



ITEM REPORT PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Agenda Date: 8/12/2026
Agenda Section: New Business

TO: Baxter Planning and Zoning Commission
Matthew Gindele, City Planner & Chief Maier, Chief of Police

FROM:

REQUEST: Consider amendments to the City Hunting Map

APPLICANT: City of Baxter
N/A

ZONING:

Background and Request

The City of Baxter is requesting amendments to the City's Hunting Map. Specifically, the City of Baxter has hunting regulations and a Hunting Map that indicates where certain types of hunting is allowed and where hunting is not allowed. As land use changes occur within the City, the Hunting Map should be re-evaluated to see if changes need to be made to the map.

Hunting Zones

The City's Hunting Map (attached) delineates every property in the City into one of five zones as follows:

- No Hunting
- Archery Only Zone
- Shotgun & Archery Only Zone
- Muzzleloader / Shotgun & Archery Zone
- Managed Archery**

The majority of the City is located in the No Hunting zone. Properties that are permitted for hunting are generally larger properties or properties that are in rural areas of the City. To help manage deer numbers within Baxter, the City has allowed larger properties adjacent to residential areas and those residential lots adjacent to large vacant tracts of land in the Archery Only Zone. Shotgun and muzzleloader is allowed only when property for hunting is at least 500 feet from dwelling or occupied building.

The following areas are currently proposed for consideration:

Project Area One – 5356 Clearwater Road



The City received a request from the property owner to add the outlined property in the image above to the hunting map to be allowed for archery only hunting. The subject property is 1.9 acres in size and is zoned R-1, Low Density Residential. The subject property is vacant and abuts an archery hunting zone to the north. The request has been reviewed in conjunction with the police department.

Staff recommends that this property be added to the "Archery Only" zone on the 2026 hunting map.

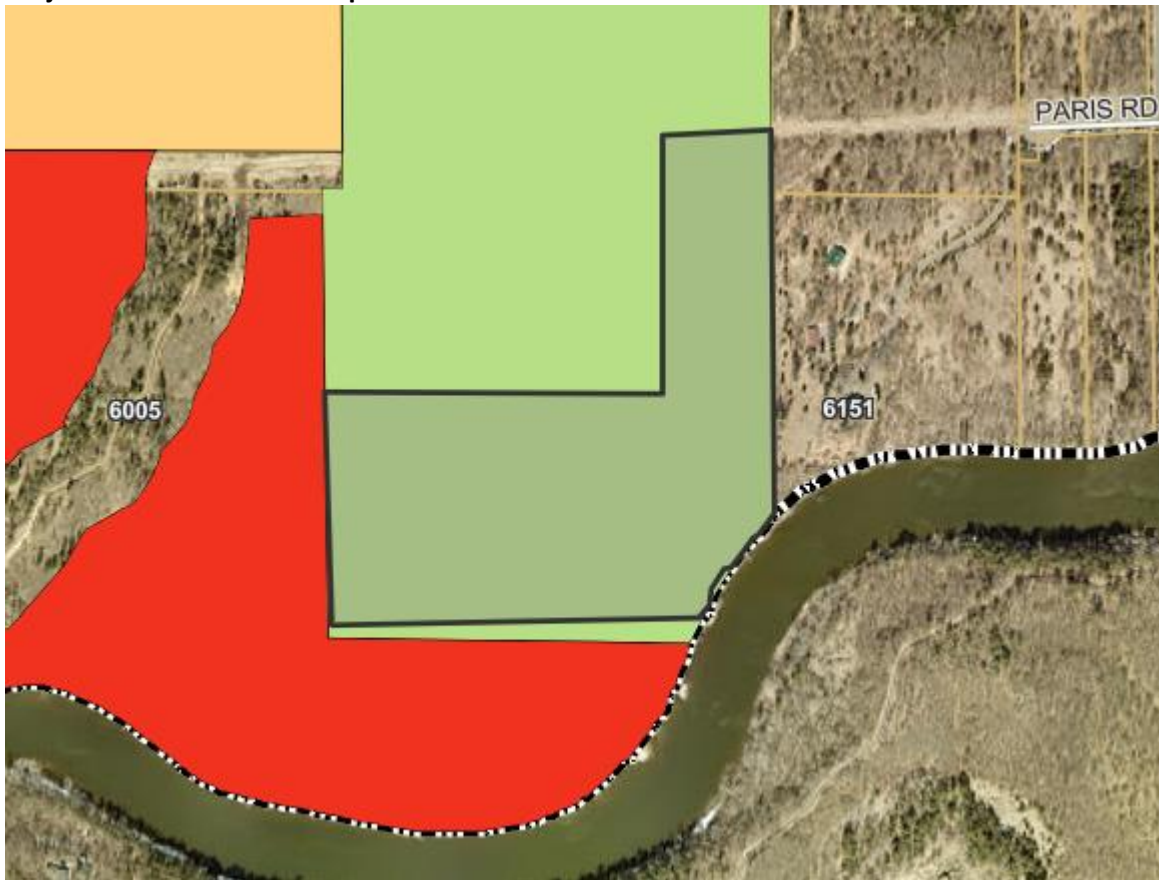
Project Area Two – 11411 Jasperwood Drive



The City received a request from the property owner to add the outlined property in the image above to the hunting map to be allowed for archery only hunting. The subject property is comprised of five lots under common ownership totaling 9.4 acres in size and is zoned R-1, Low Density Residential. The subject area contains two homes on separate lots with the remaining three tracts being vacant. The subject property abuts a wooded vacant 22-acre lot to the west that is not currently designated as a hunting zone. There is a large tract of vacant land across the street to the east that currently allows archery hunting. The request has been reviewed in conjunction with the police department.

Staff recommends that this property be added to the “Archery Only” zone on the 2026 hunting map.

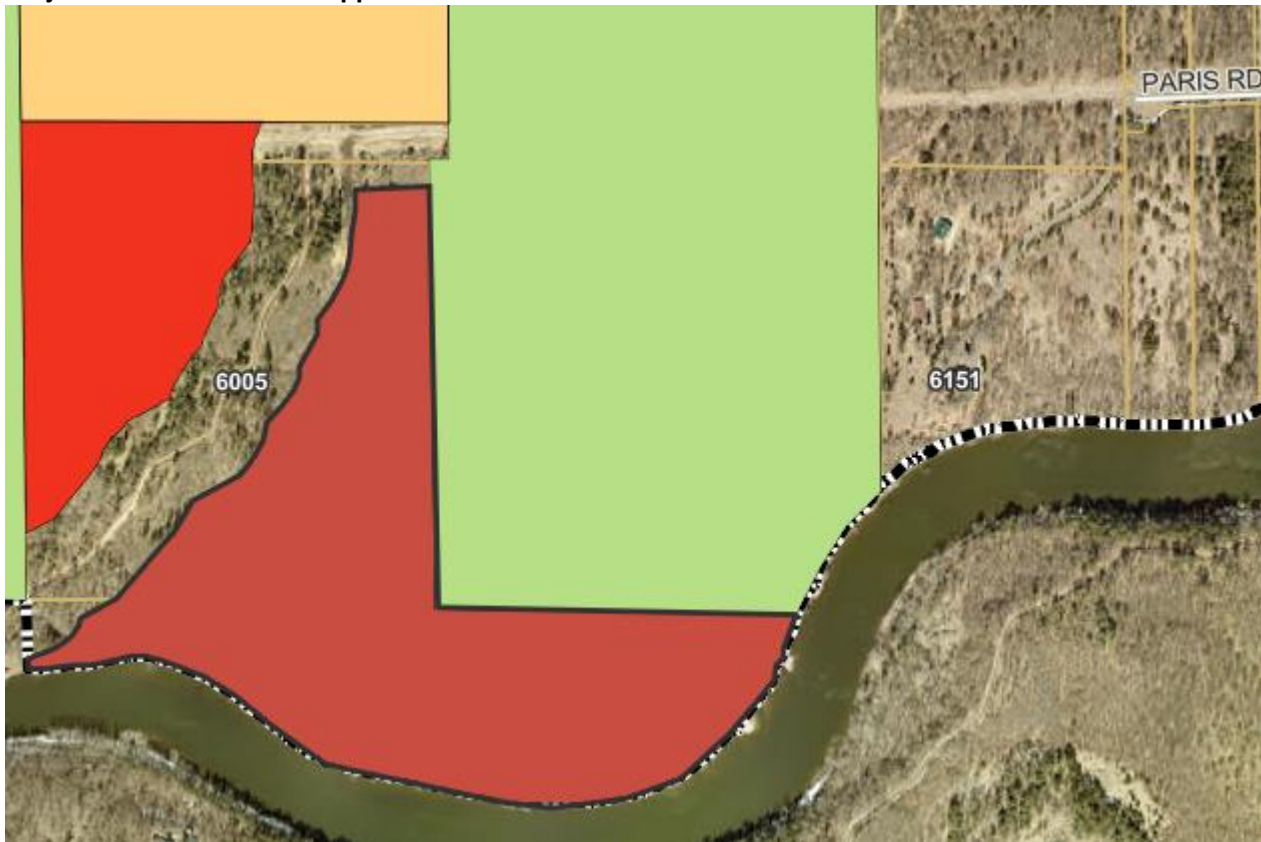
Project Area Three – vacant private land west of 6151 Paris Road



The City received a request from the property owner to remove the outlined property in the image above from the hunting map as a huntable property. The subject property is comprised of three lots under common ownership totaling 26 acres in size and is zoned RS, Residential Staging. The request has been reviewed in conjunction with the police department.

Staff supports a “no hunting” designation on this property at the request of the property owner.

Project Area Four – Mississippi Overlook Park east of the entrance trail



The City received a request from the abutting property owner to the east to remove the city-owned property outlined in the image above from the hunting map as a huntable property. The subject property is approximately 35 acres of vacant City-owned park land abutting the Mississippi River. The request was submitted due to several instances of hunters tracking wounded deer (legally) across private property through the yard owned by the individual submitting the request.

Separately, work is planned in this area in October 2026 during the peak-rut for archery season. The work to be done will be by volunteers with Great River Greening to restore the native jack pine savannah. Additionally, the city will be beginning a phase 1 archeological review in the area as part of the planning for the extension of Paris Road to the park which will include work in the general area. Due to the upcoming planned work in this project area the City is agreeable to designating this property as “no hunting” for the 2026 season with the intent to re-evaluate it for managed archery hunting in the future after work has been completed.

The request has been reviewed in conjunction with the police department.

Staff recommends that this property be added to the “No Hunting” zone on the 2026 hunting map.

Project Area Five – 13801 Paper Birch Drive



The City received a request from the property owner to add the outlined property in the image above to the hunting map to be allowed for archery only hunting. The subject property is just over a half acre in size and is zoned R-1, Low Density Residential. The subject property is developed with a home and abuts residential property on three sides that are developed with homes. The property does not abut any larger tracts of land or any other hunting zones. The request has been reviewed in conjunction with the police department.

Staff recommends that this property not be added to the “Archery Only” zone and remain as “No Hunting” on the 2026 hunting map.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission review the Hunting Map Amendment options and recommend specific map amendments to the City Council.

Specifically, staff recommends that Project Area 1 and 2 be added to the “Archery Only” hunting zone, Project Area 3 and 4 be removed from the hunting zone and designated as “No Hunting”, and Project Area 5 be left alone to remain as “No Hunting” on the 2026 Hunting Map.

Attachment

1. 2025 City Hunting Map