

Hunting questions

Can I hunt on City property?

The only hunting allowed on City property is through the deer bow hunting program on portions of select properties by qualified hunters that have registered with the City. (See also Rules and Regulations)

The purpose of this program is to manage the increasing urban deer population and is limited to qualified hunters that meet all of the City's requirements.

What do I need to qualify to bow hunt on City property?

1. Must at least 16 years of age to hunt without direct supervision of an adult.
2. Attend one of two (2) available registration classes.
3. Fulfill the hunting requirements of the Department of Conservation, including obtaining the appropriate hunting license.

When and where will bow hunting registration classes be held?

Attend one of the classes below. Sessions last about 30 minutes.

Location: Lower Level City Hall, Council Room

Dates/times: November 20th – 8:00 am OR 5:30 pm. You are only required to attend one time.

What is the cost to register to bow hunt on City property?

Registration and classes are free of charge.

How often do I have to register to bow hunt on City property?

Annually. Each hunter must take the registration class each year to be eligible for the program.

May I use a crossbow for hunting on City property?

Crossbows are now considered standard archery equipment and do not require any type of exemption form or permit and are therefore allowed for hunting on City property.

When can I bow hunt on City property?

Qualified bowhunters can hunt on City property with an appropriate hunting license and in accordance with Dept. of Conservation guidelines:

- November 27, 2024 – January 15, 2024
- Beginning 1/2 hour before sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset

Where are the select City bow hunting properties?

Bowhunting by qualified hunters is allowed on *portions* of the properties below (Maps attached)

1. Rolla Cemetery, Highway 72 and Elm Street
2. Public Works Yard, Old Saint James Road and Industrial Park Drive
3. Highway O (NE Quadrant Highway O and Lions Club Drive)
4. Silver Leaf Park, Ramsey Place Road
5. Southside Park, Lions Club Drive at South View Drive

Where do I report the number of deer harvested on City property?

All registered bow hunters are required to report the number of deer harvested on City property either via e-mail to comdev@rollacity.org or by calling 573.426.6983. An antlerless deer must be taken before an antlered deer may be taken.

What do I do if I hit a deer and it runs and falls outside of the bow hunting boundary?

Private Property

If it falls on private property, you should contact the property owner and request permission to retrieve the deer.

City Property

Please be advised that you are *not allowed to re-shoot a deer* on any City property that is not within the designated bow hunting boundaries. However, if a deer falls outside the bow hunting boundary, but still on park property, hunters may retrieve the deer. While doing so, it is the hunter's responsibility to fully demonstrate to everyone that they are not actively hunting outside the hunting boundaries.

What other bowhunting rules and regulations do I need to follow?

1. Hunting may only occur in the designated hunting areas.
2. Legal methods to harvest deer include projectile archery weapon and crossbow only.
3. Each hunter must carry at all times the permit card issued by the City and display the additional permit card in their vehicle.
4. You may only park in the designated parking areas as displayed on the maps to be provided during the pre-hunt registration class.
5. All state laws and regulations and city rules and regulations must be obeyed.

6. Tree stands shall be allowed subject to the following restrictions: Only portable tree stands may be used. The stands may be in place only for the period beginning November 15, 2024 and ending 15 days after archery deer season. Stands must be identified with the full name and address of the owner. Nails, screw-in steps and any other material that would damage the tree shall not be used. Minimal tree trimming in connection with tree stands shall be allowed only as expressly permitted by the department head in charge of the property or the department head's designee.
7. No game cameras allowed prior to or during the hunt.
8. No other species are to be harvested by any methods during the hunt.
9. No alcohol or drug use is allowed. You may not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
10. No decoys/baits/attractants allowed prior to or during the hunt.
11. Hunters must wear safety orange clothing when walking in and out of designated hunting areas and for the entirety of the hunt. You must wear a hat and shirt, vest or coat. The hunter orange must be plainly visible from all sides.
12. Hunters are *not allowed to re-shoot a deer* on any City property that is not within the designated bow hunting boundaries. However, if a deer falls outside the bow hunting boundary, but still on park property, hunters may retrieve the deer. While doing so, it is the hunter's responsibility to fully demonstrate to everyone that they are not actively hunting outside the hunting boundaries.
13. No four wheelers or other motorized vehicles shall be used in connection with hunting on city property.
14. All trash must be packed out and deposited in a trash receptacle. Hunters are expected to have a minimal impact on the environment.
15. No hunting or field dressing shall be allowed within one hundred feet of private property.
16. No hunting or field dressing shall be allowed within one hundred feet of a city trail.
17. There will be an additional designated field dressing area, near the public works yard hunting area adjacent to the compost area.

How many vehicle accidents involving deer are there in Rolla?

Concern over the number of vehicle accidents involving deer was one of the issues that spurred the initiation of City of Rolla's Bow Hunting Program. The program would not only provide a venue for the archery hunting sport, but would also help reduce the urban deer population. Below is a chart showing the number of vehicle accidents involving deer in Rolla, Missouri. This information will be updated on an annual basis.

