

**CITY OF STEVENS POINT
DEER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA
November 9, 2023 - 7:30 AM**

[Zoom Teleconferencing](#)

Meeting ID: 831 4898 3069 | Passcode:437689

By Computer: [Join](#)

By Phone: +1-312-626-6799 (US Chicago)

(A quorum of the City Council may attend this meeting)

Discussion and Possible Action on:

1. Approval of the Deer Management Committee meeting minutes of June 15, 2023.
2. Status and update on 2023 deer culling operations.
3. 2024 Urban Wildlife Damage Abatement and Control Grant Application
4. Selection of next meeting date.
5. Adjournment.

Any person who has special needs while attending this meeting or needs agenda material for this meeting should contact the City Clerk as soon as possible to ensure reasonable accommodations can be made. The City Clerk can be reached by telephone at 715-346-1569, or by mail at 1515 Strongs Ave., Stevens Point WI, 54481.

Copies of ordinances, resolutions, reports and minutes of the committee meetings are on file at the office of the City Clerk for inspection during normal business hours from 7:30am to 4:00pm.

**CITY OF STEVENS POINT
DEER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA
June 15, 2023 - 7:30 AM**

[Zoom Teleconferencing](#)

Meeting ID: 889 9866 0699 | Passcode: 530117

By Computer: [Join Meeting](#)

By Phone: +1-312-626-6799 (US Chicago)

(A quorum of the City Council may attend this meeting)

Discussion and Possible Action on:

1. Selection of committee chair-person

John Okonek was nominated to be chairperson by Hygnstrom. Okonek accepted the nomination, no other nominations were received. The voice vote was 4-0 to approve John Okonek as chairperson of the deer management committee.

2. Selection of committee vice chair-person

Michael Bialas was nominated to be vice chair by Okonek, no other nominations were received. Bialas was approved as vice chair by a voice vote 4-0.

3. Approval of the Deer Management Committee minutes of March 16, 2023.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes as written by Bialas, second by Hygnstrom, motion passed 4-0.

4. Update on deer culling contractor requests for proposals

No action taken

5. Approval of Workshop on Shooting Deer in Urban-surburban Environments.

Hyngstrom summarized the training and how he plans to teach the program. He does not anticipate any costs for this first year. Motion to approve the training by Bialas, second by Greendeer, motion passed 4-0.

6. Selection of next meeting date and time

7. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 am

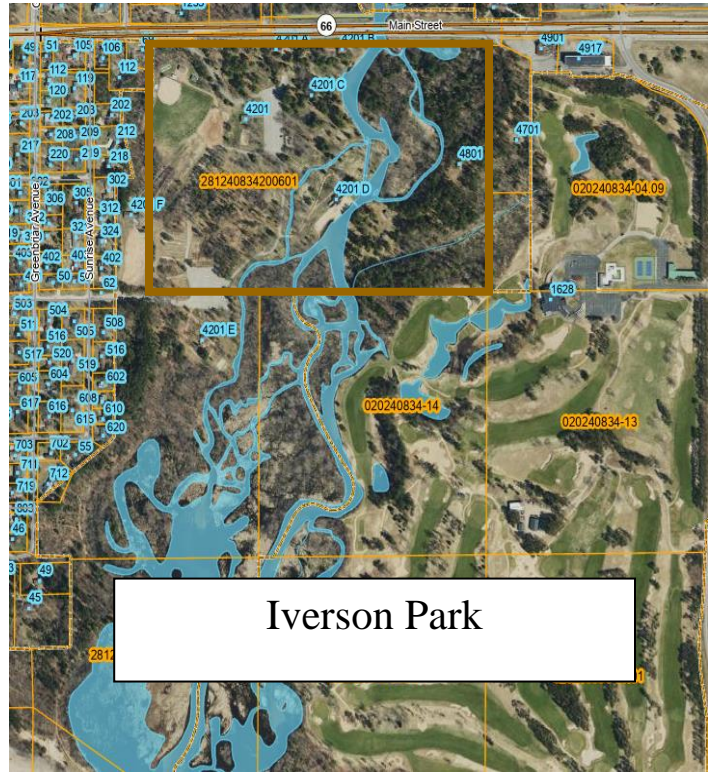
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Attachments Supporting the City of Stevens Point, WI Urban Wildlife Damage Abatement and Control Grant Application, 2023

Attachment A - Description of Project Area and Geographic Extent of Damage

Wildlife damage occurs throughout the City of Stevens Point with areas in the north and east sides having greater concentrations of white-tailed deer than more densely populated areas in the center of the City. Problems caused by Canada geese primarily occur in Pfiffner Pioneer, Bukolt, and Mead Parks, that are located on the banks of the Wisconsin River, near downtown Stevens Point, which makes the Parks highly desirable destinations for people and geese. See maps on pages 2-4.





Attachment B - Associated Stevens Point Ordinances

CHAPTER 24

PUBLIC PEACE AND OFFENSES AGAINST PUBLIC POLICY

Section

- 24.01 Disorderly Conduct
- 24.02 Loitering on School Grounds
- 24.03 Possession or Drinking of Malt Beverages or Intoxicating Liquor on Public Ways and Containers Spectator Facilities
- 24.04 Drinking in Goerke Memorial Park
- 24.05 Non-Motorized Boat Area on McDill Pond
- 24.06 Littering
- 24.07
- 24.08 Cruelty to Animals-see section 14.03
- 24.09 Storage of Refrigerators, Freezers, & Other Similar Containers
- 24.10 Battery
- 24.11 Battery to Peace Officers and Fire Fighters
- 24.12 Firearms and Weapons
- 24.13 Hunting in the city
- 24.14 Discharging Firearms/Fun/Archery Arrow
- 24.15 Fireworks Regulated
- 24.16 Damage to Property; Graffiti
- 24.17 Trespass to Property
- 24.18 Theft
- 24.19 Dognapping and Catnapping- see section 14.04
- 24.20 Fraud on Hotel or Restaurant Keeper or Taxicab Operator
- 24.21 Use of Cheating Tokens
- 24.22 Retail Theft/Shoptlifting
- 24.23 Gambling
- 24.24 Swimming, Water Skiing or Boating in Vicinity of Municipal Boat Landing Dock
- 24.25 Curfew for Minors Fifteen Years of Age and Under
- 24.26 Jurisdiction of City Over Offenses
- 24.27 City Ordinance Citations and Bond Schedule
- 24.28 Massage Parlor Regulations
- 24.29 Pornographic Material or Performances
- 24.30 Theft of Library Material
- 24.31 Restitution, Authority to Impose
- 24.32 Entry onto Construction Site or into Locked Building, Dwelling or Room.
- 24.33 Attempted Battery, Attempted Theft
- 24.34 Harassment
- 24.35 Urinating/Defecating on Property without Owner's Consent
- 24.36 Truancy
- 24.37 Skateboards, Roller Skates, Roller Skis, In-Line Skates and Play Vehicles

- 24.38 Cigarettes and Tobacco Products - Minors
- 27.39 Parties to Ordinance Violation

PUBLIC PEACE AND
OFFENSES

Sec. 24.13

24.15 HUNTING IN THE CITY.

Except as specifically provided otherwise by section 24.14 or another section of the revised municipal code or except as specifically authorized by the common council, no person may hunt any wild animal in the city. Whenever an authorization from the city to hunt in the city has any conditions associated with it, no person may exercise such authorization without complying with any and all such conditions.

Whoever violates this section is subject to a forfeiture of not more than \$200.00 and in lieu of such payment assessed imprisoned for not more than sixty (60) days in the county jail.

24.14 DISCHARGING FIREARM/GUN/ARCHERY ARROW.

- (1) Whoever discharges, except a peace officer, any firearm, spring gun, air gun, or archery arrow within the City of Stevens Point is subject to a forfeiture of not more than \$200.00 and in lieu of such payment assessed, imprisonment for not more than sixty (60) days in the county jail.
- (2) The provisions in section (1) shall not apply on certain public lands during those periods of time designated by the common council as open to hunting by the use of certain weapons.
- (3) The provisions in subsection (1) shall not apply to such activities on the following described real estate:

That part of Section 23, Township 24 North, Range 8 East, Town of Hull, County of Portage, State of Wisconsin described as follows:

The Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter, the Northwest Quarter the Southeast Quarter, the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter and that part of the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the Southwest corner of said Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter; thence north along the west line of said Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter to a point 627.80 feet south of the Northwest corner of said Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 23; thence N29°55'E to a point on the north line of said Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 23 said point being 360.5 feet east of the Northwest corner thereof; thence east along said north line to its northeast corner thereof; thence south along the east line of said Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter to its southeast corner thereof; thence west along the south line of said Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter to the point of beginning and there terminating.

- (4) The provisions in subsection (1) shall not apply to any building, premises or area approved for such discharge by the common council.
- (5) The provisions in subsection (1) shall not apply to any person taking rough fish on McDill Pond with a bow and arrow in compliance with the provisions of Wis. Stat. §29.405 and Chapter NR 20, Wisconsin Administrative Code. Bowfishing shall not be allowed within 100 feet of any city park, boat landing, or roadway and shall be allowed only downstream of the Patch Street Bridge.

(6) The provisions in subsection (1) shall not apply to any person discharging an archery arrow/crossbow bolt for purposes of hunting, provided that:

(a) The arrow/bolt is discharged toward the ground; and

(b) The person discharging the arrow/bolt either does so at least 100 yards from all buildings located on land owned by another person, or obtains written permission from such landowners to discharge an arrow/bolt less than 100 yards from any building located on land owned by the person providing such written permission.

(7) The provisions in subsection (1) shall not apply to any person discharging an archery arrow/crossbow bolt for purposes of carrying out deer culling as approved by the Deer Management Committee.

(8) The provisions in subsection (1) shall not apply to any person discharging an archery arrow/crossbow bolt while participating in a physical education program organized by a public or parochial school or the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Attachment C - Urban Wildlife Damage Abatement and Control Project Description/Scope

White-tailed deer - The City of Stevens Point maintained a deer culling program, funded solely by tax revenues for several years, but in the last 8 years have used tax revenues, private donations, and WDNR Urban Damage Abatement and Control funds to manage the program. Deer-vehicle collisions (DVCs) continue to be a problem for motorists. Increases in repair costs and insurance premiums directly affect residents. According to data provided by the Stevens Point Police Department, the number of DVCs that occurred within the City limits from 2014 to 2019 averaged 13.2 per year, with a range of 11-17. Furthermore, the north and east sides of the City incur significant damage to expensive landscaping due to annual deer browsing. Many homeowners continue to express frustration with the inevitable preference of deer for prime landscaping plants over scarcer forage in the forests and fields that surround these sections of the City. Motorists and homeowners bear the financial responsibility for deer damage.

The Stevens Point Deer Management Committee has responsibility for the planning, coordination, funding, and implementation of the Deer Culling Program, subject to final approval by the City Council. A request for bids is published in the spring and interested cullers submit competitive bids for deer removal with bow and arrow. The contracted culler and two associates participated in a 3-hour training program on Shooting in Urban-Suburban Environments and were informed of individual complaints about deer damage by the City. The culler then meets with the resident to set up a culling date and time. The WDNR supplies carcass tags to the City. The culler must then get tags from a designated Deer Management Committee member whose responsibility is oversight of the tags. After deer have been harvested, the culler takes all deer to People's Meat Market in Stevens Point for processing and testing for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). People's Meat Market is the closest facility licensed by the WDNR to process deer for donation in Portage County due to its designation as a CWD Area. Once the deer are processed, People's Meat Market notifies the Interfaith Food Pantry of Portage County that the packaged venison is ready to be picked up and distributed. All culled deer are processed by People's Meat Market and donated to the Interfaith Food Pantry. The Food Pantry Director checks the tags to ensure they are properly filled out. The tags are returned to the Deer Management Committee for payment approval and only properly completed tags are approved for payment to the culler. The City of Stevens Point has culled an average of about 40 deer annually during the culling seasons since 2015. Members of the Stevens Point Deer Committee communicated with staff of the WDNR and considered establishing a Metro Deer Management Sub-Unit in the Stevens Point area in Fall 2020, but declined to pursue it further at the time, based on concerns regarding law enforcement and public opinion.

Canada geese - Visitors and residents who use our extremely popular riverfront parks routinely are subject to the feces from and harassment by large groups of Canada geese. The Stevens Point Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department has been trying for at least 15 years to alleviate goose problems in Pfiffner Pioneer and Bukolt Parks. The Parks Department is responsible for the planning, coordination, and implementation of an integrated goose damage management plan that was approved by the City Council in 2020 and incorporates the use of a variety of techniques including habitat modification, exclusion, frightening devices, repellents, and capture and removal to address goose problems in the area. The Parks Department has been using owl and dog silhouettes for several years with limited success. In summers of 2018 and 2019, they used Goose Buster bioacoustic alarm calls and pyrotechnics in an attempt to disperse geese from the Parks, again with limited success.

In 2020-2023, the Parks Department facilitated the removal an average of 65 Canada geese per year with a range of 65-66 near Pfiffner Pioneer Park through a goose round-up directed by staff from the WDNR and USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services-Wisconsin. In 2023 specifically, 119 total (37 adults and 82 juveniles) were claimed through the round up process. Five captured geese were tested for contaminants in 2020 and 2021 and all were clear. All captured Canada geese were euthanized, taken to a processing center, and donated to Food Pantries under the direction of WDNR and USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services-Wisconsin. The hunting of geese will not be permitted within the City limits as that option is not popular with City residents.

This grant will provide an opportunity for Stevens Point to leverage tax dollars and private donations for these programs. The ability to leverage our funding is critical to maintain and expand current program levels to better provide the level of service our residents have come to expect.

Attachment D - City of Stevens Point Resolution

RESOLUTION

Authorizing the submission of a state grant application and subsequent appropriation of City funds for urban wildlife damage abatement and control.

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Stevens Point desires to control urban wildlife populations of white-tailed deer and Canada geese to abate wildlife damage and apply for state aids to do the following project.

To development and implement methods of keeping the number of deer and Canada geese within the City of Stevens Point at a level that will be tolerated by residents and will limit the amount of property damage caused by car-deer crashes while reducing the likelihood of injury or death of motorists in car-deer crashes.

WHEREAS, the City shall comply with all financial record keeping and disclosure requirements and other requirements of s. 29.887 to approve and place on file the Statutory Monthly Financial Report of the Comptroller-Treasurer., and s. NR 50.23 Wis. Adm. Code, pertaining to urban wildlife damage abatement and control, if state aid is obtained for urban wildlife damage abatement and control.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Stevens Point authorized its Mayor as Authorized Representative to submit a state grant application to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the urban wildlife damage abatement and control project identified above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Stevens Point does hereby appropriate a matching allocation for such project and such appropriations shall continue as long as state matching aids are available, or until this resolution is modified by the Common Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Stevens Point is hereby authorized to expend the funds hereby appropriated and the funds to be received from the State of Wisconsin for the urban wildlife damage abatement and control project identified above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Stevens Point shall maintain appropriate records to document all expenditures made during and for the urban wildlife damage abatement and control project identified above and shall submit to the DNR a final report summarizing expenditures and describing objectives, activities, achievements and problems in accomplishing the project identified above. The City of Stevens Point hereby grants DNR employees access to inspect all planned operations in the plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the state aid was for completing an urban wildlife damage abatement and control plan, such a plan shall be completed within one (1) year of the grant contract being signed, and if the state aid was for implementing control projects identified in an urban wildlife damage abatement and control plan, such control work shall be completed with two (2) years of the grant contract being signed.

APPROVED: 
Mike Wiza, Mayor

ATTEST: 
John Moe, City Clerk

Dated: 12-11-17
Adopted: 12-11-17

Attachment E - Wildlife Plan Work Sheet

1. What is the current population of deer and/or geese in your urban area? How was this number determined?

Deer – The population of white-tailed deer in the 280-acre Schmeckle Reserve in northern Stevens Point was estimated by UW-Stevens Point Wildlife students to be 56-114 in 2016, based on motion-activated cameras and a procedure and extrapolation factor developed by Mississippi State University. A new estimate of 30 white-tailed deer in Schmeckle was generated during March 2023 using real-time and infra-red video cameras on two unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs, drones) flown by UW-Stevens Point staff and students who are FAA certified pilots. Other ocular estimates by Deer Committee members and contractors conservatively ranged from 220 to 260 deer within the City limits during 2023.

Geese - The population of Canada geese in the Pfiffner Park area was estimated to be 150-200 in 2015, based on ocular estimates by UW-Stevens Point Wildlife students. Daily estimates ranged from 2 to 120 during summer 2018 and up to 100 in summer 2019. After the goose roundup in June 2020, the number of geese dropped to less than 10, but increased to 4 in Bukolt Park and 40 in Pfiffner Pioneer Park by September 2020. Numbers of Canada geese after goose round-ups in 2021-2023 were similar to those in 2020, based on ocular estimates by members of the Stevens Point Deer Committee.

2. What are the negative public health/safety and environmental concerns of this population?

Deer – The greatest concern associated with deer in Stevens Point is the potential for an increase in deer-vehicle collisions (DVCs). About 150 people are killed in deer-vehicle collisions annually on the nation's highways and associated injury, medical expenses, and damage to personal property is estimated to exceed \$1 billion per year. According to data provided by the Stevens Point Police Department, the number of DVCs that occurred within the Stevens Point City limits from 2014 to 2019 averaged 13.2 per year, with a range of 11-17. In addition, high densities of white-tailed deer have been linked to increased densities of ticks that serve as vectors of human diseases such as Lyme disease, ehrlichiosis, anaplasmosis, and babesiosis, all of which are present in Central Wisconsin. Members of the Stevens Point Deer Committee also receive several complaints per year about the damage that deer cause to flower and vegetable gardens, as well as trees, shrubs, and ornamentals.

Geese – The greatest concern associated with Canada geese in Stevens Point is the nuisance they cause with the distribution of their feces throughout high human-use areas of Pfiffner Park, including the bandshell, Green Circle Trail, and waterfront. Human pathogens *Lysteria* and *Chlostridium* have been associated with feces from Canada geese. The feces accumulate and make the trail and

waterfront area undesirable and slippery for pedestrians and bicyclists, which has led to falls and physical injury in other communities. Aggressive behavior by Canada geese is common in Pfiffner Park and has threatened the health and safety of children and older adults here and elsewhere.

- 3. What is the desired population of deer and/or geese in the urban area? (Note: complete elimination of deer or geese is not acceptable.) How was this determined and what public input was obtained to show public acceptance of this desired population level? (Public input is required.)**

As with many county-based Deer Management Units in Central Wisconsin, the Stevens Point Deer Committee wishes to see a reduction in the population of white-tailed deer from its current level within the City limits. The Committee was formed because of complaints by Stevens Point residents and is responding to continued complaints by homeowners, business owners, vehicle operators, and local representatives. We have received a few complaints by residents and hunters who object to the deer culling program, but we feel the vast majority of the public here accepts the deer culling program.

In June 2020, the Stevens Point Parks Department facilitated the removal of nearly all of the 140 Canada geese near Pfiffner Pioneer Park through a goose round-up directed by staff from the WDNR and USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services-Wisconsin. The number of geese increased through the summer to 4 in Bukolt Park and 40 in Pfiffner Pioneer Park by September 2020. The response of geese to round-ups in 2021-2023 have been similar. These reduced numbers appear to be tolerable, based on personal communication with residents and representatives of Stevens Point.

- 4. What technique(s) do you propose to use to obtain the population goal set in Question 3 and reduce those negative impacts listed in Question 2? Please describe both non-lethal and lethal techniques that are proposed. Have any techniques previously been implemented to reduce deer and/or goose problems?**

The Stevens Point Deer Committee proposes to reduce the density of deer in problem areas within the City limits by continuing a deer culling program that includes a private contractor and designated archery hunters working in problem areas. Deer culling has been conducted in this way in Stevens Point for **at least 10 years** with significant positive results and without public outcry. We believe an educational program is needed to increase the awareness of homeowners and other residents of the potential negative impacts of deer in the city limits and other abatement practices that residents could implement on their own that would reduce damage problems. The UW-Stevens Point provides information on lethal and nonlethal forms of deer damage management to individuals who inquire and to the general public through the Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management <https://icwdm.org> and the National Wildlife Control Training Program

<http://wildlifecontroltraining.com/>.

The Stevens Point Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department has been using abatement techniques (mostly effigies, mylar, and other frightening devices) on Canada geese in problem areas for 8 years with limited success. In summers of 2018 and 2019, Dr. Scott Hygnstrom of UWSP attempted to pattern goose movements in Pfiffner and Bukolt Parks and deploy a Goose Buster (bioacoustics alarm calls) and pyrotechnics. Unfortunately, established criteria to ensure efficacy and minimize public awareness (a large group of geese present in the vicinity of the Goose Buster speakers, and no individuals of the public present) were difficult to meet. Bioacoustic and pyrotechnic devices were not effective in moving geese from park areas in Stevens Point for more than 12 hours. The City of Stevens Point implemented a Council-approved integrated goose management plan to address goose problems in 2020. Areas of high goose use in Pfiffner Park have been planted annually with native tall-growing vegetation since 2020 to reduce access to geese. Methods used to reduce goose-human conflicts in City Park areas included habitat modification, exclusion, frightening devices, repellents, and capture and removal in cooperation with the WDNR and USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services-Wisconsin.