



Parks & Recreation Department

"We work... so you can play"

CLINTON DEER MANAGEMENT PERMIT APPLICATION

DATE _____

APPLICANT INFORMATION

LAST NAME _____

MIDDLE NAME _____

FIRST NAME _____

BIRTHDATE _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE IOWA ZIP _____

***EMAIL:** _____

CELL PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

~ If Born Prior to 07/01/1972 · Proof Of One Of The Following ~

HUNTER SAFETY COURSE _____

INTERNATIONAL BOW HUNTER SAFETY _____

Print Name

Hunter Signature

PROFICIENCY TESTING – PASS ☐ DATE _____

Signature of Test Administrator



Parks & Recreation Department

"We work . . . so you can play"

Deer Hunter –

Thank you for your interest in the City of Clinton Deer Management Program. The City of Clinton's goal is to limit the population of deer within the management zone to 20 deer per square mile.

The Clinton Deer management committee, along with the Iowa DNR, has developed a deer management plan for the City of Clinton. This year's season will run from **September 19th, 2026**, through **January 10th, 2027**.
***There has been no change in the incentive license program.**

Please fill out the enclosed application form and return it to the Parks & Recreation Department office **in person** at the Ericksen Community Center, 1401 11th Avenue North, Clinton, Iowa. **You must have a photo I.D. that will be photocopied when you submit your application. Applications must be returned before you can take the proficiency test.** After you return your application and pass the proficiency test you will receive your card to participate in the City of Clinton Deer Management Hunt. Go to clintoniowa.recdesk.com select information for application, information and map of City of Clinton Deer Management Hunt for 2026-2027.

You will notice that proficiency testing is **required** to obtain a city permit **every other year**. Please contact Dustin Krogman at the Ericksen Community Center to set up a time to take the proficiency test if you did not take the test last year. You can reach Dustin Krogman at 563-243-1260 or email Dustin at dkrogman@cityofclintoniowa.gov

Completion of a "Deer Harvest Report" is required within 24 hours of harvest. Complete a report at the Central Fire Station – 344 3rd Avenue North, Clinton, Iowa.

Good luck to all hunters and please remember to hunt safely.

Dustin Krogman
Hunt Administrator

REMINDERS FOR CITY WIDE HUNTERS

2026-2027 SEASON

September 20th, 2026 – January 10th, 2027

Please cease all hunting in the area by the First Congregational Church “front” ponding area.

Hunting behind the Arboretum along 2nd Ave South is no longer permitted until further notice.

Reminder that the Eagle Point Equestrian hunt ends after November 30th.

Thank you for your understanding,
Dustin Krogman
City of Clinton Parks and Recreation

CITY OF CLINTON DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

A program designed to manage deer within the city limits of Clinton

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT:

The 2006 City of Clinton Deer Management Committee had determined that deer management within the corporate limits is a necessary duty of the City to ensure that the health of the herd is maintained, that plant and animal life which make up the ecosystems of the natural areas of the city are not irreparably damaged or destroyed and to ensure the safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the city and prevent major damage to their property by deer. The Committee recognizes that deer management is an ongoing process, which must be continued from year to year.

HISTORY:

In 2006, in response to citizen complaints, the City of Clinton Deer Management Committee was formed to recommend a deer management plan. The committee reviewed deer population information, deer-vehicle accidents, plans from numerous communities, comments from citizens and advice from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

For deer management purposes, the most commonly accepted number of deer an urban setting can sustain is 20 to 25 per square mile. Based on recommendations from the Iowa DNR and review of management plans from other communities, the Committee established the guideline that reduction must be implemented when the deer population exceeded 35 deer per square mile. At this level, deer pose a threat to the ecosystem.

The Iowa DNR advised that the deer population estimate in the City of Clinton exceeded the 35 deer per square mile and could be as high as 50 deer per square mile. The deer population had been unchecked for a number of years.

MANAGEMENT GOAL:

The Clinton City Council has established the following management goals:

1. Limit deer populations within the City of Clinton below 20 deer per square mile.
2. Provide public education regarding deer, their habitats, impact on natural habitats, deterrents and population management and health risks resulting from a large deer population to citizens of Clinton and to deer.
3. Encourage eligible property owners to allow qualified deer hunters of their property.
4. Discourage citizens from feeding deer.
5. Main goal of the hunt is ensure a healthy herd by reducing the deer herd by harvesting adult does.

The City Council should partner with the Iowa DNR for an aerial survey after hunting seasons to determine the effectiveness of the deer management program and plan for future modifications to this program.

The Council has considered a number of options for deer management. Bow hunting is the least invasive, but can impact the deer population at a reasonable cost.

The proposed deer hunt would coincide with the Iowa deer hunting seasons, (these dates are set by Iowa Department of Natural Resources.) Hunting dates for future years will coincide with the hunting season as set by the Iowa DNR. Iowa DNR at its discretion may allow hunting within the Deer Management Zone to begin up to two weeks earlier than the regular hunting season.

All licenses will be issued for antlerless deer only. Any-sex licenses will be available to only those hunters that qualify under the incentive program, within the City of Clinton. Tags received under the incentive program will be valid for the following hunting season.

The City of Clinton will be granted a specified amount of special deer permits from the Iowa DNR for each hunting season to be used within the City Limits inside the Deer Management Zone. These permits will be available to Iowa Residents only.

SPECIAL ZONE RULES:

The City of Clinton has implemented a Deer Management Zone and has designated selected publicly owned lands for hunting and will allow hunting on private property with a minimum of one (1) acre with the owner's permission within the Deer Management Zone.

Hunting on the following four (2) City owned Detention Basins will be permitted throughout the hunting season.

- May Ponding Area (located near Springdale Cemetery)
- Spring Valley Ponding Area (located behind Mercy Hospital)

Hunting on the following two (2) City owned Detention Basins WILL NOT BE PERMITTED at any time.

- 2nd Avenue Ponding Area (located near Whittier School)
- Congregational Front Ponding Area
- Arboretum along 2nd Ave South

Hunting will also be allowed on the following two (2) City owned properties ONLY at scheduled times that will be posted and made available to hunters applying for their permit.

- Eagle Point Park at the Equestrian Center
- Emma Young Park (South of the jogging trail and North of 4th Avenue North)

****** A map highlighting the above areas and designating the entire Deer Management Zone is attached to this document and will also be available at the Ericksen Center.

It is not necessary for specific permission to be granted or the back of the permit signed for the above specifically listed City owned areas. It is the responsibility of the hunter to be sure where he/she is hunting and that proper permission has been obtained. Hunting is not permitted on any other park or City owned property.

Each hunter must possess a State of Iowa Hunting License and a City of Clinton Deer-Hunting Permit, which consists of the following: Each hunter must show proof of having taken the International Bow Hunter Education Program, Iowa Department of Natural Resources Bow Hunter Education Program or the Iowa Hunter Education Course.

1. Each hunter must show proof of having taken the International Bow Hunter Education Program, Iowa Department of Natural Resources Bow Hunter Education Program or the Iowa Hunter Education Course.
2. Each hunter must pass a shooting proficiency test annually which consists of five out of five shots to a nine-inch (9") target, twenty (20) yards away, from an elevated position using their actual hunting equipment.
3. Hunter agrees to comply with all Iowa DNR rules covering bow hunting of deer.
4. Hunter agrees to maintain distance of one hundred fifty (150) feet from any property line or occupied building, unless permission granted from adjacent property owner, and seventy-five (75) feet from any unoccupied building, street or trail and six hundred (600) feet from a school building.
5. Hunters are encouraged to take shots of seventy-five (75) feet or less, in order to maximize safety.
6. Hunter agrees to report to the Central Fire Station on the provided form the following: date, time and place of deer harvested, number of arrows shot and any complaints received from citizens or landowners, within twenty-four (24) hours of taking the deer.
7. Only elevated portable stands, provided by the hunter, may be used or in lieu of an elevated stand all shots must be taken from an elevated position thereby ensuring that all shots have a downward arrow trajectory. Stands placed on public property must be removed at the end of each days hunt. Stands left on public property are subject to removal by the city.
8. Hunter agrees to obtain permission from private property owners before hunting on private property and have the landowner sign the back of City of Clinton permit. Adjoining landowners could combine their property to create a 1-acre plot. Hunters must maintain distances from property owners not participating in the Deer Management program as defined in item 4.
9. Hunters on private property must abide by the rules of the property owner, in addition to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources rules and special zone rules of the City of Clinton.
10. Use proper field dressing techniques. Entrails must be removed with the deer and properly disposed of.
11. Deer must be covered or enclosed when transporting.
12. No baiting, driving or stalking of deer is allowed.
13. Any violation may result in revocation of the permit or criminal charges, as appropriate.
14. Hunters will also have knowledge of the special rules and regulations for hunting inside the city limits, including the following:
 - a) Maintaining a minimum distance from residential areas and property lines.
 - b) Reporting number of shots and/or deer harvested
 - c) Reporting specific areas and times/day of hunt.
 - d) Registering all deer harvested.

SAFETY COURSE:

All hunters within the City of Clinton must show proof of passing the Iowa or International Bow Hunter Safety Course or Iowa Hunter Education Course.

PROFICIENCY TESTING:

All hunters participating in the Deer Management Program must annually complete and pass a proficiency test. The test will be offered through the Clinton Parks & Recreation Department. Phone: 563-243-1260. Dates and location of the testing will be announced each year by the Parks & Recreation Department. There will be no cost for this testing.

INCENTIVES:

All incentive any deer licenses will be issued through ELSI, the electronic licensing system of Iowa, which will require that any deer licenses be available the for the following year's hunt. Requirements to qualify for an incentive license include a minimum harvest of three does (adults, yearlings, or fawns), mandatory deer management zone site check in of all harvested deer, and mandatory registration of harvested deer with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, IDNR. Any antlerless male deer (button bucks, spike bucks, and shed bucks) are legal quarry which will not count towards an incentive license. Hunters must register their deer harvest with IDNR by any of the following three options:

- 1) The online harvest reporting system at www.iowadnr.gov available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- 2) The telephone harvest is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and the toll free number is printed on the antlerless license.
- 3) Hunters may report through an ELSI license vendor during business hours.

Female deer which aren't both checked through the check station and reported to IDNR will not be considered eligible to count towards qualifying for any deer incentive licenses. All deer harvested in a deer management zone hunt must be sight checked and reported to IDNR.

Names of all hunters qualifying for an incentive license will be provided to the wildlife depredation biologist, by the hunt administrator, for harvest registration compliance and so that name can be entered into ELSI for purchase by those individuals. These incentive licenses will cost \$33.00. ELSI issued any deer incentive licenses will be considered legal licenses from the opening date to the closing date of each respective deer management zone hunt. Incentive licenses are valid only within the City of Clinton. They are not considered a valid license outside of city limits.

SPONSORING AGENCIES:

The Deer Management Program is a joint effort between the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the City of Clinton. If you are interested in participating in the program or would like to apply for a City of Clinton Bow Hunting Permit, please contact the Ericksen Community Center, 1401 11th Avenue North at 563-243-1260, Monday through Friday during normal business hours. ALL COMPLETED APPLICATIONS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE ERICKSEN COMMUNITY CENTER, 1401 11th Avenue North.

Upon verification that all requirements have been met, an authorization form will be issued to the hunter that will allow him to purchase his City of Clinton Deer Permit at [Blain's Farm & Fleet](#) in Clinton, Iowa.

REPORTING:

Hunters must report their harvest as part of this special Deer Management Program. Proper documentation must be completed and returned to Central Fire Station. *Hunters must also report their deer through the DNR Harvest Report System. The 800 number to call to report your deer to the DNR Harvest Report System is on your tag or go to their website www.iowadnr.gov available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Harvest hunters that fail to properly report their harvest will no longer be able to participate in the Clinton Deer Management hunt. Information regarding the current number of does harvested will be maintained at the Ericksen Community Center.

Any complaints regarding the hunt will be compiled and handled by the City and Iowa DNR staff.

COSTS:

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources will issue the special City of Clinton Deer Permits at the cost of \$33.00 for the any-deer/incentive permit, \$28.50 for the first antlerless permit, and \$15.00 for each additional antlerless permit. Permit costs are set by the Iowa DNR and are subject to change. These permits will only be available for purchase in person from [Blain's Farm & Fleet](#), 1600 Lincoln Way, Clinton, Iowa during regular business hours. You must present your City of Clinton Deer Hunt Authorization form at the time of purchase.

City of Clinton Deer Management Hunters:

Chronic Wasting Disease has been detected in 29 of Iowa's counties including Allamakee, Clayton, Dubuque, Jackson and Fayette counties in NE Iowa and Cedar and Muscatine in SE Iowa. Clinton is right in-between. Illinois has an active CWD management program going on across the river as well. For more information about CWD in Iowa visit:

<https://iowadnr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=1de3da89e708463bbb095784989cccd8>

It is extremely important to continually monitor CWD. Early detection is very important. CWD is 100% fatal. Infected deer may not display symptoms and testing is the only way to know if a deer is infected.

1. PROVIDE A SAMPLE.

The DNR has a goal to collect a sample from EVERY adult deer harvested in the City of Clinton Deer Management Zone hunt. If you harvest a deer, all you have to do is save the head at the time of processing, place it in a plastic bag and keep cool. Then call 563-929-6001 to make arrangements for the DNR to pick up. Any Iowa deer samples from deer harvested outside the City of Clinton are also welcome as long as harvest location information is available. The DNR covers the cost of testing at the ISU Veterinary Diagnostic Lab in Ames which is \$25. Providing samples in October and November ensures your testing fees would be covered. Hunters can also submit their own sample to the same lab for testing if they choose.

2. STOP THE SPREAD.

Do not use feed or salt-mineral licks to attract deer. These sites increase the concentration of deer (and exchange of saliva) which spreads the disease.

3. PROPERLY TRANSPORT AND DISPOSE.

These are important practices that hunters should be doing abroad; because of the status of CWD. Do not leave a carcass or bones to decay on the land. Place it in heavy-duty plastic garbage bags and dispose with residential waste. Make absolutely sure not to transport and dump carcasses outside of the area where they were shot, as this can spread the disease to new areas. This is especially important for those who travel to counties known to have CWD and then return to another county with their deer.

If you have any questions, please contact me. Ross Ellingson (563) 929-6001 Ross.ellingson@dnr.iowa.gov

Deer Mangement Zone

- Zone A
- Zone B
- Zone C
- Hunting Permitted City Property
- Hunting Not Permitted City Property

