

RESOLUTION NO. 19-216

Resolution approving the Long-Term Deer Management Plan for the Years 2019 to 2024, rescinding Resolution No. 19-167, and authorizing the City Manager to sign an agreement with White Buffalo, Inc.

Whereas, the Iowa Natural Resources Commission is authorized to approve deer management in urban areas;

Whereas, the Iowa Natural Resources Commission has requested that the City have a long-term deer management plan (i.e., 5-year); and

Whereas, the attached deer management plan is a 5-year plan to manage the City's deer population with one year of sharpshooting and four years of bow hunting along with five years of non-lethal activities; and

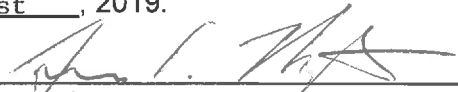
Whereas, Council previously approved a 5-year plan in Resolution No. 19-167, which the Iowa Natural Resources Commission did not approve and which should be rescinded accordingly; and

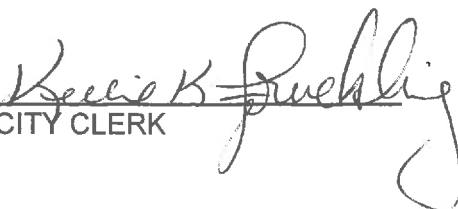
Whereas, the City Manager should be authorized to enter into a contract with White Buffalo, Inc. for sharpshooting deer in the winter of 2019-2020 to implement the attached plan.


Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of Iowa City, Iowa, that:

1. The attached Long-Term Deer Management Plan for the Years 2019 to 2024 is approved.
2. The City Manager is authorized to submit the deer management plan to the Iowa Natural Resources Commission for approval.
3. Resolution No. 19-167 is rescinded.
4. Upon the direction of the City Attorney, the City Manager is authorized to sign a contract with White Buffalo, Inc. for sharpshooting in the winter of 2019-2020 to implement the attached plan.

Passed and approved this 6th day of August, 2019.


MAYOR

ATTEST: 
CITY CLERK

Approved by: 
City Attorney's Office

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It was moved by Mims and seconded by Cole the
Resolution be adopted, and upon roll call there were:

AYES:	NAYS:	ABSENT:	
<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Cole
<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Mims
<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Salih
<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Taylor
<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Teague
<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Thomas
<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Throgmorton

IOWA CITY LONG-TERM DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE YEARS 2019 TO 2024

(Approved by City Council in Resolution No. 19-216 on August 6, 2019)

I. Sharpshooting in the Winter of 2019-2020

Pursuant to 571 Iowa Admin. Code 105.5, the City shall request Natural Resources Commission approval of an urban deer management zone during the winter of 2019-2020. Additionally, the City shall request that the special harvest be conducted under the following conditions:

1. The deer management area is defined as all public and private land within the corporate limits as designated by the City Council. Property owners will need to provide the City with permission.
2. The number of deer to be killed will bring the deer to a density of less than 25 deer per square mile.
3. It will be conducted solely by professional wildlife biologists trained as sharp shooters.
4. Bait may be used to attract deer to select sharpshooting locations. All baiting will be discontinued immediately and all remaining bait shall be removed if a CWD (chronic waste disease) positive test result is confirmed. If no CWD positive test result is confirmed, all bait will be removed at the end of the sharp shooting effort.
5. The deer carcasses will be individually identified (i.e., tagged) and transported whole (i.e., not field dressed) to a locker. All deer ages 1 year and older will be frozen and tested for chronic waste disease and held in individual containers until CWD test results are known. The City will enter into a contract with Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources for CWD testing and all costs will be borne by the City. The contract will contain further testing details.
6. After receiving a "not detected" CWD test result, all deer meat will be distributed free of charge at local food banks. If there is a positive CWD test, the carcass will be properly disposed of.
7. All antlers will be sawed off above the pedicle and turned over to the Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources. The locker will keep the hides.
8. Deer sharp shooting activities may occur on two separate occasions from December 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020.

II. Bow Hunting in the Fall/Winters 2020-2024

Pursuant to 571 Iowa Admin. Code 105.5, the City shall request Natural Resources Commission approval of an urban deer management zone during the fall/winters of 2020-2024.

1. The duration of the bow hunt shall be a minimum of 30 days.
2. The parameters of the bow hunt shall be developed following discussions with Dr. Garner and DNR Depredation Biologists, including the designated geographic boundaries and appropriate number of tags. The parameters shall be provided to the NRC by May 2020.

3. A request for an urban deer bow hunt shall be submitted to the NRC by May of the years 2020-2023 for the following fall/winters.

III. Continued Monitoring and Evaluation from 2019 to 2024

Monitoring and evaluating the deer management efforts (both lethal and non-lethal) shall occur on a continuing basis and shall include the following:

1. Conducting an annual aerial survey in conjunction with the DNR to determine the density level of deer per acre and providing the result to the NRC.
2. Monitoring the trends over the years with the evaluation criteria to include: winter helicopter aerial deer surveys (estimate of minimal number of deer and their distribution), tracking of total deer harvest including the number of licenses sold and percent harvest success (estimate of deer abundance based on effort and success), deer/vehicle collisions and property damage complaints. An annual report containing an evaluation of these criteria will be provided to the NRC similar to the Polk County Controlled Bow-Hunt 2018-2019 Deer Report.
3. Reviewing whether 25 deer per mile is the appropriate density level.
4. Scheduling an annual City staff review of this plan specifically and evaluation of the deer population management generally.
5. Providing for public input:
 - a. Developing a web page to accept complaints and suggestions.
 - b. Scheduling an annual listening session for members of the public to address City staff on deer management including this plan.
 - c. Placing a deer management update on a City Council agenda annually to allow members of the public to address City Council.

IV. Non-Lethal Deer Related Activities through July 2024

Below are a series of activities Iowa City is committing to provide, consider and develop. These activities are based, in part, on successful non-lethal tools used in Mentor, Ohio, Austin, Texas, and Rochester Hills, Michigan. "Provide" means placing the information on the City's website, having hard copies available upon request, and having selected hard copies available at City Hall, the library, and other locations. Note that these activities will begin before sharpshooting.

Deer-proof Fencing

Provide

- Images of deer-proof fences for gardens & other landscaping materials.

Consider

- Amending the City Code to decrease the restrictions on residential fences between 6 and 8 feet in height.

Landscaping & Gardening

Provide

- Information on deer feeding patterns, deer resistant perennials, netting, “scare-based devices (such as wind chimes with the middle striker removed so it only triggered if the deer move them), repellants and decoy plants.
- Information on barriers in the form of vegetation (such as hedges and thorny bushes to discourage deer from entering).

Consider

- Establishing a deer resistant garden as a demonstration project.

Deer-Vehicle Accidents Awareness & Prevention

Provide

- Maps showing deer vehicle accidents so residents know where to be alert to the presence of deer and where and when drivers are more likely to encounter deer.
- Educational information for drivers, such as: if you see one deer, there are likely others; deer often come out of roadside ditches or tall growth/unmowed areas, at dusk and dawn, during October-December (rut and hunting seasons), and during May/June (fawns); and defensive driving techniques (such as use of high beams at night, reducing inside vehicle lighting, and watching for deer “eyeshine” by roadsides).

Consider

- Reducing speed limits in high deer traffic areas.
- Installing seasonal signage in high traffic corridors during rut and hunting season.
- Installing Strieter-Lite reflectors, white flags along roadways, roadway sensors to warn of animals in road ahead, and strobe lights and sounds to warn deer of approaching cars.
- Requiring deer resistant plants in City right of way.
- Designing new streets or re-landscaping streets with deer attraction in mind.
- Installing roadside fencing and adding fencing to overpasses and underpasses.

Additional Educational Activities

Provide

- Links to resources from government, academia, and non-profits on deer management such as ISU Extension, Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Humane Society.
- Suggestions for how to behave around deer (such as do not approach a deer with fawn or with a dog on a leash).

Develop

- “Deer” contact person in the neighborhood associations to assist with disseminating information.
- Use of utility bill inserts for various deer related education

Other Actions

Consider

- Amending City Code to prohibit intentional feeding of deer.
- Expanding natural areas in the community that also serve as safe environments for wildlife

Potential Partnerships

Develop

- Partners to assist in implementing the plan including Iowa City Master Naturalists, Project Green, Iowa City Gardeners Facebook group, Iowa City Deer Friends, local landscaping companies, local fence companies, and University of Iowa.