



## CITY WATER LIGHT & POWER CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

**Douglas A. Brown**  
Chief Utility Engineer

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — The City of Springfield's City Water, Light and Power (CWLP) and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), will again partner up to allow archery deer hunting on specific properties around Lake Springfield beginning in October. IDNR's Illinois Recreational Access Program (IRAP) will help the City place experienced archery deer hunters on selected sites around Lake Springfield with the goal to lower the overpopulated white-tailed deer herd in the area.

"On the 4,300 acres of marginal land around Lake Springfield the utility not only strives to take steps to protect our water supply and natural wildlife areas, but to also to balance the needs for public use as a regional recreational destination with the residential use of our properties," **said CWLP Water Division Manager Todd LaFountain**. "With the deer population continuing to be at numbers over the recommended density even after last year's program, we're pleased we can again make our sites available through the Illinois Recreational Access Program."

Past deer population research shows a density of 15 to 20 deer per square mile is often consistent with maintaining healthy native plant communities; a 2021 aerial survey of the deer population around Lake Springfield revealed an average of 77 deer per square mile. After working with wildlife professionals from the IDNR to review options, controlled archery deer hunting in specific areas was determined to be the best course of action to decrease the population over a period of time.

"City officials asked us about a number of options to help control the deer population around Lake Springfield, but in the end, archery hunting provided the best fit because it provided a long-term and cost-effective solution to the problem," **said Tammy Miller, Special Programs Manager, IDNR**.

IDNR's Illinois Recreational Access Program (IRAP) will help the City place experienced archery deer hunters on selected sites around Lake Springfield. CWLP is encouraging hunters to donate their harvested deer to the Central Illinois Foodbank and will pay the \$50 hunter portion of the processing fee for the first 60 deer donated.

"We're pleased to work with Illinois hunters, Turasky Meats, and the Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry program to cover the processing fee for the first 60 deer donated," **LaFountain said**. "Just one deer can provide up to 200 meals for area residents in need."

### **IRAP Lake Springfield Basics:**

- Sites are available to experienced archery deer hunters who are willing and have the time to harvest at least three deer in a two week time period.
- Two antlerless deer must be harvested first before an antlered deer.
- Successful hunters are required to submit an IRAP survey and harvest reports.
- Hunters are encouraged to donate at least one deer to the food bank through a designated meat processor in Springfield.

**Who:** Any legally licensed, EXPERIENCED archery deer hunter who resides in Sangamon, Macoupin, Morgan, Menard, Macon, Christian, Logan or Montgomery County and is willing to harvest at least three or more deer.

**When:** IRAP has four different hunting periods, allowing the participant 15 or 16 days of hunting access on the site. A successful applicant will be assigned to one hunting period.



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Period 1: October 1-15  
Period 2: October 16-31  
Period 3: November 1-15  
Period 4: December 16-31

**Where:** City, Water, Light and Power and IRAP have chosen several specific sites around Lake Springfield. These sites may be located near roads, homes and buildings. Hunters must be aware and keep an appropriate distance from these areas.

**How it works:** Applicants apply for an IRAP Lake Springfield archery deer site by completing an online application along with the liability waiver. Only successful applicants will be notified approximately three weeks prior to their awarded hunting period and instructed as to where their hunting site is located along with a map, instructions and a site permit allowing them to hunt on city-owned property. Applicants may apply for up to 3 different IRAP hunting periods, but will only be chosen for one hunting period.

Applications are available online through the IRAP website at <https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/conservation/IRAP/Pages/Lake-Springfield-Archery-Deer.aspx> and will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. Aug. 10, 2022.

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