

Deer Management Zone Procedures (City Administration Guidelines)

The following timeline is only meant to represent a potential chronological approach to holding a successful urban deer management zone hunt. It is presented in reverse chronological order with the last event listed first.

It should be noted that depending on community size and/or involvement, this may be a procedure that may involve many months of lead-time to accomplish.

While aerial surveys are not required, they may be useful in identifying and supporting the need for any action. It also assists in establishing goals and verifying results of the hunt over time. The cost of these surveys is shared between the community and the department.

It should also be noted that no community need apply for deer management zone status. Deer harvest limitations and the resulting increase in herd size may be a result of city ordinances restricting deer harvest. Ordinance changes allowing hunting with current DNR seasons and quotas may be the only solution necessary.

In the event that county quotas for antlerless deer, however, are too limited to accommodate additional demand that may be generated by an urban hunt, a management zone hunt with a separate antlerless quota may be beneficial or needed.

Timeline of Events

Fall YYYY: Hunt occurs

June YYYY*: Request reviewed by department commissioners for approval.

May 25, YYYY*: Deer management zone request deadline for submittal. Letter of intent must be received by bureau chief prior to commission approval. (Submittal letter will be sent from the Des Moines office in March.)

April 15, YYYY*: Suggested that deer management zone hunt requests are submitted to depredation biologists responsible for that area.

January, February, March, YYYY: Last 3 logical months for city council approvals of ordinance adjustments that may be necessary to have a deer management zone hunt. It is possible that final council approval could follow commission approval of a hunt.

Consensus of Community & Municipal Representatives: Representatives of potentially impacted or simply interested parties may be put together to help establish concerns, possibly assemble information on other potential means of addressing deer issues and alternate means of deer control or abatement.

Anyone interested in a deer management zone hunt or having other questions should contact one of the depredation biologists listed in this web site.

*These dates are final cutoffs for these actions to occur in a given year.