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June 4, 2026

Board of City Commissioners
City Hall
225 4th Street North
Fargo, ND 58102

RE: Wildlife Management Program Resolution 2026-2027

Dear Mayor and Commissioners,

Enclosed for your review and consideration is the proposed Resolution for the Wildlife Management Program, prepared in accordance with Fargo Municipal Code Article 12-04.

The program will be administered in the same manner as last year, including participation by Sandhills Archery Club ("Sandhills") and the Fargo Park District. Sandhills has provided the attached PowerPoint presentation outlining the highlights and overall results of the 2025–2026 season.

Please feel free to contact Michael Redlinger or me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Suggested Motion: I move to approve the Resolution establishing the Wildlife Management Program for 2026-2027, as presented.

Sincerely,

Alissa R. Farol Czapiewski
Assistant City Attorney

Enclosure

cc: Michael Redlinger
Chief Travis Stefonowicz

COMMISSIONER _____ introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the electorate of the City of Fargo has adopted a home rule charter in accordance with Chapter 40-05.1 of the North Dakota Century Code; and

WHEREAS, Section 40-05.1-06 of the North Dakota Century Code provides that the City shall have the right to implement home rule powers by ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Section 40-05.1-05 of the North Dakota Century Code provides that said home rule charter and any ordinances made pursuant thereto shall supersede state laws in conflict therewith and shall be liberally construed for such purpose; and

WHEREAS, Article 3(G) of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Fargo, North Dakota grants the City of Fargo power to provide for the adoption, amendment, and repeal of ordinances and resolutions, and regulations to carry out its governmental and proprietary powers and to provide for public health, safety, morals, and welfare, and penalties for a violation thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Board of City Commissioners, Fargo, North Dakota, pursuant to authority granted to it under Home Rule, has adopted and approved City of Fargo Ordinance 12-04, Chapter 12 to establish a City Wildlife Management Program, including such rules and regulations as are necessary to carry out the City Wildlife Management Program; and

WHEREAS, the Board of City Commissioners desires to designate a season for the City's Wildlife Management Program for 2026-2027, to designate areas for inclusion within the 2026-2027 season, and to decide the number of deer which may be taken by each permit holder for the 2026-2027 season.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of City Commissioners hereby designates the numbered Regions as identified in Exhibit A for the City Wildlife Management Program for 2026-2027. The City Wildlife Management Program deer season shall follow the ND Game & Fish Department deer bow hunting season and shall run from September 4, 2026 (upon receipt of permit(s) from the City Auditor) through ½ hour after sunset January 3, 2027. The season shall be divided into two segments: an "Early Season" from September 4, 2026, through November 3, 2026, during which half of the hunters will be assigned, and a "Late Season" from November 4, 2026, through January 3, 2027, during which the remaining hunters will be assigned. Each participant may only hunt during their assigned season. Legal shooting hours shall run concurrent with ND Game & Fish Department regulations (½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of City Commissioners hereby authorizes the issuance of no more than one hundred (100) permits to participate in the 2026-2027 City Wildlife Management season, with fifty (50) permits assigned to participate in the "Early Season" and fifty (50) permits assigned to participate in the "Late Season." Each permit holder may secure

the maximum number of ND Game & Fish Department limit of Deer-Bow Herd Reduction licenses available, as determined by the ND Game & Fish Department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of City Commissioners hereby requires that all participants in the City Wildlife Management Season secure a Proficiency Certificate or other indicia for the completion of proficiency training, including a written exam pertaining to the rules and regulations of participation, to be offered by the Fargo Park District in conjunction with Sandhills Archery Club. The Fargo Park District or Sandhills Archery Club shall provide evidence of completion of the required Proficiency examination to the city of Fargo Auditor's Office in advance of permit issuance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of City Commissioners hereby requires that all minors (under 18 years of age) permitted to participate in the City Wildlife Management Season MUST be accompanied by an adult who has successfully completed the written portion of the Proficiency program conducted by the Sandhills Archery Club. The adult need not be a permit holder, provided the minor has all necessary licenses and permits required to participate in the City Wildlife Management Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of City Commissioners hereby designates the Regions identified on Exhibit A within the city limits of Fargo to be included within the 2026-2027 City Wildlife Management Program and hereby also approves one hundred (100) permits for the designated areas (Fargo Park District Property and City of Fargo property under the control and direction of the Fargo Park District).

The map attached as Exhibit A more specifically identifies the areas where participation in the City Wildlife Management Program may occur. Permits received by the participants are specific to the location designated Region. Hunting is not permitted except in the permit designated locations.

Dated this ____ day of June, 2026.

Timothy J. Mahoney, M.D., Mayor

Attest:

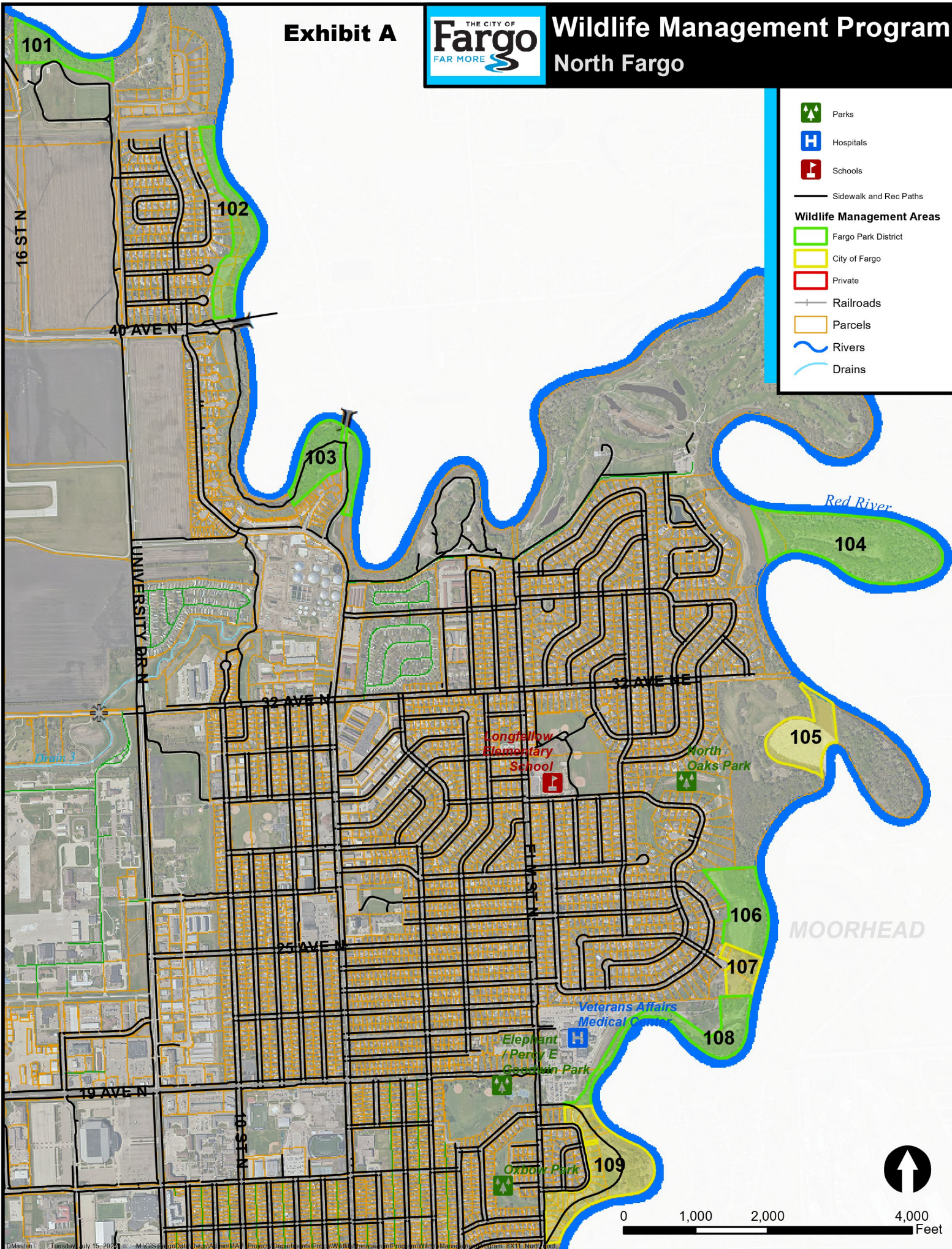
Angie Bear, Deputy City Auditor,
On behalf of the City Auditor

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by COMMISSIONER _____, and upon roll call vote, the following voted in favor thereof: COMMISSIONERS _____. The following were absent and not voting: _____, and the following voted against the same: _____, whereupon the resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Exhibit A



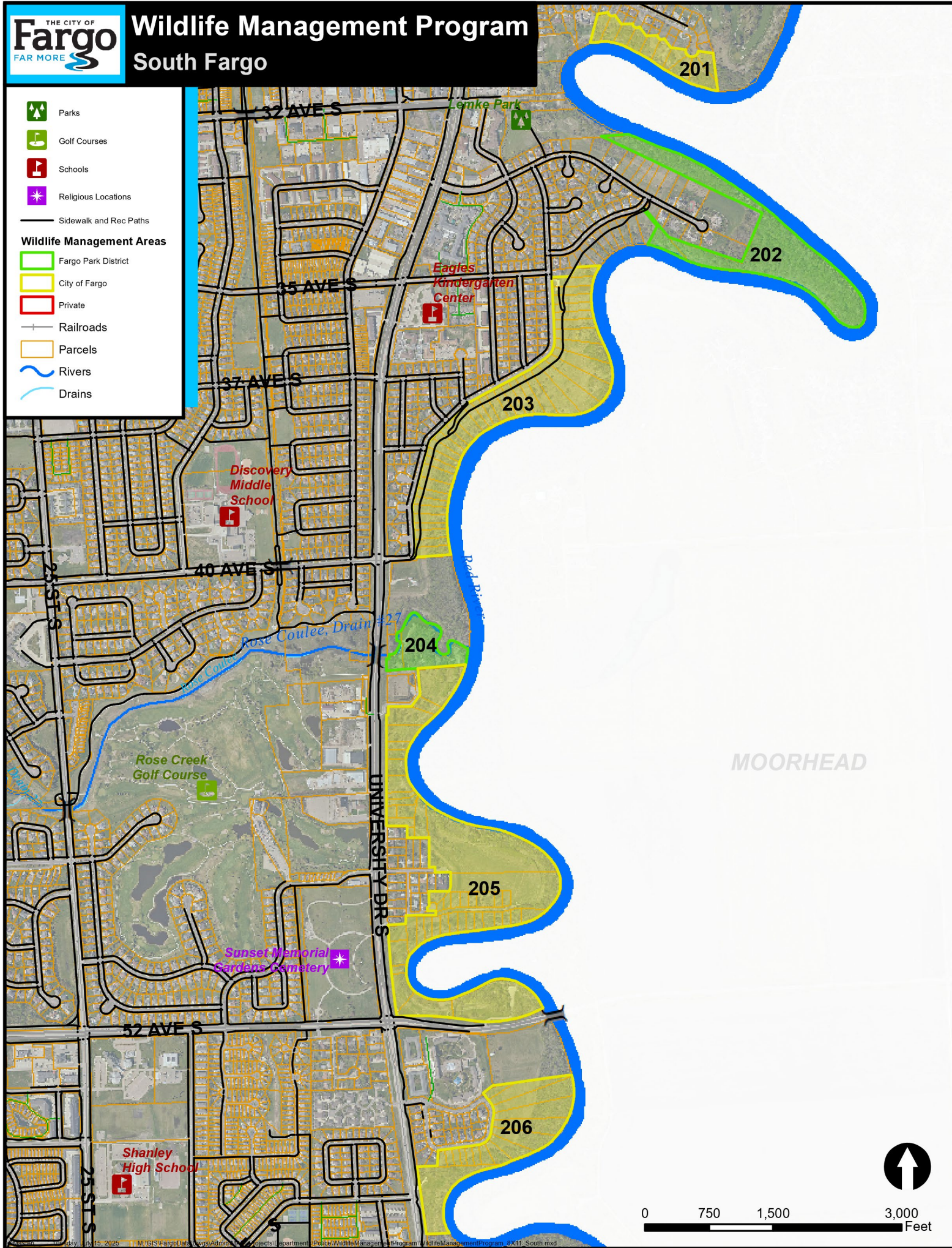
Wildlife Management Program North Fargo



-  Parks
-  Golf Courses
-  Schools
-  Religious Locations
-  Sidewalk and Rec Paths

Wildlife Management Areas

-  Fargo Park District
-  City of Fargo
-  Private
-  Railroads
-  Parcels
-  Rivers
-  Drains



MOORHEAD

0 750 1,500 3,000 Feet





Fargo Wildlife Management Program

2025-2026 RECAP

Background & Purpose of the Fargo WMP

Established in 2006 to help curtail property damage from deer

- Operated largely unchanged until 2022 when Sandhills took over administration of the program

Goal: To keep the local deer population below a nuisance level through sustained hunting pressure and harvesting

- Safety is paramount
- Not an eradication program

Public Benefit: Archery hunting is the most cost-effective method of managing urban deer

- Fargo is one of five herd reduction areas in North Dakota

Current Program Administration

Sandhills
board
member

Five volunteer
coordinators

State & city
hunting rules
apply

Specialized
training on
urban hunting

Written test

Shooting test

Split Seasons

- Early: September – October
- Late: November - January



One zone addition:
201

Updates for
the 2025-
2026 Season

Season Summary and Statistics

Applicants / Eligible Hunters: 82 / 81

End of season survey responses: 80 / 81 (99%)

Successful hunters: 26 / 81 (32%)

- ND state-wide success rate was 29% in 2025

Arrows released / Arrows recovered: 50 / 49 (98%)

- One lost arrow stuck in deer
- Searched for 5 hours with two people, not found

Deer harvested: 37

Hit, but not recovered: 7

*Misses: 4

Venison Donated: 55 lbs. / 220 meals

Early Season Statistics



Early Season: September – October
60 days / 8.5 weeks / 2 months



Average times hunting per hunter:
8.20



Average sits per hunter per month:
4.10



Deer Sightings:
422

Bucks	98
Does	206
Fawns	118

Late Season Statistics



Late Season: November - January
92 days / 13 weeks / 3 months



Average times hunting per hunter:
6.65



Average sits per hunter per month:
2.21



Deer Sightings:
363

Bucks	82
Does	146
Fawns	135

Overall Season Statistics



Entire Season: September - January
152 days / 21 weeks / 5 months



Average times hunting per hunter:
7.43



Average sits per hunter per month:
3.16



Deer Sightings:

785

Bucks	180
Does	352
Fawns	253

Interactions with the Public

Public Interactions:

133

- Positive/Neutral

133

Challenges

Unleashed dogs (several areas)

Illegal campsites (Zone 103)

Unattended bonfires & drug paraphernalia

Hunter Issue

What was Learned?

Splitting the seasons into two was well received

- More hunters were able to take part in the program (81 vs. 50)
- Would keep that structure in place for 2026-2027 season

We needed to better understand where (or who) to report identified issues

- Zone 103 (Broadway Bridge) had several campsites throughout September & October
- A guy running his dog along the river while riding his ATV near 32nd Ave N
- Unleashed dogs throughout the city and park properties

Photographs of harvested deer worked well to confirm and record harvests

Proposed Changes for 2025-2026 Season

Consider reinstating the 3 Park Properties south of town

- Enforcement of city rules by Fargo PD is no longer an issue
- Hunters, in trees, wearing blaze orange during the firearm season enhances safety of all park users during the MN firearm season
- ND Game and Fish is onboard with these areas being zoned for herd reduction