



**DEPARTMENT CONTACT**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**JC Parks to launch archery hunting permits for City parks  
through Urban Deer Management Program**

**Jefferson City, MO.** To help manage growing deer populations and reduce related issues within city limits, JC Parks is excited to launch the Urban Deer Management Program, in partnership with the Missouri Department of Conservation. This hybrid-hunting program opens access to permitted hunters using archery methods to assist in managing the deer population while keeping parks open and visitors safe.

A mandatory hunter orientation session will overview the program parameters, designated sites, and rules and regulations hunters will observe during the season. The ten designated sites both see significant deer activity and are removed from play, trails, and roadways — improving hunter experience while limiting interruptions from the public.

Registration for the program will open on October 16, 2024. Fifty permits will be issued using a lottery system on November 4, 2024 with hunters being notified via email or phone. Hunters drawn for a permit will need to attend the orientation session on November 6, 2024 at 6:30 PM at the Linc to receive their permit. The 2024 season will open on November 7, at first light and last through January 15, 2025. Hunters are expected to adhere to all rules and regulations provided by Missouri Department of Conservation in relation to archery and deer hunting and will report additional harvest data to JC Parks.

“While hunting with archery methods is allowed within City limits, this program opens up controlled areas to hunters that they previously weren’t able to access,” said Assistant Director of Parks and Golf, Bryan Braun.

“In addition to mitigating vehicle damage, this program aims to help reduce damage to gardens, trees and landscaping caused by deer,” Braun continued.

Site details, hunter requirements, links to MDC rules and regulations, and maps of each site with information for the hunters and public are available online at [jcparks.com/programs/urban-deer-management](http://jcparks.com/programs/urban-deer-management).

As data and feedback are gathered from hunters and the public, JC Parks plans to continue the program in 2025, aiming to align the permitted season with the broader archery hunting season, opening on September 15, 2025.

The Urban Deer Management Program reflects JC Parks’ commitment to enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors by balancing outdoor recreation with responsible stewardship of natural resources. By addressing deer overpopulation, the program helps protect the community’s parks, trails, and green spaces, ensuring they remain safe, accessible, and enjoyable for everyone. In partnership with the Missouri Department of Conservation, JC Parks strives to preserve the beauty and health of Jefferson City’s environment for future generations.

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**JC Parks** provides facilities, programs, and experiences for the residents and guests that contribute to an enhanced quality of life. JC Parks and Recreation maintains 1,400 acres of parkland that consist of 20 parks, 40 miles of trails, 13 playgrounds, 15 ball fields, two swimming pools, a public golf course, a wellness and recreation center, and a one-sheet indoor ice arena.



## Urban Deer Management Program Overview

### 2024 Program Details:

- **Registration Opens:** October 16, 2024 4:00 PM
- **Permit Drawing:** November 4, 2024, 8:00 AM (50 permits will be awarded, applicants notified via email)
- **Mandatory Orientation:** November 6, 2024, 6:30 PM at The Linc (1299 Lafayette St., Jefferson City, MO 65109). Attendance is required to receive a permit.
- **Season Opens:** November 7, 2024, first light
- **Season Closes:** January 15, 2025, last light

### Key Information for Hunters:

- **Eligibility:** Hunters must be at least 15 years old to hunt without direct adult supervision. Younger hunters may apply with a mentor. Residents do not need to live within city limits to participate.
- **Fees:** No charge for permits; 50 permits available for the 2024 season, selected through a lottery.
- **Methods:** Archery is permitted, including crossbows.
- **Safety Regulations:** Hunters must follow all Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) rules, including the requirement to obtain an Archer's Hunting Permit to harvest up to two deer during the archery season, which runs from Sept. 15 to Nov. 15, 2024, and Nov. 27, 2024, to Jan. 15, 2025.

For more information about the Urban Deer Management Program and to access additional details on designated hunting sites and regulations, please visit <https://www.jcparks.com/program/urban-deer-management>.