



TO: Property owners living within declared nuisance zones inside the city limits of Warsaw

FROM: Jeff Grose (Mayor), Todd Braddock (DTF Chair), Matt Dick (ANMC Member), Jon Cook (DNR), and David Robertson (DTF Member)

Date: July 2025

SUBJECT: Application information for Deer Reduction Zone Status

Thank you for your interest in our program. Within this packet we briefly describe how our program works and also explain your role as a private property owner living within a declared nuisance zone.

State and local officials have determined that deer overpopulation inside the city limits of Warsaw has become a public nuisance. Reported traffic accidents, observation, citizen complaints, property damage, and survey results all support this conclusion. It has also been determined that not attempting to reduce the deer population will be a greater threat to the health and safety of residents living in our area.

While other population control options such as fencing, repellents, trap and transfer, fertility agents, sharp shooting, and controlled public shotgun hunts have been studied and restudied, local and state officials have agreed that bow hunting consistently proves to be the safest, most cost efficient, and effective option for deer management in urban and suburban areas.

Please review all of the material provided in this packet and contact us if you have any questions.

Todd Braddock
Deer Task Force Chairman

Deer Reduction Efforts in Warsaw: A Brief History

Over the past two decades, residents have repeatedly contacted local officials voicing their concerns about deer overpopulation. The Deer Task Force (DTF) was created by the City Council during the winter of 2005 and began meeting in January of 2006. The mission of the DTF was to (1) identify areas and residential neighborhoods within the City of Warsaw that appeared to have high deer counts along with a large number of complaints from citizens, (2) study various ways to manage deer and learn how other cities and towns have successfully managed deer, and (3) share DTF findings and present a recommendation(s) to citizens and local public officials for their consideration and vote.

In the fall of 2006, the DTF recommended that the most practical, safe, and cost-efficient reduction effort in a declared nuisance zone is the use of archery equipment to be used by qualified and sanctioned hunters by our *Animal Nuisance Management Committee*. The DTF also recommended that reduction efforts begin near Spring Hill and Kosciusko Community Hospital. After years of increased reduction efforts, archers have taken more than nine hundred deer within the city limits of Warsaw.

In 2009, the DNR gave the City of Warsaw URBAN ZONE STATUS. This status was given to our entire city because of deer overpopulation. In July 2012, the DTF officially identified deer nuisance zones in and around the following areas: Spring Hill Addition, Country Club Drive, Rozella Ford Golf Course, and Boggs Park. For this season, the DTF is encouraging private property owners in declared nuisance zones to allow DTF archers to hunt on their properties.

Qualifications for Archery Hunters

An archery hunter participating in this specific reduction effort must meet the following requirements:

- Must be 21 years of age and a resident of Indiana.
- Must attend all meetings and training sessions required by the *Animal Nuisance Committee* for this specific reduction effort.
- Must have harvested at least three big game animals in the past using archery equipment.
- Three references. One reference must be from a landowner who has allowed you to hunt on his/her property.
- Must not have any State game violations.
- Must agree to any Federal, State or Local background checks.
- Must pass a shooting proficiency test established by the *Management Committee*.
- Must respect and follow all guidelines and regulations established by the DTF, ANMC, Mayor, City Council, and landowners.
- Must have landowner approval to hunt on his/her property if the property is identified as a DTF reduction zone within the city limits. Landowners and DTF archers MAY NOT participate in leasing property within the city limits.

Operations

- Archery hunters will be assigned to a zone(s) and identify the date(s) and time(s) they will be hunting in the zone(s). A calendar will be created by the DTF (with landowner approval) so the *Management Committee* knows when and who is hunting each day in the reduction zones. Hunting in reduction zones will occur only on weekdays.
- Each archery hunter working for the *Management Committee* will have an ID card and information packets explaining the purpose and mission of the DTF. Participants will also have approved and assigned parking areas near each reduction zone.
- Archers will use deer stands and portable tree stands at all times in each reduction zone. Archers will follow all guidelines established by the *Management Committee* in order to produce a high percentage shot.
- Archers will complete an online form after each reduction opportunity and the log will be reviewed by the Management Committee. Information will be available to the DTF, Warsaw City Council, landowners, and the DNR at the end of hunting season.

Frequently Asked Questions by Landowners

Is deer hunting allowed within the city limits for archers not in the DTF program?

NO. Hunting is not allowed anywhere within the city limits unless the city council identifies a deer nuisance zone, establishes a deer reduction zone, and gives DTF qualified archers the opportunity to hunt in a reduction zone during hunting season.

Do I have to allow hunting on my property if I live in a declared nuisance zone?

NO. We will respect your rights as a landowner. Only with your approval will the DTF and city council consider opening up your property for this deer reduction effort.

If my property is declared a reduction zone by the city council, can I decide which DTF approved archers hunt on my property and when they can hunt?

YES. You will determine who will be allowed to hunt on your property. However, because this is a reduction effort, we hope landowners will give all of our archers an opportunity to hunt on their property. But remember, the final decision and approval will be the private landowners. Lastly, we do not allow leasing agreements between you and DTF archers in our program.

I want to hunt on my property this season. How do I apply for reduction zone status?

Fill out the application form in this packet and bring it to the WPD. After reviewing your application, a DTF member will contact you. Your application will be evaluated by the ANMC and members of the DTF. A property owner interested in participating in our program must complete this application process each year.

Deer Reduction Zone Application 2025-26

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

E-mail: _____

Property Description (provide an aerial map if possible): _____

Identify guidelines and/or restrictions you would like placed on this property if it is approved as a deer reduction zone (DTF archers who can participate, parking concerns, calendar issues, no bucks should be taken, etc.):

“As a property owner within the city limits of Warsaw, I support and agree to follow all of the guidelines and rules for the deer reduction effort established by the DTF and approved by the City Council.”

Property Owner Signature: _____

(Please bring this completed application to Warsaw Police Department.)

The DTF recommends that you (the landowner) complete this form with any DTF archer(s) you allow to hunt for deer on your property. (This is not a requirement)



(To be retained by the DTF Archer)

According to Indiana Code 14-22-10-1, a person may not fish, hunt, trap, chase; shoot with any kind of firearm or archery equipment; search for or gather any plant life; or search for or gather any artifacts upon privately owned land without having the consent of the owner or tenant of the land. For more information, contact the Division of Law Enforcement at (317) 232-4010.

User's Name _____

Permitted Activities: Hunting Fishing Trapping Other

Restrictions/Additional Informatio _____

Landowner's Name _____

Landowner's Phone _____

Landowner's Signature _____

(To be retained by the landowner)

Protect Indiana Wildlife – Give TIP a call when you see people breaking fish, wildlife and environmental laws.

According to Indiana Code 14-22-10-2, an owner, tenant, lessee, or occupant of a tract of land does not assume responsibility or incur liability for injuries to hunters, anglers and trappers while in the act of, or preparing to hunt, fish or trap on the land, provided that the injury was not caused by a malicious or illegal act of the owner or occupant. For more information, contact the Division of Law Enforcement at (317) 232-4010.

User's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (day) _____ Phone (evening) _____

Vehicle Make _____ Model _____

Color _____ Vehicle License Plate No. _____

Permitted Activities: Hunting Fishing Trapping Other

Restrictions/Additional Information _____

In return for the privilege to use private land, I agree to abide by landowner rules, obey all laws, conduct myself in a safe and ethical manner and hold the landowner harmless from accidental injury.

User's Signature _____ **Protect**

Indiana Wildlife – Give TIP a call when you see people breaking fish, wildlife and environmental laws.