

CONSERVATION BOARD

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July 1, 2025

Dear Scott County Park Deer Management Hunt Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the managed hunt at Scott County Park. This annual hunt is critical to helping maintain the health of our local deer herd and protecting the park vegetation from overbrowsing.

Each year, the park's goal is for hunters to reduce the herd by 25 to 30 deer. Over the past several years, we have fallen short of this management goal, with only 10 deer harvested on average. These numbers have been driven by hunters spending less and less time in the field. This year we are asking hunters to fully commit to helping us reach our management goal before applying to hunt by ensuring you are prepared to take full advantage of this opportunity and spend the necessary time in the field to harvest a deer successfully. By signing up and not taking full advantage of this program, you are potentially blocking another hunter from successfully harvesting a deer and putting meat on their family's table.

As always, our staff is here to help ensure you have a successful season at Scott County Park. If you are willing to put the time in, we can help you have a successful season.

Thanks again for your interest in this program. We appreciate your commitment to being an ethical hunter willing to help us reach our conservation goals.

See you in the field,

James Graham
Park Manager
Scott County Park

SCOTT COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD (SCCB)

DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM 2025 ARCHERY CONTROLLED HUNT



RULES & REGULATIONS

- 1) The Scott County Conservation Board Deer Management Program allows for the harvest of antlerless deer only. The deer you shoot must **NOT HAVE A FORKED ANTLER** to be considered antlerless. Be certain of the selected target.
- 2) Only hunters with a Scott County Conservation Board special deer hunt license or authorization will be permitted to hunt in the Park during the hunt dates. No one may accompany you unless they also have one or more special deer hunt tags and authorization for that same time period. Hunters must carry these documents with them at all times when hunting in the area. Youth/handicap hunters may have a non-hunting assistant, but state licensing requirements must be met.
- 3) The **GENERAL PUBLIC** will be allowed in the area during the designated hunt days, so caution must be used. A total of 15 bow hunters will be allowed to participate during this archery season and 50 licenses will be available during the 2025 hunt. Only one antlerless license will be available to each archer at any one time. Once the hunter has filled those tags, it is at the discretion of the Park Manager if leftover tags will be released for use. The goal of this special hunt is population management.
- 4) The Park will be open October 1, 2025 through January 10, 2026 for the special archery only hunt. Shooting times will follow the Iowa DNR rules.
- 5) Hunters entering or exiting the park during closed hours must enter the Park at the South Gate. **ENTRANCE AT ANY OTHER LOCATION WHEN THE PARK IS CLOSED IS PROHIBITED.** A gate code will be provided for your entry into the park for hunting. Hunters must SIGN IN/OUT at the orange 'mailbox' at the Station.
- 6) Parking is restricted to designated parking lots. Do not park along the side of the road, except to load a deer. Leave on vehicle hazard flashers as you retrieve and load your deer. No off-road vehicle operation allowed.
- 7) **LEGAL WEAPONS:** You may only possess a longbow, recurve, or compound bow shooting broadheads only. No firearms are allowed. Crossbows are permitted with a permit from the DNR. All bows must be inoperable while not at a legal treestand or blind. Longbows and recurves will be unstrung, compound and crossbows will be secured by a locking zip tie.
- 8) A shooting proficiency test is required for ALL participants. This test requires a hunter to hit a 9" diameter circle four times out of five attempts at 20 yards. You must provide your own archery equipment. **Handicap and youth hunters may shoot a modified course of fire.**



- 9) The use of an elevated treestand or ground blind is **REQUIRED**. Treestands and blinds must be tagged with the licensed hunters name, address, and phone number while inside the park. All stands may only be occupied while wearing and attached to the tree with a TMA (The Treestand Manufacturers Association) approved harness and tether. The hunter must be tethered at any time they are not on the ground. No nails, screw in tree steps or climber spikes may be used in trees. The cutting of live or dead plant material is prohibited. Treestands and blinds may be installed seven days prior to the opening day and must be removed within seven days after the closing day. No driving off roadways to place or remove stands or blinds. Treestand and blind locations must be registered with the Park Manager or Park Rangers. See #23 for Ranger contact numbers.
- 10) All-terrain vehicles or snowmobiles **ARE NOT allowed**.
- 11) Hunters shall restrict their shots to 20 yards or less to maximize safety and promote clean kills. Stalking, baiting, or driving of deer is prohibited.
- 12) Plan your hunt - know the area - be patient - think and practice safety at all times. You are not the only hunter or person in the area.
- 13) Hunters must meet all State requirements for licensing. You will need the special Scott County Park antlerless hunting tag, Iowa hunting license and wildlife habitat stamp. Licenses and stamp may be checked at any time you are in the hunting area. Officers will be patrolling the area. You must be prepared to display your licenses. Persons born after January 1, 1972 must have a hunter safety card in possession.
- 14) All bows shall be cased while in the vehicle. See #7
- 15) Party hunting is **not** allowed. A dead deer must be tagged within 15 minutes from the time the deer is located after being taken or before the carcass is moved in any way. A properly tagged deer may be left in the field until finished for the day. To be considered properly tagged the deer must have an attached transportation tag with the license number of the licensee and date of kill marked in a way that is easily visible. The tag must be attached so that it cannot be removed without being mutilated or destroyed. This tag is proof of possession and must remain attached to the carcass.
- 16) Shooting is not allowed **FROM** or **ACROSS** a park road.
- 17) Hunting is not allowed within 100 feet of any Hiking-only (green) trail, or any Hiking/Biking/Horse (red) trail, or any designated campground. Hunters are not allowed to shoot into the designated **NO HUNT ZONES OR PRIVATE PROPERTY**. The boundary of private property is a livestock holding type fence. Respect these no-shoot areas. Shoot away from the closed areas. Make an effort to inspect the area and learn something of the deer trails first hand before you come to hunt. Please take advantage of this opportunity, it will increase safety and make your hunt more enjoyable.



- 18) Remember **ANTLERLESS** deer only may be harvested. A deer with a forked antler is considered an antlered buck and is illegal.
- 19) Pick up any litter.
- 20) No retrieving of deer from private property. Owner's permission must be obtained first. Staff may be available to help in obtaining permission.
- 21) If a deer you have wounded enters a (no hunt zone) closed area, you must first have a Park employee assist you in locating the deer.
- 22) Field dress harvested deer away from the trails, roads, and facilities. The head must remain attached to the carcass.
- 23) After you shoot and tag your deer you must immediately call one of the on-duty Ranger phones; general Ranger (563) 271-2860; Ryan (563) 343-7226; Vacant (563) 340-9041 or the resident Ranger phone – (563) 340-9097; or the Park Manager – (563) 340-0058. We will verify your harvest, ensure the tag is attached to your deer, check its sex, and mark its kill location at the Park. This tag must stay with the deer until it is processed. All shot at and hit/wounded deer must be reported, Rangers will assist in tracking/recovery.
- 24) Deer must be covered with tarp or contained inside a vehicle's trunk or truck topper before being transported out of the Park. No exposed carcasses will be allowed to leave the park.
- 25) Do not forget to (write) cut out the date of kill on both portions of your license. (Remember to carry a pen.)
- 26) If you come across a dead or severely crippled deer, please note the location and inform the Park Rangers.
- 27) Be aware that hunting is occurring outside the area. There will be deer movement in and out of the area.
- 28) Any violation of state code, DNR administrative code, or Scott County Conservation Board Deer Management Program rules will result in fines, license revocation and nullification of future Scott County Conservation Board deer hunt privileges.
- 29) The Scott County Conservation Board's intent is to make this controlled deer hunt an effective method of reducing the deer herd population to the acceptance level as provided for in the Scott County Conservation Board Deer Management Program. In addition, the Board wants to make this a safe and successful hunt for you.
- 30) Youth hunters are defined as a resident 12 to 15 years of age hunting under the direct supervision of a properly licensed parent, guardian, or other competent adult with the consent of the parent or guardian. A hunter education course must have been passed.