

IRONWOOD CITY COMPREHENSIVE DEER MANAGEMENT HUNT

2026 GUIDELINES

1. **Michigan Hunting Laws:** All applicable Michigan hunting laws and regulations apply.
2. **Hunter Conduct:** Hunters must avoid confrontations and shall not disturb or interfere with another legal hunter who is actively hunting or preparing to hunt. Hunter harassment includes conduct that prevents, disrupts, or interferes with the taking or attempted taking of wild animals. If harassed, remain calm, do not engage, and report the incident to Ironwood Public Safety at **(906) 932-1234**.
3. **Hunt Rules:** Hunters are responsible for knowing and following all applicable hunt rules, including:
 - Tree stands must be elevated at least **12 feet above the ground**;
 - No gut piles;
 - Carrying the required pocket identification card at all times, including while scouting;
 - Respecting vegetation, wildlife, City property, and other hunters' locations and hunting strategies;
 - Wearing a full-body safety harness while in a tree stand;
 - Reporting all harvested deer as required; and
 - Following all decisions of the City of Ironwood and/or Michigan DNR.
4. **Violations and Emergencies:** City Code violations, including hunting in an incorrect zone or without proper identification, will be enforced and reported to Ironwood Public Safety. For urgent situations, contact **(906) 932-1234**. A DNR Officer may be contacted through Ironwood Public Safety or Gogebic County Dispatch. For emergencies, call **911**.
5. **Trespassing and Wounded Deer:** Hunters must avoid trespassing. Do not track a wounded deer outside the designated Deer Management Area (DMA) with an uncased bow. Contact Ironwood Public Safety if a wounded deer leaves the designated hunting area.
6. **Hunter Cooperation:** Hunters desiring to hunt within the same zones are responsible for communicating with each other to determine safe stand locations, access plans, deer-retrieval strategies and assisting one another, when appropriate.
7. **Parking:** Vehicles that block traffic or interfere with public access are subject to ticketing or towing.
8. **Ending Participation:** Hunters who finish hunting for the season must notify the City immediately and surrender any unused permits so the opportunity can be offered to hunters on the waiting list.
9. **Wounding Deer:** Hunters should take only shots within their abilities and make every reasonable effort to recover wounded deer within their designated hunting area while being aware of other hunters' locations.

10. **Tree Stands:** One tree stand per hunter is permitted. Tree stands must be elevated at least **12 feet above the ground**, and hunters must wear a full-body safety harness while hunting from a tree stand. All stands must be removed within **three (3) days** after the end of the season or after a successful harvest.
11. **Harvest Reporting:** Every harvested deer must be reported to **Jen Jacobson at (906) 364-0174 as soon as possible** so the harvest can be recorded and a harvest slip issued before another DMA Permit is obtained. Harvests will be reported through the Michigan DNR Harvest Reporting System.
12. **Hunter-to-Hunter Etiquette:** Hunters shall not knowingly impose upon or interfere with other hunters, including respecting established hunting locations and relationships with property owners.
13. **Minimum Age:** Hunters must be at least **17 years old** at the time of application.
14. **2026 Hunt Seasons:**
 - **October 1 – November 14, 2026**
 - **December 1 – December 31, 2026**
15. **Proficiency Test:** All hunters must successfully complete the proficiency test required by City Ordinance.
16. **Fees:** A **\$10.00 non-refundable application fee** and a **\$10.00 administrative processing fee for each DMA Permit** issued will apply.
17. **Pre-Season Meeting:** **All hunters must attend the Pre-Season Meeting on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, at 5:00 P.M.** The meeting will be held in the Commission Chambers of the Ironwood Memorial Building, **213 S. Marquette Street**.
18. **Active Permits:** A maximum of **thirty (30) active permits** may be issued at one time. Additional permits may be issued when available and when there are no applicants on the waiting list. Contact **Jen Jacobson at (906) 364-0174** for additional permit information.
19. **ORV Use:** ORVs may be used to assist with removing harvested deer from the designated Deer Management Area, subject to applicable laws and regulations.
20. **Earn-A-Buck Incentive:** Hunters who participated in the previous year's Comprehensive Deer Management Hunt are eligible for the **Earn-A-Buck Incentive Program**. A hunter must harvest a doe before harvesting a buck. A maximum of **five (5) bucks** may be harvested under the program, with a maximum of **one (1) buck per hunter**.
21. **Eligible Property Owners:** Property owners registered with the City Clerk's Office who own **ten (10) or more acres of contiguous property bordered by City-owned land** may obtain a DMA Permit, subject to these guidelines and all applicable Michigan laws and regulations.
22. **Arrow Identification:** Hunters should mark their arrows with their initials for identification.