CITY OF WEST DES MOINES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING COMMUNICATION

DATE: August 20, 2018

ITEM: Resolution – Approval of West Des Moines Deer Management Zone – 1715 SE Walnut Woods Drive

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None

BACKGROUND: The owner of property located at 1715 SE Walnut Woods Drive, Mr. Dave White, has requested the establishment of a West Des Moines Deer Management Zone (WDMDMZ) on his private property so that controlled bowhunting can occur. A map showing the location is attached.

The hunting ordinance (Title 5, Chapter 2, Offenses, Section 30, "Hunting") allows for the City to designate West Des Moines Deer Management Zones (WDMDMZ) on private property within the city limits by a resolution of the City Council. Hunting within these zones must take place according to the regulations established in Section C of the hunting ordinance.

All surrounding property owners within 370 feet of the proposed WDMDMZ were noticed by mail (see attached notice dated 7/9/18) and invited to provide comments. Two e-mails were received in opposition to the WDMDMZ from Ben and Marilyn Stone (1665 SE Walnut Woods Drive) and Ryan Alexander (1615 Walnut Woods Drive). Copies of the e-mails were provided to the Public Safety Council Committee held on 8/3/18, and are attached along with staff's responses. In addition, one email was received from Russel and Janet Goldsmith (1675 SE Walnut Woods Drive) after the Public Safety Council Committee who was also opposed to the zone. This email is attached as well.

If approved, staff will be working closely with the property owner to select a maximum of two hunters that meet all qualifications of the City Controlled Bowhunt and to issue City hunting permits. Hunting could start as early as September 15, 2018 with the season ending on January 27, 2019. An orientation will take place with each hunter to insure that they are knowledgeable of the City Controlled Bowhunt rules and regulations prior to any hunting.

This matter was taken to the Public Safety Council Committee on August 3, 2018 where Councilman Trimble approved the establishment of the zone. Councilwoman Hardman was not in attendance.

OUTSTANDING ISSUES: None

RECOMMENDATION: That the Council approve the Resolution.

Lead Staff Member: Sally Ortgies

STAFF REVIEWS

Department Director	
Appropriations/Finance	
Legal	
Agenda Acceptance	

PUBLICATION(S) (if applicable)

Published In	N/A
Dates(s) Published	

SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW (if applicable)

Committee	Public Safety		
Date Reviewed	8/3/18		
Recommendation	Yes		

RESOLUTION
DESIGNATING A WEST DES MOINES DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE

WHEREAS, Section 5-2-30 of the West Des Moines City Code (1999) provides that the City Council may designate by resolution areas within the City as a West Des Moines Deer Management Zone to allow the controlled bowhunting of deer within such a zone under the rules of that section to control the deer population within the City; and

WHEREAS, said designation may occur on private property; and

WHEREAS, there is currently a need to control the deer population in and around the properties designated in the attached exhibit "A"; and

WHEREAS, the owner of the designated property has voluntarily requested to have their property included in the West Des Moines Deer Management Zone.

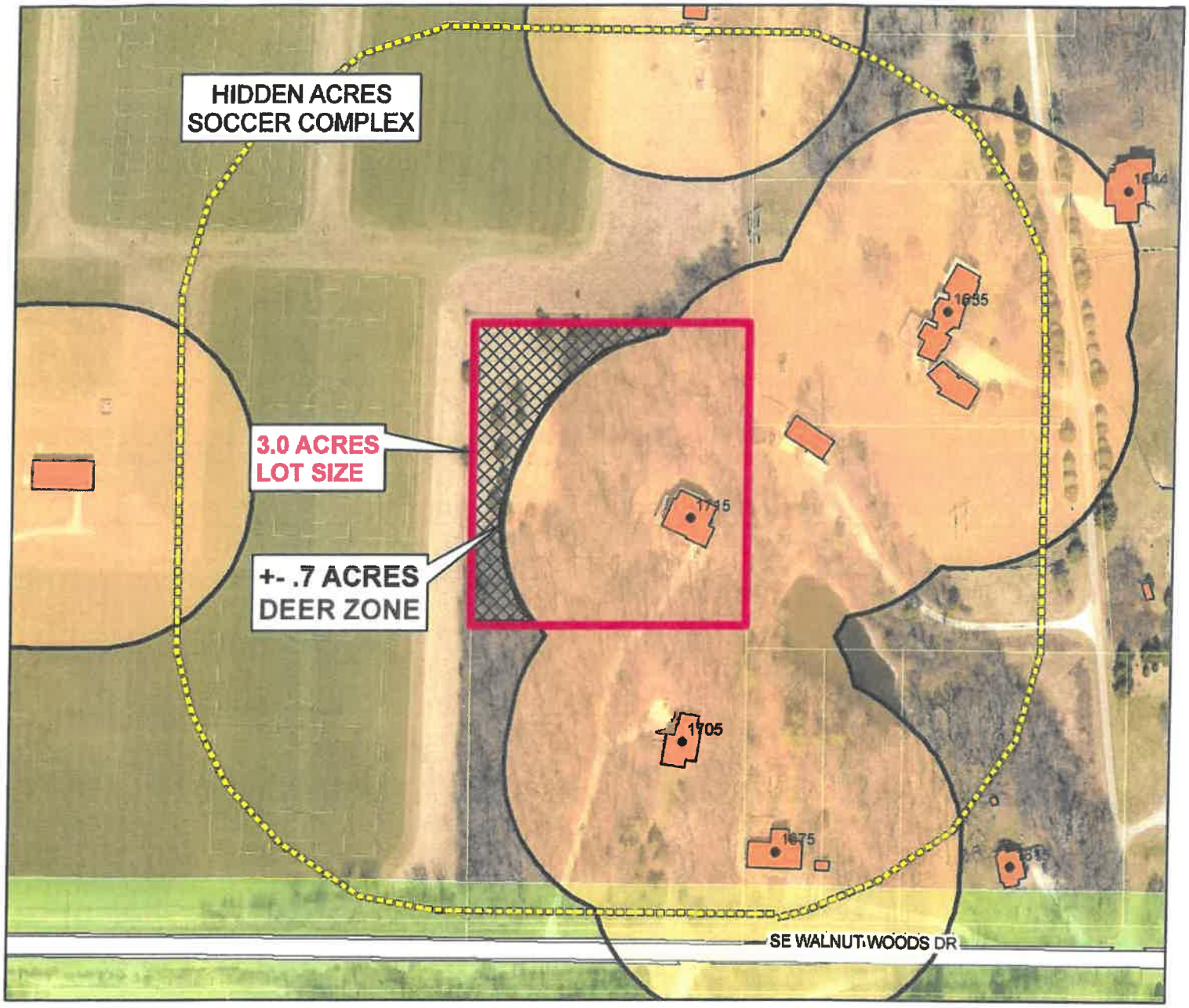
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST DES MOINES, IOWA THAT the private property as designated in the attached exhibit "A" is declared a West Des Moines Deer Management Zone pursuant to Section 5-2-30 of the West Des Moines City Code (1999), and shall be subject to the rules provided therein and any additional regulations promulgated pursuant to the West Des Moines City Code.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 20th day of August, 2018.

_____
Steven K. Gaer, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Ryan Jacobson, City Clerk



VICINITY MAP

LEGEND

- Identified Parcel
- Deer Management Zone Area
- 370' Notification Area
- Existing Building
- 200' Building Setback
- 75' Road Setback

0 50 100 200 Feet

CITY OF WEST DES MOINES DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS DIVISION 4300 MILLS CIVIC PKWY (515) 222-3444 WEST DES MOINES, IOWA 50265 FAX. NO. (515) 222-3459	PROJECT: DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE			
	LOCATION: 1715 SE WALNUT WOODS DR			
	AUTHOR: maa	DATE: 7/6/2018	SCALE: -	SHEET: 1 of 1

THE CITY OF
West Des Moines®
www.wdm.iowa.gov

Parks and Recreation

4200 Mills Civic Parkway
P.O. Box 65320
West Des Moines, IA 50265-0320

Administrative Office
515-222-3444
FAX 515-222-3459

Nature Lodge
515-222-3424
FAX 515-222-3658

Community Center
515-222-3440
FAX 515-222-3457

Park Maintenance
515-222-3450

TDD/TTY 515-222-3334

E-mail: parkrec@wdm.iowa.gov

TO: Property Owner
FROM: David Sadler, Superintendent of Parks
DATE: July 9, 2018
RE: West Des Moines Deer Management Zone

A property owner adjacent to or near your property has approached the City about establishing a private property West Des Moines Deer Management Zone (WDMDMZ). I would like to notify you about the City's possible intention to establish this zone at **1715 SE Walnut Woods Drive** for the purposes of controlled bowhunting. The enclosed map shows the proposed zone.

Impacts from deer overpopulation in West Des Moines include car/deer accidents, ecological damage, declining deer health, and impact to private property. The goal of the City's controlled bowhunt program is to ***safely*** stabilize or decrease deer populations over time to more ecologically acceptable levels.

The City of West Des Moines has managed a controlled bowhunt program for the last thirteen years on City-owned property in Southwoods Park and for the first time in Raccoon River Park last year. Both parks remain open to the public at all times during the hunting season with ***no safety-related issues*** reported by residents, park users or hunters during this time. According to an annual aerial count, deer numbers in Southwoods Park have declined by approximately 71% since the controlled bowhunt program was started there in 2004. Residents have reported less damage to their property, and the deer herd in the park is gradually getting closer to a more ecologically acceptable level. Another positive outcome of the program has been a number of deer being donated by our hunters to the DNR's Help Us Stop Hunger (HUSH) program.

More recently, five private property zones have been established within the city. Seventy-seven deer have been harvested from these zones over the last nine years. In addition, controlled bowhunts have taken place on public and private property in cities throughout Polk County and on public property managed by Polk County, the State of Iowa, and Federal agencies since 1998 with ***no safety-related issues***.

Hunting taking place in the proposed zone at **1715 SE Walnut Woods Drive** would be done under rules and requirements specific to the controlled bowhunt program. All hunters will have passed an approved International Bowhunter Education Foundation safety education course, passed an annual archery proficiency test, and received an orientation with City staff on the program rules.

OVER

Controlled bowhunting in the proposed WDMDMZ would be limited to a maximum of two qualified hunters with permits issued to those hunters by the City. All hunting must occur within the established zone, and no arrows can be shot onto surrounding property. The hunters would be required to check-in by contacting the City before each day of hunting. A copy of the guidelines and rules for the 2018-2019 controlled bowhunt season is enclosed as further information.

The City's hunting ordinance requires the City Council to establish all West Des Moines Deer Management Zones by resolution. Pending feedback from this notice, it is anticipated that the resolution establishing the zone at 1715 SE Walnut Woods Drive would go before the City Council at their August 20, 2018 meeting. If formally approved, hunting could take place from September 15, 2018 through January 27, 2019 and each year following (with approval of the property owner) during the controlled bowhunt season.

As a neighbor of the proposed zone, you are invited to share your comments or concerns. You are welcome to e-mail me at david.sadler@wdm.iowa.gov or call 515-222-3444. Any comments or concerns shared with me by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, July 27 will be communicated to the City Council to assist them with making their decision.

How to Participate

1. **Pass a one-time approved International Bowhunter Education Foundation (I.B.E.F.) bowhunter safety education course.**

Check www.iowadnr.gov/training for upcoming local courses or take an online course at www.bowhunter-ed.com/iowa

2. **Pass an annual archery proficiency test using your hunting weapon.**

Test must be administered at a National Field Archery Association (N.F.A.A.) approved indoor lane by a certified I.B.E.F. instructor. Hunters are required to shoot 20 arrows: 10 from 15 yards and 10 from 20 yards at a full-sized 3-D target. Passing score of 80% or better in the vital target area to pass.

3. **Apply for a City of West Des Moines Permit for Controlled Bowhunt.**

Permit applications must be received prior to the application deadline to be considered for the hunter's preferred time period. If necessary, a drawing will be held to award the maximum number of permits.

4. **Purchase a special Deer Management Zone (DMZ) License.**

All hunters between the ages of 18 and 65 years of age must also have a current wildlife habitat stamp.

5. **Meet with City staff to review the rules of the hunt and the DMZ boundaries.**

At this meeting you will be required to show proof of passing the bowhunter safety education course and the proficiency test, as well as being legally entitled to hunt using a current State license.

Information & Contacts

City Contact Person

David Sadler, Superintendent of Parks
West Des Moines Parks & Recreation
4200 Mills Civic Parkway
West Des Moines, IA 50265
515-222-3456
david.sadler@wdm.iowa.gov

WDM Deer Management Zones

Southwoods Park	515-222-3447
Brown's Woods - Polk County	515-249-1543
Walnut Woods - IDNR	515-285-4502
Private Property	515-222-3447

2018-2019 Season/Hours

September 15, 2018 - January 27, 2019
1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset
2019 General Hunting Licenses must be purchased before January 9th to be able to hunt through January 28th

Safety Education/Proficiency Test Administrators

Archery Field & Sports, Altoona	515-265-6500

DMZ License Vendors

Archery Field & Sports	515-265-6500
Bass Pro Shops	515-957-5500
Johnston Bait & Tackle	515-254-1976
Scheels	515-727-4065
Sportsman's Warehouse	515-963-3500

Please Note: Seasons, rules & procedures may vary from one urban bowhunting area to another. It is the hunter's responsibility to know the special rules & regulations for the area in which they are hunting. Failure to do so may result in immediate revocation of hunting privileges.

THE CITY OF WEST DES MOINES®

Controlled Bowhunt Guidelines

Private Property Zones 2018-2019

Deer Management Goals

The following are goals of the City of West Des Moines Deer Management Program:

1. To stabilize or decrease deer populations over time to more ecologically-acceptable levels with the City of West Des Moines;

2. To provide public education regarding deer, their habits, impact on natural resources, population management, and the impact of feeding deer;

3. To continue aerial surveys to determine the effectiveness of a management program.

The City of West Des Moines is pleased to be a part of the Polk County Deer Task Force, which has been working since 1996 to control the urban deer population. The Polk County Deer Task Force believes that the whitetailed deer is a valuable part of our natural heritage.

The Task Force supports the perpetuation of the deer population in Polk County at ecologically-acceptable levels.

Safety must always be the NUMBER ONE concern!

Controlled Bowhunt Rules

The following rules apply to all West Des Moines Deer Management Zones (excluding Brown's Woods & Walnut Woods)**:**

- **Hunters** must check in with the City prior to entering a zone to hunt. A phone number will be provided to permit holders.
- **All** bows must be cased while traveling to and from the hunting stand. No uncased bow may be carried within 200 feet from any residence or building or within 75 feet from any trail or road.
- **All** shots must be taken from elevated stands. All stands must be portable with no permanent stands erected or screw-in steps used. Strap-on steps, a ladder, or a climbing stand are allowed. There will be no driving or stalking of deer.
- **All** stands must be located at least 200 feet from any residence or building and at least 75 feet from any trail or road. Shots may NOT be taken back into this distance separation. All shots must be taken downward and no further than 75 feet (25 yards) from the stand.
- **Hunters** must identify their target as an antlerless deer, focusing on adult does. Antlerless deer harvested in the 2016-2017 season may be counted towards a buck incentive program next year only if proper check-in procedures are followed.
- **Attempt** to retrieve all arrows. Use proper field dressing techniques. Don't leave entrails in a noticeable location. All deer harvested must be processed for meat for personal use or charity.
- **Harvested** deer must be reported to the City Contact Person within 24 hours. Contact WDM Animal Control (222-3364) as soon as possible if unable to locate a wounded deer.
- **A maximum** of three (3) deer per day may be harvested by each hunter under one City permit. A State license is required for each deer.
- **Private** property must be respected in all cases. Hunters must remove themselves from any harassment situation and immediately report the incident to the WDM Police Department.
- **If** necessary to cross private property to access a Deer Management Zone, permission must be received by the hunter from a property owner who has agreed to allow access.
- **The** City permit, valid State of Iowa deer license, and wildlife habitat stamp must be carried at all times while bowhunting. All Iowa DNR rules covering bowhunting of deer must be followed by the hunter. **All hunters must be 18 years or older.**

PLEASE NOTE: There is no maximum number of deer that can be harvested by a hunter, however the City does reserve the right to limit the number of deer harvested under each permit if necessary.

The City reserves the right to refuse to issue a permit due to any criminal convictions or permit denials, suspensions, or revocations by another government entity. Failure to abide by the requirements of Ordinance 5-2-30 or any additional regulations of the City may result in suspension or revocation of the issued permit.

PO Box 65815

MailName1	MailName2	MailAddress1	MailAddress2	MailCityStateZip
WEST DM SOCCER CLUB		~~25023 NONE~~		WEST DES MOINES, IA 50265 -9401
JANET J GOLDSMITH		1675 WALNUT WOODS DR		WEST DES MOINES, IA 50265 -8511
JON R HOOGENSEN		1705 WALNUT WOODS DR		WEST DES MOINES, IA 50265 -8544
JEFFREY D STONE		1635 WALNUT WOODS DR		WEST DES MOINES, IA 50265 -8510
ROBERT B STONE		1665 WALNUT WOODS DR		WEST DES MOINES, IA 50265 -8510
RYAN ALEXANDER		1615 WALNUT WOODS DR		WEST DES MOINES, IA 50265 -8507

Ortgies, Sally

From: Sadler, David
Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2018 6:19 PM
To: Ben & Marilyn Stone
Subject: RE: WDMDMZ

Mr. & Mrs. Stone,

Thank you for sharing your concerns about the proposed Deer Management Zone at 1715 Walnut Woods Drive. Your e-mail will certainly be shared with the Public Safety Council Committee members ahead of their meeting on at 7:30 am on August 3rd at Public Safety Station #19 (8055 Mills Civic Parkway). If the Committee approves moving ahead with consideration, your e-mail will also be shared with the full City Council prior to them taking action.

I do have answers to some of your specific questions. Hidden Valley Soccer complex was notified as an adjacent property owner, so they would have received the same mailed information. At this point, we have not received any comments from them. I will note that the West Des Moines Soccer Club (owners of Hidden Valley Soccer) was in support of the Deer Management Zone established adjacent to the soccer complex in Raccoon River Park.

As for other Deer Management Zones right next to soccer fields, as mentioned, there is a Deer Management Zone in Raccoon River Park directly adjacent to the soccer complex in that park. Hunting begins on October 1st in the Raccoon River Park Zone and is not allowed during scheduled games/tournaments. There is also controlled bowhunting allowed in Walnut Woods State Park directly to the west of Hidden Valley Soccer, and I believe there are no restrictions on days or times of hunting within the season of September 15 through January 28.

Your concerns are duly noted, and again this info will be shared with the Public Safety Council Committee members who will be looking at these possible new zones. Thanks for taking the time to share your input.

Sincerely,

David Sadler PLA, ASLA
Superintendent of Parks / City of West Des Moines
4200 Mills Civic Parkway / West Des Moines, IA 50265
(515) 222-3456 phone / (515) 222-3459 fax david.sadler@wdm.iowa.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Ben & Marilyn Stone [mailto:mbthnstone@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 25, 2018 1:00 PM
To: Sadler, David <David.Sadler@wdm.iowa.gov>
Subject: WDMDMZ

This letter is to inform you that we as property owners adjacent to 1715 SE Walnut Woods Drive are against having a controlled bow hunting zone.

We are against it because there is a soccer field right next to this zone and we feel that it is extremely unsafe for the young children and families to be in such close proximity to bow hunters. We do not want the first safety issue to be in this area. We also have not had anyone reported loss or damage to their property because of deer.

I am shocked and saddened that the Superintendent of Parks would even consider a controlled bow hunting zone when there are hundreds of children and spectators watching soccer at numerous times and days of the week. These spectators would have to be watching for arrows while they are trying to watch their son /daughters soccer game. This is unacceptable. Children often have to go after their soccer balls in this area and will not be looking for arrows. This would be very unsafe. There are also buildings and storage that the Soccer Club keeps there equipment in and are driving back to this area and they also would have to be on the look out for a deer hunter-again this is not safe.

Have you notified Hidden Valley Soccer that this is being considered? Is Hidden Valley Soccer in support of this Deer Hunting Zone- I can't image that they would be. I would like to know what other Deer Management Zones are right next to a Soccer Field?

Again, we are property owners are against this proposed Deer Hunting Zone.

Ben & Marilyn Stone
1665 S.E. Walnut Woods Drive
WDM, Ia 50265

Sadler, David

From: Sadler, David
Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2018 11:35 AM
To: 'janetgoldsmith@mchsi.com'
Subject: RE: 1715 SE Walnut Woods drive. deer management zone request

Russel and Janet,

Thank you for sharing your concerns about the proposed Deer Management Zone at 1715 Walnut Woods Drive. As discussed with Janet earlier this week, the Public Safety Council Committee members meet last Friday (8/3) and reviewed proposals for two new zones. The other zone is on 92nd Street (the back sheets on the mailers got switched thus why you saw that address shown). The committee recommended moving forward with both zones. However, they still need to be approved by the full council. This item will be on the City Council agenda on 8/20 starting at 5:30. You are more than welcome to attend that meeting, and your e-mail will be shared with the full City Council prior to them taking action.

Your concerns are duly noted, and thanks for taking the time to share your input.

Sincerely,

David Sadler PLA, ASLA
Superintendent of Parks / City of West Des Moines
4200 Mills Civic Parkway / West Des Moines, IA 50265
(515) 222-3456 phone / (515) 222-3459 fax david.sadler@wdm.iowa.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: janetgoldsmith@mchsi.com [mailto:janetgoldsmith@mchsi.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2018 2:11 PM
To: Sadler, David <David.Sadler@wdm.iowa.gov>
Subject: 1715 SE Walnut Woods drive. deer management zone request

Mr. Sadler and WDM City Councel,

After talking with my husband, we would like to object to the Deer Management Zone request at 1715 SE Walnut Woods Dr. My husband in his younger days was a bow hunter for deer. We have read and understand deer population control issues and Waisting Disease. All of that said, I would like u to consider the following:

1. We like our deer on our property and have made accommodations for no damage to our property. The deer do not cause damage. In the winter time, they rest and sleep on the leaves in our back yard. Last year there were 2 groups-- one with 3 and another with 5. We have seen very little of them this summer-- know there is one fawn that we have seen.

2. We read the attached Bowhunting Guidelines and understand what it says. We see the stand (how he use to hunt) and arrow not into next property. BUT from his experience the arrow usually doesn't kill the deer when it hits and the deer runs until its death. All our properties are so close and this zone so small the deer would have to run on a neighbors property to die. The hunter will either have to go on other private property to retrieve deer or not and leave

it alone after death. There is also the problem of how to get killed deer back to vehicle to transport. How would this be done on private property and with so many trees, etc?

3. This area with all the timber is the deer's home. They were here first! We chose to live here knowing they and other wild life lived here first. That is why we chose this area to reside!

4. I also do not understand the letter where it talks about the address of 1715 SE Walnut Woods Dr, but in the next to last paragraph, it talks about the City Council addressing the zoning of 2220 S. 92nd street. Is this Walnut Woods zone part of the one at 2220 S 92nd st?

We hope you will consider these things when looking at this request and decide not to approve it. I hope to get to the City Council meeting on Aug. 20.

Russel and Janet Goldsmith
1675 SE Walnut Woods Dr
West Des Moines, IA, 50265
Phone 515-669-0641

Ortgies, Sally

From: Sadler, David
Sent: Friday, July 27, 2018 3:48 PM
To: Ortgies, Sally
Subject: Fwd: Privet Property Deer Management Zone

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Ryan Alexander <alexander.ryan@gmail.com>
> **Date:** July 27, 2018 at 3:23:34 PM CDT
> **To:** david.sadler@wdm.iowa.gov
> **Subject: Privet Property Deer Management Zone**
>
> I live near the proposed private deer hunting area at 1715 SE Walnut Woods Drive. I do not feel conferrable with it being allowed. I understand and respect the need for deer management. The issue i have is with bow hunting deer.They do not drop strait down. They run off. I don't want to explain to my 2 little girls why there is a blood trail through the yard in the snow. The deer frequently sleep in my yard so if shot they could run back and collapse in it. Watching the deer is my oldest daughters favorite thing to do as the leaves start to come off the trees.
>
> Thank you,
> Ryan Alexander
> 515.776.8434