



Application for Controlled Bow-hunt  
September 16, 2023– January 21, 2024

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bow-hunter Safety Education Course**

Proof of successful completion of an authorized International Bow-hunter Education Foundation Safety Education Course must be submitted at the time of receipt of the PCC Special Use Permit.

Certification #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_

**Proficiency Certification**

Proof of successful completion of an authorized bow-hunting proficiency test must be submitted at the time of receipt of the PCC special use permit. Test will require 20 arrows- 10 from 15 yards and 10 from 20 yards- using the weapon to be used while bow-hunting. Archer must score 80% or better in vital area of the target to pass the proficiency test.

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_

Please select the **3** areas where you are interested in hunting. Note that a maximum number of permits will not be issued for each park. We are doing this to increase hunting pressure in our areas.

- |       |                              |       |                                            |
|-------|------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------|
| _____ | Brown’s Woods                | _____ | Easter Lake                                |
| _____ | Jester Park                  | _____ | Gay Lea Wilson East Trail**                |
| _____ | Yellow Banks Park            |       | ** (must also apply through Pleasant Hill) |
| _____ | Four Mile Creek Greenbelt    |       |                                            |
| _____ | Mally’s Weh-Weh-Nee-Kee Park |       |                                            |
| _____ | Thomas Mitchell Park         |       |                                            |
| _____ | Sycamore Trail               |       |                                            |



## Contacts

### Polk County Conservation:

Zach Deutmeyer, Ranger; Four Mile Creek Greenbelt, Mally's,  
Thomas Mitchell Park, 515-967-4889, cell phone: 515-249-1753  
Easter Lake Ranger; Brown's Woods, Easter Lake,  
515-285-7612, cell phone 515-249-1543  
David Weidt, Ranger; Jester Park/Sycamore Trail,  
515-323-5338, cell phone: 515-249-3229  
Charlie Finch, Ranger; Yellow Banks Park and Gay Lea Wilson East Trail,  
515-266-1563, cell phone: 515-250-1031

### Iowa Department of Natural Resources: Conservation Officer:

Nate Anderson, cell phone: 515-238-4849  
Angie Jansen , cell phone: 515-238-5006

### Archery proficiency test

Archery Field and Sports 515-265-6500  
NE 56<sup>th</sup> St. Altoona, IA 50009

The following public park and recreation areas will be sponsoring controlled bowhunts this fall and winter in Polk County. Contact each area individually to obtain information on the application procedures and rules for participating in the bowhunt in that area.

<b>City of Johnston</b>	<b>David Croll</b>	<b>515-727-7780</b>
<b>Des Moines Park and Recreation Department</b>	<b>Paul Strome</b>	<b>515-248-6349</b>
<b>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Saylorville Lake</b>	<b>Coty Thompson</b>	<b>515-276-4656 ext 6514</b>
<b>Walnut Woods State Park</b>	<b>Josh Shipman</b>	<b>515-285-4502</b>
<b>West Des Moines Park and Recreation Dept.</b>	<b>Dave Sadler</b>	<b>515-222-3444</b>
<b>Clive Parks and Rec.</b>	<b>Jeff Theilen</b>	<b>515-238-0648</b>
	<b>Joel Pasco</b>	<b>515-210-7581</b>
<b>Pleasant Hill Parks and Rec. Coordinator</b>	<b>Andy Minnick</b>	<b>515-868-8177</b>
<b>Polk County Conservation</b>	<b>Charlie Finch</b>	<b>515-250-1031</b>
<b>Polk City</b>	<b>Matt Asweagan</b>	<b>515-689-1388</b>

The controlled bow hunt will also take place on privately-owned land in special deer management zones in several Polk County cities. The bow hunter must obtain landowner permission. Contact each city individually to obtain a map of the deer management zones and the procedure for participating in these controlled bow hunts taking place on privately-owned land within city limits.

<b>City of Johnston</b>	<b>David Croll</b>	<b>515-727-7780</b>
<b>City of Urbandale</b>	<b>Katelynn Cook</b>	<b>515-331-6892</b>
<b>City of Des Moines</b>	<b>Paul Strome</b>	<b>515-248-6329</b>

(private/public property requests)

## How to Participate

1. **Pass a one-time approved I.B.E.F. (International Bowhunter Education Foundation) bowhunter safety education course.**  
This course is now offered On-Line at [www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/HunterSafetyEducation/BowHunterEducation.aspx](http://www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/HunterSafetyEducation/BowHunterEducation.aspx)
2. **Pass an annual archery proficiency test using your hunting weapon.**  
The proficiency test must be administered at an N.F.A.A. (National Field Archery Association) approved indoor lane by a certified I.B.E.F. instructor. Approved locations are listed on page one. During the proficiency test, hunters are required to shoot 20 arrows: 10 from 15 yards and 10 from 20 yards at a full sized 3-D target. Each archer must score 80% or better in the vital target area to pass. A 24 centimeter (9.5inch) diameter circle may be substituted for the vital target area. Hunters failing the test twice in one year, will not be eligible to participate in the Urban Bow Hunt that season in Polk County.
3. **Apply for a special use permit to participate in the controlled bowhunt in the PCC area at which you desire to hunt.**  
Special use permit applications to hunt in Polk County Conservation (PCC) areas must be received prior to the application deadline. You will be notified by PCC regarding your application and the steps you should take next.
- **Purchase an Urban Deer Management Zone Antlerless Deer License (ZONE 48) from Archery Field and Sports, Johnston Bait and Tackle, Scheels All-Sports, Bass Pro Shops, or Sportsman's Warehouse.**  
This fall, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources will issue up to 1000 antlerless deer licenses for the Urban Deer Management Zone 48. Zone 48 are areas within city limits, Polk County Conservation areas, and Corps of Engineers areas. There are an additional 75 licenses available for zone 61, rural areas (outside city limits) not included in Zone 48. Urban Deer Management Zone licenses may be used on public or private land (with landowner's permission).  
Bowhunters are **not** allowed to use the regular 'antler-less only' Iowa Bow-hunting License for any area within the Deer Management Zone in Polk County. All hunters between the ages of 16 and 65 years of age must have a current wildlife habitat stamp.
4. **Meet with the Polk County Conservation Ranger to review the rules of the hunt and the boundaries of the special hunting areas**  
Your special use permit confirmation letter will list the Bow Hunt Orientation dates and locations. Park Rangers that oversee your hunting area will be at each meeting to discuss rules of the hunt and boundary areas. At this meeting, you will be required to show proof of passing the bow-hunter safety education course and the archery proficiency test as well as being legally entitled to hunt using a current Iowa hunting license.

I. Hunters, ages 12-15, can participate in the bow-hunt program OUTSIDE OF CITY LIMITS as long as they are under direct supervision of an adult (*also must meet all the requirements*). This would mean either the same tree stand or separate stands in the same tree. These younger hunters would have to pass a proficiency test annually. The age limit for any PCC properties within city limits is determined by the city ordinance (most are 18 years old).

II. Hunters, age 16-17, can participate in the bow-hunt program OUTSIDE OF CITY LIMITS as long as they are within 25 yards to an adult (*also must meet all the requirements*). This could mean that they are in separate trees from the adult. These hunters must have taken and passed a general hunting safety class, the bow-hunter safety education course, and pass an annual proficiency test. The age limit for any PCC properties within city limits is determined by the city ordinance (most are 18 years old).

III. Hunters, age 18 and older, can participate in the program freely and must meet all requirements of the program.

**5. Participate in the 2023-2024 Urban Deer Bow-hunt Program from September 16, 2023 - January 21, 2024.**

A maximum number of hunters will not be set at any PCC hunting property (unless a need arises). Special use permits will be distributed to approved hunters wanting to bow-hunt. Hunters can have multiple park permits.

**7. Seasons, rules and procedures may vary from one bow-hunting area to another. It is the hunter's responsibility to know the special rules and regulations for the area in which they are hunting. Violation of any of the PCC bow-hunting guidelines may result in immediate revocation of hunting privileges on Polk County Conservation property.**

Your PCC 'special use permit' will be valid during the 2022 - 2023 season only (September 17, 2022 – January 22, 2023). It will allow you to bowhunt in that PCC park or wildlife area.

## **Mission**

Polk County Conservation's mission is to provide the citizens of Polk County with quality outdoor recreation, conservation education, and the long-term protection of Polk County's natural heritage.

No individual with a disability will be excluded from participation in programs and activities conducted by Polk County Conservation. To request an accommodation to participate in this program or activity, contact  
Polk County Conservation

## Polk County Conservation Hunting Rules

All participants in the controlled bowhunt on PCC property *must* abide by the following:

1. Successfully complete a one-time bow-hunter safety education course (see age/supervision restrictions above) authorized by the International Bowhunter Education Foundation (I.B.E.F.).
2. Successfully pass an authorized archery proficiency test each year (no warm-up, only 2 qualifying attempts per year, shoot at a life-sized 3-D target, 20 shots total: 10 at 15 yards and 10 at 20 yards with hunter required to score 80% or better in vital area of the target in order to pass the test). Test must be taken at a National Field Archery Association approved indoor lane and administered by a certified I.B.E.F. instructor.
3. Obtain a 'special use permit' from Polk County Conservation (PCC) for the county park or wildlife area to be hunted.
4. All bows must be cased while traveling to and from the site of the hunting stand.
5. There will be no driving or stalking of deer.
6. All shots must be taken from elevated tree stands. All stands must be portable with **no permanent stands erected or screw-in steps used (no nails/lag screws driven into trees)**. Strap-on steps, a ladder, or a climbing stand are allowed. Tree stands can be put up one week prior to the Urban Bow Hunt Season, and shall be removed no later than one week post hunt season. Stands shall also visibly display a tag issued and recorded by a PCC Ranger.
7. All stands must be located at least 75 feet from roads or recreation trails and at least 200 feet (66.67 yds) from any residence or building, **and oriented in such a position as to direct shots away from roads, trails and structures (or as stated in city ordinance with respect to that area)** .
8. Hunters should know their effective shooting range and not shoot beyond that range. ***Shots shall not exceed 25 yards in PCC managed areas.***
9. Be sure to identify your target as an antlerless deer (unless hunter has Buck Incentive Tag for that area), focusing on adult does.
10. Be aware of what is downrange of your hunting stand and attempt to retrieve all arrows.
11. **Report your harvest of an antlerless deer within 12 hours to the PCC Ranger for the area in which you are hunting. Hunters are required to call the IDNR to report all harvested deer (phone number will be printed on transportation tag). *Hunters shall remove 1 ½" – 2" off the tip of either ear of all antler-less deer in the presence of the verifying official when checked in.***
12. Contact a PCC Park Ranger or Conservation Officer from the IDNR within 12 hours if you are unable to locate a wounded deer.
13. Use proper field dressing techniques. Don't leave entrails in a noticeable location. Carcass disposal is the responsibility of the hunter.
14. Respect private property.
15. Remove yourself immediately from any harassment situation with another hunter or citizen, and report the incident to the PCC Ranger, or IDNR Conservation Officer.
16. Report violators of any rules or regulations to the PCC Ranger or IDNR Conservation Officer.
17. Have in your possession at all times while bowhunting a valid Iowa hunting license, wildlife habitat stamp, Bow Hunter Safety Course Certification, Proficiency Test Certification and 'special use permit' from Polk County Conservation.
18. Be aware that seasons as well as rules and regulations for the controlled bowhunt may vary from one public hunting area to another. It is the bow hunter's responsibility to know the rules, regulations and boundaries for the public area in which they are hunting.
19. ***\*\*Hunters found in violation of any of these rules shall immediately have their 'special use permit' revoked. \*\****

**Polk County Conservation  
Buck Incentive Program**  
(Revised 07/3/16)

In an effort to further enhance what has been a successful program, the Polk County Deer Task Force implemented a buck incentive program. This is intended to increase harvests helping to reduce deer numbers within the Urban Deer Management Zone.

The Buck Incentive Program will be implemented in Polk County areas. The number of bucks taken from a park each year will be dependent upon the total number of doe harvested during the previous year and the latest aerial survey statistics.

**Eligibility:**

All hunters who take a doe during the current hunting season are eligible for a buck incentive license. Hunters will be required to remove 1<sup>1/2</sup>"-2" off either ear of the doe in the presence of the official verifying the harvest. If it is removed before checked-in, the doe will not be counted towards the hunter's total. **Deer must be tagged with a ZONE 48 deer management tag and be reported to IDNR ELSI system and Polk Counties Harvest site. Harvested deer not confirmed by ELSI and the Polk County Website will not be counted towards incentive program.**

**Process:**

A two-tiered approach for distributing these any-sex licenses to the hunters will be used in all PCC areas – with the exception of Sycamore Trail. One tier will be for the more successful group of hunters in designated parks. These hunters will be required to harvest at least 5 does (button bucks will not count) and the most successful of these will be guaranteed an any-sex license. For example, if 15 does is the highest number harvested by all hunters in that park, this hunter will be guaranteed one of the any-sex licenses. The next most successful hunter will also get an any-sex license until the quota is filled. If two or more hunters harvest the same number of does for the last remaining any-sex license, there will be a drawing amongst those hunters. Tags not issued for highest harvest awards will be added to lottery tags.

The second tier will be based on a lottery system. This is a less competitive format. For each doe harvested by a hunter, their name will be “placed in a hat” and a drawing will be held at the end of the season. Any hunter that receives an any-sex tag from the first tier is not eligible for the second tier. Hunters can only receive one buck incentive license each year in the Urban Deer Management Zone

This tag must be used within the area for which it was qualified.

The time line for this harvest/drawing procedure is as follows: All does harvested in September through January of the current year, will be used toward an incentive any-sex license valid during the following Special bow Hunt season.

