ Doe ☐ Button Buck