



Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: July 17, 2023

Re: Modifications to the City's Archery Deer Management Program

## Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting City Council approval to modify the ordinance related to the City's Archery Deer Management Program. The program was established by the City Council in August 2004 as a tool to reduce the number of deer-to-vehicle collisions within the City of Columbia. After discussions with staff from the Missouri Department of Conservation, staff is proposing the following modifications effective for the 2023-2024 archery season:

1. Staff is requesting to add a portion of John W. Alspaugh Park, 4216 Mexico Gravel Road, to the archery deer management program with hunting dates from September 15 to January 15. Staff is proposing to allow hunting access on 140 acres of the property. The property was donated to the City of Columbia in January 2023 and there is a desire to include the property in the program due to the current and future negative impacts caused by the overpopulation of deer in this area of Columbia. The park is also a desirable location for the program due to its proximity to Highway 63 and Mexico Gravel Road.

Prior to their donation of the property, the Alspaugh family allowed archery hunters on their property to help manage the deer population.

## Discussion

The City Ordinance #18197 that established an archery deer management program was passed by the City Council in August 2004 in response to numerous resident communications related to safety and property damage caused by deer, including deer-vehicle collisions. The City's program establishes guidelines to be followed by anyone wishing to bow hunt for deer on permitted City property, including the requirement for hunters to attend an orientation and registration session prior to the start of the bow hunting season. During the training session, hunters are made aware of the rules and regulations associated with the program and any site-specific policies. Individuals that successfully attend the session are given a permit card that is to be carried with them while they hunt and a larger placard to display in their vehicle while it is parked on city property. The City's deer management program coincides with the dates set for the state of Missouri deer hunting season by the Missouri Department of Conservation, beginning September 15 and concluding on January 15. Any hunter participating in the City's program is required to report harvested deer to the City of Columbia so accurate records can be kept for the program. Individuals can do this via an online portal on CoMo.gov or via phone. Any information needed by individuals



# City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

participating in the program or the public related to the City's archery deer management program can be found on [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov).

Hunters must follow all Missouri Department of Conservation regulations and the following City of Columbia Regulations:

1. No hunting or field dressing shall be allowed within 100 feet of private property, City building, parking lot or trail.
2. No four-wheelers or other motorized vehicles are allowed to be used in connection with hunting on City property.
3. Hunters must be a minimum age of 15 years old to hunt without direct supervision of an adult.
4. Tree stands shall be allowed subject to the following restrictions:
  - a. Only portable tree stands may be used.
  - b. Stands may be in place for the period beginning 15 days before archery deer season and ending 15 days after archery deer season.
  - c. Stands must be identified with the full name and address of owner.
  - d. Nails, screw-in steps and any other material that would damage a tree shall not be used.
  - e. Minimal tree trimming in connection with tree stands shall be allowed only as expressly permitted by the Parks and Recreation Director or department head's designee.

The 2022-2023 deer management program included hunting on all or a portion of the following City properties:

1. Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary
2. Grindstone Nature Area
3. Jay Dix Station
4. Thomas E. Atkins Jr. Memorial Park
5. Gans Creek Recreation Area
6. Strawn Park
7. Sewer Utility Property – Coats Lane
8. Sewer Utility Property – Bainbridge Drive
9. Oakland Church Road Property
10. Sanitary Landfill – Peabody Road Area

There are two other locations within the city limits of Columbia where hunters may use archery methods for deer hunting. Hinkson Woods Conservation Area near Twin Lakes Recreation Area is under the jurisdiction of the Missouri Department of Conservation and Waters-Moss Memorial Wildlife Area is managed by Columbia Parks and Recreation with the understanding that traditional hunting guidelines will always be in conjunction with Missouri Department of Conservation rules and regulations.

Effective for the 2023-2024 bow hunting season, park staff is proposing the following modifications to the ordinance:



1. Staff is requesting to add a portion of John W. Alspaugh Park, 4216 Mexico Gravel Road, to the archery deer management program with hunting dates from September 15 to January 15. Staff is proposing to allow hunting access on 140 acres of the property. The property was donated to the City of Columbia in January 2023 and there is a desire to include the property in the program due to the current and future negative impacts caused by the overpopulation of deer in this area of Columbia. The park is also a desirable location for the program due to its proximity to Highway 63 and Mexico Gravel Road.

The training sessions for the 2023-2024 archery deer management program are scheduled for 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Tuesday, August 22 and 6 p.m. on Tuesday, August 29 at the Activity & Recreation Center (ARC).

## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Miscellaneous small dollar costs for new signs will be absorbed by the operating budget.

Long-Term Impact: None

## Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

### Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Safe Neighborhoods, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

### Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Environmental Management, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

## Legislative History

Date	Action
09/06/2022	B239-22: Amending Ordinance No. 018197 that established an archery deer hunting program. <a href="#">City of Columbia, Missouri - File #: B239-22 (legistar.com)</a>
08/04/2014	Ordinance #22158: Amending Ordinance #18197 that established an archery deer hunting program. <a href="https://www.como.gov/Council/Commissions/downloadfile.php?id=14517">https://www.como.gov/Council/Commissions/downloadfile.php?id=14517</a>
08/19/2013	Ordinance #21782: Amending Ordinance #18197 that established an archery deer hunting program. <a href="https://www.como.gov/Council/Commissions/downloadfile.php?id=10402">https://www.como.gov/Council/Commissions/downloadfile.php?id=10402</a>



# City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

08/17/2009	Ordinance #20387: Amending Ordinance #18197 that established an archery deer hunting program. <a href="https://www.como.gov/CMS/codemaster/attachment.php?ordid=18290">https://www.como.gov/CMS/codemaster/attachment.php?ordid=18290</a>
08/15/2005	Ordinance #18652: Amending Ordinance #18197 that established an archery deer hunting program. <a href="https://www.como.gov/CMS/codemaster/attachment.php?ordid=15342">https://www.como.gov/CMS/codemaster/attachment.php?ordid=15342</a>
08/16/2004	Ordinance #18197: Amending Chapter 17 of the City Code as it pertains to hunting in city parks; establishing an archery deer hunting program. <a href="https://www.como.gov/CMS/codemaster/attachment.php?ordid=14587">https://www.como.gov/CMS/codemaster/attachment.php?ordid=14587</a>

## Suggested Council Action

Approve the legislation amending Ordinance #18197 with the recommended change to the City's Archery Deer Management Program.