



Archery Deer Hunting Program: Rules and Regulations

The City of Galena has created the Archery Deer Hunting Program in an effort to better control the deer population within the boundaries of the City. Select City-owned properties have been designated for hunting. Privately-owned properties are also eligible for the program. The intent is to give limited control of hunting to the property owners to enable archery hunters to harvest the deer for their use or to provide meat to social agencies—such as the Galena Food Pantry. Hunting sites are to be selected by the city council with an emphasis on matching sites with locations that have high concentrations of deer as identified by counts. The council will consider hunting sites proposed by private property owners who wish to have hunting on their property. With a goal of thinning the number of deer in the city limits, conditions are in place for the safety of the public and the hunters.

Private Property Owners

Property owners have the option of applying for hunting on their property, however, all sites must be approved by the city council prior to approval for hunting. There are a limited number of sites that will be approved. The City reserves the right to reject any and all proposed hunting sites on private property.

- A hunting site must be a minimum of three acres. The site may include multiple properties, provided they are adjacent or connected.
- A hunting site that has 10 or more acres may, at the discretion of the city council, be divided into five-acre areas enabling two or more hunting locations.
- No hunting is permitted within 100 yards of any residence, church, or occupied structure without first obtaining permission of the owner or tenant of the dwelling or occupied structure.
- Property owners must collect the names, addresses, and signatures of other property owners who wish to be included in the hunting site, and select one individual who will be the contact person for the overall hunting site. Those names and addresses are to be brought to the Chief of Police so they can be plotted on a map for potential selection.
- Property owners within 100 yards of any proposed hunting site will be notified by mail of the proposed site and the date and time of the city council meeting when the site will be considered for approval. Adjacent property owners, or any citizen, may express their support or concern regarding the proposed site in writing or verbally to the city council.

- Sites will be approved by the city council with an emphasis on areas with high deer population counts, complaints of deer damage to vegetation or property, deer vehicle accidents, and/or incidents between people and deer.
- All hunting shall be conducted from elevated positions or stands and in such a way that all shots will be taken at a downward angle and not continue into an open or occupied area.
- Property owners with an approved hunting site may permit more than one authorized hunter to share a stand, but only one hunter may occupy a stand at any one time.
- The hunter will be required to post a City-issued sign at the hunting area during hunting to notify others that hunting is taking place in a permitted hunting area.
- Property owner may allow the hunter to leave a tree stand in a specific location for more than one day, but not longer than the duration of the hunting season. No nails, screws or other intrusive appliance may be used to attach the stand or steps to a tree. Stands can be strapped to the tree, or other means that do not enter the tree or branches.
- Hunting is permitted ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.

Hunters

- Landowners who have an approved site for hunting may recommend a hunter(s) for their site. The city council will approve each hunter and the site to be hunted by each hunter. If a landowner does not recommend a hunter(s), the site will be included in the lottery for hunters as described hereafter.
- Hunters must be at least 21 years of age.
- Hunters with any felony convictions or wildlife law convictions shall not be eligible for hunting.
- All hunters must pass an annual proficiency shooting test administered by the City of Galena. Hunters must successfully shoot a nine-inch target with at least three of five shots from 20 yards away. Hunters may test with and hunt with compound bow and arrow or crossbow.
- All hunters must possess the following to be eligible for urban hunting:
 1. Valid State of Illinois hunting license
 2. State of Illinois Habitat Stamp
 3. Deer Archery Permit/Tag(s)
 4. Archery Proficiency Certificate
 5. City of Galena Urban Hunting Permit

- Hunters must wear at least one item of external clothing with blaze orange color.
- Stands or hunting positions must be elevated in such a way that all shots taken must be at a downward angle, and not carry into an area of human or pet habitation.
- Each hunter must use a safety harness when using an elevated stand.
- Stands and steps shall not use nails, screws or other intrusive appliances to attach to trees.
- Hunters must retrieve all arrows.
- Hunters must notify the Galena Police Department that they are hunting a site on any day that they are hunting. Notification must occur during the regular business hours of the police department, Monday-Friday, and be in a manner prescribed by the police department.
- Hunters must post a City-issued hunting area sign on the perimeter of the hunting area so the public is aware that hunting is taking place on an approved site. The hunter must make sure that the sign is in place every time they are hunting an approved site.
- Hunters must place a City-issued placard on the dash board of the vehicle parked at the hunting area.
- Hunters must harvest two or more does before harvesting a buck. A button buck does not count as a doe.
- Hunters must document and report each deer that is harvested by tagging the deer, photographing the deer with tag, and reporting where it was harvested. Reporting shall be made to the police department and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.
- Deer that travel onto property that is not in the hunting area requires the hunter to obtain permission from the owner of that property before retrieving the deer. Illinois does not have a hunter retrieval law allowing a hunter to access a property without permission.
- Hunters must remove each deceased deer from the hunting site or any other accessible property. Field dressing is permitted on the approved hunting sites, but all remains must be removed from the hunting site. No remains shall be left on a hunting site.

Hunting on Public Property

The city may approve hunting on property owned by the City of Galena. Hunters assigned such public land shall follow all the requirements set forth herein for hunting on private land. In addition, the following procedure will be used to determine who will hunt on those lands.

- Hunting areas on public property must be approved by the city council.
- Hunters will enter their name into a lottery for the chance of being awarded a hunting area.
- To be eligible for the lottery, hunters must be approved to hunt by meeting the requirements described above.
- Hunters will be selected through a drawing with each of the names noted in order. Each hunter will select a hunting area in the order their name was drawn. Hunting sites will be assigned based on availability. Hunters entered in the lottery are not guaranteed a hunting site.
- If the hunter has harvested their quota of deer as permitted by their state tag(s), and the season is still open, they are to notify the Galena Police Department so another hunter may be assigned to the hunting area.
- Hunting is permitted ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.
- The hunter must notify the Galena Police Department that they are hunting a site on any day that they are hunting. Notification must occur during the regular business hours of the police department, Monday-Friday, and be in a manner prescribed by the police department.

Hunting without Permits

- Any hunting that takes place without appropriate permits will be considered poaching and will be prosecuted as such.
- Any hunting on property that is not previously approved by the city for hunting will be considered to be poaching.
- Any hunting on property with or without approved hunting designation is considered trespassing.