

Greenway Technical Committee (GTC) Staff meeting
10 AM – Tuesday, June 18, 2024
Icon Sports Center, 1060 47th Ave South, Blue Line Club Meeting room
Grand Forks, ND
Meeting Notes

George Hellyer, GF Parks
Catherine Johnson, MNDNR
Dep. Chief Chad Cutshaw, GF Fire
Carter Hunter, GF Engineering

Tyler Manske, MPO
Matt Aarvig, City of GF
Theresa Flitter, City of GF
Kim Greendahl, City of GF

I. Old Business

- A. EGF Deer Management Plan: The EGF City Council has approved a deer management plan that includes a bow hunt this fall. The hunt will not occur on state-owned land, including the campground, River Heights area, and the area around the boat landing on the Red Lake River. The City will use a lottery system to issue ten bow permits (nine antlerless and one buck). The hunters must pass a proficiency test and be assigned an area to hunt.
- B. Downtown Gateway + Greenway Renovation Master Plan update: The National Park Service is reviewing the application and has asked for clarification on a few items. Notification for Round Two of the review process will come in November.
- C. Wayfinding sign plan
 - i. Data collection: The next step in the project is to gather data. The mobile app is almost ready to launch. Once the app is available, volunteers will collect data for locations that they think need either a directional or welcome sign. That data will load into the GF City GIS software and create an information layer showing location, sign type, and other items related to each location. All of this will be used to assess funding needs and implement the project.

II. New Business

- A. River buoys: Fourteen river buoys have been ordered for placement in the Red River. These were purchased with Greenway funds, and the GF Sheriff's Department will manage the installation and removal. The buoys will designate downtown as a no-wake area and warn of the dam.

III. Bicycle, Pedestrian & Greenway, Advisory Group update: None

IV. Other

- A. Potential mountain lion sighting: A resident reported to Kim that they had seen a mountain lion in the Sunbeam area. There has not appeared to be any activity so far this week, so it was most likely passing through the area.
- B. Kayak storage: Kim received a request for kayak storage lockers near the boathouse. She has contacted a park district in West Des Moines because they have kayak storage lockers. The lockers they use do not seem sturdy enough to be moved frequently, which would be needed along the rivers in GGF. She will ask the two local welding shops if they can fabricate something that meets our needs.

- C. Bicycle Benefits Program: This is a program through Live Well Grand Cities and Blue Zones of GF to promote biking. Local businesses offer a discount or perk to cyclists who bike to their business. Stickers are available at several hub locations and placed on the rider's helmets to receive discounts or perks from local businesses.
- V. Agency updates
 - A. City of EGF:
 - B. GF Park District: Riverside Pool is now open. They are back to full staffing status for lifeguards after several years of being short staffed.
 - C. City of GF:
 - D. Minnesota DNR: The dock on the Red Lake River has been taken out because of the rising water. A 20th anniversary celebration for the campground was held June 8.
 - E. GF Streets: The dock at the north boat ramp has been installed but will probably need to come back out this week because of the rising river.
 - F. MPO: The Safe Streets 4 All project is gathering public input for their report. Suggestions and comments can be made on their website.
- VI. Next meeting date: Greenway Technical Committee 10 AM Tuesday, July 16, Icon Sport Center, 1060 47th Ave South, Blue Line Club meeting room.

Support documents: EGF Deer Management Plan dated June 2024

Submitted by: Kim Greendahl, City of GF

CITY OF EAST GRAND FORKS DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN

June 2024



City of East Grand Forks – Deer Management Plan

1.0 INTRODUCTION

East Grand Forks, Minnesota, was established in 1887 and is located in northwestern Minnesota on the border with neighboring North Dakota at the intersection of U.S. Highway 2 and Minnesota Highway 220. East Grand Forks runs parallel to the Minnesota-North Dakota border on the Minnesota side of the Red River of the North. The Red Lake River also runs through the city and connects to the Red River of the North.

Following the flood of 1997, the areas close to the river have been turned into the Greenway system on both the Minnesota and North Dakota sides of the river. The Greenway system that include parks, a campground, golf courses, disc golf courses, over 20 miles of trails, with many areas being left as natural habitat. It is this natural habitat that has provided a safe haven for wildlife, especially the white-tailed deer.

In previous years the City Council has discussed issues and complaints that have been received regarding the deer population. Due to additional complaints staff started looking into what could be done, looking at addressing safety concerns, and amending ordinances to include among other things allowing the discharge of a bow and arrow within city limits.

The change in ordinances combined with (but not limited to) the following factors:

- Lack of natural predators
- Abundant food sources
- Wooded shelter
- Free flowing water sources

These factors have led to an increased deer population within the city limits of East Grand Forks. The East Grand Forks Police Department did conduct an informal survey by checking various locations from March 21st through March 28th. That count came to a total of 74 deer being visible in locations such as the greenway area, the campground, city parks, school property, and private residential yards.

2.0 Citizen Complaints

Over the past several years, numerous complaints have been received by the Administration Office about deer damaging gardens, lawns, trees, and shrubbery. There have also been several calls to the Police Department when there have been crashes with deer and vehicles. From January 1, 2020 until March of 2024 there were 90 deer related complaints that were received by the East Grand Forks Police Department.

3.0 IMPACTS

- Substantial reductions of natural vegetation in secure “bedding” areas
- Landscape integrity
- Public safety

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- Reported and potential car / deer collisions

4.0 POPULATION

The East Grand Forks Police Department did conduct an informal count from March 21st to March 28th by marking down the time and location they saw deer in the community. That count came to a total of 74 deer being visible in various locations on both the north end and the south end of the city in locations such as city parks and private residential yards. It is likely the number of deer residing in and very near the city limits exceeds 100 individuals.

5.0 GOALS and OBJECTIVES

GOAL:

To manage the deer population within the city limits of East Grand Forks and to keep the population at an acceptable cultural and biological level.

OBJECTIVES:

- Reduce the population to an acceptable level which reduces the yearly calls to the Police Department and the number of property damage complaints.
- Reduce the chances of car / deer collisions
- Reduce property damage
- Educate the public on the special hunt and the prohibition of feeding deer.

6.0 MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Monitoring:

The East Grand Forks Police Department will conduct an annual, informal survey by checking the places routinely frequented by deer during the month of March and report that total number to the MN DNR Area Wildlife Office and the City of East Grand Forks.

Education:

Publish an annual article in the Exponent and create a webpage on the City website educating city residents on the hunt and the prohibition of feeding deer.

7.0 POPULATION CONTROL

1) Regulated Archery

The City of East Grand Forks will work with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (through the Thief River Falls Area Wildlife Office) to allow for nine (9) special antlerless permits and one (1) buck or antlerless permit to be used in special

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hunts during the 2024, 2025 and 2026 archery season, or until the deer population reaches an acceptable level. When that level is achieved, an archery hunt may be continued with fewer permits being issued.

- 2) The local authority responsible for monitoring the regulated archery will be the East Grand Forks Police Department.
- 3) The City of East Grand Forks will modify existing ordinances to allow for a ten-day regulated archery hunt.

8.0 SUPPORT

The City Council and the East Grand Forks Police Department support this deer management plan.

9.0 City Maps

- See Pages 8-12

10.0 Existing Ordinance

132.06 USE OF BOW AND ARROW

It is unlawful for any person to shoot a bow and arrow except in the Physical Education Program in a school supervised by a member of its faculty, or a community wide supervised class or event specifically authorized by the Chief of Police.

11.0 Proposed Amendments to local Ordinance

To Include the following:

Section 1. That Section 132.04 shall be modified by removing the current 132.04 (B) and replacing it with the following:

(B) Hunting. No person shall use a gun, pistol, or firearm of any description to engage in the practice of hunting wild game including deer within city limits or on city-owned land located outside of city limits.

1. Exceptions. White tail deer may be taken by lawful means of archery within the city limits during special archery hunts as approved by the State DNR. All State DNR rules and regulations will apply to any special hunt. The City of East Grand Forks may restrict the duration and location of said hunting activities. The City may also place local restrictions on said permits and develop a lottery system for the issuance of said permits.

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2. Responsible party. The East Grand Forks Police Department will be responsible for the issuance of any special permits and the monitoring of any special hunts approved by the State DNR.

Section 2. That section 132.06 Use of Bow and Arrow shall be removed, and the following shall be replaced:

132.06 USE OF BOW AND ARROW/CROSS BOW

(A) Bow and Arrow/Cross Bows. It is unlawful for any person to shoot a bow and arrow or crossbow within the city limits of the city, except in a school physical education program supervised by a member of its faculty, or a community wide-supervised class or an event specifically authorized by the City Council or a bow and arrow/crossbow or archery range authorized by the City Council.

(B) Deer stands and similar devices:

1. Generally deer stands and other similar devices which may be used in the taking of wild game including deer are prohibited within the city limits or on city owned property that is outside of city limits.

2. Exceptions. Individuals approved to participate in a special archery hunt approved by the State DNR may use deer stands and similar devices that comply with local restrictions.

3. Special hunt will have following regulations will be in place:

a. All hunters will have to attend the mandatory orientation put on by the city and demonstrate their proficiency in shooting archery.

b. Only those with permits issued by the City will be allowed to hunt on city property within city limits. No hunting is allowed on city property outside of city limits.

c. Only specific, designated areas can be used for the special hunt.

d. All hunters will be required to wear one piece of blaze orange that will be visible from all directions.

e. An ATV or UTV can be utilized to remove a deer from the designated hunting location and a permit will be issued for use when the permit for hunting is issued.

f. All deer harvested from city property will be reported to both the East Grand Forks Police Department and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

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g. Any hunters found hunting on city property within city limits or on city property located outside of city limits without a permit from the City will be subject to City Code Section 10.99 General Penalty.

Section 3. City Code Chapter 10 entitled "General Provisions" applicable to entire city code including penalty for violation and Section 10.99 entitled "General Penalty" are hereby adopted in their entirety, by reference, as though repeated verbatim herein.

12.0 Special Hunt Regulations

The special hunt will have following regulations will be in place:

- All hunters will have to attend the mandatory orientation put on by the city and demonstrate their proficiency in shooting archery.
- Residents living within city limits will be given preference when issuing hunting permits for the special hunt. If not all of the special hunting permits are issued to city residents, there would be an opportunity for those living outside of city limits to be issued a special hunting permit.
 - o Only those with permits issued by the City will be allowed to hunt on city property within city limits. No hunting is allowed on city property outside of city limits.
- Only specific, designated areas can be used for the special hunt.
- All hunters will be required to wear one piece of blaze orange that will be visible from all directions.
- An ATV or UTV can be utilized to remove a deer from the designated hunting location and a permit will be issued for use when the permit for hunting is issued.
- To help decrease the deer population, hunters will only be able to hunt for nine (9) special antlerless permits and one (1) buck or antlerless permit. This could be subject to change in future years.
- Any hunters found hunting on city property within city limits or on city property located outside of city limits without a permit from the City will be subject to City Code Section 10.99 General Penalty.
- All deer harvested from city property will be reported to both the East Grand Forks Police Department and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.
- All deer stands used for the special hunt can be placed no earlier than seven days prior to the hunt and would have to be removed no later than one day after the 10-day special hunt.

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- If placing a deer stand, all responsibility is on the hunter and the City will not be liable or responsible for any damages to or stands that are stolen.
- Once a hunter fills a city tag, they are no longer eligible to hunt on city property until the next special hunt and receive a city-issued tag through the lottery system.

This Deer management plan is approved by the City of East Grand Forks:

Date: 6/13/24

Mayor: Steve Gander

Steve Gander

City Administrator: Reid Huttunen

Reid Huttunen









