

Austin City Deer Hunt 2023

APPLICATION & RULES

General Overview:

The City of Austin and MN DNR have provided an ongoing (seasonal) opportunity to take part in managing the deer population within the City of Austin. The actions of all participating hunters directly impact the success of this hunt and, thereby, the potential for any future hunts held within City limits. Both SAFETY and ETHICS must continue to be top priorities.

The application deadline is September 8, 2023. The \$25 non-refundable fee is payable to the City of Austin, and it does not guarantee participation in the hunt. Completed applications can be completed and accompanying fees can be paid online by following this link <https://secure.rec1.com/MN/austin-mn/catalog?filter=c2VhcmNoPTI2NzE1NzM=> or scanning this QR code:



You may also stop into the Austin Parks, Recreation, and Forestry office at 500 4th Avenue NE to get assistance with registration.

Regulations:

1. All game laws are in effect as stated by MN DNR, and must be followed at all times.
2. The dates of the Austin City hunt are beginning Sunday, October 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 for all hunt locations **except** the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center and Todd Park. Those locations begin October 15. Hunting may only occur during legal shooting hours as designated by MN DNR.
3. **Hunters must be a minimum of 18 years of age.**
4. **No crossbows are allowed.**
5. Hunters may not discharge a bow within 150 feet of any inhabited structure and must be 100 feet or more from main trails.
6. **Being chosen as part of this special hunt for deer management is a privilege. The City of Austin and/or its officials may end this hunt or revoke hunting privileges at any time.**
7. In order to qualify for this hunt, hopeful hunters must pass the shooting proficiency test which is hosted at the Cedar River Archery Club in August/September. Only one opportunity is presented to pass the test, on one of the dates which are determined by the Club. It is the responsibility of hopeful hunters to ensure they are prepared to take this shooting proficiency test which requires placing 5 of 6 arrows shot from an elevated stand within a 6-inch circle on a target situated 20 yards from the archer.
2023 Proficiency Tests: Saturday, August 26 9am-1pm & Wednesday, September 6 5pm-8pm
8. Another pre-requisite of applicants to qualify for the hunt is completion the NBEF/Advanced Bowhunter Education program hosted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and then provision of proof (submitted along with application) of successful completion of the course.
9. **General Lottery:** The names of all qualified hunters will be entered into this drawing.
10. Hunters harvesting at least two antlerless deer in this (2023) hunt will secure a spot in the 2024 hunt, provided they commit no hunting violations.
11. **All hunting must take place within hunt boundaries. Designated areas include Todd Park, Jay C. Hormel Nature Center, Cresthaven Addition (designated greenspace along Turtle Creek), Bustad Park**

(and adjacent public spaces along Turtle Creek), south of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, north of the Street Shop, Hormel North Properties, and Whittier Park. Maps of available hunting parcels will be e-mailed along with the application.

12. Harvested deer must be reported by hunters to City of Austin **and** DNR within 24 hours, stating day of harvest, animal's sex, and hunt location.
13. Any hunter cited for a game violation during the course of the City Hunt will be ineligible for ALL future hunts within the city of Austin.
14. Hunters deciding to no longer hunt for any reason, including having filled their tag(s), are asked to please notify City of Austin immediately so a new hunter can be contacted to participate.
15. Hunters are asked to wear a hunter orange hat when going to and from stands. Wearing of hunter orange is not required while in a hunting stand.
16. Arrows may not be discharged while traveling to or from hunting stands.
17. **A signed City of Austin Deer Hunt card is the hunter's permission slip. It must be carried on the hunter's person at all times while hunting or scouting approved City Hunt properties. Cards are not transferrable. Transfer of card to another hunter will result in the loss of future hunting privileges in the city of Austin for both the offender and the individual to whom the card was transferred.**
18. Violation of any of these or other applicable laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, policies, or directives by City officials will result in the immediate revocation of hunting privileges on City and other associated Hunt properties and may result in criminal prosecution.
19. **Hunt participants will be provided with a placard which includes hunter's name, address, phone number, hunt number, and hunting zone. This placard must be prominently displayed on the dash board of hunter's vehicle so that it is visible throughout hunt times.**
20. ATV use is not permitted in any of the hunt areas included in this management hunt.

Stands:

1. Hunt participants are required to hunt from an elevated stand at least 5 feet above the ground. Acceptable stands and harnesses are any which are commercially-manufactured, non-modified, and in the case of safety harnesses, those which have next exceeded their expiration date.
2. Only designated handicap-accessible areas, one each at the Hormel Nature Center and Todd Park, are open to ground blinds. Please be aware that ground blinds to be used as accessible hunting locations must comply with the new ground blind regulations requiring blaze orange markings on the blinds.
3. For Todd Park or Nature Center locations, stands may be placed beginning Saturday, October 7. All other locations may begin placing stands Saturday, September 23. Participating hunters are required to notify the City of Austin Park & Rec Department and/or Hormel Nature Center (for those located at JCHNC) as to stand location. If stand is moved more than 20 yards, said hunters/stand owners are required to again inform those same entities.
4. Stands must be removed no later than January 1, 2024 from assigned hunting area.
5. Each participating hunter will be limited to the use of ONE stand. Any untagged stands will be confiscated and delivered to the City of Austin Police Department. Hunters placing more than one stand will lose their opportunity to hunt in any future City hunts.
6. **Stands must be affixed with a laminated tag, provided by Austin Parks and Rec, upon placement of the stand. Stands must have stand tags present on the platform and must be visible to the passer-by for observation. Untagged stands will be confiscated by law enforcement.**

7. Screw-in steps and/or screw-in bow holders are NOT allowed on Nature Center, other City properties, nor Hormel properties. Ladder stands, climber stands, or hang-on stands (those not requiring screw-in attachments) may be used, as well as climbing sticks.
8. Removing, trimming, or clipping trees for the purpose of hunting is not allowed, nor is cutting for shooting lanes or stand placement.

Hormel Property Additional Requirements:

Safety

1. Hunters drawn to access and hunt Hormel parcels must wear and utilize a commercially-manufactured 3-point safety harness (which has NOT reached its expiration date) at all times once they leave the ground.
2. As per hunting stands requirements at other locations, hunters drawn to access and hunt Hormel parcels must utilize only commercially-manufactured, non-modified hunting stands (as per # 1 in the previous section).

Identification

1. Hunters drawn to access and hunt Hormel parcels will be provided an identification 'arm band' which will be recognizable from a distance, so that others (hunters and/or non-hunters) who might see hunters will recognize that they have permission to access the parcel for the Hunt. Thus, the arm band must be worn on the hunter's sleeve on the outside of outermost hunting garment whilst hunter is accessing or hunting their designated Hormel hunting parcel.

Deer Harvest:

1. EARN-a-BUCK is required (on all except Hormel North properties, which are DOUBLE-EARN-a-BUCK). **Hunters must take an antlerless deer, recover it, and tag it prior to harvesting an antlered deer.** As noted above, Hormel properties are DOUBLE-EARN-a-BUCK; **hunters there must legally take 2 antlerless deer, recover them, and tag them prior to harvesting an antlered deer. It is then required that all harvested deer be reported to the City or Nature Center plus the DNR hotline or DNR online registration web site.**
2. Hunters having harvested a buck in 2023 prior to hunting in the special hunt have already used their regular license tag and, thus, will not be able to harvest a buck during the special hunt; as per DNR regulations, a hunter may harvest only one antlered buck per year. Thus, hunters who have harvested a buck may still participate in the City Hunt but will be limited to tagging only antlerless deer during the hunt through the use of bonus tags.
3. **All entrails of deer shall be removed intact or in containers/plastic bags and disposed of properly within accordance with state laws.**
4. Any hunter who shoots a deer which is not immediately recovered must notify the Parks and Rec Dept. and/or the Nature Center regarding the location. This will allow for notification of other hunters within the hunt area to be on the lookout, and then (hopefully) will result in location of the downed deer.
5. A head drop box will **NOT** be located at the Nature Center for chronic wasting disease testing in 2023. DNR Requirement for zone 255 only require testing for deer harvested on November 4 and 5. DNR will be onsite at the nature center to take required samples during the firearms opener.
6. Harvested deer should be removed from hunt areas as discretely as possible. Thus, harvested deer should be covered and removed in a manner that is sensitive to the non-hunting public. Secondary trails should be used wherever possible for deer removal.

7. Hunters removing harvested deer from the Nature Center on (snow-covered) groomed cross-country ski trails should drag or remove deer along a trail edge (versus the center), so groomed trails are not destroyed.
8. Hunters are solely responsible for removing deer. However, during normal business hours of the week, Nature Center personnel *may* be available to assist in deer removal (from JCHNC grounds) via their UTV. Hunters may contact Luke Reese to check for availability, however, hunters should be prepared to remove their deer without staff assistance.

Hunting Zones/Areas:

The hunt will be broken down into the following areas with the listed number of hunters allowed per area accordingly:

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|--|
| Todd Park: 2 hunters (+1 ADA hunter) = 3 hunters |
| Nature Center: North Zone: 8 hunters South Zone: 8 hunters (+ 1 ADA hunter in ADA Area) = 9 hunters |
| Bustad Park (designated public land along Turtle Creek): 2 hunters |
| Cresthaven Addition (designated public green space along Turtle Creek): 1 hunter |
| Area South of Wastewater Treatment Plant: 2 hunters |
| Hormel North Property: North/West of Paved Trail: 3 hunters (approx. 240 acres) South/East of Paved Trail: 3 hunters |
| Area North of Street Shop: (40+ acres) 2 hunters |
| Whittier Park: 1 hunter |

Other General Information:

Additional Information from the DNR

- Deer Tags – these are just normal deer licenses. Hunters **MUST** have a regular archery deer license, purchased at any license agent, by phone, or online (there are 4 license agents listed for Austin: Ankeny’s Mini Mart, Runnings, Walmart, and Ace Hardware), and to harvest additional deer they will need (a) Bonus Permit(s). The regular license can be used to tag either a deer with legal antlers or an antlerless deer. Bonus permits are valid for antlerless deer only. The license, permits, and tags are valid anywhere in the state where they can be used (i.e., they are not specific to the City’s special hunt).
- Minnesota adult resident deer licenses are \$34. Bonus permits are \$18.
- Special hunt number is **973**. Deer taken in Austin hunt **MUST** be registered as having been harvested in **973**. When hunters purchase the license or bonus tag(s) they will be asked to name a permit area where they are likely to hunt. They should use the number of the regular permit area where they normally hunt (i.e., **255** for western Mower County). The system isn’t always set up to take all the special hunt numbers.
- Hunters can take **3** antlerless deer.
 - Only the regular license is valid for tagging a buck, but they can use a combination of the regular license and **2** bonus tags for tagging **3** antlerless deer, or they can purchase **3** bonus tags to tag **3** antlerless deer, preserving the regular license for archery hunting somewhere else. Bonus tags that are unused in the special hunt can also be used outside the special hunt area in any area they are valid, which would only be another special hunt area.

Contact Information:

- **Deer Reporting Phone Number: (507) 396-5025 (may leave message after hours).**
- Nature Center contact: Luke Reese (507) 437-7519.
- City of Austin: Parks and Rec Department (507) 433-1881 or (507) 396-5027 to reach Riley Donovan.
- City Hunt Associates: Troy Hawkshead (507) 438-9079 or Justin Johnston (320) 287-1057 for questions during hunt.

Please complete and return this page, along with your \$25 application fee, to Austin Park and Rec, 500 4th Avenue NE, Austin, MN 55912 by September 8, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. Thank you.

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Driver’s License #: _____ **Vehicle Plate #:** _____

MNDNR #: _____

Please rank, on a scale of 1-10, your preferred hunting areas. If there are areas you are unwilling to hunt, please leave them blank. The names and ‘hunt area’ drawing will be Thursday, 9/14 @ 1:00 p.m., at the Hormel Nature Center with Hunt Committee members and Park and Rec clerical staff present. Hunters may attend, but this is not a requirement. Notification of hunt locations will be communicated shortly after the drawing.

Tag distribution will begin on Monday, 9/25 beginning at 8:00 a.m. at City Hall for those whose names are drawn.

Todd Park _____ Nature Center North _____ Nature Center South _____

Bustad _____ Cresthaven _____ South of WWTP _____ Whittier Park _____

North of Street Shop _____ Hormel: N/W of Paved Trail _____ Hormel E/S of Paved Trail _____

I have a documented disability and would like to be considered for an ADA location as follows:

Todd Park ADA _____ **Nature Center ADA** _____

I have read the rules and agree to abide by them. I understand that I am not guaranteed to receive a permit, and that the application fee is non-refundable. I declare under penalty of perjury that the above information is correct and true.

Application fee: \$25 _____ (cash, check, or cc) Date Paid: _____

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____