



City of Fort Dodge

Urban Controlled Bow Hunt Application

September 20, 2025 - January 10, 2026



All documents **MUST** be submitted in person to the Fort Dodge Police Department or via email at fdpd@fortdodgeiowa.org before 4:30 p.m. on Friday, August 15, 2025. Applications must be typed.

Hunter Information:

First, Middle & Last Name

Email Address

Full Address

Cell Phone Number

Alternate Phone Number

Iowa Driver's License Number

Iowa DNR Customer ID Number

Primary Emergency Contact Name & Phone Number

Secondary Emergency Contact Name & Phone Number

Vehicle Information:

(For vehicle used during hunt)

Year

Make

Model

Color

License Plate Number

Have you ever been arrested or convicted of a crime?

Have you ever had contact with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources which resulted in an enforcement action taking place?

My initials are an acknowledgement of my understanding and permission for the Fort Dodge Police Department to conduct a criminal history background check. I understand any false information or non-disclosures will result in immediate removal from the Urban Controlled Bow Hunt Program.

As an Applicant to the Urban Controlled Bow Hunt Program, your initials below indicate you agree to the following items, and failure to agree will result in immediate removal from the Urban Controlled Bow Hunt Program:

_____ Include a copy of my one time completed "Bow Hunter Safety Education Course" certificate with this application.

_____ Include a copy of my current annual "Archery Proficiency Test" with this application.

_____ Include a copy of my valid Iowa DNR Hunting License.

_____ Must be at least 18 years of age OR older on the day of the Urban Controlled Bow Hunt.

_____ To take all shots from a minimum height of six (6) feet using a manufactured elevated stand with an approved safety harness; each hunter is encouraged to use a TMA or ASTM-certified harness.

_____ To take all shots from a minimum height of six (6) feet using a manufactured elevated stand with an approved safety harness; each hunter is encouraged to use a TMA or ASTM-certified harness.

_____ To NOT shoot within 200 feet / 67 yards or less of a home or any building, NOT shoot back into the distance separation; except (do NOT check unless it is applicable).

(1) When hunting one's own property while adhering to distance requirements from the adjoining property owner's structure.

(2) Other property owner(s) waive distance requirement in written statement filed with the City.

_____ To NOT position or use an elevated stand within 100ft / 33 yards of any recreational trail, road or right-of-way, and NO shot shall be taken that may cross or enter into the same.

_____ To shoot downward and no further than 75 feet / 25 yards from an elevated stand, and attempt to retrieve every arrow.

_____ To case all bows while traveling to and from the site to the hunting stand.

_____ To follow IDNR hunting guidelines, except when the City regulations are more restrictive than State regulations.

_____ I agree to attend the mandatory meeting conducted by the Fort Dodge Police Department.

_____ I understand I must report all harvests to both Fort Dodge Police Department and IDNR the harvesting system through text, online, by telephone or visiting their local hunting license agent. See www.iowadnr.gov for more details.

_____ I understand that I must carry and be willing to present, upon request by law enforcement staff, my "Approved Urban Bow Hunter ID Card", IDNR license for the special bow hunt, permission form to hunt (if applicable), and a map verifying that the property being hunted is located within the designated hunt area.

_____ I have read and understand the City of Fort Dodge, Ordinance Chapter 6.23: Urban Controlled Bow Hunting, along with any additional regulations.

_____ I understand that participating in this Urban Controlled Bow Hunt Program is a PRIVILEGE and not a right. I also understand and acknowledge I can be removed from the program at any time.

Hunter's Signature

Date



City of Fort Dodge

Permission to Hunt on Private Property Form

Property Requested to be Hunted *(Limited to 4 per hunter)*

Property Number: _____

☐ Property Owner ☐ Property Manager

Name of Property Owner/Manager

Email Address

Address of Property to be Hunted

Legal Description or Parcel Number

Mobile Number & Service Provider

Alternate Phone Number

Does this property meet the minimum size requirement of 200 yards by 200 yards? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Will this property require a Waiver of Separation? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Will this property be shared by another approved Fort Dodge Urban Bow Hunter? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, name of the hunter? _____

Hunters: Please advise the property owner/manager that the Fort Dodge Police Department and / or IDNR may make contact with them by telephone and / or in-person to inspect the property to be hunted, to verify accuracy of information, or to address any questions and /or concerns.

Hunter's Signature

Date

Additional Owner Provisions *(for example: days, time of day, restrictions)*



City of Fort Dodge

Voluntary Authorization & Release

Please read each statement carefully and place your initials next to each statement to indicate you have read and understood its content.

_____ By signing this voluntary authorization, the hunter on behalf of themselves and their heirs, assigns and legal representatives agree to release and hold harmless and indemnify the City of Fort Dodge, IA, its officers, agents, representatives, employees, and other participating parties to the Urban Controlled Bow Hunt Program, from any lawsuit or action that is made or brought against the City for all activities associated with this Urban Controlled Bow Hunt program.

_____ While the City does not require hunters to provide proof of insurance, hunters are encouraged to consult their insurance agent regarding liability insurance and/or umbrella insurance that may provide them with coverage for their potential liability to the City or others while they engage in bow hunting.

_____ The hunter confirms they have received a copy of the City of Fort Dodge Code of Ordinance Chapter 6.23: Urban Controlled Bow Hunting. By signing this voluntary authorization, the hunter also acknowledges they fully understand the content set forth in Chapter 6.23: Urban Controlled Bow Hunting.

My voluntary signature confirms I have reviewed the above statements and have a clear understanding of their content, and in doing so I release and hold harmless and indemnify the City of Fort Dodge, its officers, agents, representatives, employees, and other participating parties to this Urban Controlled Bow Hunt Program, from any lawsuit or action that is made or brought against the City for all activities associated with this Urban Controlled Bow Hunt program.

Hunter's Signature

Date

Hunter's Printed Name



City of Fort Dodge

Waiver of Separation Form

Waiver of Separation Requirement

Per Iowa code §481A.123 Prohibited hunting near buildings, feedlots.

1. A person shall not discharge a firearm or shoot or attempt to shoot a game or fur-bearing animal within two hundred yards of a building inhabited by people or domestic livestock or within two hundred yards of a feedlot unless the owner or tenant has given consent.

This form shall be submitted to the City as evidence of a property owner's waiver of the 200-foot separation requirement. The waiver applies only to the property described in this waiver; only to the property owned by the person granting the waiver; and is subject to any and all conditions or limitations listed in this waiver.

Hunt Property Information:

Name(s) of the Property Owner(s)

Legal Description or Parcel Number of Hunt Property

Physical Address, Including City, State & Zip Code, of Hunt Property

Mailing Address, Including City, State & Zip Code (if different from above)

Waiver Information:

Owner(s) Granting Waiver (Grantor(s))

Legal Description or Parcel Number for which this Waiver is Granted

Physical Address, Including City, State & Zip Code, for which this Waiver is Granted

Mailing Address of Grantor(s), Including City, State & Zip Code (if different from above)

Phone Number of Grantor

Email Address of Grantor

Names of Hunters this Waiver Applies to:

("All" can be used to refer to all hunters having legal permission to hunt, or this field can be used to restrict to certain individuals)

Limitations on Waivers:

("None" can be used, or the waiver can be limited, such as "Waive separation from garage and east side of house only")

If a property manager has signed this waiver rather than the property owner, evidence must be attached to this form to show that the property manager is authorized to grant this waiver.

This waiver shall run until the expiration date unless the grantor rescinds this waiver in writing and files the rescission with the City.

The City shall not be responsible for verification of ownership and the validity of signatures. Falsification of this form shall subject the person submitting this waiver to prosecution under applicable laws and statutes of the City and State of Iowa, and any hunter violating the separation requirements in the case of an invalid waiver shall be subject to prosecution under Chapter 94 and other applicable laws and statutes of the City and State of Iowa.

Property Owner(s) Granting Waiver (Grantor(s)):

By signing this form, I understand that I am waiving the 200-foot separation requirement subject to any limitations I have listed in this form, for the persons and period of time stated on this form.

Property Owner's Signature

Date

Property Owner's Signature

Date

Hunter Submitting Waiver Form:

By signing this form, I acknowledge that I am certifying the accuracy of the information provided and may be subject to prosecution for any false or inaccurate statements. I am also familiar with the boundaries of the property and structures to which this waiver applies, and that it applies only to the property for which this waiver has been granted.

This form is only good for the 2025-2026 hunting season. This waiver will expire at the end of the hunting season in January 2026. A new form will be completed for each hunting season.

Hunter's Signature

Date



City of Fort Dodge

Urban Controlled Bow Hunt Proficiency Certificate

September 20, 2025 - January 10, 2026

! FORM MUST BE TYPED

Hunter Information:

First, Middle & Last Name

Email Address

Full Address

Cell Phone Number

Alternate Phone Number

Proficiency Testing Information

The proficiency testing will take place at the Webster County Law Enforcement Center, located at 702 1st Avenue South, Fort Dodge, IA. The assessment will require participants to shoot a total of 10 arrows: 5 arrows at a distance of 15 yards and 5 arrows at 20 yards, all aimed at a 5-inch circle. A minimum score of 80% is necessary to pass.

Scheduling Your Test

To arrange a proficiency test, please call the Fort Dodge Police Department at (515) 573-1424 during regular business hours. Testing is available by appointment only, from Tuesday to Friday, between 12:00 PM and 4:00 PM. For an alternative appointment time, please contact Captain Don McLaren at the Police Department.

Test Result:

☐ Pass ☐ Fail

Hunter's Signature

Date

Name of Person Administering the Test

Signature of Person Administering Test

Date



City of Fort Dodge Incentive License/Tag AKA “Buck Tag”

2025 - 2026 Season

In an effort to incentivize the Urban Controlled Bow Hunt Program, the Fort Dodge City Council has implemented a “Earn a Buck Program”. This is intended to increase harvests and help to reduce deer numbers within the Urban Deer Management Zone.

ELIGIBILITY:

- All hunters participating in the Fort Dodge Urban Controlled Bow Hunt Program are eligible for a buck incentive license/tag. To earn a buck tag, hunters must harvest three does, verified through the official process and confirmed in the IDNR system. This total can be achieved over multiple hunting seasons.
- Once a buck tag is issued, it must be used within the current hunting season and cannot be carried over to the next season. However, qualifying does can carry over to the next season and count toward obtaining a buck tag.
- Pooling, sharing, or using another hunter's verified harvest is prohibited. Hunters can only receive credit for their own harvests.
- To verify a doe, the hunter must remove 1.5” to 2” from either the left or right ear in the presence of the official verifying the harvest. If any ear part is removed before the doe has been checked, it will not count toward the hunter's total.

It is the responsibility of the hunter to follow all state and local laws, rules, and regulations to harvest deer and ensure they are fully eligible for the buck incentive license/tag.

PROCESS:

- The Fort Dodge Police Department will maintain an "Antlerless Deer Harvest Confirmation Report" for each hunter. After a hunter has harvested three does through the verification process, the Police Department will receive confirmation from the IDNR. Once confirmed, the Police Department will notify the IDNR to issue the Buck Tag in the IDNR system for that hunter.
- The incentive buck license/tag can only be used within the Fort Dodge Urban Deer Management Zone during the following hunting season. Buck tags are valid for one full season only. Harvesting a buck must comply with all requirements of the Urban Controlled Bow Hunt program and follow all IDNR processes.



City of Fort Dodge Urban Controlled Bow Hunt Program

DEER HARVESTED CONFIRMATION REPORT

To report an antlerless OR antlered deer that you harvested under the City of Fort Dodge's Urban Controlled Bow Hunt program, please follow these steps before transporting the deer off the property:

1. Call the City of Fort Dodge Police Department at 515-573-2323 and ask to have a Fort Dodge Police Officer confirm a deer harvested through the Urban Controlled Bow Hunt program.
2. State the specific address where you are hunting and a landmark where you will meet the Police Officer. Under no circumstances will the Police Officer be required to hike into a hunt or field area. It is the hunter's responsibility to move the harvest to the nearest point of access while not leaving the property where the deer was harvested.
3. Complete the following information before the Police Officer arrives at the location:

Hunter's First & Last Name

Hunter's Cell Phone Number

Iowa DNR Tag Confirmation Number

Deer Tag Number

Harvest Location (verified by the Police Officer)

Property Owner(s)/Manager(s) Name(s)

Hunter:

Provide this completed form to the responding officer. You will be sent an email confirming the harvest when time allows. Hunter must report their deer harvest to IDNR through text, online, by telephone or by visiting their local hunting license agent. See www.iowadnr.gov for more details.

THE FOLLOWING MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE FORT DODGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Tag Number

Date

Time

☐ Doe

☐ Button Buck

☐ Antlers Shed

☐ Buck

Verify:

Method of kill - arrow.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Hunter has PERMISSION FORM to hunt the area.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Witness:

In the presence of an officer, the hunter removed 1 ½" to 2" from the tip of either ear of the antlerless deer being checked.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Officer Signature

Badge Number

Officer Name

ORDINANCE NO. 2358

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING 6.23 FORT DODGE MUNICIPAL CODE

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Fort Dodge, Iowa.

CHAPTER 6.23: URBAN CONTROLLED BOW HUNTING

Sections:

6.23.01 Purpose

6.23.02 Definitions

6.23.03 Urban Deer Management Zone

6.23.04 Special Bow Hunt

6.23.05 Bow Hunting

6.23.06 Feed deer; prohibited

6.23.07 Penalty

6.23.01 PURPOSE. The purpose of this ordinance is to create and provide an organized, effective and safe method for deer population control inside City limits. This ordinance will outline the regulations and processes for an Urban Controlled Bow Hunt that aims at reducing the overall deer population with approved DNR, Department of Natural Resources, proven methods. This hunt focuses on the reduction of antlerless, primarily female deer, to reduce the current population, but moreover reduce future deer population.

6.23.02 DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

ANTLERLESS. A deer with no visible forked antler.

ARROW. As defined and limited by the State Department of Natural Resources (herein IDNR).

BOW. As defined and limited by the IDNR.

ELEVATED STAND. A manufactured stand (tree stand, ladder stand, tripod, quadpod or tower) with a safety harness and of sufficient height to place the hunter's feet at least six vertical feet above the highest ground elevation within 25 yards of the stand location, to ensure a downward thrust of an arrow when released by the bow.

LICENSE.

- (1) **INCENTIVE LICENSE / TAG.** A document issued by the IDNR to allow a bow hunter to harvest an antlered deer as a designated buck incentive program award recipient based on the City's Urban Controlled Bow Hunt program.

- (2) **URBAN ANTLERLESS DEER LICENSE / TAG.** A document issued by the IDNR in addition to the small game hunting license to allow a bow hunter to harvest an antlerless deer under the City's Urban Controlled Bow Hunt program.

OFFAL. Entrails, which includes most internal organs other than muscles and bones.

PERMISSION FORM. A document issued by and filed with the City to affirm that the hunter has received written authorization to hunt on private property from the owner or manager thereof.

USABLE PORTION. Any part of a deer that is customarily process for human consumption.

VISCERA. The internal organs with the chest.

6.23.03 URBAN DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE.

The City of Fort Dodge has determined areas exist within the City limits where deer are overly abundant and a reduction in population is warranted for proper management of resources, and these areas have been designated by the IDNR to be recommended urban deer management zones.

6.23.04 SPECIAL BOW HUNT.

- (A) A special bow hunt is hereby established and shall be administered by the City in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. The dates and boundaries for the special bow hunt shall be set annually by City Council resolution and may be more restrictive than the dates and boundaries designated by the IDNR.
- (B) Hunters wishing to participate in the special bow hunt shall first obtain an urban antlerless deer license or incentive license after completing the following providing proof thereof:
 - a. An annual archery proficiency test; and
 - b. A bow hunter safety education course conducted by the IDNR or approved equivalent.
 - c. See 4C, Hunters must follow ALL state and local regulations, policies and registrations.
- (C) The City hereby reserves the right to approve the content and operation of the test or safety course and to reject any that is not compliant with IDNR requirements or recommendations, or otherwise deemed acceptable to the Police Department.
- (D) Only hunting areas that are, at a minimum, of 200 yards by 200 yards will be considered for the special bow hunt.
- (E) Shots shall only be taken from an elevated stand; provided that a hunter with IDNR-qualifying disability may request permission to use an alternative; shall be restricted to a distance of not more than 75 feet (25 yards); and shall clearly have a downward angle intended to minimize travel of an arrow beyond the 75 feet (25 yards) maximum shot distance. A diligent attempt shall be made to retrieve every arrow.
- (F) Shots shall only be taken so that a shot would not cross recreational trail or street or at any home or building. Responsible and selective shot practices shall be necessary for bow hunting.
- (G) Legal weaponry for all hunting allowed by this chapter shall be restricted to bows and arrows, except that a hunter with a qualifying disability as defined by IDNR regulations may be allowed to use a crossbow and bolts as defined and limited by the IDNR.
- (H) Bows and arrows shall be cased while traveling to and from every hunting site.
- (I) All state-wide IDNR hunting regulations are to be followed if not specified otherwise.

6.23.05 BOW HUNTING.

- (A) No person shall pursue, stalk, hunt, lie in wait for, shoot at or kill any deer with a bow and arrow, except as permitted by this chapter.
- (B) Hunters shall comply with all requirements established by the IDNR and by the municipal code, including, but not limited to this chapter.
- (C) Hunters shall complete and file a permission form prior to hunting.
- (D) Hunting shall be prohibited on all city-owned property unless expressly approved by the City Council after review and recommendation by the City Manager's Office.
- (E) The minimum age for participation in the special bow hunt shall be 18 years old on the day of the hunt.
- (F) Each hunter shall carry all of the following on his or her person at all times while hunting:
 - a. An IDNR license for the special bow hunt to hunt within the boundaries designated by the City;
 - b. A permission form for the current year; and
 - c. A map verifying that the property being hunted is located within the hunt area that has been designated by the City Council.
 - d. Hunters must follow all IDNR regulations and possess all documentation required by IDNR rules. It is the Urban Deer Hunter's responsibility to know ALL state and local laws, rules, and guidelines prior to participating in the Urban Deer Management program.
- (G) A hunter shall not leave a usable portion of the deer in the field. In the case of private property, viscera and other offal shall be disposed of in a manner that is acceptable to the property owner and in a location that is not visible from adjoining public or private property.
- (H) A hunter shall not dispose any animal part on any public property, including roadside ditches.
- (I) If a mortally wounded deer travels off the property being hunted onto other property, the hunter shall attempt to notify the other property owner, or in case of City property, the City Police Department, before entering the other property to recover the mortally wounded deer.
 - a. Urban Deer Hunters must make a reasonable effort to retrieve all wounded deer; if such an effort is made and still is unsuccessful, hunters must contact the Fort Dodge Police Department, Community Service Officer (CSO) immediately and at minimum leave a voicemail with pertinent information. The CSO can be reached at XXX-XXX-XXXX.
- (J) Hunters are strongly encouraged to utilize a safety harness conforming to current Treestand Manufacturers Association (TMA) or American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards, in the manner and method proscribed by the manufacturer, at all times while occupying an elevated stand.

6.23.06 FEEDING DEER; PROHIBITED.

- (A) Feeding prohibited. Residents are prohibited from overtly and intentionally feeding deer for the following reasons:
 - a. There is an increased risk of spreading disease among the herd when deer are concentrated in one place through purposeful feeding, by promoting contact between a sick animal and healthy animals;

- b. An increased chance of exposing self, family or pets to ticks that carry Lyme Disease (*Borrelia burgdorferi*), and to other diseases that may be carried by deer or insects transported by deer; and
 - c. Reduced fear of humans, leading to increased property damage, car / deer accidents and other concerns.
- (B) Prohibition.
 - a. No person may place or allow a salt or mineral block to be placed outdoors on any public or private property for the purpose of attracting or feeding deer.
- (C) Exceptions.
 - a. Petting Zoo animals. This chapter does not apply to the City's Oleson Park Zoo that has deer onsite and are overseen by the Parks and Recreation Department staff.

6.23.07 PENALTY.

- (A) Failure to comply with City and / or State regulations may subject a hunter or landowner to revocation of permission to participate in the Urban Controlled Bow Hunt program, and to be subject to other penalties prescribed by the Iowa Code and by the municipal code, including, but not limited to, fines and penalties as set forth in Chapter 1.20
- (B) Any resident that violates XXX.99 shall be guilty of a municipal infraction and subject to fines and penalties set forth in Chapter 1.20.020 – Penalty.

REPEALER.

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

SEVERABILITY CLAUSE.

If any section, provision or part of this Ordinance shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole or any section, provision or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect following passage, approval and publication as by law provided.

The above Ordinance passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Fort Dodge, Iowa, this 22nd day of August, 2022.

First consideration 25th day of July, 2022.

Ayes: Flattery, Nelson, Conrad, McCaleb, Alstott and Schuur

Nays: Moehnke

Other: None

Second consideration 8th day of August, 2022.

Ayes: Flattery, Nelson, McCaleb, Alstott and Schuur

Nays: Conrad and Moehnke

Other: None

Third consideration 22nd day of August, 2022.

Ayes: Flattery, Nelson, McCaleb, and Alstott

Nays: Conrad, Moehnke and Schuur

Other: None

ATTEST:



Jeff Nemmers, City Clerk



Matt Bemrich, Mayor

Published in the Messenger this 26th day of August 2022.



City of Fort Dodge

Urban Controlled Bow Hunt Map

