

River Valley Deer Management LLC
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Hudson, WI 54016
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Contract for City of Hudson, Wisconsin

River Valley Deer Management will create, manage and implement a controlled archery only deer hunt within the confines of the City on both public and private lands from September 2010 through January 31, 2011. The Hunt will adhere to all requirements of the Wisconsin DNR deer season, working with the City Council and Harvey Halvorsen, Wildlife Biologist with Wisconsin DNR to achieve the desired results.

The primary purpose will be to remove antlerless deer and accumulate data regarding the effectiveness of such a program for Hudson, allowing the City and River Valley Deer management to implement an ongoing Urban Archery Program. This will be a pilot program for 2010, designed to reduce the deer population by an estimated 50-75 animals. The program will mirror the successful pilot program implemented in 2009 for the Village of North Hudson. River Valley Deer Management LLC has informed the City that, to be effective, a deer population reduction program should be continued for a number of years.

River Valley Deer Management understands that the City will provide no funding for this project in 2010. As such, River Valley Deer Management agrees to absorb all direct costs of implementing the pilot program including deer tags, insurance, removal and donation of harvested deer. This does not include administrative time from the City.

If, in its sole discretion, the City decides to continue the program beyond 2010, and an agreement is reached between the City and River Valley Deer Management, the City may apply for grant funds to implement the program for 2011 and beyond. Whether to continue the program and apply for grant funds, if available, shall be in the sole discretion of the City.

1. Origin. The deer herd in Hudson has grown considerably in the last 10 years. While deer sightings are a bonus to living in Hudson, the growth of the herd has increased deer/car collisions, and damaged residential plantings, prompting resident complaints and threatening the biodiversity of our ecosystem, as deer dominate the local animal and plant species. According to current DNR estimates, GMU 60M, which encompasses all of Hudson, has a deer population of 80 deer per square mile. A healthy population would number 20-30 deer per square mile.

River Valley Deer Management LLC has informed the City that the concept of a controlled hunt to limit but not eliminate deer is being used very successfully by cities across the US, including Wisconsin. River Valley's proposed program is modeled after the successful programs employed by Ecogix of Pennsylvania and Grantsburg, WI.

River Valley Deer Management LLC is a Wisconsin corporation made up of six Hudson residents with decades of archery experience. All six are certified through Minnesota's Bow Hunter Education Program covering bow hunting techniques, bow hunting safety, and hunter responsibility. Two of our members work for law enforcement agencies in Minnesota. River

Valley Deer management is insured for up to \$3,000,000 in General Liability, \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$300,000 property damage per occurrence. All properties hunted by River Valley and its members are covered by this insurance.

2. 2010 Program. The Pilot Program for 2010 must be tightly controlled to ensure its success, and to collect the necessary data to present to the Council for an informed decision to be made for the continuation of the program. The 2010 program will consist of the six owners of River Valley Deer Management LLC serving as the hunters. Hunters will be added according to the available land to actually hunt in the City.

All requirements for hunters, data collection, antlerless quotas, carcass recovery and donation, landowner recruitment, and relations established in the Pilot Program year will carry over to the Full Program upon agreement by the Common Council.

3. Full Program. For 2010 and beyond, if in its sole discretion, the Common Council decides to continue the program beyond 2010, a Deer Management Committee will be created on the City of Hudson Common Council to interface with residents, the DNR, and River Valley Deer Management LLC. River Valley Deer Management will execute the City Deer Management Program according to the following:

- The control method will be archery-only hunting on public ground and private land where written permission is received from the property owner.
- The hunt will be conducted within the confines of the Wisconsin DNR archery season. All State of Wisconsin DNR Hunting regulations apply, as well as City ordinances (acceptance of the program assumes exemption from the City ordinance restricting firing a bow within City limits).
- Tags will be obtained by the City of Hudson or the hunter.
- The hunt will be for antlerless deer only unless the hunter possesses an unfilled archery buck tag. The hunter agrees to adhere to River Valley management policy requiring a minimum of 5 does harvested to qualify to harvest an antlered deer. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in expulsion from the program.
- Hunters need to apply annually for the program. A review of past performance will be a critical component to readmission, as well as an annual proficiency exam.
- River Valley Deer Management shall provide liability insurance coverage in an amount determined by the City and the City shall be named as an additional insured on the policy. A certificate of insurance shall be attached to this contract showing coverage in effect during the time this contract is being performed.

All Hunt information including land being hunted, special instructions for each parcel, the number of hours hunted on each parcel, deer sighted, deer harvested, age and sex (estimated) will be logged on River Valley's website: www.RiverValleyDeerManagement.com (up but under construction and not public).

Hunter's wishing to apply for 2010 can find the application form, requirements and program information at the web site. Hunting parcel assignment will be allocated from this site. This website portal will be the main collection point for data. All hunters will enter the hours hunted, deer sighted, harvested etc.

Reports for the City and Landowners will be generated from this site and distributed as needed.

4. Hunters. For the program to be successful, River Valley Deer Management hunters will adhere to the highest standards regarding safety, ethics and shot selection. Our hunters agree that promoting bow hunting as a safe, valuable management tool, while safely reducing antlerless deer in Hudson, is first and foremost our goal.

All accepted hunters in the River Valley Deer Management Program agree to adhere to the highest in ethical standards. Safety of the residents and hunters is our first priority. Shot selection ensuring a quick humane kill, while allowing for a quick recovery, is a must.

All selected hunters will:

- Possess many years of bow hunting experience.
- Be Members of the National Field Archery Association.
- Have completed the required Bow Hunting Education Certification course.
- Agree to antlerless harvest quota.
- Sign and agree with River Valley Deer Management's "Code of Conduct, Landowner Respect" document detailing our stringent ethical and safety regulations.
- Sign a City Waiver of all claims document including background check.

All Landowners in the program will sign a City waiver. All copies of signed Landowner waivers will be given to the City. River Valley has contacted several key landowners in Hudson who are open to hunting and excited to see the program start this fall.

5. Follow up. River Valley Deer Management requests that this contract be accepted by the City of Hudson as a Pilot Program, working collectively with the DNR and the City to gather the necessary data to support an ongoing program, open to limited public hunting participation. Much work is yet to be completed for the controlled hunt to begin in September 2010, the start of Archery Deer Season in Wisconsin.

Upon formal acceptance of this Pilot Program for 2010, a letter needs to be drafted to River Valley Deer Management LLC by the City, documenting that River Valley Deer Management has been chosen to execute the Deer Removal Hunt. With that letter, River Valley can begin the process of canvassing the City in search of appropriate locations to actually harvest the deer, contact those landowners, and secure the appropriate insurance riders.

The 2010 Archery Deer Season continues until January 31, 2011. While River Valley will certainly keep the Council apprised of our progress during the hunt, (we expect to be in contact weekly with the Deer Management Committee during the hunt) the full data/results package should be available within 30 days of that date, and will be delivered to the City at its completion.

We look forward to working with the City of Hudson to address the issue of our over-abundant deer in a positive, eco-friendly, responsible manner for years to come.

Accepted by:

City of Hudson, Wisconsin Date
Dean R. Knudson, Mayor

River Valley Deer Management LLC
Lon Feia, Managing Partner