



Results of the 2020 Duluth City Bowhunt

Report prepared by Brian Borkholder on behalf of the Arrowhead Bowhunters Alliance

February 2021

GENERAL 2020 SUMMARY: The Arrowhead Bowhunters Alliance (ABA) placed 305 hunters into the 2020 Duluth City Bowhunt. Those 305 hunters harvested a total of 312 white-tailed deer (228 antlerless & 44 antlered males) (Table 1).

After a five year period where harvest was less than 1.0 deer per hunter, 2020 saw an increase in hunter success (Tables 1 and 2). Harvest for the 2020 season was 1.02 ± 0.11 deer / hunter (Table 2). This was the harvest for all registered hunters, including those hunters that failed to harvest any deer. The ABA doesn't know whether failing to harvest a deer in 2020 was the result of not spending much time in the woods, or not even getting into the woods. The statistics for all hunters not reporting any harvested deer were removed from the calculations, and the reported harvest for successful hunters are presented in Tables 1 and 2. Harvest for successful hunters was 1.65 ± 0.10 deer (Tables 1 & 2), an increase over the last five seasons, though not a statistically significant increase. Antlerless harvest for the successful hunters averaged 1.21 ± 0.08 antlerless per hunters, slightly higher than last year's observed low, though not significantly so (Tables 1 & 2).

The placement of 305 hunters in 2020 is an increase in participation over the last three seasons (Blue bars in Figure 1). The percentage of individuals harvesting deer in 2020 was higher than observed in the recent past, at 62.0% (Table 1). Of the 305 registered hunters, 189 harvested a deer in 2020 (Figure 2). Hunter success hasn't been this high since the 2012 season, when 76.3% of participating hunters harvested a deer (Table 1). Total number of harvested deer in 2020 was higher than in 2019, when the lowest number harvested for a season was observed (Blue bars in Figure 3). Hunters in 2020 harvested at a higher rate not observed since the 2014 season (blue & red lines in Figure 3).

Similar to past seasons and in line with the stated goals of this management Hunt, the 2020 harvest was dominated by antlerless individuals (Table 1, Figure 4). Of the 312 deer harvested, 73.1% (N=228) were antlerless individuals. The breakdown of antlerless was 160 adult does, 37 fawn does, and 31 fawn bucks (Figure 4). These numbers are in line with past years' harvest distribution. This was in spite of the removal of the Earn-a-Buck requirement on Thanksgiving Day, which some thought would lead to a bump in antlered male harvest. After the removal of this requirement, seven hunters took advantage of this and harvested an antlered male without having first registered an antlerless individual. This harvest was higher than what was observed in previous seasons when this requirement was lifted, likely due to the very mild December our hunters experienced this season, making it very comfortable to sit in the woods even late into December, and possibly also due to the COVID-19 disruption to everyone's lives, making the solitary activity of bowhunting a safe activity.

The Duluth City Council has established 42 Designated Hunting Areas (DHAs) throughout the City of Duluth. Harvest among these DHAs is highly variable (Figure 5). DHA 1 once again had the highest harvest in 2020 at 24 deer. Hunters harvested 22 deer from DHA 12B. Hot spots are areas outside of DHAs, which the ABA Board and the Duluth Police Department set up on an ad hoc basis to target localized problem deer populations. In 2020, 24 deer were harvested from Hot Spots (Table 3). Figure 6 shows a map of the City of Duluth with the 42 various DHAs identified, along with the number of deer harvested for each of the DHAs.



Cumulative harvest throughout the season, by week number, is shown in Figure 7. 2020 data is depicted by the orange diamonds. Lighter markers present data from other seasons, 2008 – 2019. The harvest in 2020 was higher than it's been since the 2015 season (Figure 7, top panel), but still low by comparison to previous seasons.

For the 16 seasons of the Duluth Bowhunt, total harvest by registered bowhunters is 6928 white-tailed deer; of which 5746 were antlerless while 1182 were antlered males (Table 1). Only 17.1% of the harvest has been antlered males, completely in line with the stated goals of this hunt to reduce antlerless individuals, and thus the reproductive potential of the Duluth deer herd.

Total harvest had been somewhat stable from 2006 thru 2012, between 500 and 600 animals (blue bars in Figure 3). Beginning with the 2013 season, and continuing thru the 2020 season, harvest dropped well below this level (Figure 3). The number of deer harvested / hunter was essentially flat at about 1.8 deer / hunter from 2007 – 2010, and dropped to approximately 1.0 deer / hunter in 2013 (red line in Figure 3). In 2015, it dipped below 1.0 for the first time. During the first season of the hunt, more than 92% of participating hunters harvested a deer (Figure 8). In 2016, that percentage was below 50%, but rose slightly in 2017 and has remained somewhat stable since, between 54% and 62% (Figure 8, Table 1).

Raw harvest numbers do not tell a complete story. Effort needs to be accounted for. When standardized by area (harvest / mile²) or effort (number of hunters), harvest trends appear to have increased slightly in 2020. Harvest per square mile (mile²) is presented in a map view of the City of Duluth (Figure 9) and by various geographic areas of the City (Figure 10). Increases were observed in 2020 in all areas of the City (green bars, Figure 10). Figure 11 shows a consistent decline in harvest / mile² throughout the history of the hunt on a city-wide basis. In 2020, harvest / mile² was only about 1/3rd of our first year's harvest (Figure 11), and is in line with the average over the last five seasons, at 7.3 deer / mi². Table 4 presents the raw data for the last 14 years. Harvests in excess of 20 deer harvested / mile² were once common (Table 4, 2006 – 2012 seasons), but these high harvest levels haven't been observed city-wide since, with the exception of DHAs 9 – 10 until the 2016 season.

Another way of analyzing harvest is on a per hunter basis. Figure 8 presents data suggesting a decline in hunter success. During the early years of the Hunt, the benchmark for success had been 2 deer / hunter, presumably one antlerless and one antlered deer. Figure 12 presents the percentage of our hunters harvesting 2 or more deer, and illustrates how much has changed between 2005 and the decline that began in 2013. Between 2005 and 2019, the percentage dropped from just under 60% of hunters harvesting two or more deer, to less than 25% in 2019. In 2020, this rate increased to 32.5%, higher than observed since the 2012 season. Since 2013, we appear to be in a phase of maintaining the deer herd at a relatively constant level (Figure 12). Figure 13 shows a consistent decline in total harvest / hunter and antlerless harvest / hunter. Antlered buck harvest / hunter has remained somewhat stable (green line, Figure 13).

Overall, the deer harvested / mile² is low (Figures 10). Total harvest / hunter and antlerless harvest / hunter are also low (Figure 13). During the early years of the hunt, the white-tailed deer density was high, as was hunter success, which was relatively constant at just under 2.0 deer / hunter (blue line, Figure 3). After several seasons of high harvest, our hunters began to have a noticeable effect on the herd, and it, along with hunter success, began a five-year decline during what may be referred to as the “declining years” of the Duluth. 2020, while slightly higher, still represents the eighth consecutive year of the “Maintenance Phase” of the hunt, where the deer herd seems to have stabilized as has hunter success at a level at or just under 1.0 deer per hunter. This pattern is not observed in the buck harvest (Figure 13), likely due to hunters not being able to fulfill the earn-a-buck requirement in order to harvest an antlered male.



Deer populations, by all accounts, are down from levels observed prior to the start of this Hunt Program. Our hunters have been very successful at lowering the Duluth deer herd as promised to the Duluth residents and City Council. While not enjoyable for those hunters that have to sit eight, ten, or even twelve times between deer sightings, it is hard to argue that this Hunt Program hasn't been a success. Our hunters are to be commended.

This is not new information to us. We've stated before that "Success" will be redefined as we move from the phase of depressing the deer herd to one of maintaining it at this low level. Bowhunters have never been successful at total deer herd removal in any urban hunt within the United States. Reduction is possible, and Duluth hunters have demonstrated this. But bowhunters will never completely eliminate white-tailed deer from the landscape. As noted in the comments in Appendix 1, some of our hunters fear that this is a possibility. Duluth residents likely would not support a complete elimination of the deer herd. From the hunters' perspective, the definition for success needs to be the continued opportunity to participate in a sport that is a passion of many, in our own backyard. Success from the Duluth community's perspective needs to be the maintenance of the herd at this lower level. Continuing this opportunity provides a service to our community by keeping the herd at current levels. Eliminating this opportunity will no doubt increase the deer herd back to 2005 population levels in a few short years, a level completely unacceptable by the residents, insurance companies, and the Duluth Police Department.

It is important to note that even though our hunters are largely not satisfied with the success rates in recent seasons, it is still significantly higher than the MN Statewide archery success rate of 18.7% (C. Balzer, MN DNR, personal communication). This statistic is for successful hunters throughout the State. Clearly, when compared to the past success rates in the city hunt, the success rate is down (62.0%, Table 1), but it is still pretty good when compared to the statewide average, and certainly better than we've seen since 2012. Our hunters can be expected to harvest at least one deer every 2.0 years (ABA Data), as opposed to the statewide average of hunters harvesting 1 deer every 5.4 years (C. Balzer, MNDNR, personal communication). There are several hypotheses that may explain this difference in success rates, even given a real or perceived lack of deer in the woods. Duluth hunters jump thru a lot of hoops to get into this Hunt, and thus are likely to invest more time in the woods. Plus, it is very convenient to hunt in your back yard or after work to jump into a stand three blocks away. It is much less convenient to run up to deer shacks 30 miles out of town, or to leave the city after work and still have the daylight time to get in an evening sit. Without this opportunity, many of our hunters would likely spend much less time in the woods, and their hunting success would reflect that lack of effort.



Table 1. Summary Statistics for the Duluth City Bowhunt. Total harvest / hunter for each deer type reports the harvest for all hunters participating in the Hunt. Harvest / successful hunter removes all of the hunters that failed to register a deer during each season. Percentage Donated reports the percentage of harvested deer donated to friends, family, or food shelves. The number of hunters and percentage harvesting two or more deer is also reported, along with the percentage of hunters that were successful in harvesting any deer. Mean (average), maximum and minimum observed values are summarized at the bottom of the table. Total harvest numbers are also presented.

	# Hunters Placed	# Hunters Harvesting	Total Harvest	Total Antlerless	Total Antlered	Total Harvest / Hunter	Total Harvest / Successful Hunter	Buck Harvest / Hunter	Buck Harvest / Successful Hunter	Antlerless Harvest / Hunter	Antlerless Harvest / Successful Hunter	% Donated	% Hunters Harvesting a Deer	No. Hunters Harvesting 2+ Deer	% Hunters Harvesting 2+ deer	% Hunters Harvesting a Deer
2005	192	177	333	265	68	1.73	1.88	0.35	0.38	1.38	1.50		92.2%			92.2%
2006	252	196	564	485	79	2.24	2.88	0.31	0.40	1.92	2.47		77.8%	149	59.1%	77.8%
2007	315	252	568	477	91	1.80	2.25	0.29	0.36	1.51	1.89		80.0%	155	49.2%	80.0%
2008	289	220	533	458	75	1.84	2.42	0.26	0.34	1.58	2.08		76.1%	141	48.8%	76.1%
2009	315	247	588	494	94	1.87	2.38	0.30	0.38	1.57	2.00	51.7%	78.4%	153	48.6%	78.4%
2010	339	272	604	515	89	1.78	2.22	0.26	0.33	1.52	1.89	61.8%	80.2%	159	46.9%	80.2%
2011	377	268	587	476	111	1.56	2.19	0.29	0.41	1.26	1.78	57.9%	71.1%	168	44.6%	71.1%
2012	359	274	574	483	91	1.60	2.09	0.25	0.33	1.35	1.76	53.7%	76.3%	162	45.1%	76.3%
2013	391	231	399	346	53	1.02	1.73	0.14	0.23	0.88	1.50	58.3%	59.1%	98	25.1%	59.1%
2014	355	208	451	375	76	1.27	2.17	0.21	0.37	1.06	1.80	51.2%	58.6%	107	30.1%	58.6%
2015	375	209	371	309	62	0.99	1.79	0.16	0.30	0.82	1.48	47.7%	55.7%	102	27.2%	55.7%
2016	352	174	281	235	46	0.80	2.02	0.13	0.26	0.67	1.35	50.4%	49.4%	70	19.9%	49.4%
2017	296	160	290	239	51	0.98	1.81	0.17	0.32	0.81	1.85	52.8%	54.1%	74	25.0%	54.1%
2018	285	157	240	182	58	0.84	1.53	0.20	0.37	0.64	1.16	53.3%	55.1%	70	24.6%	55.1%
2019	283	151	233	179	54	0.82	1.54	0.23	0.36	0.63	1.19	48.9%	53.4%	70.00	24.7%	53.4%
2020	305	189	312	228	84	1.02	1.65	0.28	0.44	0.75	1.21	53.5%	62.0%	99	32.5%	62.0%
Mean	317.5	211.6	433.0	359.1	73.9	1.39	2.04	0.24	0.35	1.15	1.68	53.4%	67.5%	118.47	36.8%	67.5%
Min	192	151	233	179	46	0.80	1.53	0.13	0.23	0.63	1.16	47.7%	49.4%	70.00	19.9%	49.4%
Max	391	274	604	515	111	2.24	2.88	0.35	0.44	1.92	2.47	61.8%	92.2%	168.00	59.1%	92.2%
Sum			6928	5746	1182											



Table 2. Hunter harvest statistics for the 2020 Duluth Bowhunt, along with 2018 and 2019 statistics and the long-term averages. As in Table 1, total harvest / hunter for each deer type reports the harvest for all hunters participating in the Hunt. Harvest / successful hunter removes all of the hunters that failed to register a deer during each season.

	2020	2019	2018	Long-term Duluth Average
Total Harvest/Hunter	1.02 ± 0.11	0.82 ± 0.11	0.84 ± 0.10	1.38 ± 0.25
Buck Harvest / Hunter	0.28 ± 0.05	0.19 ± 0.04	0.20 ± 0.05	0.24 ± 0.04
Antlerless Harvest / Hunter	0.75 ± 0.08	0.63 ± 0.08	0.64 ± 0.08	1.15 ± 0.22
Harvest / Successful Hunter	1.65 ± 0.10	1.54 ± 0.10	1.53 ± 0.10	1.15 ± 0.22
Buck Harvest / Successful Hunter	0.44 ± 0.07	0.36 ± 0.07	0.37 ± 0.07	0.35 ± 0.03
Antlerless Harvest / Successful Hunter	1.21 ± 0.08	1.18 ± 0.07	1.16 ± 0.07	1.68 ± 0.19

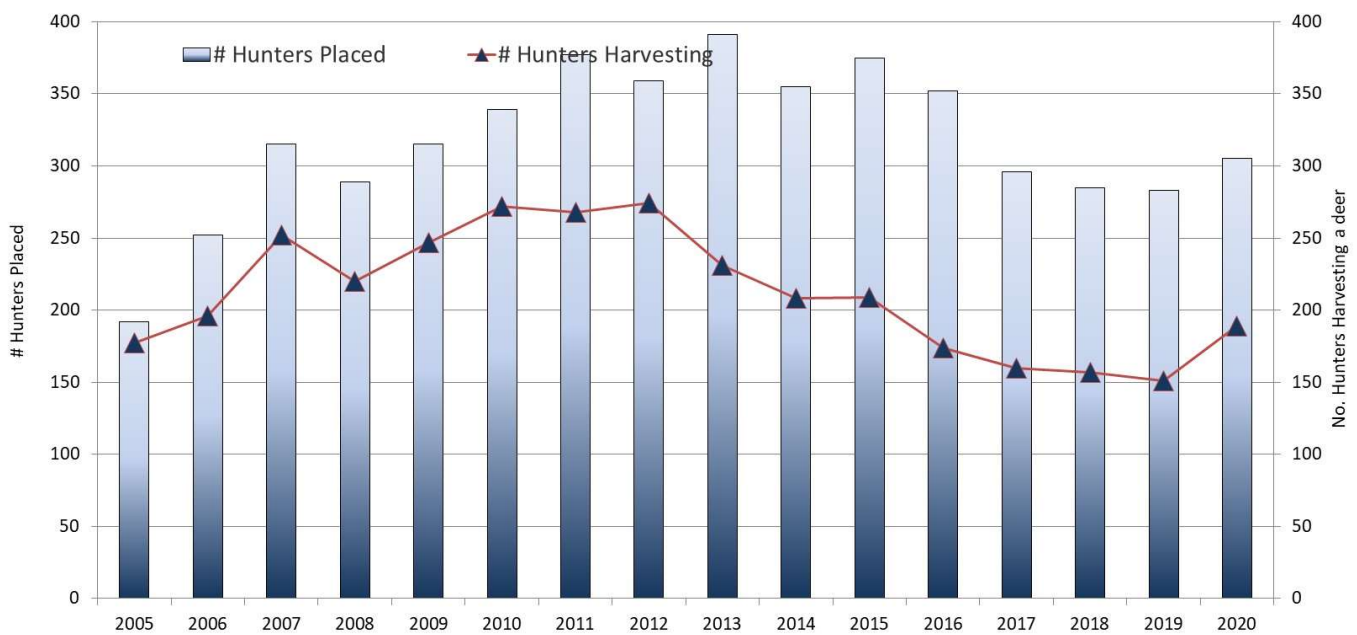


Figure 1. Number of hunters placed (left axis) and the number of those hunters harvesting deer (right axis) in each season of the Duluth City Bowhunt.

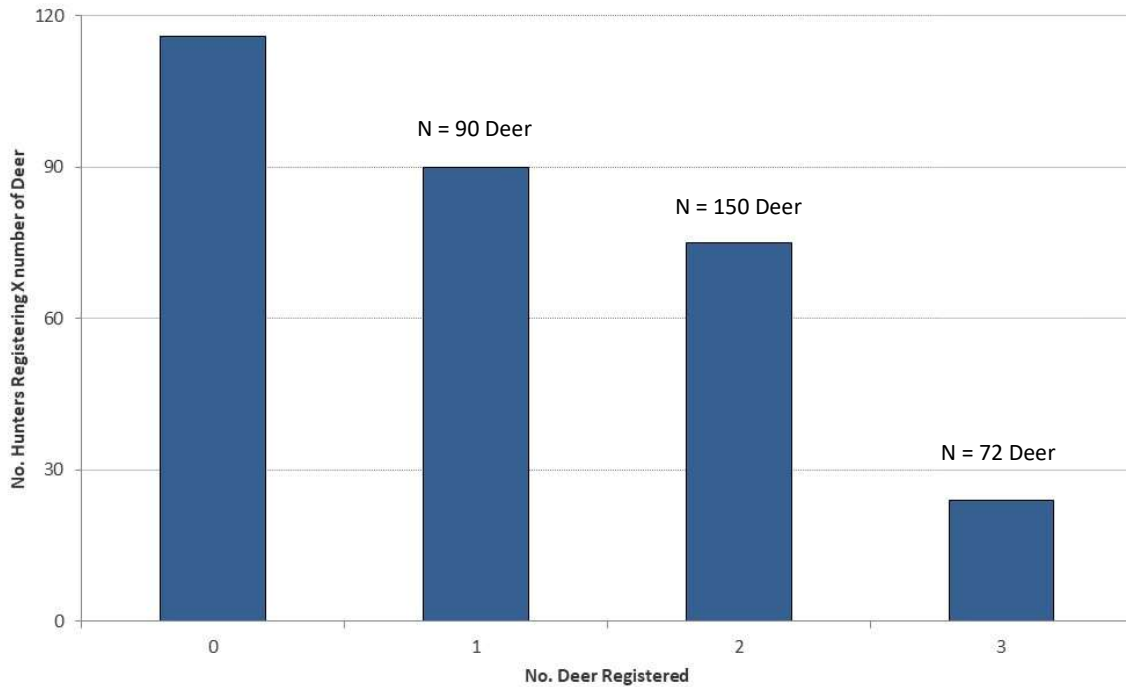


Figure 2. The number of Duluth City bowhunters and the number of deer harvested for the 2020 Duluth City Bowhunt ($N = 305$ hunters). Numbers above indicate the number of deer harvested by each group, e.g. 24 hunters harvested 3 deer for a total of 72 deer.

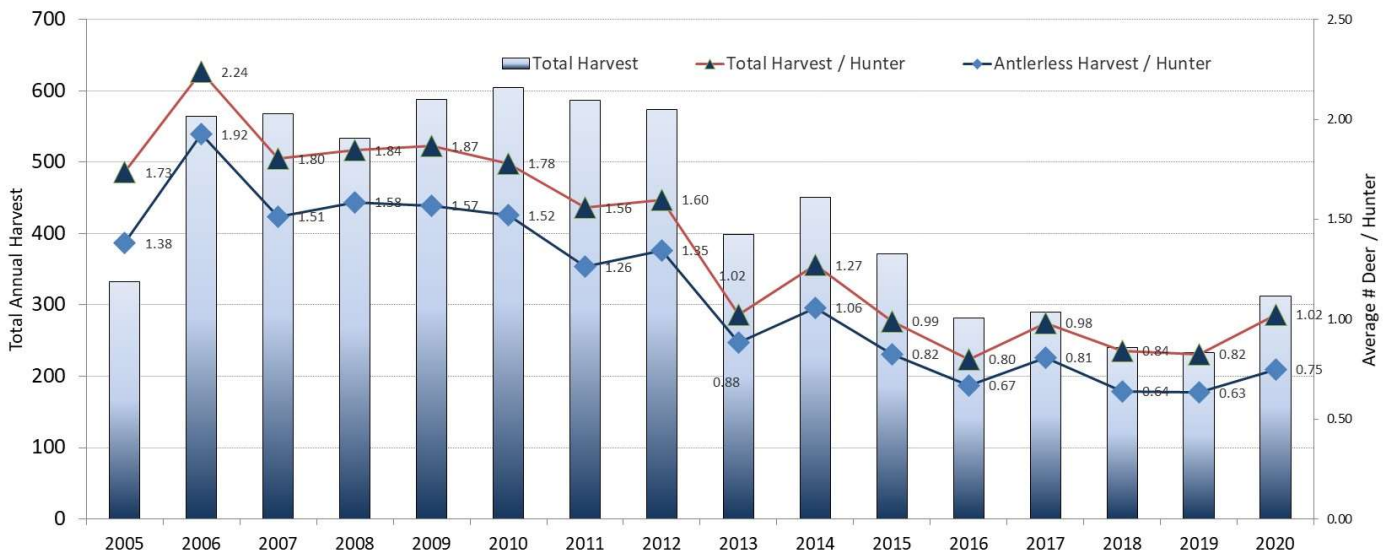


Figure 3. Total harvest, total per hunter, and total antlerless per hunter for the 16 seasons of the Duluth City Bowhunt. When standardized for number of participants, hunter harvest rate was slightly higher than in 2019.



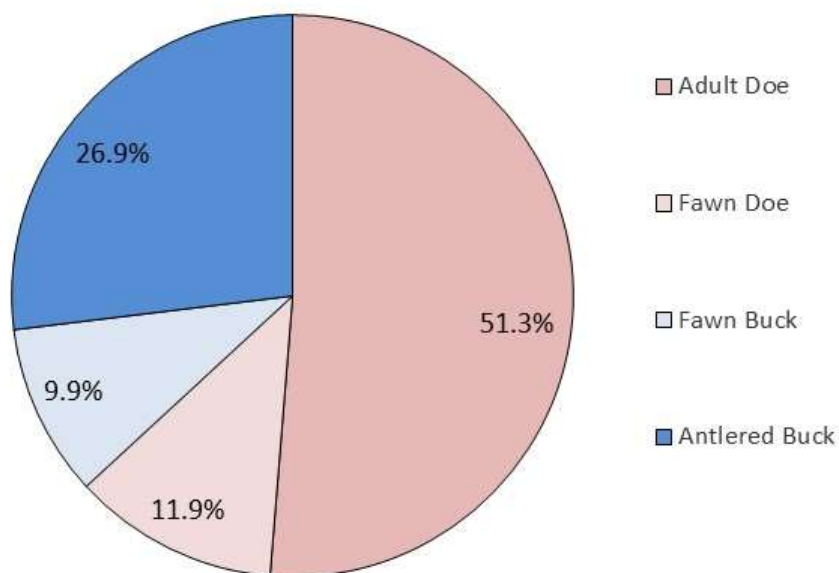


Figure 4. Breakdown of harvest by deer type for the 2020 Duluth Bowhunt.

Table 3. Harvest within Hot Spots during the 2020 Duluth City Bowhunt. Harvest within Hot Spots is limited to antlerless only.

Description	No. Antlerless Harvested
E Superior St	3
Lakeside	3
Little Ely	11
Sneve	2
Wabasha	5
TOTAL	24

Total Harvest by DHA

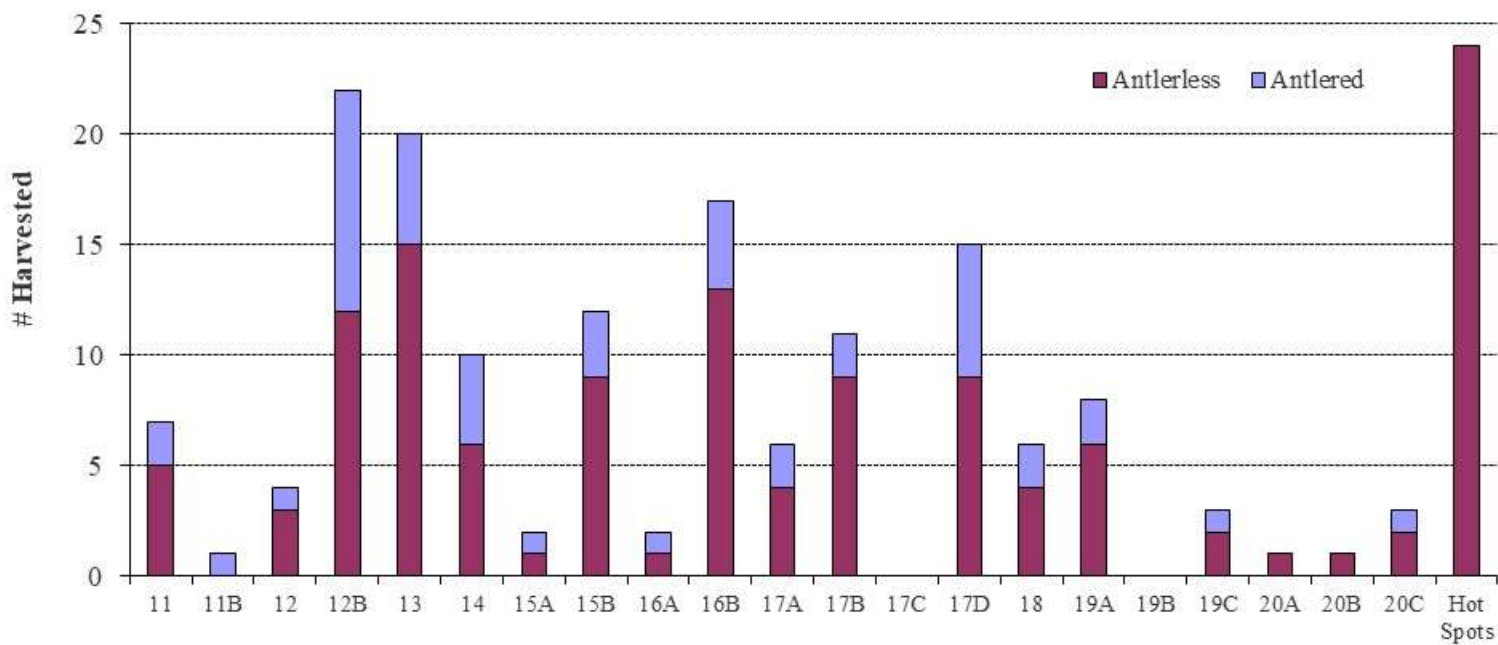
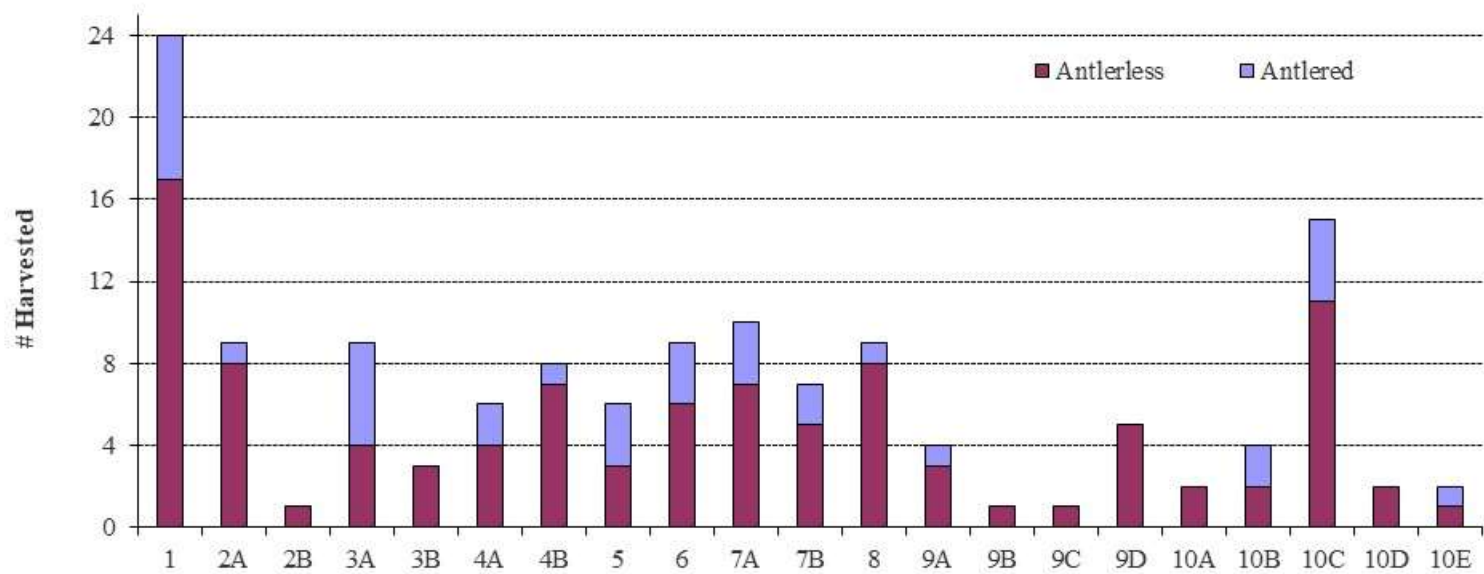


Figure 5. Number of deer harvested by deer type (Antlerless or Antlered) within each of the 42 designated hunting areas (DHAs) within the City of Duluth during the 2020 bowhunt.



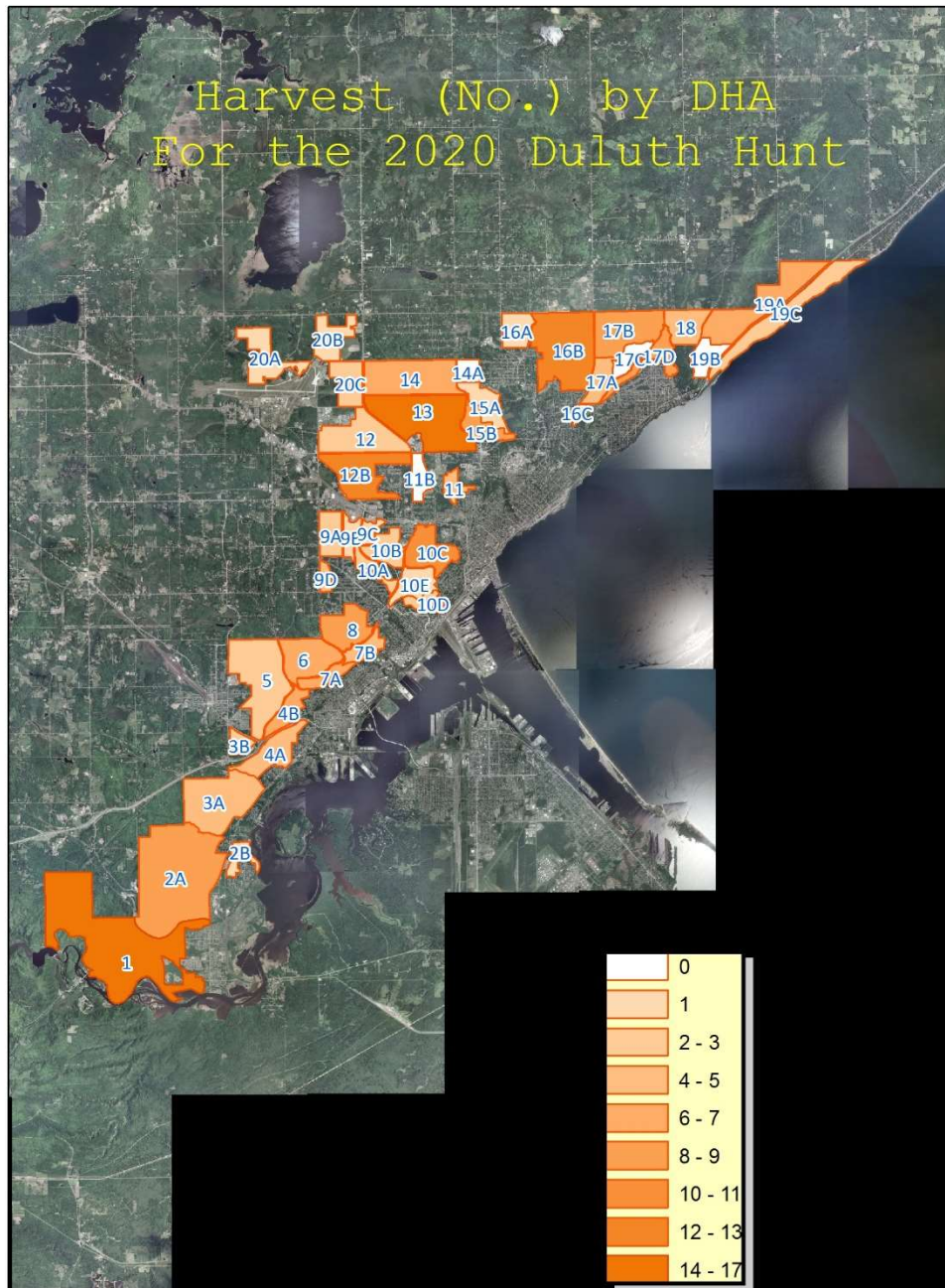


Figure 6. Map of the City of Duluth, along with harvest (number of deer) within each of the 42 Designated Hunting Areas during the 2020 Duluth City Bowhunt. DHAs are labelled on the map. The color of the DHA indicates the number of deer harvested as identified in the legend at the right.

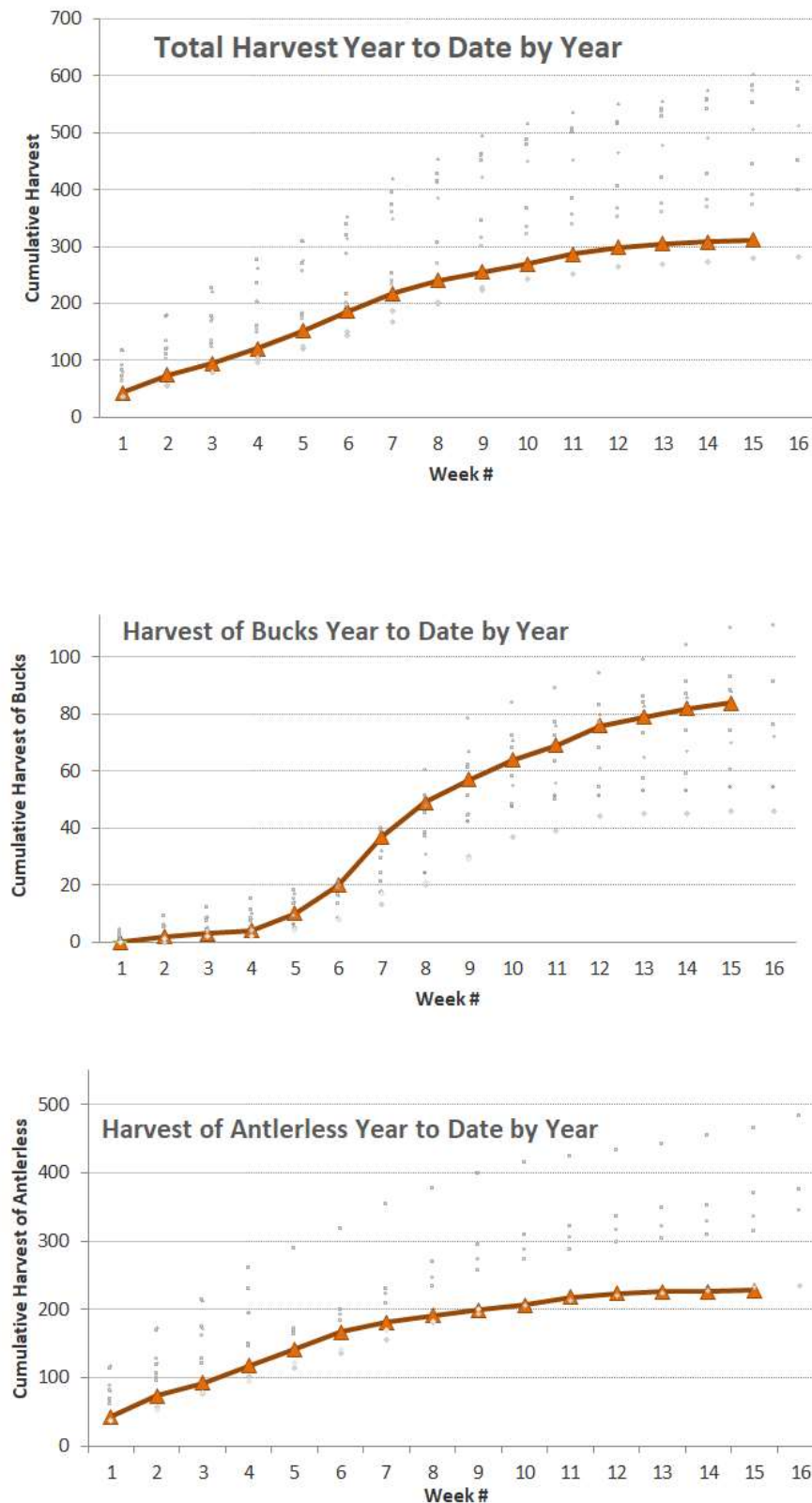


Figure 7. Harvest throughout the season, by week number, for the 2020 Duluth City Bowhunt (orange lines). Top panel shows total harvest by week; middle panel shows harvest for antlered males; bottom panel is harvest of antlerless deer by week. Weeks are measured Saturday thru Friday, starting on 19 September 2020 thru the end of the season on 31 December 2020. Other seasons are shown for comparison using non-colored markers.

% Hunters Harvesting a Deer

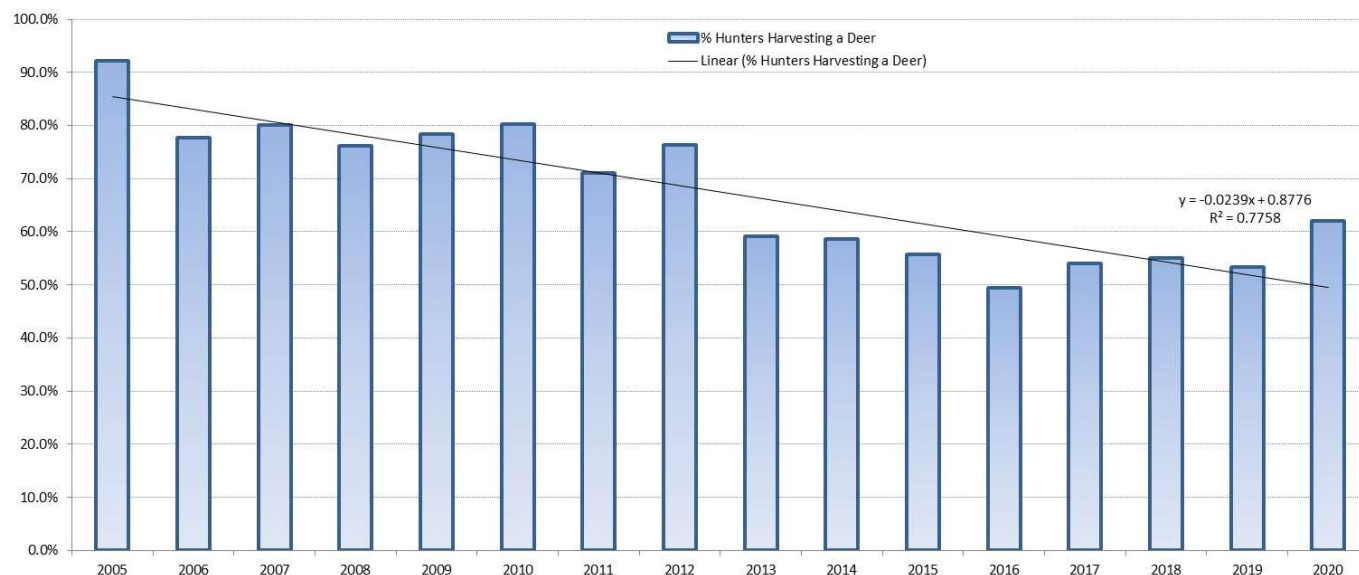


Figure 8. Percentage of hunters harvesting deer while participating in the Duluth City Bowhunt.

In addition, there's hunter selectivity that can't be modeled between the City's opportunities (three deer total) and that of the other bowhunters within Minnesota. Most areas of MN limit hunters to a single deer. Due to the unfortunate perceptions propagated by the modern deer hunting media complex, many hunters have been mistakenly led to believe that a "true" hunter only shoots "trophy" bucks. Many hunters throughout the State hunt patiently for the "perfect" deer. Many shot opportunities are passed, especially in most of the State where a hunter can only harvest a single animal. These hunters may, or may not, end up punching their tag. This is entirely a personal decision, made by the hunter. The ABA doesn't judge hunters for making such choices. But it does end up biasing estimates of hunter success lower than would be expected with our current deer densities throughout the State. This may be reflected in the low statewide success of 18.7%. Duluth City hunters are essentially required by the earn-a-buck regulation to take the first legitimate shot opportunity on any antlerless individual. This inflates our success rate much higher than it would be in the absence of multiple antlerless tags and the earn-a-buck requirement. Our hunters' relatively high success may not be truly indicative of deer densities within the City, and probably shouldn't be compared to those outside of the City. We'd only be able to test this hypothesis thru the total elimination of the earn-a-buck requirement for a one or two-year trial basis. This would be an interesting experiment.

Perhaps it is time to reconsider what this hunt is all about. Deer reduction, while a major component of any urban hunt, is not the only benefit to the City and the participants. There's little argument that the reduction of the deer herd has been effectively accomplished. But the Hunt continues to provide a wonderful and safe recreational opportunity in our own backyards. In addition, many participants rely upon the "free range" meat that they can provide to their families. Continuing the Hunt has additional benefits to society in addition to keeping the deer herd at socially, biologically, and ecologically acceptable levels.

The ABA has been advising local politicians and landowners to adjust their expectations and redefine the definition of "success" for this urban hunt. In 2005, "success" was defined by our hunters as "punching all five tags". Politicians and landowners defined "success" as a harvest of 500 or more deer during those early seasons.



Politicians sought to increase hunter participation and recruitment from one year to the next in order to increase harvest and their definition of “success”. For several years now, the ABA has demonstrated that the data indicates those days are in the past, as we now have a new deer herd sustained at levels far lower than those observed prior to the start of this hunt in 2005, and far lower than what can sustain a harvest exceeding 500 deer per season. Hindsight demonstrates that the harvest of 500 deer per year was definitely NOT sustainable.

The ABA has been preaching to our bowhunters for years to adjust their expectations for the future, especially for those hunters that have participated for the last 16 years. Gone are the days of seeing a dozen deer every evening in the woods. While this Hunt Program continues, those population levels will never be seen again. Hunters that don’t have the time or patience to wait for just two or three harvest opportunities in a season are encouraged to hunt elsewhere. What the ABA and law enforcement can’t tolerate are hunters taking matters into their own hands, and artificially increasing harvest opportunities at the expense of ethics and the law. Examples include baiting or creating illegal food plots on public lands. Another example is choosing to ignore the DHA boundaries and hunting illegally in areas not approved by the Duluth City Council or the Duluth Police Department, both of which occurred during the 2020 season. While lower deer numbers and harvest opportunities are a hard reality for hunters that have been with this Program since inception, it’s vital that participants consider the future of the Hunt Program and our continued acceptance by the Duluth residents before choosing to break the law. If these lower deer numbers are not acceptable to individual hunters, the ABA would ask that you pull out a State map and find other areas that may have higher deer densities than what is currently observed within Duluth.

For most readers, this will conclude the 2020 Annual Report. On behalf of the Arrowhead Bowhunters Alliance, we thank all of those individuals that participated in the 2020 Duluth Bowhunt, and who made this another successful, albeit difficult, season. See you in the woods in 2021!

Section 2, beginning on page 17, will go into fine details of the 2020 Hunt, details about our hunters and their successes, and other such seemingly insignificant details that few, if any, will find even remotely interesting. For those brave souls that opt to continue, you may be tempted to interpret the statistics and graphs that follow as “*blah, blah, blah. . .*”. If you have a misbehaving child, make them continue reading until their behavior and attitude improves, or until they fall asleep from sheer boredom. Thank you.



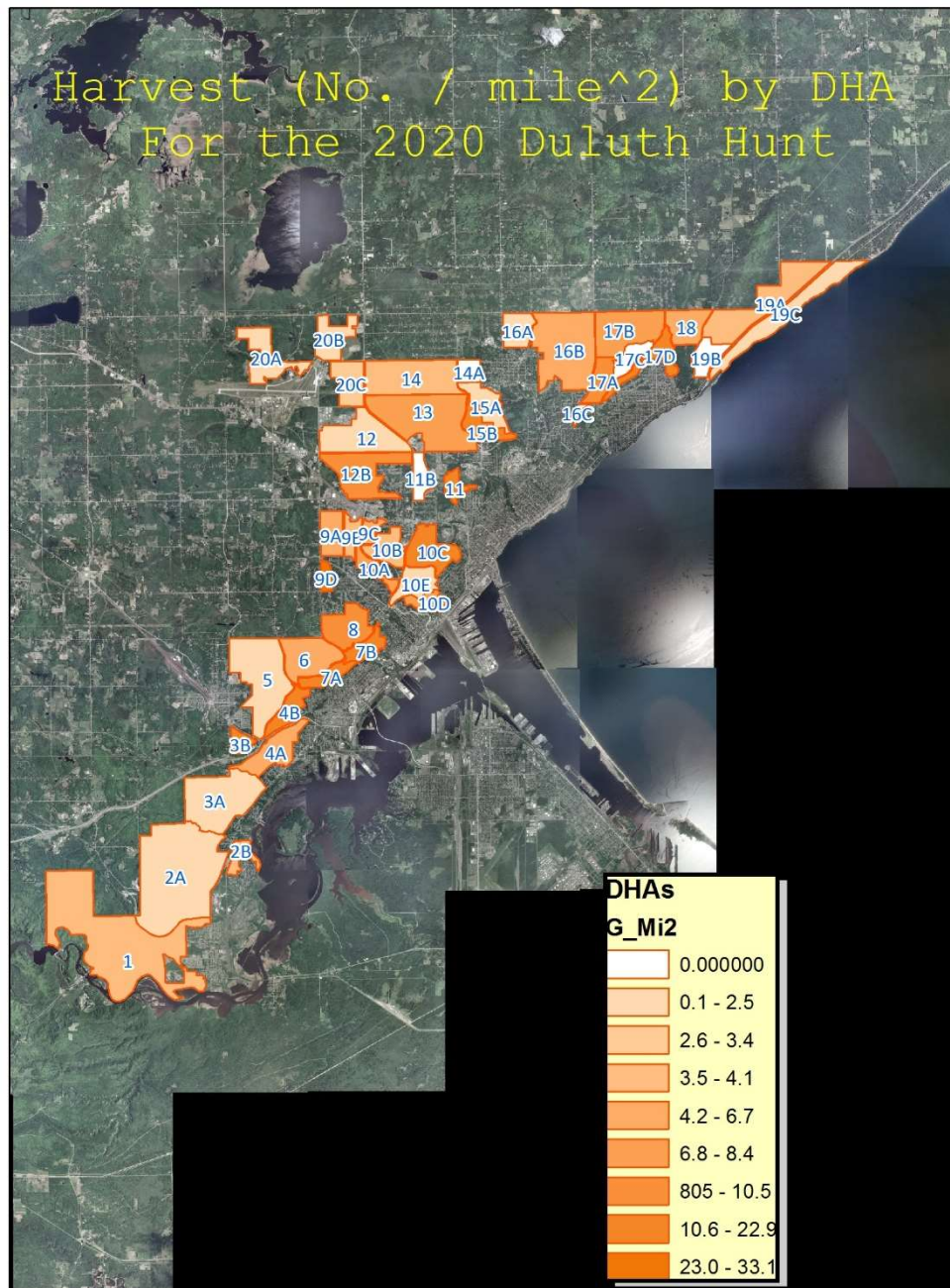


Figure 9. Map of the City of Duluth, along with harvest per mile² within each of the 42 Designated Hunting Areas during the 2018 Duluth City Bowhunt. DHAs are labelled on the map. The color of the DHA indicates the number of deer harvested per mile² as identified in the legend at the right.

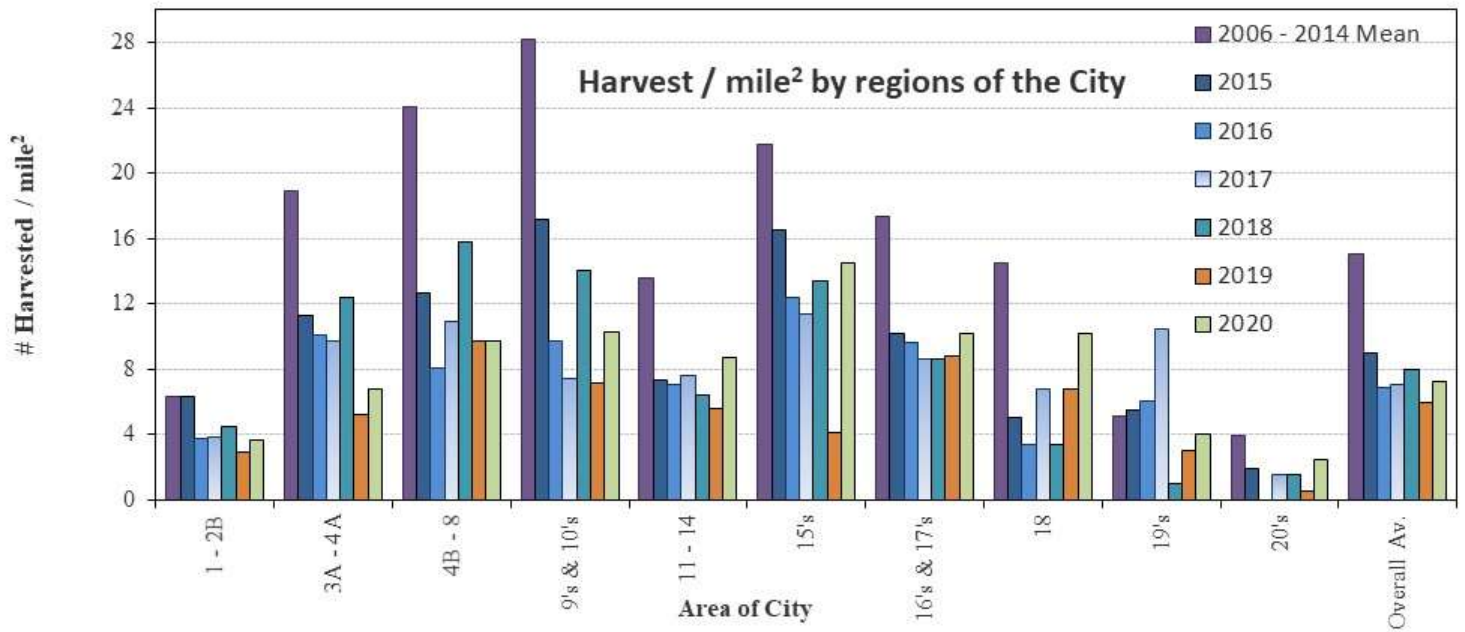


Figure 10. Harvest / mile² in various areas of the City of Duluth. Data presented is for the 2015 – 2020 seasons, and the long-term average (mean).

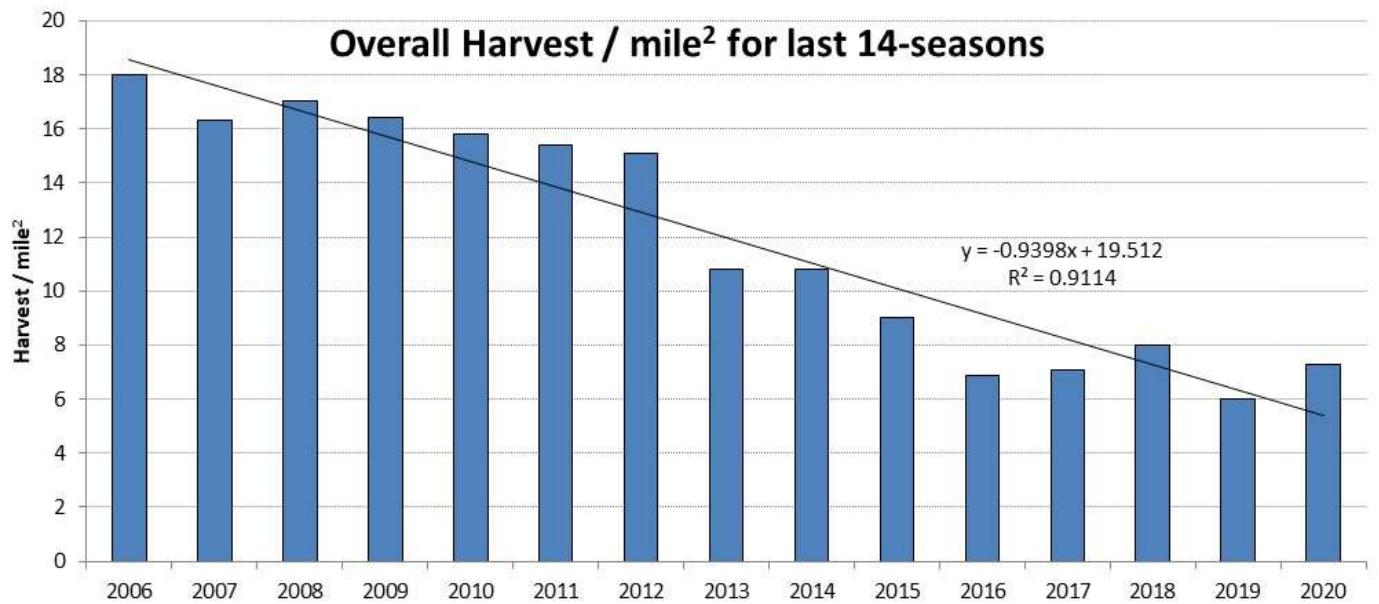


Figure 11. Harvest per mile² over a 15-year time period in the Duluth City Bowhunt. Harvest is not included for 2005, as the DHAs were redrawn and are not the same as during the first season.

Table 4. Harvest / mile² in various areas (DHAs) of the City of Duluth, for the last 15 years where DHA boundaries have not changed.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1 - 2B	4.1	5.6	6.7	7.0	7.8	6.3	8.7	5.4	5.3	6.3	3.8	3.8	4.5	2.9	3.7
3A - 4A	24.4	18.4	13.6	26.0	21.6	24.8	18.8	11.5	10.9	11.2	10.1	9.7	12.4	5.2	6.7
4B - 8	29.8	28.2	28.2	25.0	26.6	24.7	25.0	14.3	15.2	12.6	8.1	10.9	15.8	9.7	9.7
9's & 10's	45.4	33.6	25.4	25.4	27.2	32.7	23.5	20.3	20.6	17.2	9.7	7.4	14	7.1	10.3
11 - 14	15.7	15.8	13.3	16.3	13.8	13.3	11.9	10.0	12.4	7.4	7.1	7.6	6.4	5.6	8.7
15's	39.7	20.4	25.8	26.9	16.1	17.2	24.7	11.4	13.4	16.5	12.4	11.4	13.4	4.1	14.5
16's & 17's	16.5	18.2	18.2	19.6	18.6	18.6	19.6	12.2	15.2	10.2	9.6	8.6	8.6	8.8	10.2
18	8.5	15.2	25.4	13.5	20.3	18.6	16.9	5.1	6.8	5.1	3.4	6.8	3.4	6.8	10.1
19's	3.6	5.7	2.0	6.1	5.3	3.3	11.8	4.7	4.0	5.5	6.0	10.5	1	3.0	4.0
20's	3	5.8	8.4	3.1	4.2	2.6	5.8	1.0	1.5	2.0	0.0	1.5	1.5	0.5	2.4
Overall Av.	18	16.3	17.0	16.4	15.8	15.4	15.1	10.8	10.8	9.0	6.9	7.1	8	6.0	7.3

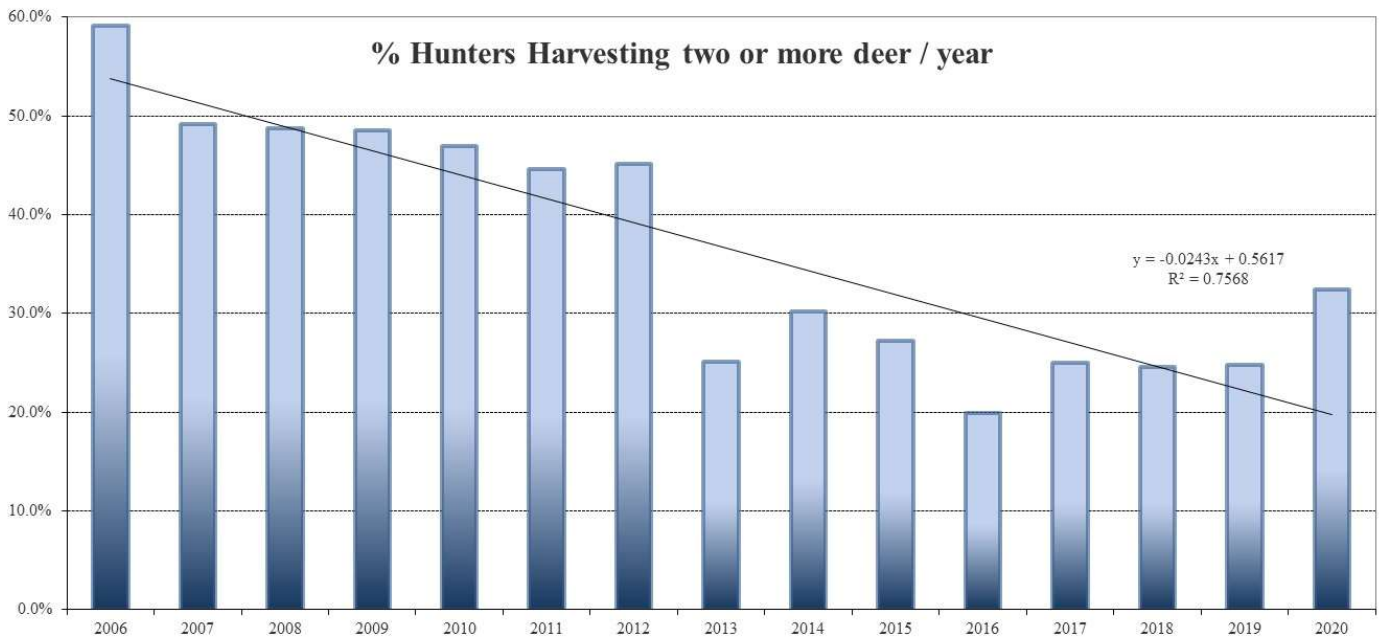


Figure 12. Percentage of hunters harvesting two or more deer per season while participating in the Duluth City Bowhunt.

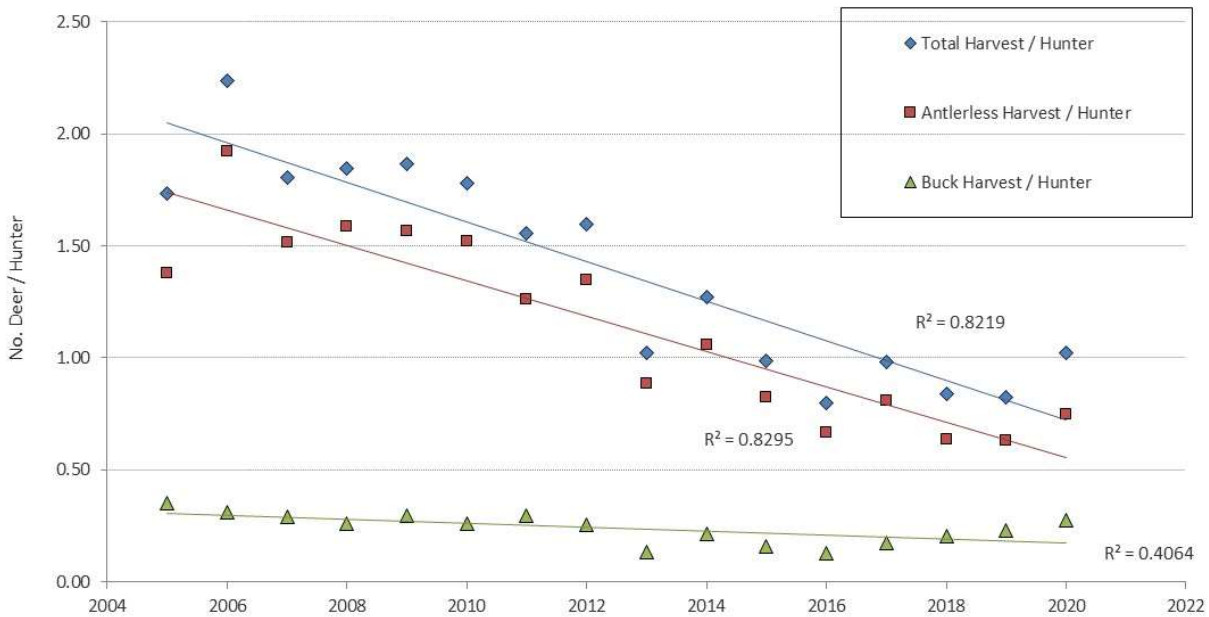


Figure 13. Harvest / hunter statistics for the 16 years of the Duluth City Bowhunt.

Section 2: General Hunt details for the 2020 season

Private Lands

Hunters may access and hunt on any private property, with permission, within any of the DHAs. Harvest from private lands accounted for 47.1% of the 2020 harvest (Figure 14), exactly the same as observed in the 2019 Hunt. A general misconception among some of the hunters, especially new ones, is that one needs access to private land in order to harvest deer, and specifically antlered males. Figure 15 breaks down harvest on public and private lands by deer type, and demonstrates that deer are still found on the public tracts of land within the City. In fact, more antlered and antlerless deer were both taken from public lands (Figure 15). However, it also demonstrates the importance of continued public support for this hunt, and forging positive relationships with Duluth landowners who continue to allow bowhunters to participate in this sport on their property.

Not all of the DHAs are created equally in terms of the portion of public and private lands within the boundaries of each DHA. Figure 16 breaks down harvest within the various DHAs by public and private. Clearly DHAs such as DHAs 1, 2A, 2B, 4A, 6, 8, 11, 14, 18, & 19A are dominated by City-owned public lands, whereas 9B & C, 12B, 13, & 15B, for example, seem to have more opportunities available on private lands.

Hot Spots

Hot spots represent a unique portion of the private land harvest. Hot spots are private parcels OUTSIDE of the DHAs established by the Duluth City Council. What makes these areas unique is that private citizens petition the ABA to hunt on their property. Essentially, these are areas where the main complaint is “*Why not in my backyard?*”



We still have deer problems.” Unique to 2020, hot spots represented a significant portion of the harvest (Table 3, Figure 16). Within the comments submitted (Appendix 1), there were a couple requesting that the ABA set up more of these hot spots for our hunters.

The ABA does NOT set these up. We have more than enough work to find time to query the city’s residents and locate additional hunting spots for our hunters. When landowners approach the ABA requesting their property be set up as a Hot Spot, the ABA will only proceed if, and only if, the property owner has discussed with, and gotten support from, their neighbors. The ABA will NEVER push our way into neighborhoods without the support of the residents.

If you know of landowners that still are experiencing deer problems, please have them contact the ABA at the official email address (infoduluthhunt@gmail.com). The ABA will work with the landowners and determine if this is a possibility for their land to be included in this Program. Landowners need to understand that these spots are not set up to be private hunting reserves for one or two individuals. The ABA will need to be able to move multiple hunters into and out of the Hot Spots to maximize opportunity and harvest.

Another criteria unique to Hot Spots is that currently they are open for antlerless harvest only. The ABA allowed buck harvest for one season, which turned out to be a management nightmare. Hunters panicked that bucks were taken and they weren’t given the opportunity to target. Basket 6-pointers grew to 200-inch trophies overnight thru social media and the rumor mill. Antlers seemingly impact normal human behavior far more than does meth or cocaine. For those reasons, the ABA has recommended to the City that these spots be open to antlerless harvest only. Currently, this is the position of the City. The ABA does not anticipate recommending changes to the policy for the foreseeable future. Several comments were made on this topic in Appendix 1.

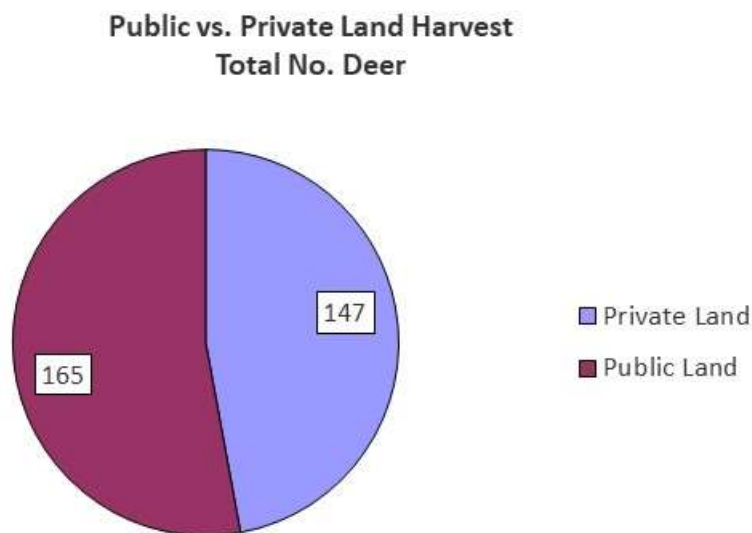


Figure 14. Harvest on public and private lands within the designated hunting areas during the 2020 Duluth City Bowhunt.

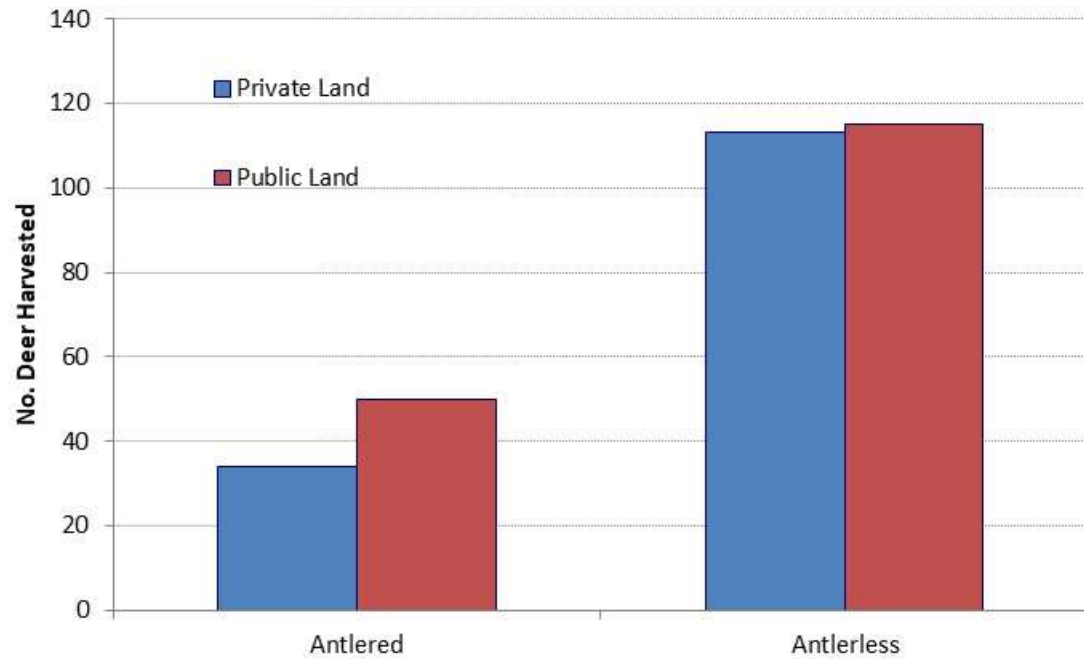


Figure 15. Harvest by deer type on public and private lands within the designated hunting areas during the 2020 Duluth City Bowhunt.

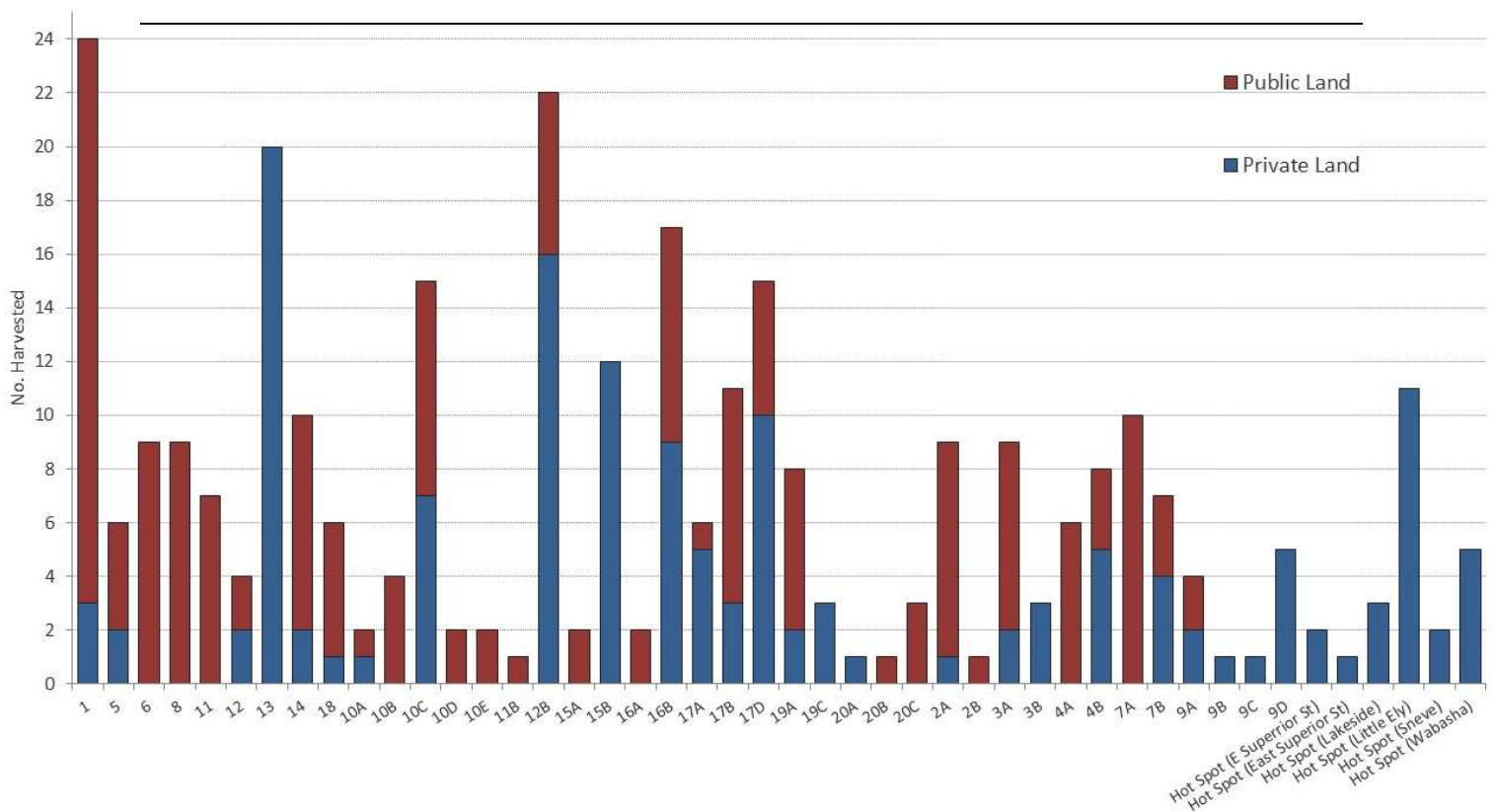


Figure 16. Harvest by Designated Hunting Area on public and private lands during the 2020 Duluth City Bowhunt.



Ground Blinds:

During the first years of the Duluth Hunt, the rules specified that hunters could ONLY hunt from elevated stands. Hunters requested the use of ground blinds to further open up areas within DHAs. The City Council approved, and ground blinds have been allowed by permission only from both the ABA and the respective DHA Hunt Coordinator. Figure 17 shows the results of ground blind use in 2020. Harvest was minimal from ground blinds, with only 4.5% (N = 11) of the deer harvested from ground blinds. However, once again, there were no incidents involving Duluth participants or any accidents resulting from the use of ground blinds. The ABA will continue to advocate for the use of ground blinds as a reasonable opportunity within areas of the City where tree stand setups are simply not feasible.

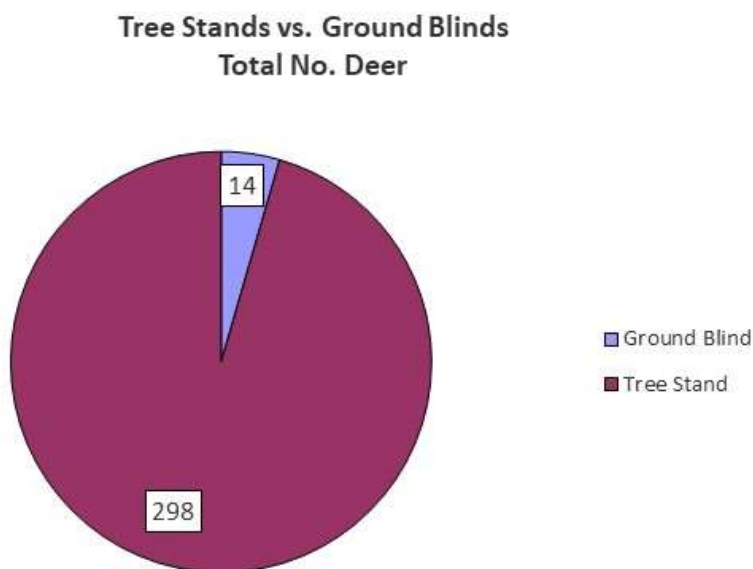


Figure 17. Number of deer harvested from ground blinds and tree stands during the 2020 Duluth City Bowhunt.

Hearts:

Again in 2020, Duluth hunters were asked to save hearts from their harvested white-tailed deer. Hearts are used by the University of Minnesota – Duluth Medical School for dissection and anatomy. Medical School personnel approached the ABA many years ago, requesting hearts for their future surgeons to learn fine and intricate heart anatomy. Fresh hearts have much finer detail in the arteries and capillaries than do formalin-preserved ones. Hearts were turned over in early November. 46% of our hunters indicated that they participated in this opportunity to give back to the community (Figure 18), well below participation rates of the past, which even in 2016 was as high as 60%. This is a wonderful opportunity for hunters to give back to the community that has



opened up their backyard for our bowhunting recreation. The ABA Board struggles with how to make this Program relevant to our hunters, and to encourage continued / further participation. The ABA is immensely grateful to those hunters that went out of their way to collect, store, and ultimately deliver these hearts. The Board would encourage ALL hunters to participate. This is especially important given that harvest is likely to continue to decline, meaning there will be fewer hearts available to collect, and UMD needs approximately 75 hearts each fall. Every heart will be important in 2021!

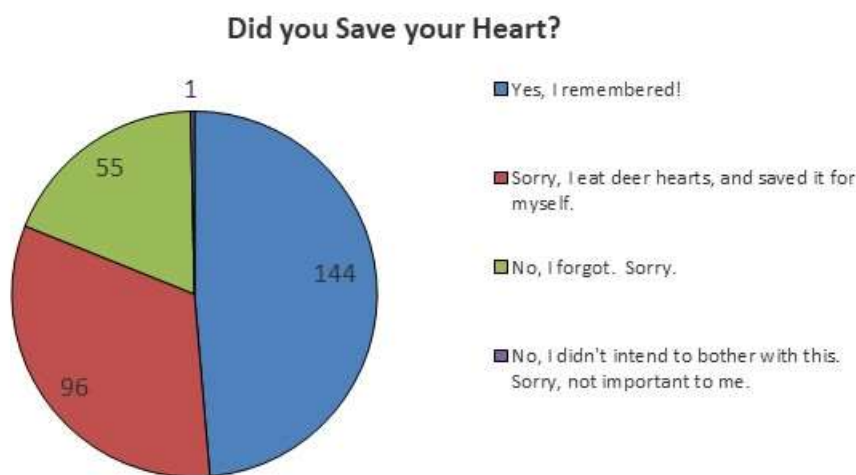


Figure 18. Responses from hunters asked to save deer hearts for the UMD-Medical School during the 2020 Duluth City Bowhunt.

Lottery Results and the Application Process

By the 30 June deadline, a total of 318 hunters had applied for the 2020 Duluth City Bowhunt. Seven (7) individuals were subsequently removed for either not turning in all of the required paperwork or a check by the 30 June deadline. This left 311 hunters eligible for the Lottery Night to be placed into DHAs.

New for 2020, due to the covid restrictions, mandates, and acceptance of Zoom meetings by most folks, the ABA chose to run the Lottery via a Zoom meeting. All participating hunters were sent the Zoom meeting link, but also not required to attend virtually. They did have the option of sending the ABA a complete list of all DHAs they were interested in hunting. Approximately a dozen individuals did show up at the Lottery location (Bork's front deck), and participated as observers. This Zoom option seemed to be very well received, and the ABA will likely continue to use this option going forward.

Ultimately, 234 Returning hunters were placed. 161 (68.9%) of these were placed into their First Choice DHA prior to the Lottery Night, due to requesting DHAs where more spots were available than interested individuals. This is



a bit lower than the number that were placed before the lottery in 2019 (83.5%) but in line with 2017 and 2018. An additional 49 individuals received their First Choice at the Lottery Event, thus placing 210 hunters (89.7%) into their First Choice DHA, completely in line with previous results. An additional nine (9) hunters received their second choice DHA, identified during the application process. A total of 219 returning hunters (93.6%) were placed into one of their first two DHA choices, making it hard to argue that the ABA's lottery model is flawed and needs revamping.

At Lottery night, 69 new hunters were ultimately placed, 23 of whom were actually placed into their first choice DHA identified at the application process (33.3%). Nineteen (19) others were placed into their second choice (27.5%).

Section 3: Year End Survey:

At the conclusion of every season in the Duluth City Bowhunt, our hunters are asked to complete a Year End Survey. This survey is 100% anonymous. Participants are asked several questions, ranging from wounding deer to observational reports. This year, SURVEY participation was as high as it's been in years. 227 of the 305 participating hunters (74.4%) took part in the survey. By comparison, survey response rate were 55.5% in 2019, 57.9% in 2018, 50.7% in 2017, 44.3% in 2016, 34.9% in 2015, and 58.0% in 2014. Our 2020 survey respondents were responsible for a reported 79.8% of the harvest, suggesting that if hunters were successful this season, they were perhaps only slightly more likely to participate in the Year End Survey. The ABA Board is very grateful for those hunters that took the time to provide feedback to the Board and to the City of Duluth. All comments were shared with the City (Appendix 1).

Response rate was no different between returning hunters (74.1%) and new hunters (76.0%). 189 returning hunters and 38 new hunters filled in this survey. Of these hunters, 94.7% reported that they actually hunted in 2020 after being placed. The ABA understands that life does happen, and not everyone placed into the hunt at Lottery Night will have the opportunity to actually participate. The respondents largely reported that most (92.0%) will likely apply for the 2021 Hunt. Thirteen individuals indicated that they were still undecided as to whether or not they will apply in 2021.

Respondents reported harvesting 251 of the 312 deer. An additional 36 deer were reported as being wounded, with 20 of these deer reported as being "known to have survived" with nothing more than haircuts or scratches. This gives a reported wounding rate of 12.5% total, and 5.6% if the presumed surviving deer are removed from the analysis. This 12.5% is very similar to reported wounding rates in the past.

Hunters were asked about the amount of effort spent in the woods pursuing white-tailed deer. This is to gauge how "serious" our hunters are about their recreation. Since the ABA began reporting this data, only twice has there not been any differences in participation between new and returning hunters. In 2020, the distribution of activity was significantly different between the two groups of hunters (Figure 19). New hunters hunted an average of 12.8 ± 4.1 days, whereas returning hunters spent 20.3 ± 2.1 days afield ($t = -3.268$, $P = 0.00088$). Twenty days of hunting represents relatively low effort compared to past seasons, especially the early years of the hunt. This suggests that our hunters may still be frustrated with the hunting or deer density, and choosing not to spend as much time in the woods.



Effort was a little higher, however, than last year. But then we had beautiful weather in November and December, much milder than the last two or three years. Further, due to the Covid pandemic, many individuals were now “working from home”. This new-found freedom may have allowed some individuals to spend a bit more time in the woods, and catch up on work duties after the end of legal shooting hours. Both of these conditions may have increased the number of days our hunters chose to spend on stand. Regardless, having this easy and convenient ability to participate in this sport just outside of our front doors is an opportunity that cannot be taken for granted.

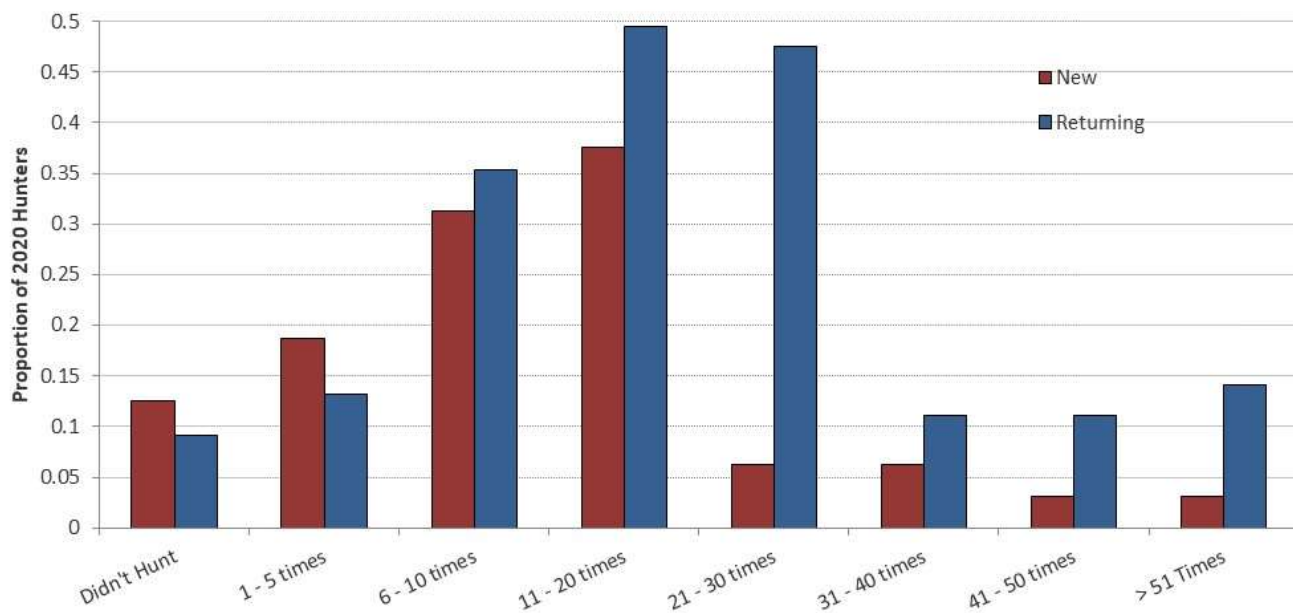


Figure 19. Proportion of new and returning hunters and the effort each group invested in hunting within Duluth during the 2020 Bowhunt Season.

Earn-A-Buck Requirement:

During the last several seasons, many of our hunters complained that they could have harvested an antlered deer, but did not since they had not yet fulfilled the earn-a-buck requirement by first harvesting an antlerless individual. In 2017, this requirement was removed on 1 December. Only five (5) of our hunters took advantage of this opportunity by harvesting a buck without first harvesting an antlerless individual in 2017. In 2018, the earn-a-buck requirement was suspended on Thanksgiving Day. Only three (3) of our hunters took advantage of this opportunity. In 2019, the requirement also expired on Thanksgiving Day. But unfortunately for our hunters, a near-record snowfall event followed on that weekend, and harvest all but ended for the 2019 season. This season (2020), the earn-a-buck requirement again expired on Thanksgiving Day. Seven (7) hunters took advantage of harvesting a buck without having first harvesting an antlerless deer. There was one individual that mistakenly harvested a small antlered male in mid-October without having previously registered an antlerless deer. Upon investigation, the ABA determined this was an honest mistake, and no further enforcement action was taken. For 2020, a total of eight (8) antlered males were taken by hunters not taking an antlerless. That’s eight additional



households enjoying steaks on the grill that would otherwise not. While the ABA did not ask survey respondents to comment about earn-a-buck regulations, several did offer up suggestions in the comments portion of the survey. These are included in Appendix 1, and further demonstrates our hunters' support for being allowed to put food into the freezer before a date too late to be useful.

Official, Unofficial, and Bike Trails

The bike trail system within Duluth is clearly one of the best in the nation. There's no arguing that it certainly attracts tourists into our City to enjoy the trails, the scenery, and our hotel and restaurant industry. But the trail system seems to be unregulated and somewhat out of hand. Many of the DHAs that have been hunted for more than a decade are now so carved up with the bike trail network as to render them almost un-huntable. Conversations between hunters and ABA Board members and the general public suggest that the extensive bicycle network has even had an impact on the hikers, dog walkers, and the public that values quiet time in the woods. The ABA would encourage the City of Duluth to survey their residents on their feelings towards this bike trail network. The results may be enlightening to politicians.

The City asked that we once again survey our hunters on the official and "unofficial" trails within the City. The first question that the City included asked the hunters to rank how their experience has been over the last five years, with respect to the entire network of trails throughout the City. A ranking of "1" indicated that the trail system had impacted their hunting experience, and had led to conflicts with other user groups. A rank of "5" indicated that the hunter had an excellent experience with the trail system, and had not experienced any issues or conflicts. The average response was 3.1 ± 0.2 (median value 3), suggesting a middle-of-the-road reaction for our hunters (Figure 20).



Figure 20. Participants in the 2020 Year End Survey indicating their experience with the city-wide network of trails within the Duluth City woods. Responses ranged from 1 (bad experience, including conflicts with other user groups) to 5 (positive experience with no conflicts).

Homelessness in Duluth

In 2020, the ABA Board was asked to query our hunters about the homeless population in Duluth, and about any interactions our hunters had. Frequently, homeless individuals will set up shop in the woods, either in make-shift shelters or in tents. Largely our hunters have little, if any, conflicts or issues with these individuals.

Only 29 hunters reported having had issues with presumed homeless individuals while participating in the Hunt. These 29 hunters reported having multiple issues (Table 5.) The two overwhelming complaints were garbage being left in the woods and make-shift shelters being set up within the hunting areas. One hunter reported having a homeless individual move into an erected ground blind and set up a sleeping bag and grocery cache. The DHAs reported by our hunters is presented in Table 6, with DHAs 4A & 4B having the most reported encounters.

Table 5. Number of reported encounters hunters had with presumed homeless individuals while participating in the 2020 Duluth Hunt.

Row Labels	Count of Complaint
A couple said they were freezing and wanted a ride to a bus stop	1
Confrontations at the vehicle or in the woods	4
Disruptive behavior	3
Garbage left in the woods	21
Shelters erected near your hunting setup location	19
Drunk and laying passed out on trails these people think they own the area	2
Met a homeless guy on the way in	1
Theft	1
Threats	3
Trespassing private land	1
Grand Total	56



Table 6. List of DHAs where hunters had encounters with presumed homeless individuals while participating in the 2020 Duluth Hunt.

Row Labels	Count of Which DHAs did you experience any issues with suspected homeless individuals
1	1
8	1
14	1
10B	1
10C	4
10D	1
15A	1
17D	1
2A	1
2B	1
3A	1
4A	4
4B	4
7A	2
7B	1
Grand Total	25

Comments from the Masses:

Hunters were all given the opportunity to comment on whatever they felt important. The question was worded:

“Do you have any ideas or suggestions for improving the Hunt in 2021?”

As expected, the responses were all over the place. Many comments were useful. Several were obviously held by a small minority of individuals. But all comments are included in Appendix 1. For the second year in a row, not one single comment was logged about allowing baiting to improve harvest opportunities. So perhaps a decade of education has yielded results.

A brief summary of the key comments follows:

1) Get rid of earn-a-buck. The ABA has proposed elimination of the earn-a-buck requirement for the last five years. It has been repeatedly denied by the Duluth Hunt Review Panel. They did approve of the suspension of this requirement for late in the 2017 thru 2020 seasons. This will be evaluated and discussed again. There were many comments in favor of allowing hunters to put venison into the freezer at any point during the season.

2) Dog off leash. There were several hunters reporting issues with dogs running off leash. The ABA is not an enforcement agency, and can't do anything about this, unfortunately.



3) MN DNR sets seasons and bag limits. The ABA can express your concerns to the State, but neither the ABA nor the Duluth City Council can change State limits or season length. Please feel free express your concerns directly to MN DNR, though they will be receiving a copy of all of your comments. Several hunters requested multiple bucks be allowed for harvest. This too, will not likely change.

4) Too few deer left in the City. Yes, our hunters have done a fabulous job at decreasing the deer herd. But the ABA does not set limits. This is a MN DNR decision. And perhaps the City residents don't share this opinion.

5) Drive thru Orientation. Due to Covid, returning hunters were not required to attend mandatory orientation night. They merely drove up, grabbed their stand tags, rules manual, maps, and ID card, and left. This largely worked well for all, and was appreciated by the returning hunters. However, the ABA did have several issues with hunters violating rules, and the general excuse was, *"I didn't know about that"*.

6) Coyotes and bears. Several comments & suggestions were made about allowing hunters to help with coyote and bear control. At present time, the ABA has no intentions to pursue with managing these hunts. The Board sees too many downsides, and few upsides to this. Our goal is to keep the white-tailed deer hunt separate. If another group or entity cares to approach the City and propose such a hunt, it would be separate from the Duluth Urban Bowhunt for deer.

Finally, the ABA would like to thank these volunteers, without whom we couldn't pull this Hunt off:

Andrew Frieland	Bruce Fehringer
Camron Vollbrecht	Dean Danielson
Doug Coda	Gary Rabold
Jesse DeWitte	Joe Austin
Kerry Lapcinski	Mathew McIsaac
Matt Anderson	Matt Stark
Max Werdin	Michael Mangan
Mike Dodge	Scott Schafer
Seth Hartman	Tim Key
Tony Marino	

Board Members for 2020:

Phillip Lockett, President	Tom Florestano
Phillip Mannon, Chairman	James Dexter
Brian Borkholder, Secretary / Treasurer	Katrina Wood
Alan Vorderbruggen	

Thank you to all who made it this far in the Report. Your perseverance is applaudable.



Appendix 1. Suggestions received from hunter filling in the Year End Survey when asked, “Do you have any ideas or suggestions for improving the Hunt in 2020?” Hunter comments are in the left-hand column. Responses from the Arrowhead Bowhunters Alliance are in the right-hand column. Comments are as submitted. No attempt was made to correct grammar or spelling.

Do you have any ideas or suggestions for improving the Hunt in 2020?	ABA Response
sigh allow bear shooting and bear tag selling	The ABA has been approached about this, but has declined to accept the responsibility and headache. There's just far too much downside to this right now, and very little upside. If another group cares to manage this, the ABA wouldn't likely object. But the ABA feels a need to keep the ABA and the deer management hunt completely separate from any bear hunt.
1. Change the required set back to 200 feet instead of 400 feet. 2. That Veterans with service connected disabilities not be required to remove their stands every year.	1. The ABA has recommended to the City to change the setbacks. But the City has not been anxious to do so. 2. How do you know you'll get drawn the same public DHA in 2021? Stands are removed from public land so as not to be abandoned and forgotten, and start cluttering up our woods. The ABA just received a call recently on a stand found abandoned on public land, with 2011 stand tags still affixed.
A little help from police to help move instead of hearing that there is nothing they can do!	No context to address this. Duluth PD will see this.
ABA as a whole and volunteer's have been great!! Great hunt!! It would be nice to utilize the ABA bowhunters to control the coyote population which would benefit all wildlife!	Currently, the Duluth City Council has allowed for whitetailed deer hunting ONLY within the City Limits, by archery only. This would take an Ordinance to allow for.
ABA does a great job, the board conducts this hunt in a professional manner.	Thank you!
Ability to increase stand limit from 2 to 3	The ABA could only allow this once hunter participation declines. Currently, our DHA hunter quotas are based upon each hunter setting two (2) stands. With three (3) stands, we'd have to decrease the number of hunters participating. Another likely scenario is by adding stands, this would likely exacerbate “turf wars” between hunters.
Allow bucks to be taken earlier in the hunt. There are enough of us looking for venison and time in the woods, not antlers, to keep the doe population in check and passing on a buck early doesn't contribute to the overall goal of the hunt. (I get this is a City requirement, not an ABA decision.)	The ABA will likely once again recommend this the City. But as you recognize, this is a City requirement. The ABA only implements what the City decides.



Allow four antlerless deer and one antlered buck to be killed for each hunter.	MNDNR sets harvest limits, not the City nor the ABA. After years of ABA-provided data, the State has determined that a three (3) deer limit is sufficient for the Duluth herd.
allow more than 1 buck per calender year state wide	This is a State Ordinance, not a City nor ABA one. The State will see your comment, but will likely ignore it.
allow the taking of Buck earlier with out the taking of a Doe first. Saw way to many bucks and No does	The ABA will likely once again recommend this the City. The ABA only implements what the City mandates.
As in past several years I think the earn a buck needs to end. It can be even more challenging to get a doe and some of us are meat hunters and to have to let a buck go by when it may be our only opportunity isn't right	The ABA understands your point of view. This will likely be discussed yet again with the Deer Review Committee
Ask the DNR to stock a few large bucks in all of the zones	Unsure if this is a joke. No comment. You do realize that deer move within and between DHAs, right?
Attempt to drop the earn a buck again. Numbers are low enough. If 300 of us shoot a buck, great 300 less deer!	Will be discussed again with the Deer Review Committee
Bork seems to hate his job managing this hunt. His ethos is one of general antagonism toward anyone seeking information or needing questions answered. Its obvious he despises this position as the figurehead of this hunt. We need someone optimistic to inspire and encourage people to do this hunt. I vote no confidence, we need someone else.	Your comments are noted, even if Bork himself doesn't agree with you. But you are certainly welcome to contact Bork and discuss your grievances with him. He'd offer this up to you: Why don't you volunteer to take his position and coordinate activities for 300+ hunters?
consider dropping the "earn a buck" earlier in the season.	Will be discussed again with the Deer Review Committee
Continue on line orientation and do as much online as possible	
Continue to ask to get rid of earn a buck. Deer population is down, and so are decent sized Does.	Will be discussed again with the Deer Review Committee



Continue with earn-a-buck until Thanksgiving, then any deer from Thanksgiving to end of season. Even with that recent rule change I still didn't get a shot at a deer. I three 8-point bucks within 20 yards during the rut, but I hadn't shot a doe yet. After the rut all bucks seemed to disappear. We are seeing very few deer in DHA 2A. The hunt has achieved it's goal of reducing the deer. Very few deer are coming down into the neighborhoods any more. Several of us believe the coyotes and bears are keeping the deer population low now that the hunters have reduced it.	Noted.
Crack down on rifle hunters in the city. It's unbelievable how many rifle hunters hunt the city	Duluth PD and MNDNR Law Enforcement will be made aware of your issue.
Decrease housing setback to 300 feet (100 yards). Allow hunters to hunt multiple DHAs after December 1 when the restricted DHAs open up (i.e. allow a hunter to hunt both 17C and 17D, not have to choose).	The ABA has been working with the City to decrease setbacks. It worked on trails. Perhaps occupied dwellings are in the near future? The Goals of hunter placement is to distribute harvest and to minimize hunter-hunter interactions and conflicts. Is this a perfect model? Likely not, but it is one that seems to work well for most folks. Per your point of opening up after 1 December, that would largely depend upon the season. In 2020, the weather was such that many hunters continued to hunt. This isn't always the case. But the ABA will discuss this rather thoughtful suggestion.
Deer population is declining relatively fast	
DNR let us shoot small bucks they are everywhere!!!!	You are more than welcome to burn your one buck tag on any deer you deem appropriate, provided you have already harvested an antlerless deer. To harvest more than one buck would take an act of the MN State Legislature, and I doubt this is a high-priority issue for them given everything else going on in the State and nation.
Drive through orientation & pick up of stand tags, arm card & manual was great for returning hunters. Lets do that again! 3 deer limit is very good, keep it that way for 2021. No more other rec trails, too many already.	Agreed on the drive-thru Orientation Night. It was a win-win for all involved. The ABA will suggest this again to the City.
Duluth PD needs to better enforce rifle hunting within city limits. it's ridiculous.	Duluth PD and MNDNR Law Enforcement will be made aware of your issue.



Earn a buck was my arch nemesis this season usually don't have an issue harvesting a doe but this year they were nowhere to be found. I took advantage of the earn a buck lift thanksgiving day but still had to pass on over 20 bucks this year.	That's hunting, there are no guarantees.
Eliminate the set-back for bike trails - there are too many	It was recently dropped from 200 feet to 100 feet. The ABA doubts this can go lower. But the setbacks do NOT apply to unofficial bike trails.
End earn a buck	
end earn a buck please.	
Get city to Enforce Duluth Leash Law or just get rid of it. Laws and rules are meaningless if not enforced. Several hunts were ruined this year by dogs running loose. I feel bad for tax payers who paid for dog parks that aren't used by the majority of dog owners. I feel even worse for the dog owners who go out of their way to do the right thing and use the dog parks while some people could care less about laws and even less about residents who share the city's trails. When I go for walks on east skyline drive and surrounding trails I might see anywhere from 6 to 10 dogs. Of those at least 90% will be off leash and many are out of sight of their owners. East Skyline Parkway and trail systems have turned into a dog park with dog poop everywhere. When I phoned and asked city official why they don't post signage that dogs must be leashed I was told the city doesn't want sign pollution! Are you kidding me? Very poor reflection on City Leadership!	The City will be made aware of your issue.
Get rid of earn a buck!	
Get rid of earn a buck, Open up closed zones sooner, do away with registering ground blinds on private parcels over 3 acres. Thanks for all your time you put into the hunt!	Closed DHAs don't open until the golf courses close for the season or after hikers are mostly done. The City will likely not change this. The City has allowed for this on an as-needed / as-requested basis, or within certain DHAs. Sorry for this inconvenience
Get rid of earn a buck.	
Get rid of the antlerless requirement	
Get ride of the earn a buck	
Get the setbacks pushed back from 400ft to 200ft	The ABA will continue to work on this



Getting rid of the earn a buck	
Great hunt, thank you.	
Have some back up to get the people off private property instead of every body saying there is nothing that anybody can do . We have permission to be there and they " DON'T "	I suspect that would be up to the legal property owner to post the property per State law, and to contact law enforcement when such violations occur. This isn't anything the ABA has control over.
I contacted the ABA a couple times this fall with unleashed dogs running deer past me. I sit near the trail system and over 98 percent of people with dogs don't have their dogs leashed. We need to quit tip toeing over this subject, anywhere else in Minnesota people can't let their dogs chase deer or they wouldn't be coming back to their owners. Whether it being signage or something we need to address this. Isn't there a leash law in Duluth? Why are the dogs leashed? Why does the city just turn their head? I'm tired of it!	Noted.
I don't know your mother, but I am sure he is sweet with a great sense of humor. But half the people don't get the joke and get offended!	Thanks! I'm glad it wasn't lost on everyone. Seems like the final commenter also got it. Ha! Gotta have some fun here, right?
I feel that the city will side with the trail systems over the city bow hunt if given an ultimatum.	No comment.
I feel this is a well organized machine thanks to many volunteers and hard working individuals like Bork and many others that I do not know personally or by name (THANK YOU ALL)! I look forward to getting out there next year and having fun with you all.	Thank you for your kind words. See list at the end of the Report for the names of all of the volunteers that deserve a heartfelt "thank you" from our hunters.
I had a lot of issues with dogs running down deer. I was in 16b and have 4 different encounters captured on trail camera with dogs chasing deer. In zone 5, I have had dogs running deer that I've seen with my own eyes. The dogs nip at the deers back legs to try to stop them. I really wish the leash law would be enforced. It is really frustrating trying to manage the deer population in the city to only have someone let their dogs out or let them run free on their walk to scare the deer away.	Noted.



<p>I have mixed feeling about Earn-A-Buck. On one hand, this is population control and shouldn't be focused on getting a buck. On the other, I only saw one buck that would've been considered a prize, that buck wasn't in my DHA either. (I was massive and sitting on the side of the road. It was in DHA ...) My experience was a two spiked bucks in different locations. I would've taken either but couldn't due to the limitation. I believe we may be at a point when protecting bucks may be impacting the harvest negatively. Moving it the date to November 1st may be a reasonable compromise to see how it goes.</p>	<p>Noted, and will be discussed with Deer Review Committee</p>
<p>I liked how the returning hunters just picked up the rules and stand tags this year. Newer hunters should go to the orientation.</p>	<p>The ABA thought this worked well also. Hopefully the City will allow for this again in 2021.</p>
<p>I'm not sure how the ABA would approach it, but I experienced a lot of hunter harassment from citizens in the city, specifically in zone 1 (Fon du lac area). People stopping at my vehicle, getting out and waiting at my vehicle, laying on the horn, disrupting my equipment. I know it's a difficult fix, and maybe I should've called the warden but maybe the council could address something. Other than that no complaints, nice work!</p>	<p>Suggest contacting the DNR and / or Duluth PD and report this as hunter harassment. Not much the ABA can do about it.</p>
<p>I'd like to see more hotspots and the opportunity to shoot bucks in the hotspots.</p>	<p>The ABA doesn't have the time to go out seeking hot spots. Hot Spots are set up only AFTER landowners contact the City with deer complaints. If you know of landowners that would like hot spots set up, and would be amenable for the ABA to rotate strangers thru their property, feel free to let them know to contact us.</p>
<p>I'd like to see private land that is outside a DHA available to hunt if permission is granted from owner. With the same set backs that we use currently I think this could easily be done safely. And not only be done as a hotspot. Also I think covid or not the way the lottery and orientation went down this year seemed pretty slick. No need to rent out clyde to do that stuff .</p>	<p>See above and in the Report for the hot spot program description. The ABA also liked the Lottery (zoom call) and Orientation Night. But we did have to rent out the Duluth Archery Club. It wasn't free for us to use.</p>
<p>If there wasn't a pandemic, it would be fun to all get together for a barbecue to get to know the other bowhunters in your area. People are much less likely to run into issues with each other if they know each other to some extent.</p>	<p>Perhaps we can rent ou the Duluth Archery Club, and host a BBQ for Orientation in 2021, provided of course that this is allowed by the City.</p>
<p>involve dnr into rifle hunters in city property, they check on us and they carryon unchallenged</p>	<p>Duluth PD and MNDNR Law Enforcement will be made aware of your issue.</p>



Is there harvest data available regarding AM or PM harvest? This information is required when tagging a deer and thought it might be helpful to see. Overall, great work ABA!	AM / PM harvest is currently not available to the ABA. If you are really interested in this, please contact Bork to discuss the benefits of collecting such data.
It can't be improved. There's so few deer now. And the bike trails have destroyed the hunt.	
Keep doing all the things that are successful. Need orientation night for all!	
Keep er up!!! You guys do a great job	Thank you!
Keep the deer limit at 3. Keep earn a buck. Eliminate party hunting altogether.	Noted, and will be discussed with Deer Review Committee
Keep up the good work! Thanks for managing the hunt	Thank you!
Less emails	Email is the sole means the ABA uses to communicate with hunters. The ABA may consider two summaries a month rather than weekly.
Less people in each zone please. The further expansion of the trail networks and the increase in people out in the woods this year applied way to much pressure to my zone and made harvesting a deer much more difficult than years past. Auto theft on skyline was out of control this year and I feel the aba nor the duluth police did much of anything to combat this.	Please contact the ABA and let us know which DHA you feel needs less hunters. We don't know these things. Regarding break-ins, unfortunately these do occur. The ABA is not law enforcement, we are hunt managers. Please contact Duluth PD.
let the hunt go into January	This is a State Ordinance, not a City one or an ABA one. The State will see your comment, but will likely ignore it.
Loved getting into it! Just got too busy to enjoy it.	Next year!
Make bucks fair game in the hots spots! We are after all trying to do a herd reduction? Get rid of the homeless people that trash our hunting areas with their garbage and tents that when it turns to cold they are just left.	Bucks in hot spots were tried once, and turned out to be a nightmare for the ABA. We will discuss this, but don't get your hopes up. Too many issues with people management that make this troublesome. And the ABA can't do a thing about the homeless population within the City.
Modify setback rules. This will allow lore private land to be hunted	Agreed.
Moving the antlerless requirements to the left. I had many different opportunities to take a spike buck as he was the main active deer in the area. No does were ever seen	
N/A	
N/A	
N/a you do great job	Thank you
No	



no ,thanks for doing all this work for us hunters.	Thank you
No I don't. I love the hunt. Best thing I ever participated in. Changed my hunting success to an extreme. I am very grateful for all you people do to allow me such successful opportunities. Every year I am more and more grateful for the effort put in by the people supporting this hunt.	Thank you
No I think you guys are doing a good job.	Thank you
No trails	Unfortunately for hunters, these are here to stay.
No, it was a great year for me. Saw more deer than ever and had a great hunt.	Great!
No.	
No. Happy to have the opportunity to hunt.	
No. I think you guys do a great job. You put a lot of thought into things and are thorough.	Thank you
None	
NONE, GREAT JOB!!!	Thank you
None. No one listens anyway	We try to listen. You may not agree with our responses, but you will always get one from the ABA
NOPE	
Nope	
Nope	
Nope	
Nope, you rock!	Rock on!
Nope. Great job. Thank you!	Thank you!
Nothing that already hasn't been discussed. I'd still love for earn a buck to go away.	
November 15th drop antler less requirement, love the city hunt!	
Open up hunters choice earlier. I would recommend opening around rifle opener.	That date is up to the City and the Deer Review Committee



Overall things went well and were run well. I think you guys do a good job setting all of this up and dealing with us. At times its like herding cats, but I appreciate what you do to allow this hunt to take place. As a first year hunter, I realize that I must "pay my dues" until year 3 when I will get a legit chance of hunting in the DHA where I live. Perhaps owning land (even land that is not large enough to hunt on) could be taken into consideration during the lottery in future years. Thanks again!	First off, thank you! Secondly, you will be a returning hunter in 2021, and get into the first round of the Lottery. Lastly, if your property is within ANY of the DHAs, you can ALWAYS hunt it. You just can't hunt property outside of a DHA unless it's set up as a Hot Spot, and you are ok with other hunters participating.
Please consider changing how you manage this hunt. There aren't enough deer to sustain the amount of people in this hunt.	How would you propose we change? Fewer hunters? Lower deer limits?
Please open up buck hunting the day after Mn rifle season ends	Noted, and will be discussed with Deer Review Committee
Please please oh please keep the city hunt going, myself, my sister and father love and breath for the chance to hunt in the city because its fun and easy access from home. I hope it never ends!	The ABA doesn't see it ending anytime soon.
Put more deer in the woods 🐇🐇. Seriously you guys are doing just fine. Thank you for taking on this headache. My family has benefited greatly with venison because of your hard work. We've only been skunked one year since the beginning of the hunt. That's a very good track record mostly do to your efforts. Thank you. Looking forward to next year. Only 8 1/2 months to go	Thank you!
Raise the harvest limits. Especially in hotspots where there is still an excess of deer doing property damage. Bucks do a lot of damage to valuable trees so it would be good to be able to remove some of there in appropriate spots.	Limits are set by the State of MN. The ABA feels that the 3 deer harvest limit is the sweet spot and is the perfect compromise for maintaining a relatively high harvest and hunter satisfaction. Bucks in hot spots are a management nightmare for the ABA, only because antlers are equivalent to meth in their ability to control individuals and make them act crazy!
Remove earn-a-buck, continue with returning hunters not attending orientation	Noted.
Saw theft in DHA 1, dirt bikes, rifle hunters and muzzleloaders in DHA 1 Please continue to give your time and efforts to the ABA	Contact the ABA immediately when it is happening so we can alert the DPD and/or MNDNR. Not much anyone can do about it when we don't know that something illegal is going on.
Sooner drop of earn a buck requirement	
Thank you for all the time you put into this hunt and with the ABA! It is well run and i appreciate your commitment. Jon #1 2A	Thank you!
Thank you for the hunt.	You're welcome
Thanks Bork & ABA Board for running this successful hunt each year.	Thank you!



Thanks for all the work put forth by volunteers!!! I had a blast again this year. Wish there was fewer hoops to jump through but understand to a point	Hoops are an unfortunate reality of urban hunts.
Thanks for your hard work. Only thing to change.do away with antler less requirement. The day after Mn regular firearm season. Oh and the trail questions, don't pertain to all of us , but we are required to fill in , for the survey.Thanks again.	
The city of Proctor has recognized the large number of coyotes inside the city limits. They hired a live trapper to try and relocate them. (ha ha..) At some point the city of Duluth may be looking for a solution to reduce coyote numbers also. It may be a good time to plant the seed that the ABA members could be granted permission to harvest a coyote with a bow. -Just a thought....	Noted, and will be discussed with Deer Review Committee
The coyotes have become a real issue in a lot of areas. Fawn mortality has sky rocketed. Of the really local does that I'm familiar with, none of their fawns have survived the fall in three consecutive years now. They are bold and push into yards on a regular basis too. Allow some late season coyote hunting!!!	
The De-population Hunt was a success, congratulations!!! Its time to make a change and here are some ideas to make TheDuluthHunt GREAT AGAIN. Go buck only (too many does are being killed). Reconsider bag limits. Provide a presentation on quality deer management. Allow the decimated deer population to rebound or just keep doing what you're doing and run it to the point there aren't any deer left.	Your comments are noted. But there has never been an archery hunt that has "decimated" any urban deer population. This isn't likely to occur in Duluth, mostly due to the vast refuge areas not even open to hunting, but that still have a deer population. This hunt isn't about growing and harvesting quality deer (bucks). It's about keeping the fawn production down; which means harvesting the baby-makers. But once again, this isn't an ABA decision. It's up to the City to decide what they want done with the deer within their city limits. The ABA manages to meet their expectations.
Things are as good as they can be.	Thank you.
Think you folks do a bang up job >>—>	Thank you.



<p>We need to temporarily suspend the doe requirement; the population is being decimated in certain areas, especially with the tough winters we've had. Our goal is not to destroy the whitetails, but to properly manage them. The ABA needs to call upon DNR officials for sound scientific input for the hunt, and use this information to make the point with the city council. I realize that changing this requirement is tough to pull off without a vote by the council regarding the entire hunt itself, but nonetheless, the ABA should continue this effort to be able to control this requirement as needed.</p> <p>I know first-hand stories from the past few years, of Duluth police officers who participate in the city hunt, using their influence to give themselves and hunt coordinators advantages in the hunt, by intimidating and threatening other hunters. I would like to see the ABA ensure that these practices stop immediately and the offending parties be held responsible.</p>	<p>You will need to contact the ABA and give actual details. We can work with our Duluth PD liaison to investigate these allegations. Our liaison has proven himself to be a trustworthy and valuable asset on our side.</p>
<p>Why do u need written land owed permission slips when u all ready resister you're land you are hunting. I have lost hunting spots because people were scared to sign the slips.</p>	<p>They are to protect you. We've had many instances when a landowner has contacted either the ABA or law enforcement to report a trespassing / violating hunter. Upon investigation by law enforcement, the suspected hunter was able to produce a signed LOP. In all cases, the landowner forgot all about ever signing such a document (most cases unfortunately involved landowners starting to suffer from dementia). That signed LOP in every case, kept the hunter from legal headaches and citations for trespassing. Don't get them signed; the ABA will never know. But when law enforcement shows up with a landowner complaint, and you don't have written permission, the next thing you'll be signing is a citation for trespassing. Your decision.</p>
<p>Wish they would eliminate earn a buck, seen lots of them but no anterless</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Would an online orientation with quiz at the end be an option instead of in person? Reducing the setback to 300' from houses would be nice as well.</p>	<p>The ABA is not sure how to run an online orientation. We're hunters, and not website programmers. To hire a programmer will result in higher fees for our hunters to participate. How would you propose giving out ID's and stand tags? Have 300+ hunters showing up at random times at Bork's house? The main purpose of Orientation is to distribute the necessary items at one time, and not inconveniencing Board members every night for a month. Our time has value too, much like yours.</p>
<p>You did good again!</p>	<p>Thank you!</p>
<p>You guys do a great job!</p>	<p>Thank you!</p>
<p>You guys do a great job, thank you.</p>	<p>Thank you!</p>
<p>Your mom is clearly a saint, LOL.</p>	<p>You have no idea! Ha!</p>

