City of Mankato Archery Deer Hunt
Rules and Regulations

These rules are designed to help layout the framework for a safe and effective hunt. The City of Mankato and their appointed designees reserve the right to act on any matter regarding the safety and/or effectiveness of this hunt without the prior consent of participating hunters. In addition, the City of Mankato strongly supports and requires ethical conduct of all hunters participating in this hunt.

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Part I. Introduction

A. Purpose: The purpose of this document is to declare the rules and regulations pertaining to the City of Mankato Archery Deer Hunt taking place within the city limits of Mankato, MN. This hunt was designed and is managed with the purpose of managing the cities white-tailed deer population.

Archery deer hunting within the City of Mankato is permitted only for hunters who have successfully completed the proficiency testing and selection process administered by the City of Mankato as detailed in this document.

The rules and regulations set forth by the City of Mankato are intended to facilitate a safe, ethical and effective archery hunt within the city limits of Mankato while minimizing the potential for conflict with the non-hunting public, landowners or other land users. While hunters must follow all applicable municipal, local, federal and state laws, including Minnesota game laws, all hunters must also abide by the rules and regulations set forth in this document.

Any hunter found in violation of any rule in this document, or any other applicable law in conjunction with participation in this hunt or other hunting activities, may lose their eligibility to participate in the hunt in the current and/or upcoming season(s).

Part II. General Information

A. All hunters shall comply with all relevant portions of the current MN DNR "Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook" (MN DNR Regulations), and state law as it applies, and shall possess a current, valid Minnesota archery deer license.

B. In addition to MN DNR Regulations, hunters shall comply with all rules and regulations within this document. In the event of conflicting regulations between the MN DNR Regulations and those set forth by the City of Mankato, the more restrictive regulation will prevail.

C. The use of a crossbow is not allowed, other than by hunters with a special permit to accommodate a temporary or permanent disability issued by the MnDNR in accordance with Minnesota Statues 97B.035 and 97B.106.

D. The official means of communication for this hunt is email. Hunters are responsible for checking their email regularly for various notifications.

E. The official contact and mailing address for the City of Mankato archery deer hunt is:

Attn of: Natural Resources Specialist
City of Mankato
10 Civic Center Plaza
PO BOX 3368
Mankato, MN 56002-3368
deerhunt@mankatomn.gov
(507) 387-8600

F. The Archery Deer Hunt Timeline will be located on the City of Mankato website

G. Hunters finding what they suspect is an illegal stand, or a stand they suspect is on public land after January 15th should contact Natural Resources Specialist for the hunt with as much information as possible regarding the stand (time and date, location, hunter ID number if present, photos, etc.).

H. Mankato's Archery Deer Hunt Program is subject to the Minnesota's Data Practices law.

I. The following rules and regulations shall be followed at all times:

1. **Baiting/Feeding of Deer:** It is a violation of the City of Mankato City Code Section 9.76 to bait or feed deer in any way within the City of Mankato. Absolutely no baiting or feeding of

deer is allowed, this is a **zero tolerance issue.** All hunters are required to report any incidents of suspected deer baiting to the Natural Resources Specialist within 24 hours of observance.

2. **Parking:** Each hunting area has its own designated parking area; and this area will be given to you upon receiving your hunting area. For the purpose of this Hunt, you are only to park and access your stand from this parking area **UNLESS** you have contacted the Natural Resources Specialist to setup an alternate parking area or means of entry and obtained any applicable Landowner Permission forms.

3. **Off-Highway Vehicles:** The use of Off-Highway vehicles is prohibited on public lands in conjunction with the City of Mankato Archery Deer Hunt.

4. **Cutting of Shooting Lanes:** Hunters are to be as discrete as possible when cutting vegetation for shooting lanes. No gasoline powered equipment may be used for cutting vegetation on public property. On public lands, hunters may not prune woody vegetation larger than 1" in diameter. On private lands, all trimming of shooting lanes must be discussed with the landowner in advance and done with the landowner's knowledge and consent.

   ***No tree trimming is allowed in Rasmussen Woods. (Sites 1-11, 16, 19, 21, 27, 32 and 40)**

5. **Stand Safety:** Hunters are strongly encouraged to wear a full body harness attached to the tree while on stand. Hunters are also encouraged to use a climbing system which attaches to the tree or a safety line while climbing up and down from their stand.

6. **Avoid Confrontation:** If a hunter is approached by anti-hunters or others who attempt to engage the hunter in debate about hunting or the City of Mankato Archery Deer Hunt, participating hunters are not to argue or debate the public. Hunters are encouraged to document all alleged harassment with photographic or video equipment. All such confrontations are to be reported to the Natural Resources Specialist or appropriate authorities.

7. **Report Violations:** If a participating hunter observes another hunter violating any of the hunt rules, or if a suspected unauthorized hunter is observed, hunters are required to report it as soon as possible to the Natural Resources Specialist or appropriate authorities.

8. **Earn-A-Buck:** Hunters are required to harvest and tag an antlerless deer prior to harvesting an antlered deer. No hunter will be allowed to harvest more than one antlered deer per year.

9. **Deer Retrieval:** All hunters must make every effort legally possible to recover deer they have shot. If a wounded deer's trail becomes sparse, know when to back out and wait, and/or ask others for help.

Pursuant to state law, a person on foot may, without permission of the owner, occupant, or lessee, enter land to retrieve a wounded animal that was lawfully shot, as long as there is not a posting on the land of "no trespassing" in the manner set forth in Minnesota Statutes §97B.001. The hunter must leave the land immediately after retrieving the wounded game. If the wounded deer travels onto private party posted as "no trespassing" in the manner set forth in statute, the hunter must contact the landowner for permission to enter their property prior to continuing the pursuit of the deer. If permission can't be obtained from the property owner, then hunter must contact the local MN DNR Conservation Officer at 651-296-6157. The hunter will provide the Conservation Officer with the last known location and the Conservation Officer and hunter will arrange to meet. The Conservation Officer will then determine appropriate recovery methods.

When following the wounded deer and while accompanied by the authorized personnel, the hunter may carry his bow uncased and strung. When the deer is located, additional shots to dispatch the animal may be authorized by the person accompanying the hunter who will determine if a kill shot may be executed safely.

It is the responsibility of the hunter to determine the severity of wounds and likelihood of the animal recovering from them. It is not the responsibility of the authorized person with the hunter to recover or provide assistance in tracking, killing or removing the deer.

Should a hunter wound a deer but not recover it successfully, this information and the last known location of the deer should be communicated with Natural Resources Specialist for the hunt.

10. **Party Hunting:** No party hunting is allowed in the City of Mankato Archery Deer Hunt.

11. **Transportation of Deer:** Hunters are to avoid making dead deer visible to the general public while transporting. This includes covering deer with a tarp, if necessary, while transporting. This includes both removal from the field as well as transportation on roads.

12. **Field Dressing of Deer:** All entrails must be removed from the hunting area upon the harvest of a deer.

13. **Hunt Report:** Hunters are required to check-in and out each time they go hunting via the automated phone line (507-387-8550), as well as report on the number and sex of deer seen or taken. More information on this may be found in Part VII of this document.

Part III. Proficiency Testing and Selection Process

A. Proficiency: In order to participate in this hunt, hunters must pass a proficiency test annually. The standards of this test are as follows:

1. Hunters must successfully shoot 6 arrows at a target from 20 yards away, placing all 6 arrows consecutively within a 6" circle. Unless otherwise allowed under this policy, only

compound bows may be used in the City of Mankato archery deer hunt. Crossbows are only allowed for hunters with a special permit to accommodate a temporary or permanent disability issued by the MnDNR in accordance with Minnesota Statues 97B.035 and 97B.106.

2. Hunters are allowed a maximum of 2 attempts at this test each year.
3. Participating hunters must requalify by passing the proficiency test every year.
4. Hunters are allowed to practice prior to taking the test. Once ready to test and prior to shooting their first test arrow, hunters will announce to the official test scorer on site that they are beginning the test.
5. Official testing dates and locations will be set and publicized on the city website annually.
6. In addition to the proficiency test, all hunters must also have passed the Official Minnesota Bowhunters Safety Course. The course materials can be found online at https://www.bowhunter-ed.com/minnesota/

B. Selection Process: Hunters that have successfully passed the proficiency test will be selected on a preference points system. Those hunters with the highest amount of points are selected first, followed by hunters with the next highest level of points and so forth until all active stands are filled. Once all hunters with preference points have been selected, those hunters who have qualified for the hunt but have no preference points will be entered into a random lottery to fill the remaining stands. Preference points are earned through the following means:

1. One point is earned per deer harvested.
2. One point is earned per 10 hunts.
3. One point is earned if you are a City of Mankato landowner with land included in the hunt.
4. One point is earned if you qualified but are not selected in the lottery.

All points earned in year one are used for the following year selection process, upon selection into the hunt said hunters preference points are set back to zero.

There will be a mandatory pre-hunt meeting for all selected hunters prior to any stands being set and the onset of the hunting season.

Part IV. Hunting Lands

A. Hunting will **ONLY** be permitted on properties identified by the City of Mankato as suitable for use in this hunt. **ALL** other public and private lands within the city limits of Mankato, MN are **CLOSED** to hunting.

B. Within the City of Mankato there are active deer stand locations in areas encompassing both public and private land. During the selection process, each hunter will be assigned to a specific area where they may setup and hunt from.

C. Public Lands: Whenever possible, it is our intent to keep hunters on public lands and use only public lands to access hunting locations. However, some stands are located on private property and/or utilize private property for access to their stands.

D. **Private Lands:** If your stand is located on private property in the City of Mankato **OR** you are walking on any private property in the City of Mankato to access your stand location, **YOU MUST** have prior written permission from those corresponding property owners whose property is located within city boundaries that states you may enter their lands to access the stand location. Upon obtaining written permission, a copy of the Landowner Permission form should be sent to the Natural Resources Specialist for the hunt (Found in Part II of this document).

   1. It is the hunter's responsibility to know which properties they are hunting or utilizing to access their stand locations. It is strongly recommended to familiarize yourself with the surrounding properties ownership and parcel boundaries. An interactive map with property owner information can be found at:
      https://beacon.schneidercorp.com/ → State: Minnesota → County/city/area: Blue Earth County

   2. A copy of the Landowner Permission form can be obtained from the Natural Resources Specialist listed above, in Part II of this document or online from the City of Mankato website. A copy of the form has also been included at the end of this document for your convenience.

   3. It is highly recommended that hunters keep a copy of any Landowner Permission forms for their hunting areas in their possession or in their vehicle while hunting.

E. **New Hunting Locations:** If you would like to propose a new hunting area or stand location within the City of Mankato, please contact the Natural Resources Specialist for the hunt to discuss this possibility, all locations will be critiqued for safety, productivity and accessibility.

Part V. Hunter and Equipment Identification

A. **Hunter ID:** Each hunter will be assigned a Hunter ID number upon qualifying for the City of Mankato Archery Deer Hunt. This number is to be used for hunting equipment identification purposes detailed below.

B. **Tree Stand and Climbing Sticks:** All tree stands and climbing sticks used for the City of Mankato Archery Deer Hunt must be labeled with that hunter's appropriate Hunter ID number. These labels must be clearly legible with numbers at least ¾" in height. Labels may be affixed to stands and climbing sticks via duct tape or any other durable means with writing in a contrasting color.

C. **Arrows:** All arrows must be labeled with the Hunter's ID number. The numbers shall be clearly legible in a contrasting color, on both the arrow shaft within approximately 1" of the broadhead, **AND** on the arrow shaft within approximately 1" of the fletching, or directly on the fletching. Acceptable methods of marking include using a permanent ink marker in a colored ink that contrasts with the arrow shaft or by applying a custom "arrow wrap" with the Hunter's ID number.

Part VI. Hunting Methods

A. Archery with Compound Bows Only: Unless otherwise allowed under this policy, only compound bows may be used in the City of Mankato archery deer hunt. Crossbows are only allowed for hunters with a special permit to accommodate a temporary or permanent disability issued by the MnDNR in accordance with Minnesota Statues 97B.035 and 97B.106. Only white-tailed deer may be lawfully harvested in this hunt, no other animals or birds may be harvested.

B. Tree Stands: All hunters will be restricted to the use of tree stands only for this hunt, unless written permission by the Natural Resources Specialist is obtained allowing the use of a ground blind. Under no circumstances will hunting on foot be permitted. Hunters may only discharge their bow from an elevated tree stand or from within a pre-approved ground blind.

C. Ground Blinds: Ground blinds are only permitted for use on a case-by-case basis in the City of Mankato Archery Deer Hunt. Ground blinds may not be permitted at all in some hunting areas.

1. Only commercially produced, portable, tent-type blinds in good repair will be allowed for use on public lands.

2. To obtain permission for the use of a ground blind, contact the Natural Resources Specialist (Found in Part II of this document) with details regarding the reason for requesting the use of a ground blind, intended ground blind location, and dates the ground blind will be left on site. If the ground blind is intended for use on private property, written permission must also be obtained from that property owner.

3. When hunting from a ground blind, remember that the safety of the hunter and the public is paramount and that under no circumstances should either of these be jeopardized in the attempt of harvesting a deer.

D. Hunter Setup Locations: For the purpose of this document, “hunter setup locations” refers to the location in which hunters place their tree stand or ground blind (if permitted). In most cases, the hunters will be given a set area where they may setup. It is our intent to leave the hunters the freedom of selecting their exact location within their hunting area; however, in some situations hunters will be told a specific point where they are to setup. When selecting a hunter setup location there are several rules that need to be followed:

1. No hunter setup location may be within 125 feet of a public road.

2. No hunter setup location may be within 125 feet of any established public walking or biking trails.

3. No hunter setup location may be within 125 feet of any occupied building located within the City of Mankato without written permission from that building’s responsible owner.

4. No hunter setup location may be within 75 feet of any private property boundary within the City of Mankato without written permission from that property owner.

5. If more than one of the distance regulations set forth in this Paragraph apply, then the greater of the distances will be applicable.

6. No hunter setup location may be installed more than 15 days prior to the first day of the hunt.

7. All hunter setup locations must be removed within 15 days of the last day of the hunt. Any stand or hunting equipment left on public property after this date will be considered abandoned and may become property of the City of Mankato. Any hunter found in violation of this rule will at minimum lose their accumulated preference points for the following years hunt.

8. Only one hunter is allowed per setup location for the season.

9. Tree stands must be installed a minimum of ten (10') feet up from the base of the tree.

10. Once a hunter setup location has been established, it's required that the location be communicated to the Natural Resources Specialist for the hunt (preferably via email). GPS coordinates are easily obtained with most smartphones and are preferred; however, if unattainable alternative means of location are acceptable. (A detailed aerial image with the approximate hunter location marked is the next best alternative, please be as precise as possible)

Part VII. Reporting Requirements

A. All hunters are required to check-in before the start of a hunt and check-out afterwards. At the time of checking-out, hunters are required to report on the number of deer seen of each sex as well as the number of deer shot at and harvested. Hunters are to check in and check out of a hunt via the automated phone line. Any other means of checking in is allowed on a case by case basis approved by the Natural Resources Specialist.

Part VIII. Enforcement

A. **Enforced By:** The Rules and Regulations set forth in this document may be enforced by the MN DNR, local law enforcement, and a City of Mankato Natural Resources Specialist or their designees.

Revocation of Privileges: Any hunter found in violation of these Rules and Regulations or any Rules and Regulations of the MN DNR, or has become a nuisance to other hunters, landowners or the general public, may have their hunting privileges within the City of Mankato revoked. The

City of Mankato reserves the right to deny entry into the hunt. The duration of any denial of entry into the hunt will be established after a review of the circumstances and severity of the violation. Any hunter removed from the hunt will have 5 days to remove all of their hunting equipment from either public or private lands.

B. Game Violations: Hunters cited for any hunting related violations, either game or non-game, in the City of Mankato Archery Deer Hunt by either the MN DNR or by local law enforcement must notify the Natural Resource Specialist within 48 hours of receiving the citation and provide the Natural Resource Specialist with (a) date, time and place of the action, (b) what agency issued the citation or responded to the incident, (c) brief statement from the citation describing reason for citation, and (d) the citation or incident report number. Failure to notify the Natural Resource Specialist for the hunt may result in immediate revocation of hunting privileges within the City of Mankato.

Upon receiving a citation from MN DNR or any law enforcement officer for any hunting related violation, either game or non-game, privileges to participate in the City hunt are immediately suspended until final disposition of the citation matter. The cited hunter must notify the City of Mankato Natural Resources Specialist within 72 hours of the final disposition. The hunter will provide the City of Mankato with the outcome of the final disposition of the matter, along with the citation number.

Upon final disposition of the citation issued to the hunter for any hunting related violations, either game or non-game, the Natural Resources Specialist will determine if the City imposed temporary suspension will continue. The Natural Resource Specialist will advise the hunter, in writing, the term of the post-citation suspension and that the term of that suspension begins on the date of final disposition of the citation.

Hunters acknowledge that reinstatement is within staff's discretion and will depend upon a review of the circumstances surrounding the situation. Suspended hunters will not be reinstated until the next hunting season following the end of their suspension.

END OF DOCUMENT

Appendix A.

Please see City of Mankato Website for most current City of Mankato Archery Deer Hunt Timeline

City of Mankato Archery Deer Hunt
Release of Liability & Acknowledgement of Rules and Regulations

As a participating hunter in the City of Mankato's Archery Deer Hunt, I _____ (hunter's name) hereby release the City of Mankato from all legal responsibilities in concern with my participation and actions within the hunt. Along with this, my signature below also confirms that I have read and understand the Rules and Regulations governing the hunt and that I will hold myself to a high ethical standard and abide by all applicable local, state and federal laws during all activities associated with the hunt. I understand that the use of crossbows may only be used by hunters who have obtained a special permit issued by the MnDNR to accommodate a temporary or permanent disability in accordance with Minnesota Statues 97B.035 and 97B.106 . I also acknowledge that the City of Mankato's Archery Deer Hunt is subject to Minnesota's Data Practices law.

Name: *(first)*	*Name: (last)*
Hunter ID Number: *(provided)* Special Permit ID Number:	Email:
Home Phone:	Cell Phone:
Home Address:	Home City/State/Zip:
Date:	Signature:

Tennessen Warning:

As a participating hunter, the information requested above is used by the City to verify the hunter's licensure for the hunt with the Department of Natural Resources, and to provide the City and any authorized individuals under this policy with contact information of the hunter. The participating hunter may refuse to supply the requested information, but failing to provide the information will result in the hunter not being able to participate in the hunt. The City Manager, or the City Manager's designee, the

City of Mankato Natural Resource Specialist, representatives of Minnesota DNR, and representatives or agents of Mankato's law enforcement are authorized to receive the data provided in this form.

Appendix B.

City of Mankato Archery Deer Hunt
Landowner Permission Form

As a Landowner within the City of Mankato, I hereby give _____ (hunter's name) permission to utilize my land in the City of Mankato Archery Deer Hunt. I understand the background of this hunt as well as the rules and regulations surrounding it. I do not hold the City of Mankato liable or responsible in any way for the actions of the participating hunter on my land. I also acknowledge that the City of Mankato's Archery Deer Hunt is subject to Minnesota's Data Practices law.

Permitted Activities on Property *(Check all that apply)*

- ☐ Archery deer hunting
- ☐ Use for accessing other property only, no hunting allowed on my property
- ☐ Hunter vehicle parking

Landowners Notes: *(Pertaining to stand location, parking location or any other pertinent information)*

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Landowner Contact Information

Deed Holders Name: *(Last)*_____ *(First)*_____ *(M.I.)*____

Property Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____ Preferred Method of Contact (Circle): Home Cell Email

Agreement Effective Dates: From _____ to _____

Deed Holders Signature: _____ Date: _____

City of Mankato Representative

Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Filed Into System On: _____

Appendix C.

City of Mankato Archery Deer Hunt
Adjacent Property Permission Form

As a Landowner within the City of Mankato, I hereby give _____ (hunter's name) permission to locate a deer stand within 75' of my property line and/or 125' from my occupied building in the City of Mankato Archery Deer Hunt. I understand the background of this hunt as well as the rules and regulations surrounding it. I do not hold the City of Mankato liable or responsible in any way for the actions of the participating hunter on my land. I also acknowledge that the City of Mankato's Archery Deer Hunt is subject to Minnesota's Data Practices law.

Permitted Activities (*Check all that apply).* **If more than one of the distance regulations set forth in this Paragraph apply, then the greater of the distances will be applicable.**

- ☐ Stand located within 75' of property line
- ☐ Stand located within 125' of occupied building

Landowners Notes: *(Pertaining to stand location, parking location or any other pertinent information)*

_____

_____

_____

_____

Landowner Contact Information

Deed Holders Name: *(Last)*_____ *(First)*_____ *(M.I.)*____

Property Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____ Preferred Method of Contact (Circle): Home Cell Email

Agreement Effective Dates: From _____ to _____

Deed Holders Signature: _____ Date: _____

City of Mankato Representative

Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Filed Into System On: _____