



CITY OF IOWA CITY COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

September 5, 2023

Resolution approving a process to allow select City owned properties to be eligible for the Bow Hunt Program.

Prepared By: Rachel Kilburg, Asst. City Manager
Reviewed By: Sue Dulek, First Asst. City Attorney
Geoff Fruin, City Manager
Fiscal Impact: N/A
Staff Recommendation: Approval
Commission Recommendations: N/A
Attachments: [23-24 Bow Hunt - Public Property Cover Memo.docx](#)
[Resolution - Bow Hunt 2023.doc](#)

Executive Summary:

The City's Long-Term Deer Management Plan calls for a bow hunt during the fall/winters of 2020-2024. The hunt rules were previously approved by City Council and set forth the details of the Bow Hunt Program consistent with the basic parameters of the program previously approved by the Natural Resources Commission. This resolution amends the Bow Hunt Program Rules to allow hunting on select City owned properties and outlines a process for notifying the public and City Council of such properties.

Background / Analysis:

The City's Long-Term Deer Management Plan calls for a bow hunt during the fall/winters of 2020-2024. Following each hunt season, the City prepares an annual report evaluating deer population levels and the success of the City's deer management effort. This analysis has consistently identified a lack of eligible and/or suitable hunting property within Iowa City city limits. To ensure the bow hunt remains an effective deer management tool with eligible participating properties, staff recommend amending the Bow Hunt Program Rules to allow hunting on select City owned properties. Under the proposed rule change, City staff will still be required to notify City Council annually via memorandum of any City property proposed for use. Additionally, staff will notify the public via news release and the City website.

For the 2023-2024 Bow Hunt, staff recommend use of one City owned parcel at 1150 Covered Wagon Dr. The owner of the undeveloped portion of Sandhill Estates to the north/east of 1150 Covered Wagon Dr. intends to participate in the bow hunt and shares a tree line with the City property. Thus, use of 1150 Covered Wagon Dr. will provide hunters access to this tree line for tree stands. The required 150' separation requirement can be maintained with all other surrounding private properties, and hunters will access the property via the privately-owned gravel drive/lot off Covered Wagon Dr. A map of the property is shown in the attached cover memo and will be published online at

www.icgov.org/deerprogram.