

DEER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

DRAFT 12-1-2018 – Revised 1-8-2020

Deer management in urban areas including the St Louis area has received considerable attention in the past few years. There are no natural predators for deer in urban areas. Really the only things that naturally decreases the deer population in urban areas is unfortunately vehicle collisions; injuries to deer most often from fences; and starvation when the ecology is unable to support the herd size.

The Missouri Department of Conservation has exclusive authority over management of wildlife in the State of Missouri and any and all efforts by individuals or governmental entities to manage wildlife, including deer, must conform to rules and regulations established by the Conservation Commission.

The most proactive Deer Management Program occurs in our neighboring City of Town & Country which has tried or evaluated a number of approaches in the last decade ranging from trapping & relocation of deer, trapping & sterilization, allowing archery hunting within the city and managed hunts using sharpshooters to dramatically reduce deer populations. The cost of their active Deer Management Program is expensive.

A number of cities in the area in addition to Town & Country have begun to evaluate or address the issue including Ballwin, Chesterfield, Clarkson Valley, Creve Coeur, Ellisville, Hazelwood, Ladue, Manchester, Maryland Heights, Sunset Hills and Wildwood - most often by prohibiting voluntary feeding and authorizing archery hunting in their towns. What they all have in common is monitoring the growth in the problem via tracking statistics on deer-vehicle collisions, the number of dead or injured deer found on public rights of way or private property and undertaking periodic deer surveys to measure changes in their resident deer herds.

At best deer management is an ongoing problem designed to reduce the size and growth of local deer herds. Des Peres has been in the monitoring stages on this issue the past 4 years.

The purpose of this Policy and Plan is to identify the next steps if or when the city needs to move beyond simply monitoring the problem and taking more proactive steps. The city recognizes that any action (or inaction) is likely to be controversial as it has been in other communities that have moved from doing nothing to attempting to actively manage the problem.

Nature of Deer Problem

Deer largely do not travel great distances and the typical deer range for a doe in an urban areas involves travel less than 600 yards. In the wilderness, a deer range is typically a ½ mile to 1 mile in area. A buck's range is larger especially during rutting season. The size of the deer's typical range is generally dictated by the availability of ready food sources and a sense of security provided by habitat. Does typically bed nearest their most reliable food sources. This is to suggest that local deer herds in urban areas do not wander far unless their habitat is destroyed by development.

An overabundance of deer within the city or a smaller section of the city raises environmental issues, public safety issues and has other operational issues for the city.

1. Environmental – there is an ecological carrying capacity (ECC) for any given land area generally defined as “the number of deer that can be continually and naturally supported by the land in balance with all other natural resources”. An overabundance of deer will result in habitat destruction that disrupts the delicate balance of nature between plants, trees and all forms of wildlife. Ecological systems co-exist when the deer population ranges in the 10-20 deer per square mile. Des Peres deer population is estimated at 39.9 to 42.6 deer per square mile west of I-270 and less than 10 deer per square mile east of I-270.
2. Community Acceptance – there is also a social carrying capacity (SCC) reflecting the number of deer that the community will tolerate or find acceptable. Oftentimes, the presence of wildlife in neighborhoods is considered an attractive or cute amenity. However, as the deer population continues to increase and property damage increases to trees, flowers and plants and the frequency of deer-vehicle collisions increases, residents begin to see deer as a problem.

The Missouri Department of Conservation estimates that 15-20 deer per square mile in urban areas is generally considered socially acceptable but that SCC benchmark is not agreed upon by all residents who are less concerned with the size of the herd and more concerned with the physical damage to their property.

3. Public Safety – the threat to public safety is largely attributed to the frequency deer/vehicle collisions which can result in significant property damage to vehicles and raises the threat of bodily injury to drivers and passengers. MDC reports that there are no few confirmed issues with deer and human interactions resulting in injury to humans by the animal other than vehicle crashes.
4. Other Issues – the general policy of the Department of Conservation is for the general public not to interfere in treatment of injured animals – to simply let nature take its course. However, oftentimes that approach is unacceptable to property owners faced with a dead or injured deer on their property or on the

public rights-of-way and their natural inclination is to call the city to “do something”.

Oftentimes this requires euthanasia of an injured animal (oftentimes impaled on a fence) by a police officer and/or removal of animal carcass from rights-of-way or private property – a service generally provided by our street department. The carcass must then be disposed of typically by cremation at a local vet at a cost of \$100 per deer.

The frequency of city interaction with deer management in recent years:

Incident Type	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Deer-Auto Collisions Reported	15	15	12	14	16
Injured Deer	6	26	19	7	15
Deer Carcass Removed by PW	0	8	2	7	7
Miscellaneous Incidents	1	3	4	2	4
Total Complaints Received	22	52	37	30	42

Recommendation #1 - Monitor Deer Population and Impacts

In 2005, the Missouri Department of Conservation created a West St Louis County Deer Task Force to study deer management problems and solutions. Participating governmental entities includes the Department of Conservation, State Department of Natural Resources, St Louis County, and the cities of Ballwin, Chesterfield, Clarkson Valley, Creve Coeur, Eureka, Kirkwood, Maryland Heights, Town & Country, Valley Park and Wildwood.

As a part of their analysis, they researched the cost and effectiveness of various surveying techniques to try to assess deer populations. The most typically used are distance sampling (oftentimes referred to as Deer Spotlight Surveys) and aerial or thermal imaging surveys. It was noted that none of the methods are successful in counting all of the deer on a given area but provide an estimate on deer population. They noted that it is important to utilize a single type of survey in order to create meaningful and comparable data over time.

While the task force determined that aerial surveys using helicopters was generally the method of choice as they provide detection rates much higher than other methods. However, it is expensive and requires a minimum of 4” of snow be on the ground during the survey – a weather condition that is difficult to predict to plan a survey and provides only a small window for execution in our area in a typical winter.

The preferred and most cost effective method is the Spotlight Distance Sampling technique. This method utilizes a high powered spotlight (400,000 candlepower) driving vehicle at 10 MPH. The light reflect off of the eyes of the deer allowing spotters to identify the number of deer in the social group, the general age and sex of the deer and

the perpendicular distance from the vehicle to the spotted group. That information is then used in a software program to estimate the deer density in the sampled land area.

Des Peres has conducted three Spotlight Distance Sampling Surveys in 2016, 2017 and 2019 surveying areas of the city over 4 nights. Generally, no or few deer were seen east of I-270.

West of I-270	2016	2017	2019
Est Deer Square Mile	39.9	42.6	51.3
Estimated Deer Herd	88	101	113

While no or few deer were visibly spotted east of I-270 that does not mean that there are no deer east of the highway especially along Ballas Road which has a large area of common ground that is connected via underground draining tunnels to wooded areas west of the highway. Based on anecdotal evidence from complaints, you can assume there is a significant deer population in areas of Frontenac just east of the city. The deer survey assumes a deer population east of the highway as being under 10 deer per acre.

It is also my understanding that deer surveys are required as a prerequisite by the Missouri Department of Conservation before they would consider any more proactive deer management activities such as allowing a managed hunt in Phantom Forest or Bittersweet Woods both of which are owned by the MDC to reduce deer populations

The City has budgeted to conduct another spotlight deer survey in January 2020 at a cost of roughly \$3,000. The intention of that deer survey is to continue to monitor herd growth over time as an indicator of if/when the city might need to move from a monitoring program to a more active program for deer management.

Recommendation #2 - Prohibition on Feeding Deer

MDC reports that deer have a relative small range of movement and tend to concentrate their movements around the location of food sources – trees, acorns, plant materials and food provided by property owners. No evidence has been brought forward of any large scale voluntary feeding of deer in any neighborhoods in the city.

The city has heard comments of sporadic feeding of deer and other wild animals by homeowners. The city has never addressed the issue of voluntarily feeding wildlife except for a discussion on whether or not to prohibit feeding geese in the parks. Contrary to commonly held beliefs, the city does not have an ordinance that prohibits feeding geese in the parks or deer.

<p>This recommendation was adopted to prohibit feeding all wild animals other than use of bird feeders adopted March 2019 – Ordinance 2833</p>

Thinning the Deer Herds in Des Peres

Deer have no natural predators in urban areas (other than perhaps cars) and deer are prolific breeders. A doe will generally give birth to two fawns a year offering the probability that the size of local deer herds will grow exponentially in future years absent some form of intervention.

Cities have taken a wide range of approaches focused on reducing existing deer herd's sizes and/or limit the growth in deer herds.

Thinning the Deer Herd and Managing Growth

- Catch and Relocate- this method was tried in Town & Country and has since been outlawed by the Department of Conservation. This method involves trapping deer using nets and then relocating them to more rural areas. The MDC evaluated that approach and determined that the mortality rate for deer trapped and released was extremely high.
- Trap & Euthanize – in areas where hunting is not permitted or restricted by “no projectile” ordinances, lethally controlling deer can be managed by trap and euthanasia. Deer are trapped using nets and then euthanized. This technique requires special permission of MDC and is oftentimes tied to a showing of significant property damage caused by deer.
- Herd Reduction thru Hunting – this method can take 3 forms; (1) simply allowing hunting of deer inside the city limits under certain circumstances or (2) having the Mo Department of Conservation sponsor a managed hunt in their conservation areas or other public property (typically parks) and (3) the local government sponsoring a conducting a concentrated managed hunt typically using professional sharpshooters which also requires MDC approval.

Reducing Deer Herd Growth

- Hunting as a method for reducing herd size can be effectively accomplished in the short run especially concentrated managed hunts which can dramatically reduce deer herds in a single year focusing primarily on does to reduce reproduction.
- Trap & Sterilization – like trap and release, this method involves trapping deer using nets and then having a veterinarian surgically sterilize the deer by removal of the ovaries. There is a high risk to the animal from stress and surgically related infection due to the nature of field surgery. MDC reports that this technique is not permitted in Missouri
- Chemical Sterilization – this typically involves deer capture and an inoculation - individual deer must be treated every 2 years. Another method involves delivery

of the birth control chemical by “bio bullets” delivered long range via a weapon but the treatment is effective for only a single year requiring continual efforts. There is a chemical birth control pill but it must be administered daily using a food source and its application cannot be ensured.

Research in other areas of the country have concluded that sterilization is not an effective deer management tool because of cost and need for continual treatment. We have not attempted to identify a cost since no communities locally are using this method.

Recommendation #3: Requesting a Department of a Conservation Managed Hunt

If the most impactful method of deer management is herd reduction by use of lethal means, it makes the most sense to start the program with a managed hunt focused in the conservation areas and potentially extend the area to include Sugar Creek Park.

The largest concentrations of deer in the community are West of I-270 and clustered largely around the 20+ acre conservations areas in the city (Phantom Forest and Bittersweet Woods) and the large areas of common ground for the subdivisions adjoining those conservation tracts.

Allowing such a hunt requires MDC authorization (typically deadline to request a managed hunt is February 1st for a hunt to occur during deer season in November) and the details of the hunt are managed by MDC. MDC has previously authorized managed hunts in various MDC properties in the area including Columbia Bottoms, Forest 44 near Beaumont Scout Reservation, St Stanislaus, Emmeneger in Kirkwood, and Rockwood and Babler State Parks. MDC has recently agreed to manage hunts in some county parks at the request of St Louis County including Creve Coeur, Queeny and Jefferson Barracks Parks.

Last we talked with MDC about Phantom Forest and Bittersweet Woods, they were open to allowing a managed hunt but would limit the number of archers to probably no more than 5-7 and allow only does to be harvested. Hunters to be selected by MDC using a lottery system. Hunters are required to have a State of Missouri Deer License and would be responsible for removal of deer carcasses and processing of the meat as required by the state license. There is no requirement that the meat be donated to charity but that is encouraged.

Hunting would be archery hunting only and require that all hunting locations request a downward path from elevated hunting positions. No horizontal shooting is permitted. The conservation areas would be closed the days of the hunt (typically less than a week). The city would incur no direct costs for a conservation department managed hunt. We would anticipate that this would occur annually in any year in which our sample suggests a population density > 30 deer per square mile.

Recommendation #4 - Requesting a Permit from the Department of Conservation for the city to sponsor an aggressive managed hunt using sharpshooters on private property

The Missouri Department of Conservation may issue a special permit to allow a governmental entity to sponsor a concentrated managed hunt to thin the deer herd. Typically, MDC will set a target for the maximum number of deer to be harvested and again requires that all meat be processed and donated to charity. MDC does not manage these private managed hunts but does regulate and monitor them.

The City of Town & Country has used this method for well over 10 years with a goal of achieving a deer population ratio of 25-30 deer per square mile. During 2018, Town & Country harvested a reported 361 deer at a cost of \$164,730 paid to White Buffalo. White Buffalo has 24 years of experience nationwide in both capturing and killing deer in a wide variety of communities without incident involving accidents. They have developed techniques to maximize safety, humaneness and baiting techniques.

The MDC permit for this type of hunt using sharpshooters but typically requires measurement of deer population by distance sampling method in the years prior to and following such a permit. MDC will set hunting parameters as to maximum numbers to be taken and the ratio of does to bucks. All meat from special hunts must be processed and donated to charity.

The city has contacted White Buffalo (the firm used by T&C in their deer management program) and they have provided a proposal with a cost of \$50,000 to harvest 50-60 deer using sharpshooting.

- White Buffalo will assist the city in identifying potential hunting location using aerial photos followed by site visits to identify all issues relating to safety. The city is responsible for security property owner permission to utilize their property for a hunt site. White Buffalo anticipates the potential for 7-9 sites in Des Peres.
- Baiting of site (placement of corn and feed) occurs daily for the 3 weeks in advance of the scheduled hunt. White Buffalo's proposal includes baiting sites – after a year's experience we may want to consider if we want to do the baiting as a cost saving measure.
- Hunting typically occurs 2-3 hours before sunset until 2-3 hours after sunset under most circumstances. However, the actual hours for hunting are negotiable with the property owner. In some circumstances, usually involving high concentrations hunting may be done at night with the aid of spotlights. Hunting site will be rotated with no one site used more than 2-4 times each year. Wind direction is typically the prevailing factor in selecting sites on a daily basis.

- Hunting is done by professional sharpshooters using high power rifles with suppressors from elevated hunting platforms or other elevated positions. Bullets used have been thoroughly tested and design and have developed specialized ammunition to ensure that no bullets or fragments of significant size or inertia exit the targeted animal.

MDC does not have a specific deadline for requesting a special management program permit and White Buffalo can gear up fairly quickly. However, a long lead time is preferred especially for the first year to allow for better planning and community engagement.

While we would anticipate making a large impact on the deer herd in year 1 and 2 of such a program, staff suspects that it will never “end” and as ongoing herd maintenance will be required to remain within the 25-30 deer per square mile. The cost should diminish in subsequent years as the number of deer being harvested should be reduced.

Recommendation #5 - Allowing Deer Hunting on Private Property

There is a commonly held belief that Des Peres does not allow hunting or trapping within the city limits and that we expressly prohibit the discharge of firearms or the use of archery equipment within the city for hunting purposes.

Current city regulations do not expressly prohibit or regulate hunting within the city limits. The city has general rules relating to propelling dangerous missiles” which has been interpreted to prohibit discharge of firearms or archery that would appear to prohibit any hunting within the city.

Sec 16-82 “No person shall throw or in any way propel any dangerous missile of any kind upon or at any property, real or personal, or upon or at any person.”

The code does not have an express definition of what is meant by the term “missile” but does include definitions of the following terms:

Firearm- means any weapon that is designed or adapted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive.

Rifle – means any firearm designed or adapted to be fired from the shoulder and to use the energy of an explosive in a fixed metal cartridge to fire a projectile through a rifled bore by a single function of a trigger

Projectile Weapon- means any bow, crossbow, pellet gun, slingshot or other weapon that is not a firearm, which is capable of expelling a projectile that could inflict serious physical injury or death by striking or piercing a person.

This code section has been interpreted the Department of Public Safety that the term “missile” includes include discharge of a firearm or rifle (whether shooting bullets or pellets), use of a slingshot or use of a bow & arrow which would appear to prohibit hunting within the city limits.

The city does have prohibitions on use of firearms, bows and arrows and guns of any kind in the parks (Sec 17-1(n) or to “hurt, molest, harm, trap, kill, shoot or release any animal, reptile or bird in city parks (Sec17-1(o)

The city should adopt specific rules and regulations allowing archery hunting only under limited conditions:

- #1 Prohibits hunting within the city limits using any dangerous weapon including firearms, sling shots or similar devices that propel “missiles” and allow hunting only by archery device.
- #2 Prohibits the discharge of firearms by private citizens in the city for any purpose other than self-protection as defined under the Castle Doctrine by state law. Obvious exceptions to be made for police personnel in carrying out their official duties or by other professionals engaged in the normal course of their duties such as euthanasia of injured animals.

Assuming that we are interest in allowing hunting in Des Peres, the city would need to determine what reasonable regulations we should impose. However, those regulations cannot be in lieu of and should dovetail with Rules and Regulations Established by the Missouri Department of Conservation.

A number of cities in the metro area allow deer hunting with restrictions that deal with the type of weapon (usually restricted to bow hunting only); minimum property sizes; notification of adjoining property owners; registration with the local police agency; and compliance with all MDC permits, rules and regulations.

The cities of Creve Coeur and Ladue recently did a comprehensive rewrite of their hunting regulations that provides a good place to start any discussion of what reasonable rules we might wish to consider:

1. *Definitions*

“Archery Device” means any longbow, compound bow or crossbow

“Crossbow” means a device for discharging quarrels bolts or arrows formed of a bow set crosswise on a stock usually drawn by means of a mechanism and discharged by release of a trigger.

“Firearm” means any rifle, shotgun, weapon or similar mechanism, by whatever name known, which is designed to expel a bullet or other projectile through a gun barrel, tube, pipe, cylinder or similar device y action of an explosive.

“Projectile Weapon” shall mean any bow, crossbow, pellet fund, slingshot or other weapon that is not a firearm which is capable of expelling a projectile that could inflict serious physical injury or death by striking or piercing a person.

“Under the Influence” shall be defined by state regulations applied to operation of motor vehicles.

2. *Hunting Regulations*

1. *Hunting by use of a firearm is prohibited within the corporate limits of the City except when such hunt is authorized by action of the Board of Aldermen as a part of a city sponsored deer management plan.*
2. *Discharging or releasing of arrows from archery devices within the City is limited to hunting permitted under this article. Recreation uses of archery devices for target practice or other sport is prohibited.*
3. *Prior to any hunting activity permitted under this section, the property owner(s) shall notify the Department of Public Safety of their intent to hunt on their property. The notification shall be in writing on forms provided for that purpose and shall include the names of all property owners, the address of the proposed hunt properties, the dates and times of the proposed hunt and the names and addresses of all proposed hunters.*
4. *All hunters under this section shall have obtained the appropriate hunting license or permit from the Department of Conservation and must obey all state regulations issued by the Department of Conservation*

5. *Permission to Hunt*

- a. *It shall be unlawful for any person carrying an archery device of any type, to knowingly enter into the premises of another, or to discharge any of the aforesaid mentioned devices while on the premises or property of another without first having obtained permission in writing from the owner. Lease or person in charge of such premises or property. The duly obtained written permission shall be carried on the person of the hunter and shall make such notice readily available to any law enforcement personnel investigating compliance with this section. This section shall not apply to a person carrying or discharging such a device while in the immediate presence of the owner, lessee or person in charge of such property.*
- b. *In addition to the requirements set forth herein, it shall be at the discretion of the property owner, lessee or person in charge of any premises or property to set the parameters under which any person may hunt upon any such premises or property under the control of the owner, lessee or person in charge.*
- c. *Each hunter on any property upon with the permission to hunt has been granted shall be held responsible for the actions of such other person to whom such permission has been granted for the same time period by the landowner, lessee or person in charge of said property.*
- d. *No person without lawful authority, or without the expressed or implied consent of the owner, lessee or his/her agent, shall enter any building or*

upon any enclosed or improved real estate, lot or parcel in the City of Des Peres, or being upon the property of another shall fail or refuse to leave such property when requested to do so by the owner, lessee or person in charge of said property.

- e. Contiguous neighbors must be notified in writing by the property owner and the property owner must be able to show the appropriate documentation of receipt of the notification of the dates and time periods of the hunt. For purposes of this section, "contiguous" shall mean any adjoining property that shares a common property line (or point) with the lot on which the proposed hunt shall occur. Lots separated by street, common areas, or other public thoroughfares shall not be considered contiguous.*

- 6. In addition to any requirements imposed by the Missouri Department of Conservation regulations, any individual who successfully harvest a deer during a hunt must report the hunter's name, gender of the deer, and the location of the harvest within two (2) business days by calling the Des Peres Department of Public Safety or by delivering written notification to the Director.*

- 7. Prior to discharging any archery device intended to be used for hunting, it shall be the hunter's responsibility to permanently mark each arrow or other projectile with his or her Missouri Department of Conservation identification number.*

- 8. Nothing in this Deer Control Policy shall authorize the parking or standing of vehicles on private property without the consent of the property owner or the parking of a vehicle in any manner otherwise prohibited by the City Code.*

- 9. Prior to hunting within the City, every individual seeking to hunt shall provide the Public Safety Department a certificate of completion of an archery device hunter safety course as approved or provided by the Missouri Department of Conservation.*

- 3. Specific Actions Prohibited or Required*
 - A. It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge any archery device across any street, sidewalk, road, highway or playground.*

 - B. It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge any archery device at or in the direction of any person, vehicle, dwelling, house, church, school, playground or building that is within the range of discharge including a safety margin of at least seventy-five (75) feet.*

 - C. It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge any archery device within one hundred fifty (150) yards of the property line of any church, school, park or playground unless the owner of such property has provided express written consent to such discharges of closer proximity at specified dates and time*

periods. Any such consent may be revoked at any time in the discretion of the person providing same, whether orally or in writing.

- D. It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge any archery device within thirty (30) yards of any dwelling, building, structure or vehicle, unless the owner of such property has provided express written consent to such discharges of closer proximity at specific dates and time periods. Any such consent may be revoked at any time in the discretion of the person providing same, whether orally or in writing.*
- E. No arrow or other projectile used to hunt deer pursuant to the Deer Control Policy may be discharged or projected at such an angle or distance as to land on public or private property other than the property on which the hunt has been authorized.*
- F. No arrow or other projectile used to hunt deer pursuant to the Deer Control Policy may be discharged or projected at such an angle or distance to land within seventy-five (75) feet of any front yard property line.*
- G. No arrow or other projectile used to hunt deer pursuant to the Deer Control Policy may be discharged or projected at such an angle or distance to land within fifty (50) feet of any street or public right of way.*
- H. All hunting shall be done from an elevated position that is at least ten (10) feet in height and faces the interior of the property. The elevated position (deer stand) shall be located in such a way as to direct arrows toward the interior of the property and to prevent any arrow from landing any closer than twenty-five (25) feet to any side or rear property line.*
- I. No hunting is authorized on tracts of land under one (1) acre in area, except adjoining property owners may combine their parcels to satisfy the property line discharge restrictions contained in Sections (F) and (G) herein. All other provisions of the Deer Control Policy shall apply to combined lots.*
- J. It shall be unlawful for any person under the age of eighteen (18) years of age to hunt deer within the city limits of the City of Des Peres.*
- K. No person shall possess, consume or be under the influence of alcohol or any other controlled substances while engaging in hunting activities in the City.*

4. Deer Retrieval

- A. Any person who kills or injures any deer while hunting shall make a reasonable Search to retrieve a deer and take it into his/her possession.*
- B. This Section does not authorize the act of trespass.*

- C. *It shall be the hunter's responsibility to immediately notify any property owner, other than the specific property owner who previously authorized the hunt, of the fact that an injured or dead deer may be located on his/her property.*
- D. *In the event that the hunter cannot obtain the permission of any property owner upon which an injured or dead deer is located, the hunter shall immediately notify the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Des Peres Department of Public Safety.*

5. *Field Cleaning*

- A. *Any person who kills any deer while hunting in Des Peres shall follow all Missouri Department of Conservation guidelines regarding field dressing and processing the animal.*
- B. *Any person who kills any deer while hunting in Des Peres shall take all precautionary measures to avoid field dressing the deer in a public or conspicuous place.*
- C. *Any person who field dresses or otherwise processes a deer shall properly dispose of the discarded organs and/or body parts in plastic bags to be deposited in private trash depositories, or by other appropriate means. Nothing contained herein shall authorize burial of deer organs or body parts on the property nor authorize illegal dumping of solid waste or bio-hazardous waste of any kind.*
- D. *The transportation of a deer carcass along any public right of way is prohibited unless it is covered or hidden from public view.*

Size of lots where hunting would be allowed is limited in this draft to tracts of land (or combination of tracts of land) exceeding one (1) acre. That appears to be the latest standard in other area cities that allow hunting That may be the largest focus of discussion of regulations if we are to allow hunting.

Based on recent geo-data examined, parcels of privately owned land in Des Peres (which does not include public properties or common ground) is generally as follows:

Size of Tract	Institutional	Residential	Commercial
3 Acres or Greater	18	37	27
2-3 Acres	4	82	13
1-2 Acres	8	1313	22
Under 1 Acre	7	3003	56