

Roseville Parks and Recreation
Commission Meeting
Tuesday February 3, 2015
6:30 P.M.
Roseville City Hall
2660 Civic Center Drive

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Public Comment Invited
3. Approval of Minutes of January 6, 2015
4. Deer Population Discussion
5. Park and Recreation Renewal Program Status
6. Staff Report
7. Other
8. Adjournment

Roseville Parks and Recreation
"Building Community through People, Parks and Programs"
www.ci.roseville.mn.us

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MEMORANDUM

To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Lonnie Brokke
Date: January 26, 2015
Re: Notes for Commission Meeting on **Tuesday, February 3, 2015**

1. Introductions

2. Public Comment Invited

3. Approval of Minutes of the January 6, 2015 Meeting

Enclosed is a copy of the minutes of January 6, 2015. Please be prepared to approve or amend.

Requested Commission Action: Approve/amend meeting minutes of January 6, 2015

4. Deer Population Discussion

This item is continued from the January meeting where the Commission received background information. Several residents commented on the deer population and are reflected in the minutes.

Included in your packet is the following:

- A background report and a number of attachments.
- A copy of the PowerPoint presentation that was made in January.
- A summary of answers to the additional questions that were raised in January.
- A summary of a committee meeting that occurred with staff, Commissioners Stoner and Newby regarding the question of: if we had an ordinance, how might we go about it and how might it be framed up?
- A spreadsheet of deer population related comments received over the last year.
- A KSTP deer related news article.

Mike Goodnature, Natural Resource Manager from Ramsey County will be at your meeting as a resource.

Requested Commission Action: Discuss and determine what additional information is needed and next steps

5. Park and Recreation Renewal Program Status

Included in your packet is an updated matrix of Renewal Program projects and current status. It is a continued tool designed to provide a snapshot of progress for the Commission, City Council and Community.

The Natural Resource Program portion of the Renewal Program is well underway. Attached is information on project progress, public outreach, volunteer/community engagement and grants.

Any additional progress on the Renewal Program will be reported at the meeting.

Requested Commission Action: Discuss progress and provide input

6. Staff Report

7. Other

8. Adjournment

**ROSEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES FOR
JANUARY 6, 2015
ROSEVILLE CITY HALL ~ 6:30pm**

PRESENT: D. Holt, M. Holt, Doneen, Gelbach, Newby, Stoner
ABSENT: Azer, Bogenholm, Diedrick, Wall, all notified staff about being unable to attend
STAFF: Anfang, Brokke

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. ROLL CALL/PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public comment at the start of meeting. Individuals in attendance reserved their comments for later in the meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 6, 2014 MEETING

November 6, 2014 minutes passed unanimously.

4. ACKNOWLEDGE NOTES – DECEMBER 2, 2014 MEETING

December 2, 2014 Commission Meeting proceedings were recorded as notes due to not having a quorum at the meeting.

5. DEER POPULATION DISCUSSION

Ten residents were in attendance for the deer population discussion.

Brokke summarized the information in the packet.

- The decision to control wildlife is up to the individual communities in Ramsey County.
- In 2014, 61 deer were counted in Roseville.
- The deer count took place in a .77 square mile area designated as deer habitat by Ramsey County.

Community member comments followed Brokke's report;

- Comments varied between those being in favor and those not being in favor of a deer management program.
- First comment voiced their lack of faith in deer count and the numbers– wondered about the possibility of counting deer more than once.
- A number of attendees spoke to the problem of feeding deer, specifically near Chatsworth. Neighbors feeding in this area have contributed to deer/vehicular concerns.
- Residents near Ladyslipper Park have come close to hitting deer on the roads due to deer trying to get to neighborhood feeding stations.
 - o Many in attendance asked the Commission to suggest to the Council that an ordinance be implemented to ban wildlife feeding in Roseville.
- Community members commented on how the deer population has grown and the local habitat has decreased, resulting in deer eating gardens and plantings.
- Community members also recognized the potential health issues such as a deer tick problem due to the significant presence of deer in Roseville.

- Attendees also recognized the opposing side and appreciate seeing the wildlife in the City and look to the City to not make any changes and allow the deer to occupy the community as they do currently.

Commissioner comments followed;

- Commissioners asked about how Ramsey County would implement a wildlife management program in Roseville.
 - Brokke explained that Ramsey County would guide the City. City leaders would make the decision of what to do and then utilizing the expertise of Ramsey County.
- Commissioners recognized that feeding deer leads to a concentration of deer population.
 - Commissioners would consider recommending a feeding ban to the Council. An ordinance needs to have monitoring and consequences.
 - Commissioners also commented that the first step might be to address the feeding issue then re-evaluate the situation following future deer counts.
 - Commissioners inquired into what it would take to enact a feeding ordinance.
 - Brokke replied that a public hearing would take place prior to a City Council action.
- Brokke suggested that perhaps we could have the Ramsey County Wildlife specialist attend a future Commission meeting to talk about the process.
- Commissioners Newby & Stoner volunteered to work with Brokke & the City Attorney on the next steps for a possible Feeding Ordinance.

6. **PARK DEDICATION – 2700 CLEVELAND AVENUE**

Brokke briefed the Commission on the development being proposed for 2700 Cleveland Avenue, followed by a review of the current Park Dedication policy.

Commission Recommendation:

Motion by Doneen, second by Gelbach to recommend that the City accept \$123,298 cash in lieu of land for the Cleveland Club development at 2700 Cleveland Avenue. Motion passed unanimously.

7. **FOLLOWUP REVIEW to JOINT MEETING with the CITY COUNCIL**

Gelbach compiled notes for the joint meeting based on the Council minutes from the evening. Stoner recognized that Gelbach's notes aligned with the night's events. All were in agreement that Gelbach & D. Holt would work together to create a work plan based on these notes.

Commission agreed that;

- Further discussions on the deer population will take place at the February Commission meeting
- Golf Course information will be shared at the February and/or March Commission meetings
 - Doneen inquired into the use of a task force to review golf course operations.
 - Holt suggested that the task force be an more informal group
 - Gelbach suggesting framing up the Golf Course information prior to bringing a task force together.
 - Recommendations and options for the Golf Course are anticipated to be made midyear.
- Possible Community Center discussions during the second half of the year.

8. **2015 DRAFT MEETING CALENDAR**

Commission agreed to the calendar included in the meeting packet.

96 **9. PARK AND RECREATION RENEWAL PROGRAM STATUS**

97 Anfang reviewed December 2014 renewal activity. Photos documented progress on all 6 of the park
98 buildings. Anfang also updated the Commission on the Park building neighborhood previews at
99 Lexington Park & Sandcastle Park. Photos also showed the work taking place at the Nature Center.

100
101 **10. STAFF REPORT**

102 Brokke reviewed recent department activity.

103
104 It was suggested and agreed that the February Commission meeting would be held at the Lexington
105 Park Building.

106
107 **11. OTHER**

108 None

109
110 Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

111
112 Respectfully Submitted,
113 Jill Anfang, Assistant Director

BACKGROUND – DEER POPULATION IN ROSEVILLE

A single department has not been responsible for a Roseville Wildlife Management Program so when in 2003 the City began receiving calls regarding the deer population, Parks and Recreation was asked to receive and record the calls.

On average, until 2014, there have been less than 10 calls per year documented by Parks and Recreation.

In 2014, there have been raised concerns, specifically in the Owasso area. The concerns have primarily been complaints regarding damage to gardens and vegetation in resident's yards as well as the tameness of deer and health concerns.

There have also been calls in support of deer indicating the population is fine and feel that there are mechanisms to live with deer, i.e. fencing, types of plants that are planted, control feeding, etc.

In 2004 the City began working with Ramsey County to monitor the deer population. The method used by the County is a helicopter "fly over" after a fresh snowfall counting the number of deer seen.

On November 17, 2014 at the joint meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council, it was determined that the Commission and staff will provide further study regarding the Roseville deer population with an eventual recommendation back to the City Council. This study would include what others in the area are doing.

Included in your packet to prepare you for this discussion is a:

- Copy of the Minutes of the November 17, 2014 joint meeting with the City Council
- Excerpt of City Council direction to Parks & Recreation prepared by Commissioner Gelbach
- 2014 Map showing the location where deer were counted
- Ramsey County Deer Management Study, including a survey conducted in 2012
- Survey of Ramsey County Cities updated in December 2014 by staff
- Ramsey County Natural Resource Management Plan - Wildlife Section
- A sample ordinance from the City of Shoreview
- Deer removal e-mail from Mike Goodnature, Ramsey County Natural Resource Manager

Following is a chart indicating the number of deer spotted in Roseville each year since 2004 as well as numbers supplied by Roseville Police Department and the MN Department of Public Safety listing the number of auto vs. deer crashes in 2008-2014 where an accident report was filed and the number of dead deer picked up in Roseville reported by Roseville Public Works.

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
# of Deer	36	lack of snow	15	34	44	51	44	50	lack of snow	57	61
# of cars hit Roseville PD	-	-	-	-	3	3	2	0	0	3	1
# of cars hit – State patrol	-	-	-	-	0	11*	16*	16*	15*	9*	0
# of dead deer picked up in Roseville - Public Works	-	2	3	3	5	6	3	5	6	6	10

* These figures are inclusive of all animals hit by vehicles, including deer, but not exclusively deer.

The general criteria used by Ramsey County and guided by the DNR are 20-25 deer per square mile. Enclosed is an e-mail from Mr. Goodnature on the status of Roseville.

The options for control include relocation, contraceptive, sharp shooting or bow hunting. Based on research of other communities, the most common, successful and preferred types of control are sharp shooting or bow hunting. Relocation and contraceptive control have been unsuccessful and expensive and are not used in Ramsey County or in the metro areas that we are aware.

For any type of control by hunting, an amendment to the City Weapons Ordinance would be required. A Wildlife Management Ordinance may also be considered. Although deer is the issue at this time, other wildlife control areas have previously been requested by residents including goose, turkey and most recently coyotes.

Staff has been in discussions with Ramsey County Natural Resource Manager Mike Goodnature and other surrounding cities. Other cities in Ramsey County as well as the County themselves have allowed controlled deer hunts on private property and/or public property, either by bow hunters or sharp shooters.

Mr. Goodnature would be involved and help guide Roseville through a control process if so desired.

The cost of this new program would be the responsibility of the City. There is no direct cost associated with an archery hunt. For sharp shooting, the cost is estimated at \$215-\$270 per deer removed.

The general process will include:

- Roseville decides whether or not a control is warranted
- Roseville pursues an ordinance change
- Roseville works with Ramsey County to determine control type and location
- Roseville works directly with the Minnesota Bow Hunters Resource Base (MBRB) &/or United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) depending on method desired

The decision to control deer is up to individual cities. In all cases, the City i.e. City Council, City Manager, Police Chief would need to approve a cooperative agreement subject to all requirements.

If a hunt is desired on private land, all land owners would need to sign an agreement.

POLICY OBJECTIVE

This discussion is consistent with addressing resident's interests and desires.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The future financial impacts would be the cost of beginning a new program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Discuss

REQUESTED ACTION

Discuss

Prepared by: Lonnie Brokke, Director of Parks and Recreation
Kara Thomas, Department Assistant

Attachments:

- a) Minutes of the Nov. 17, 2014 joint Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council meeting
- b) Excerpt of City Council direction to Parks & Recreation prepared by Commissioner Gelbach
- c) Area map indicating deer population counted in 2014
- d) Ramsey County Deer Management Study, including a survey conducted in 2012
- e) Survey of Ramsey County Cities updated in December 2014 by staff
- f) A sample ordinance from the City of Shoreview
- g) Deer removal e-mail from Mike Goodnature, Ramsey County Natural Resource Manager



Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
City Hall Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive
Monday, November 17, 2014

1. Roll Call

Mayor Roe called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. Voting and Seating Order: McGehee, Willmus, Laliberte, Etten, and Roe. City Manager Patrick Trudgeon and City Attorney Mark Gaughan were also present; and Councilmember Willmus arrived at approximately 6:09 p.m.; having previously advised that he would be arriving late due to family commitments.

2. Approve Agenda

City Manager Trudgeon requested the addition of a business action 13a. item to tonight's agenda to consider approval of a burn permit for 1894 Alta Vista Drive.

Laliberte moved, Etten seconded approval of the agenda as amended.

Roll Call

Ayes: McGehee, Laliberte, Etten, and Roe.

Nays: None.

3. Public Comment

Mayor Roe called for public comment by members of the audience on any non-agenda items. No one appeared to speak.

4. Council Communications, Reports, and Announcements

Mayor Roe announced a winter attire donation drive by the Roseville Visitors Association (RVA) and OVALumination partnering with the Roseville School District, with donations accepted at the Skating Center /OVAL anytime the buildings are open, and running through the winter months, with clothing being distributed among students in the Roseville Area School District. Additional information is available at the RVA, 651/633-3002.

Mayor Roe announced the upcoming interactive presentation to meet Karen community immigrants to the United States, on November 20, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ramsey County Library – Roseville Branch, one of several events scheduled to get to know diverse groups in the area, with a complete list available at: rclreads.org.

Mayor Roe announced dates and times for upcoming city-related meetings; and noted that the City Offices would be closed on November 27 and 28, 2014 for the Thanksgiving holidays.

Councilmember Etten announced a "Walk to End Hunger" scheduled on Thanksgiving Day at 10:00 a.m. at the Mall of America, sponsored in part by area and local civic organizations. Councilmember Etten noted that some of the monies collected would return to

Regular City Council Meeting
Monday, November 17, 2014
Page 2

Roseville area food programs, and that additional information was available on the web-site: walktoendhunger.org.

Councilmember Laliberte noted that she would be attending the Ramsey County League of Local Governments (RCLLG) meeting later this week; with the agenda including recognition of outgoing legislators, a recap of the election, and setting 2015 priorities for municipalities.

Mayor Roe announced that CenturyLink tentatively planned to have representatives in attendance at the December 4, 2014 North Suburban Cable Commission meeting at approximately 7:00 p.m. to discuss their potential role in a franchise for cable operations. Mayor Roe advised that the public was invited to attend this public meeting, as always, with the meetings held at C-TV offices at 2670 Arthur Street in Roseville.

Councilmember Willmus arrived at approximately 6:09 p.m.; with apologies for being late.

5. **Recognitions, Donations and Communications**
6. **Approve Minutes**
7. **Approve Consent Agenda**
8. **Consider Items Removed from Consent**

General Ordinances for Adoption

Recess

Mayor Roe recessed the meeting at approximately 6:10 p.m., and reconvened at approximately 6:12 p.m.

9.

a. Joint Meeting with Parks and Recreation Commission

Parks & Recreation Commission Chair Dave Holt, and Commissioners Lee Die-drick and Jerry Stoner were present, along with Parks & Recreation Director Lon-nie Brokke.

Chair Holt provided a brief recap of activities of the Commission since last meet-ing with the City Council; and expressed the Commission's interest in meeting jointly on a quarterly basis as agenda topics provide applicable.

Members addressed items as detailed in the Request for Council Action (RCA) dated November 17, 2014.

Deer Population in Roseville

Commissioner Stoner advised that the Commission was seeking direction from the City Council on specific issues with managing the deer population; with the Commission to-date only exploring preliminary information on the logistics and process for a managed hunt in Roseville. Commissioner Stoner noted that considerable more discussion and direction would be needed prior to pursuing that option, with the range of population densities of the deer in areas city-wide and not only in one area. Commissioner Stoner offered to bring additional information, including costs, control mechanism, and other options back to the City Council if that was their direction.

Councilmember Willmus noted that a neighborhood group had previously expressed interest in some method of control; and noted the great deal of comment on this subject that he'd heard during his recent campaign door knocking, and confirmed that the deer population was not necessarily confined to one area of Roseville, but remained an area of concern for residents. Councilmember Willmus expressed his personal interest in finding out more about how other communities responded to the deer population problem, including their successful and/or non-successful methods, measures, and the possibility of partnering with other communities in the area experiencing the same problem regionally, not just jurisdictionally. Councilmember Willmus supported the Commission taking a look at the problem and providing options to the City Council.

Councilmember McGehee expressed her personal and definite opposition to a bow hunt within limited open space in Roseville; noting that this was not a Roseville-specific deer herd, but area-wide, and more tracking data and information would be helpful, such as from the Cities of Little Canada and Shoreview. Councilmember McGehee also suggested more information from the Commission on how the City could help residents having considerable issues with deer devouring their plantings, since the issue seemed to be less about vehicles and accidents and more about eating shrubs or plantings. Councilmember McGehee suggested some type of herd management option with less deadly results.

Councilmember Etten expressed his interest in hearing a variety of methods; and stated he could support bow and arrow hunting as that seemed to be a safe and successful in other metropolitan communities, such as Little Canada. Councilmember Etten also expressed interest in polling other municipalities to hear results of their deer herd population control methods, both positive and negative results.

Councilmember Laliberte spoke in support of determining the actions and results of other metropolitan communities, and their current or ongoing programs. Councilmember Laliberte offered to mention the issue at the upcoming RCLLG meeting.

Mayor Roe noted, from his discussions and outreach from neighboring mayors, the need for joint efforts to address this regional problem, and apologized to those mayors for not following up on the issue. Mayor Roe suggested that the Commission and/or staff look at the issue further, and suggested some of the partnering should involve Ramsey County as well.

Community Center

Chair Holt asked for City Council direction on whether or not to pursue this issue in 2014/2015, as the Commission had kept it on the back burner for a long time, even though it was part of discussions and the whole process during the Park Renewal Program and bonding consideration. Chair Holt advised that limited information was available, but sought direction from the City Council on whether they wanted more information or updates on the existing information, or no action at all by the Commission.

Councilmember McGehee stated that personally, she would say no, because the opportunity was missed when the bonding and community survey went through; with the result of six gathering spots or buildings, only supported by 6% of the residents surveyed, with a considerable amount of public money already spent, and the decision already made on how it would be spent. Councilmember McGehee stated that she favored a community center first, but the choice was not made that way.

Chair Holt clarified that the Commission did not consider the gathering places to serve the same purpose as a community center, with the public's vision consisting of a much larger structure to serve multiple functions.

Councilmember McGehee opined that the public had not supported upgraded buildings to replace warming houses, and not six buildings supported by only 6% of the populace. Until she observed how the Parks Renewal Program buildings were used and funded for maintenance, she was not interested in pursuing other buildings.

Councilmember Laliberte opined that it was always good to collect updated information to assist in ongoing decision making over the short- and long-term, and supported a limited amount of Commission time to be spent on the issue. Councilmember Laliberte spoke in support of updated information on the Shoreview Community Center and recent improvements they undertook and their justification of those improvements and associated costs; improvements on the New Brighton Community Center, if any; and any recent information available from the City of Maplewood's facility. Councilmember Laliberte expressed her interest in observing how the new Park Renewal Program buildings would be utilized over the next year, and therefore, thought the earliest need for updated information by the City Council would be in 2016.

Excerpt prepared by Park & Recreation Commissioner P. Gelbach

**City Council Direction to Parks and Recreation Dept
Excerpted From *DRAFT* – Minutes City Council Meeting
Monday, November 17, 2014**

Joint Meeting with Parks and Recreation Commission

Parks & Recreation Commission Chair Dave Holt
Commissioners Lee Diedrick and Jerry Stoner
Parks & Recreation Director Lonnie Brokke.

Chair Holt provided a brief recap of activities of the Commission since last meeting with the City Council; and expressed the Commission's interest in meeting jointly on a quarterly basis as agenda topics provide applicable.

Members addressed items as detailed in the Request for Council Action (RCA) dated November 17, 2014.

Deer Population in Roseville

Commission is seeking direction from the City Council on specific issues with managing the deer population.

Overview

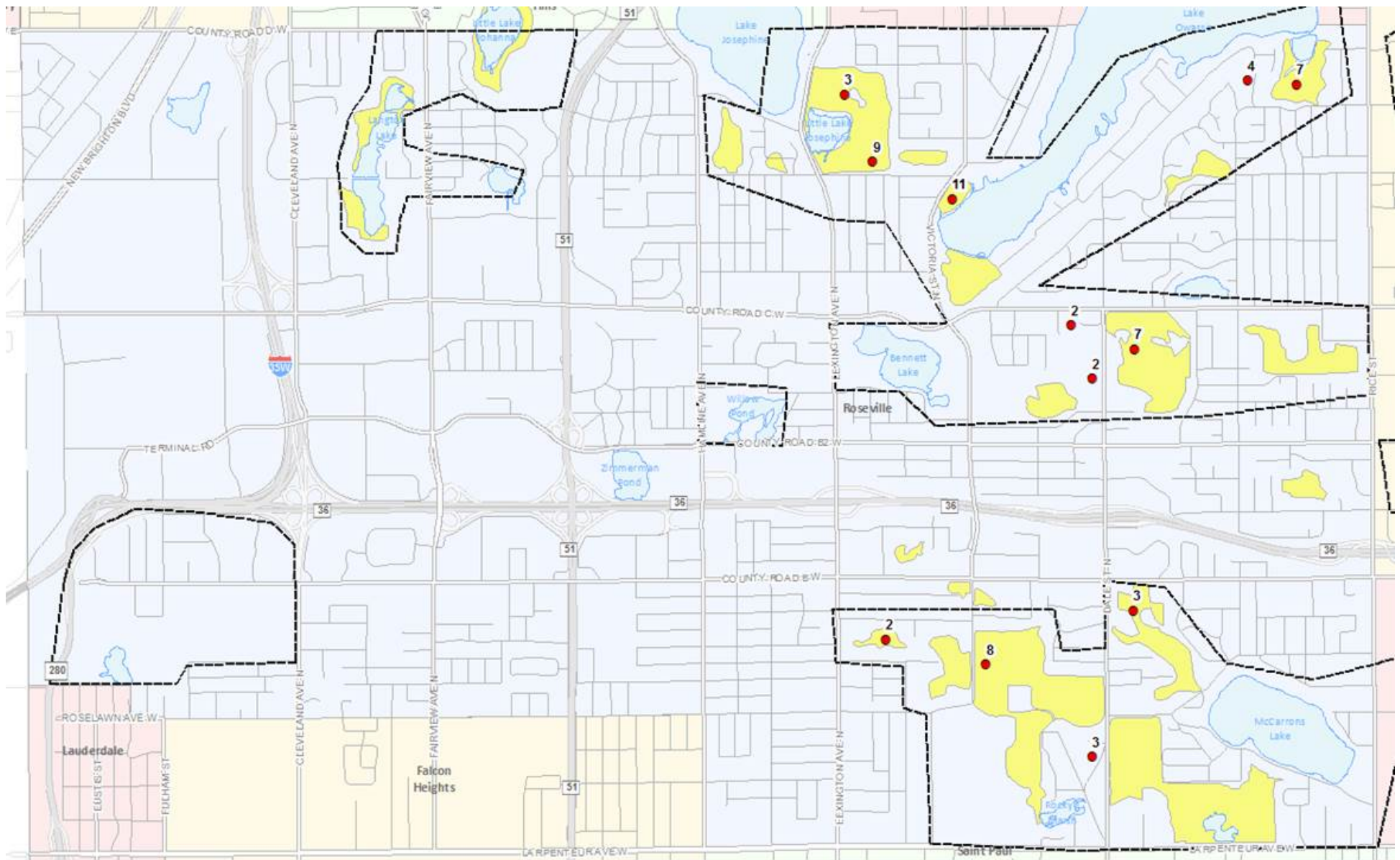
To date Parks and Recreation have explored preliminary information on the logistics and process for a managed hunt in Roseville. More discussion and direction is needed prior to pursuing a managed hunt due to the different population densities of deer across Roseville

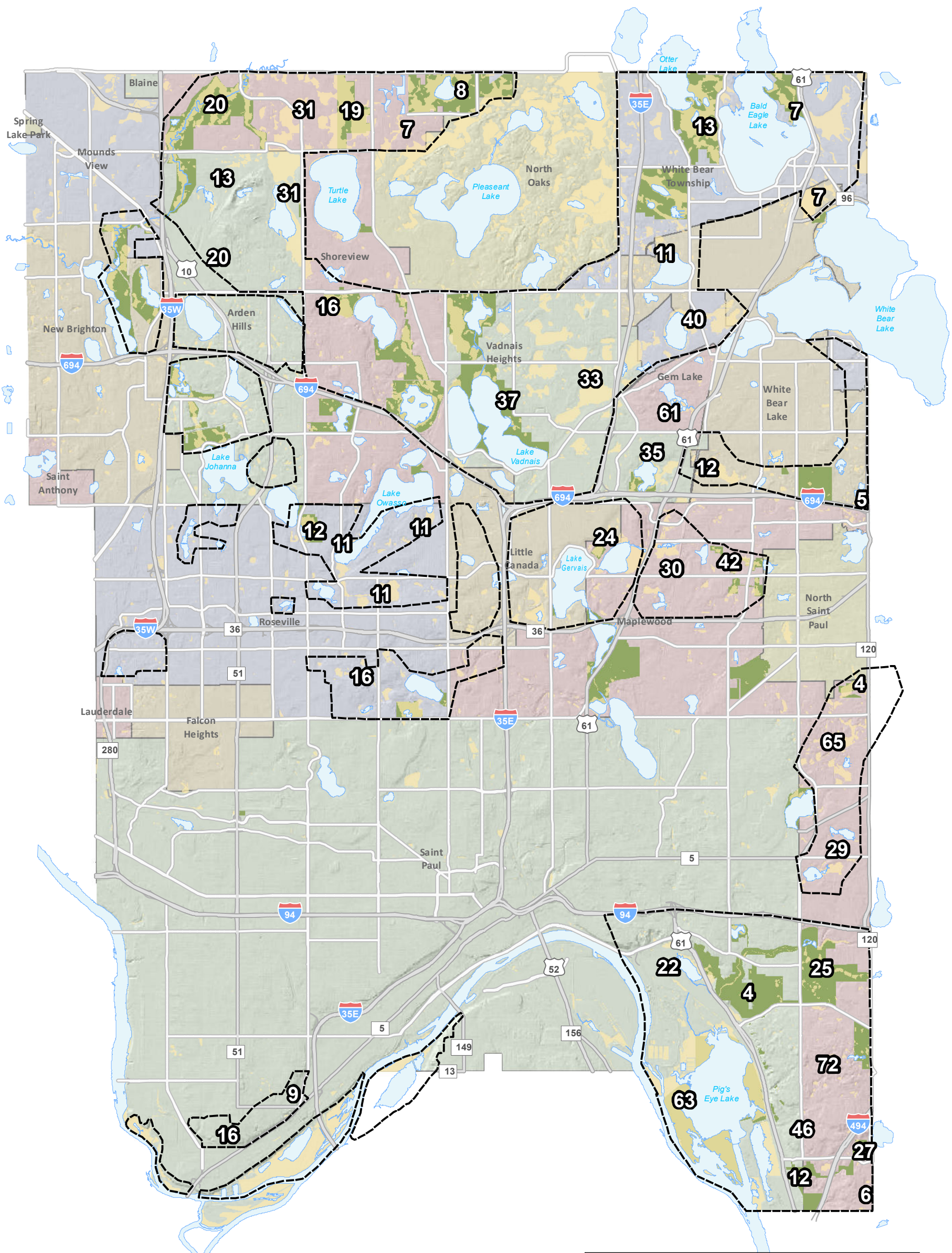
- Parks and Rec feels that additional information is needed including:
 - o Costs
 - o Control mechanism
 - o Control options for individuals and control options for the community other than simply engaging in a hunt.

Possible action items based on Council discussion.

- Find out how other communities respond to the deer population problem.
 - o Need for joint effort by communities to address this regional problem.
 - o Include Ramsey County, as well as neighboring communities.
 - o Examine the possibility and/or value of of partnering with other communities regionally, not just jurisdictionally.
- Identify successful and/or non-successful methods, measures including both hunt and non-hunt control options. Also gather more tracking data and information.
 - o Provide information on if and how City could help individual residents having issues with deer devouring their plantings.
- Provide variety of options and recommendations to the City Council for review and possible action.

The yellow shaded areas are what make up the .77 square miles of Deer habitat in Roseville





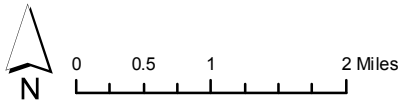
Ramsey County Deer Survey 2014

Jan. 29, 2013 & Feb. 4 - 6, 2014

Survey Boundary

Wetlands

Ramsey County Parks Land



LOCATION	2014 DEER TOTALS
AAHATS	64
GEM LAKE	61
LITTLE CANADA	17
MAPLEWOOD	319
ROSEVILLE	61
SAINT PAUL	160
SHOREVIEW	96
VADNAIS HEIGHTS	105
WHITE BEAR LAKE	40
WHITE BEAR TOWNSHIP	60
TOTAL	983

Ramsey County Deer Management: The Human Dimension



Authors

Prepared by: Irek Akhmadulin, Elizabeth Appleby, Yonathan Guthmann, Scott Haugen, Andrea Johnson, Eric North, Nancy Novitch, Elizabeth Selander, Vincent Vu, and Gael Zembal

This project and the accompanying documents were created by students from the University of Minnesota, Department of Forest Resources, Urban Greenspaces Management capstone course (FR4501/5501).

Development of the project, the deer management report, and the Frequently Asked Questions (F.A.Q.) was accomplished in consultation with Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department, Minnesota.

May 2, 2012

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank:

- ❖ John Moriarty – Ramsey County, MN
- ❖ Adam Robbins – St Paul, MN
- ❖ Bill Short – White Bear Township, MN
- ❖ Heather Butkowski – Lauderdale, MN
- ❖ Michelle Olson – Arden Hills, MN
- ❖ Jim Kappelhoff – Blaine, MN
- ❖ Keith Stachowski – North St Paul, MN
- ❖ Ginny Gainer – Maplewood, MN
- ❖ Joel Hanson – Little Canada, MN
- ❖ Lonnie Brokke – Roseville, MN
- ❖ Marian Rygwall – Spring Lake Park, MN
- ❖ Terry Schwerm – Shoreview, MN
- ❖ Joan Lenzmeier – Vadnais Heights, MN
- ❖ Kiki Carson – Gem Lake, MN
- ❖ Tim Pitman – Falcon Heights, MN
- ❖ Steve Dzenski – Mounds View, MN

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Executive Summary

Ramsey County Deer Management: The Human Dimension reviews the current state of deer overpopulation in Ramsey County, Minnesota. Furthermore, we provide strategies on how best to handle the deer overpopulation problem and how to implement a sustained deer management program for the county.

The most cost-effective, safest solution to limit deer overpopulation appears to be “harvesting”, either with cycles of sharpshooting or bow hunting. Because solutions to deer overpopulation are clearly delineated, both in terms of costs and effectiveness, the remaining concern is how to handle and explain the situation to the population in terms it can readily understand, while fostering interest and support for the long-term success of the project.

The objective of this plan is to enhance Ramsey County’s deer management program by creating a holistic management plan that overcomes the sociopolitical barriers dividing the county in order to make one feasible and sustainable program for the whole county.

A survey for each of the 19 cities in Ramsey County was conducted to identify the commonalities, current approaches, and funding sources leveraged for each deer management plan. The survey results highlight a wide-range of responses to deer management policy for the county, emphasizing the need for a unified, cost-savvy approach.

In addition, the survey was aimed at identifying the most common citizen-provided comments on deer management. Both the understanding and the leveraging of public sentiment are invaluable to framing our holistic management plan and its long-term success. To that effect, this report delivers a deer management “best practices” program for Ramsey County and its municipalities; a simple toolkit designed for ease of use.

The authors of this document were undergraduate and graduate students of the University of Minnesota studying Urban Forest Management: Managing Greenspaces for People (Spring 2012) led by Professor Gary Johnson. This project was conceived under the direction and consultation of the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation with the help of John Moriarty, Natural Resources Manager for Ramsey County.

[The F.A.Q. and Fact Sheet]... are *quality information that people in all walks of life can understand... Wildlife management is one of the least understood practices...*

- Steve Dzenski
Parks Supervisor,
City of Mounds View

Introduction

Deer management is often a complex issue that results from the confluence of the built and natural environments. These issues require multiple approaches to provide the most appropriate solution. How those issues are handled is a biological, political, economic, and social question that differs from community to community with many different stakeholders needing to compromise on a viable solution.

Nature and human development have collided, in some cases quite literally, in Ramsey County, Minnesota. Urban deer populations in Ramsey County are creating issues of property damage, car collisions, and injury to people. However, the main problem is neither deer nor people; the problem is the interactions of the two in a built landscape.

“In nature there are neither rewards nor punishments – there are consequences.” – Robert G. Ingersoll

General deer biology

The deer species in Minnesota is *Odocoileus virginianus*, better known as the white-tailed deer. White-tailed deer have a range which covers most of the United States, southern Canada, and into Central America and northern South America. In Minnesota, white-tailed deer habitat can be found throughout the state.



Figure 1 Range map of white-tailed deer

White-tailed deer stand on average 2 to 3 feet tall and are 4 to 6 feet in length. Male deer weigh 100 to 300 pounds and female weigh 85 to 130 pounds. During the summer months white-tailed deer have a reddish brown coat which changes to a grayish brown during the winter months (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 2012).

All deer have an excellent sense of smell and hearing which they use during mating, warning other deer of potential danger, or marking their territory. Deer also use a series of snorts, grunts, and bleats to communicate with other deer (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 2012).

Mating season in Minnesota for white-tailed deer can start as early as late October and can continue as late as early December. Female deer (doe) come to sexual maturity between one and two years of age. Each doe can produce one to three offspring usually in May or June of the following year. The gestation period for white-tailed deer is seven months. Fawns have white-spotted coats and nurse for three to four months. Female offspring will stay with the doe for up to two years, whereas male offspring typically leave after one year. Male deer grow and shed their antlers annually. Antlers are used in fights over mating territories (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 2012).

White-tailed deer are herbivores equipped with a four-chambered stomach that allow them to eat a wide variety of vegetation. Deer are known to graze on grasses, leaves, twigs, fruits, nuts, corn, alfalfa, lichens, fungi, and many other commonly planted ornamental plants (National Geographic, 2012). In Minnesota, white-tailed deer are known to favor white pine seedlings and northern white cedar or arborvitae.



Figure 2 Grazing deer

White-tailed deer can be seen during daylight hours, but are most active during dusk and dawn after feeding during the night. Natural deer predators include bobcats, mountain lions, coyotes, and lynx. Deer can sprint at speeds of up

to 30 miles per hour, are capable of leaping 10 feet vertically, and horizontally jumping over 30 feet. Their lifespan is 6 to 14 years or age (National Geographic, 2012).

Carrying capacity is the maximum species population that can be supported indefinitely in a specific environment. Carrying capacities vary greatly not only by species, but also by the environment the species inhabits. The biological carrying capacity for white-tailed deer will vary based on available food sources and shelter. Some carrying capacity estimates are 1 deer for every 20 acres, habitat permitting. There are currently estimated between 900,000 and 1,000,000 deer in the state of Minnesota (USDA APHIS, 2012). However, in an urban area the carrying capacity will be considerably less.

Carrying Capacity:

1 deer per every 20 acres

Description of Ramsey County

Ramsey County has a population of approximately 511,000 residents with a density of 3,281 residents per square mile. The following are the 19 communities which are either entirely or partially within Ramsey County:

- Arden Hills
- Blaine
- Falcon Heights
- Gem Lake
- Lauderdale
- Little Canada
- Maplewood
- Mounds View
- New Brighton
- North Oaks
- North St Paul
- Roseville
- Shoreview
- St Anthony
- St Paul
- Spring Lake Park
- Vadnais Heights
- White Bear Lake
- White Bear Lake Township



Figure 3 Ramsey county map

Ramsey County is approximately 156 square miles in area. It contains 9 regional parks, 5 regional trails, and 5 county parks. That said, there are many more parks and open spaces in Ramsey County that are not owned or managed by Ramsey County. There are 4,378 employees currently working for Ramsey County and only part of one person's time is allocated to deer management (Ramsey County, 2012).

Deer in Ramsey County

According to the data collected by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) and Ramsey County Public Works, more than 250 deer were involved in car accidents in 2010. The number is based on the reported number of deer collisions, which is likely lower than the actual number as not every incident is reported. In 2004, the Insurance Federation of Minnesota estimated each automobile and deer- related incident cost between \$2,000 - \$3,500-which means in Ramsey County alone, deer incidents had an economic cost of approximately \$500,000 to \$875,000.

Ramsey County performs a yearly aerial survey of deer within selected portions of the county during the winter months as the snow cover makes spotting deer easier. Aerial surveys are a relatively inexpensive and easy way to survey deer populations. As of the 2011 aerial survey, 1115 deer were counted. However, this is an underestimated number of deer currently in Ramsey County communities, as not all areas of the county are surveyed.

Once the numbers of deer are known, a deer reduction plan can be established. There are two methods of deer reduction currently used: an archery hunt coordinated with the help of Metro Bow Hunters, and a special hunt using contracted sharp shooters.

Survey of Ramsey County Communities

Table 1 Summary of city deer management survey

Community	Deer management contact	Are deer an issue in the community?	Common complaints regarding deer?	Do you have a deer policy?
Arden Hills	Michelle Olson	Deer are not currently an issue	❖ No specific complaints	❖ No deer policy in place ❖ Arden Hills would be open to considering developing a deer management policy ❖ National Guard and Ramsey County do some hunts to control deer
Blaine	Jim Kappelhoff	Occasional road kills which are handled by the police department	❖ Complaints are handled by the police department.	❖ Yes – An Anoka County deer policy ❖ Special permit limited bow hunting season within the city limits
North Saint Paul	Keith Stachowski	Deer are not currently an issue. They get very few calls.	❖ No resident complaints in 14 years ❖ Southwood Park project leaders have mentioned a few deer are eating some of the vegetation and newly planted trees	❖ No deer policy in place ❖ Average one deer road kill every 5 years which is handled by the Community Services Department
Lauderdale	Heather Butkowski	Deer are not currently an issue	❖ None, turkeys are more of an issue	❖ No deer policy
Maplewood	Ginny Gainer	Yes - a few areas have an overpopulation of deer.	❖ Too many deer gardens ❖ Vegetative damage ❖ Concern with potential auto accidents	❖ Deer ordinance - people not allowed to feed deer ❖ Specifics about what that means (bird feeders) ❖ People not allowed to interfere with deer management ❖ Also use deer repellants
Little Canada	Joel Hanson	They were. But recently less so because of the hunt. Annual hunt - contract through bull hunters	❖ Complaints of vegetative damage	❖ Yes there is a deer policy
Roseville	Lonnie Brokke	Yes, monitoring the deer population with Ramsey County. Deer counts have stayed constant.	❖ During gardening season complaints of vegetative destruction.	❖ No deer policy ❖ Monitoring deer since 2004 ❖ Deer range is usually 15 – 51 ❖ The last 5 years, the average deer has been 45

Community	Deer management contact	Are deer an issue in the community?	Common complaints regarding deer?	Do you have a deer policy?
Spring Lake Park	Marian Rygwall	Deer are not currently an issue	❖ No complaints	❖ No
Shoreview	Terry Schwerm	Yes, in open spaces. Over population of deer.	❖ None related to lymes disease ❖ Complaints of vegetative damage ❖ Deer roaming in to yards	❖ Our ordinance works in conjunction with Ramsey County ❖ Utilize archery through Metro Bow-hunters Resource Base (October-November) ❖ Discussed sharpshooting with council, but decided no because of costs ❖ Have done private hunts on apple orchard ❖ No feeding of wildlife! Sometimes hand out citations to those feeding wildlife.
Mounds View	Steve Dzenski	Yes, over population	❖ Two incidents on city streets in the past year ❖ Most concern in centered around wooded areas near airport and nearby Ramsey Park ❖ No formal complaints	❖ Discourage feeding wildlife ❖ No other plan
Vadnais Heights	Joan Lenzmeier	Yes	❖ Vegetation damage is the most common complaint ❖ Some calls regarding car crashes with deer	❖ Yes there is a deer policy. ❖ Deer Management Task Force ❖ Work with the DNR to get recommendations for the number of deer that should be in the area. ❖ Archery hunt every year to reduce deer populations ❖ Work with Ramsey County to support the aerial survey of deer
Gem Lake	No specific contact	Deer are not currently an issue	❖ Deer collisions, referred to the Ramsey County Sheriff or Pest Control	❖ No policy in place ❖ Falls under their "No hunting" ordinance.
Falcon Heights	No specific contact	Deer are not currently an issue	❖ Not aware of complaints	❖ No practice in place ❖ Falls under their "No hunting" ordinance.

Community	Deer management contact	Are deer an issue in the community?	Common complaints regarding deer?	Do you have a deer policy?
Saint Paul	Animal Control	Yes - Deer are a public nuisance where the deer exceed the carrying capacity. The Highwood neighborhood of Saint Paul harbors the densest deer population in the city.	❖ The most common complaint is vegetation damage ❖ Personal safety children with respect to 'tame', wild deer ❖ Complaints regarding violating the city's wildlife feeding ordinance.	❖ Yes deer hunts are organized in parks ❖ Wildlife feeding ordinance http://www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?NID=1038

Description of the plan

There are three basic components of any good natural resources management plan: monitoring, action, and education of the public. A deer management plan for the communities of Ramsey County is no different. In this section we will briefly describe the importance of each area.

Monitoring/Inventorying

In order to effectively manage a resource of any kind, natural or otherwise, the management entity must first have working knowledge of the size, location, and type of resource to be managed. Inventorying and monitoring a resource allows managers to effectively allocate time and money in areas. To manage deer, managers must first know where the deer are likely to be and approximately how many deer in each area.

While there are several ways to inventory and monitor deer, such as GPS tracking collars or manually identifying and counting deer, one of the most cost-effective ways to get a good approximation of the number of deer in an urban setting is through the use of aerial surveys. Aerial surveys of deer in Minnesota are typically done during the winter months of year where good snow cover and increased visibility through leafless trees provides ideal conditions for spotting deer. Helicopters are flown over an area at between 100 and 200 feet above ground level.

Helicopter aerial surveys provide a quick, accurate, and economically feasible method for counting deer in urban areas. The more area covered the better or more accurate the estimated number of deer will be. Once a baseline deer population is established, fluctuations in deer population from year to year can give managers a better understanding of the effects of management actions (i.e., whether the deer population increasing or decreasing).

Actions

There are many established methods for controlling deer populations: chemical birth control, trap and release, and even introducing natural predators. The method which has proven the most effective and least costly is **control through managed hunts**. In Ramsey County communities, two types of hunts are currently available: a special archery hunt and specially trained sharp shooters.

Through the Metro Bow Hunters Resource Base individual citizens can participate in urban archery hunts. During these hunts, hunters emphasize shooting antlerless deer in the hopes of reducing the number of does in the deer population. Deer populations are more quickly reduced when the number of does is reduced.

Sharp shooting in is another method which has proven successful. Specially-trained deer sharp shooters are hired to come into a community with the purpose of removing a large amount of deer at one time. They are trained to shoot as efficiently and effectively as possible to minimize

the possibility of the herd scattering, and to quickly dispatch deer and maintain safety to surrounding residents.

Frequently Asked Questions (F.A.Q)

How do we know how many deer are in Ramsey County?

The Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department usually performs an annual aerial survey of selected communities within the county (depending upon weather conditions). Communities can opt in to this survey if they wish.

How many deer are in Ramsey County?

As of the 2011 deer survey, there was a minimum 1,115 deer in Ramsey County.

What are the most common complaints about deer in Ramsey County?

While one of the major concerns with deer in Ramsey County involves the potential for auto collisions, the most common concerns involve vegetative destruction on public and/or private property. This is especially exacerbated during the spring planting season, when deer can be quite common in gardens, wooded areas, and even in backyards! Many residents have also voiced concern about the large presence of deer on their property during the warmer seasons.

Is it safe to approach deer?

Although deer may look cute, they actually are quite skittish. Never corner a deer - they are wild animals and are unpredictable.

Should I feed deer?

Please do not feed the deer. This will only encourage them to continue to seek food on your property, which may lead to continued destruction and/or nuisance. This could also cause deer to lose their natural fear of humans, which could be dangerous to both the animals and your community. In addition, many communities have ordinances against feeding deer (e.g., Saint Paul, Maplewood, Shoreview).

Do deer carry disease that put my family at risk?

Deer can be a host for ticks that may carry Lyme Disease. Deer themselves do not cause Lyme Disease. However, it is best to exercise caution and never touch an immobile or dead deer.

How do I keep deer out of my backyard?

Fencing is one of the most effective ways known to keep deer out of yards and gardens. Special permits may be required from your community in order to erect fences. However, fences are not guaranteed to keep deer out of yards.

Is there a policy in place for deer management?

Deer management policies vary from community to community. Ramsey County has special (by permit) archery hunts in selected parks (9 different parks) in order to manage the urban deer population. Participants need to sign an ethics pledge, take a safety class, and take an accuracy test. Hunting without permission in Ramsey County Parks is prohibited. For more information, contact the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department. Several cities allow hunting on private property by permit. Contact your city to check on ordinances.

How do I avoid hitting deer with my car?

The best way to minimize deer-auto collisions is to pay attention and drive at safe speeds. Most deer vehicle crashes occur during dawn and dusk, when visibility is less than ideal. Watch the shoulder for deer silhouettes and the reflection of the eyes of deer. If you see a deer, honk your horn in order to startle the deer away from the road (they should flee away from the noise). Deer frequently travel in groups - if you see one, keep a lookout for more. Don't count on deer whistles and deer deterrents to keep deer off the roads—research has shown that they are ineffective at repelling deer. Never swerve into oncoming traffic to avoid a deer collision.

Did you know?

Minnesota is in the top 10 states for the most deer/car collisions in the nation!

Who should I contact if I have a question about deer in my community?

Deer policies vary from community to community check your cities website for information regarding deer or wildlife policies.

Deer Fact sheet

Basic Deer Biology

- Diet
 - ❖ Eats green plants in spring and summer; corn, acorns, nuts in fall; buds and twigs of woody plants and conifers (especially white cedar and white pine) in winter.
 - ❖ White-tailed deer are ruminants, meaning that they have a four-chambered stomach.
- Reproduction
 - ❖ Mate in November or December.
 - ❖ Does have 1-3 fawns in the spring.
 - Fawns usually hidden in tall grass while doe feeds.
 - ❖ Fawns normally stay with mother for one year.
 - ❖ Bucks re-grow antlers every year.
 - Antlers shed in late winter after breeding season.
 - When new ones grow in spring, they are covered with “velvet” which supplies nutrients to the growing bone.
- Predators
 - ❖ Coyote, dogs (among others such as gray wolf, black bear, and lynx which are usually not present in urban environments).
- Other Facts
 - ❖ Can run up to 30 miles per hour, leap as high as 10 feet and as far as 30 feet in a single bound; they are also good swimmers.
 - ❖ When alarmed, a deer will raise its tail to show the white underside as a flag. This signals other deer to danger in the area.

Why are deer overpopulated?

Deer thrive on edge habitat. Edge habitats are transitional areas between forests and open spaces. Humans have greatly increased the acreage of edge habitat. Croplands, parks, and urban/suburban landscaping are convenient year-round food sources for deer. Many of these areas were formerly forests or fields. In addition, fertilized vegetation can be more nutrient-rich than vegetation in the forest.

At the same time, landscape changes have reduced the numbers of natural predators of deer, such as wolves and mountain lions.

Problems of Overpopulation

Minnesota is the 10th state in automobile collision risks from deer. About 2,500 deer collisions are reported each year (Minnesota Department of Public Safety, 2011). November is the worst month for collisions with motorists due to the mating season and other factors like hunting.

High deer numbers are changing the composition of forests. Plants that deer prefer (e.g., cedar, white pine, aspen, and dogwoods) are being eaten so much that they can no longer grow to maturity--thus, deer reduce the diversity of plants in the forest, which in turn affects other forest animals.

Buck rubbings in the fall can also injure trees. In August, male deer will rub their antlers against the bark of a tree to get rid of the dead velvet. This can scrape the bark off of the tree which interrupts the tree's transfer of nutrients to the leaves (Gaston, Columbia, Martin, & Sharpe, 2002).

Other Options for Controlling Deer Populations *(Hunting and sharpshooting are the main options)*

Relocation

Relocating deer is costly, impractical, and ineffective. Relocation is also very stressful to deer, and high mortality rates are associated with relocation. The spread of deer diseases is another concern. **The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources does not allow this technique.**

Contraceptives/Sterilization

While effective for the individual deer, contraceptives are not an efficient means of overall deer population control because they must be applied to nearly every female in the herd. A booster would also have to be applied annually. This process is estimated to cost \$800-\$1000 per doe, with \$200-\$300 per year maintenance. **The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources does not allow this technique.**

Introducing Predators

Reintroducing predators would not be feasible in an urban setting for three reasons:

- ❖ There is no suitable habitat for deer predators.
- ❖ There is a potential for these predators to kill non-deer targets.
- ❖ Close proximity to humans would negatively impact public safety.

Options for Repelling Deer from Your Property

- ❖ Organic repellents are marketed across the country, with anecdotal evidence to their efficacy: compounds using garlic, rotten eggs, blood-meal, and capsaicin (the heat in hot peppers) appear to be the most effective.
- ❖ Adequate fences around property or vegetation.
- ❖ Presence of "predatory" animals: e.g., dogs.

Deer and Plants

Plants Deer Avoid

- ❖ Barberry (**invasive – should not be planted**)
- ❖ Common Buckthorn (**invasive – should not be planted**)
- ❖ Russian olive (**invasive – should not be planted**)
- ❖ Anthony Waterer spirea
- ❖ Honeysuckle (**invasive – should not be planted**)
- ❖ Lilac
- ❖ Nannyberry Viburnum
- ❖ Potentilla
- ❖ Ural Falsespirea

Plants Deer Will Sometimes Eat

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ❖ American Highbush Cranberry | ❖ Roses |
| ❖ Bush Honeysuckle/Diervilla | ❖ Spruce |
| ❖ Douglas Fir | ❖ Sumac |
| ❖ Forsythia | ❖ Wayfaring Tree Viburnum |
| ❖ Hazelnut | ❖ White Fir |
| ❖ Hemlock | ❖ White pine |
| ❖ Junipers | ❖ Young fruit trees |
| ❖ Maples | |
| ❖ Mountain ash | |

Plants Deer Prefer

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| ❖ Apples | ❖ Euonymus |
| ❖ Arborvitae/White cedar | ❖ Garden lilies |
| ❖ Arrowwood Viburnum | ❖ Hostas |
| ❖ Birch | ❖ Hydrangea |
| ❖ Daylilies | ❖ Impatiens |
| ❖ Dogwood | ❖ Linden/basswood |
| | ❖ Yews |

For More Information on Deer Management:

Gaston, A. J., Columbia, T. E., Martin, J.-L., & Sharpe, S. T. (2002). *Lessons from the islands: Introduced species and what they tell us about how ecosystems work*. Queen Charlotte City: Special Publication Canadian Wildlife Service.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. (2012). *White tailed deer*. Retrieved from Minnesota Department of Natural Resources:
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mammals/whitetaileddeer.html>

Minnesota Department of Public Safety. (2011, June). *2010 Deer/Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes, Fatalities, and Injuries*. Retrieved April 2012, from Minnesota Department of Public Safety: <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ots/educational-materials/Documents/deer-fs.pdf>

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<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/white-tailed-deer/>

Ramsey County. (2012). *About Ramsey County*. Retrieved from Ramsey County:
<http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/home/history.htm>

USDA APHIS. (2012, April 4th). *Living with Wildlife*. Retrieved April 2012, from Wildlife Damage Management:
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/nwrc/publications/living/deer.pdf

Table 1 Summary of city deer managment survey

Community	Deer Management Contact	Are deer an issue in the community?	Common Complaints	Do you have a Deer policy?	Bow hunt	Sharp Shoot	Success?	Private land	Public land	Wildlife Management Plan?	
Arden Hills	Pam Sweeney	Not currently.	Many of the deer are in the open area of the arsenal, if there is a dead deer, it is picked up by animal control & brought to the arsenal for coyotes to feed on.	No	No	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	No	
Blaine	Diane Heitkamp	2012 - occasional road kill handled by the police dept.	2012 - Complaints are handled by the police department.	Yes						No	No response to updated survey to date
Falcon Heights	Tim Sandvik	Deer are not currently an issue. Other than the University of MN property, there is not a lot of Open space in FH.	There have been more coyote calles, a few of those have bedded down in Community parks. They direct individuals the do's & don't and DNR links for education.	No	No	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	
Gem Lake	Gloria Tessier	Currently not an issue.	Have learned to live with them. Deer collisions are handled by Ramsey County Sheriff or pest control if it's not on a county road.	Yes	No	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	
Lauderdale	Heather Butkowski	Not currently.	Feel like Turkeys are more of an issue.	No	No	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	No	
Little Canada	Joel Hanson	They were, but have been reduced due to the annuals hunts.	Vegetative damage, have tried deer repellents.	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Maplewood	Virginia Gaynor	Over populated currently.	Vegetative damage, and auto accidents.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Mounds View	Sam Drery	Yes, over population and occasional feeding issues	9 reports documenting issues/encounters with deer in 2014 ranging from injured deer , der hit by cars/impeding traffic.	No	No	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	No	
North Oaks	Mike Robertson	Deer are a major problem in North Oaks.	Most of the complains are due to the removal. Very controversial.	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Added Community since 2012 Survey
North St. Paul	Keith Stachowski	2012 - Deer are not an issue, no resident complaints in 14 years.	2012 - Southwood Park project leaders have mentioned a few deer eating vegetation. 1 deer killed on the roads every 5 years handled by Community Service Dept.	No							No response to updated survey to date

Table 1 Summary of city deer managment survey

Community	Deer Management Contact	Are Deer an issue in the community?	Common Complaints	Do you have a Deer policy?	Bow hunt	Sharp Shoot	Success?	Private land	Public land	Wildlife Management Plan?	
Roseville	Lonnie Brokke	Yes, overpopulation. Track numbers determined by Ramsey County fly overs each year.	Vegetative destruction.Tameness of deer & health concerns.	No	No	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	No	
Saint Paul	Mike Koranda	Deer are an issue, they are a public nuisance. St. Paul harbors the densest deer population in the City.	Vegetation damage. Personal safety children with respect to tame wild deer. Complaints Violating the city law feeding ordinance.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Shoreview	Terry Schwerm	Overpopulation of deer in open spaces.	None related to Lyme disease. Complaints of vegetative damage. Deer roaming into yards. Citations to those that feed wildlife. Blanket ordinance for the orchard from Nov. - Jan. Gets most complaints about the southern border, Northern Roseville	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Spring Lake Park	Marian Rygwall	2012 - Deer are currently not an issue. No complaints.	2012 - Deer are currently not an issue. No complaints.	No							No response to updated survey to date
Vadnais Heights	Chris Hearden	Many calls are forwarded to the DNR. They rely on the DNR studies. There is a deer management task force. Work with DNR to get recommendations.	Many calls are forwarded to the DNR. They rely on the DNR studies. There is a deer management task force. Work with DNR to get recommendations.	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

- (C) A quarantined animal shall not be removed from the place of confinement without the written permission of the Animal Control Officer.
- (D) A quarantined animal shall be confined in an enclosure constructed of materials suitable to prevent the animal from escaping. All openings to the enclosure shall be locked at all times and the animal shall not be removed from the enclosure unless the animal is muzzled on a leash not exceeding four (4) feet in length and in control of a competent person.

601.100 Additional Fee and Proof of Insurance as to Potentially Dangerous Animals.

The owner of a potentially dangerous animal shall pay an additional annual fee as determined by Council Resolution and shall provide the City Manager, annually, with proof of liability insurance which covers damages that may be caused by such animal.

601.110 Summary Destruction. Whenever an Animal Control Officer has reasonable cause to believe that a particular animal represents a clear and immediate danger to the residents of the City of Shoreview because it is infected with rabies or because it is a dangerous animal, the Animal Control Officer, after making reasonable attempts to impound such animal, may summarily destroy the animal.

601.130 Intentional Feeding of Wild Animals

(A) Feeding Prohibited. Except as hereinafter provided in Section 601.130(B), no person shall intentionally feed wild animals within the City. Intentional feeding means the provision of any grain, fruit, vegetables, nuts, salt licks, or any other food that attracts wild animals. Living food sources such as trees and other live vegetation shall not be considered food for wild animals.

(B) Feeding Songbirds. The feeding of songbirds is permitted under the following conditions:

- (1) Feeding is done from a bird feeder that is designed to prevent other wild animals from feeding and is placed at least 5 feet above the ground;
- (2) The bird feeder does not become an attractive nuisance to other wild animals;
- (3) Songbird feeding does not attract songbirds in such numbers to become a nuisance or damage property; and
- (4) Songbird feeding occurs on private property owned or controlled by the person responsible for the feeder.

Ord. 870
Rev. 10/16/10

- (C) **Exception.** The provisions of Section 601.130(A) shall not apply to the employees or agents of the City, County, the State, the Federal government or veterinarians who in the course of their official duties have wild animals in their custody or under their management.
- (D) **Violations.** Violations of this ordinance provision will be subject to a fine of \$100 for the first violation, \$200 for a second violation, and \$300 for each subsequent violation within a 24-month period.

601.150 Wildlife Management Programs

- (A) **Authorization.** No person shall, within the City limits, hunt or engage in the business of removal of wild animals, unless such person shall be acting on behalf of Ramsey County or the City as part of an authorized Wildlife Management Program.
- (B) **Restrictions.**
- (1) No person shall threaten, intimidate, obstruct or interfere with an authorized wildlife management program or agent providing such services to the City.
 - (2) No person shall touch, damage, manipulate, disengage, make inoperative or otherwise tamper with equipment that is being used as part of an authorized wildlife management program.
 - (3) No person shall be within 100 feet of a trap or other equipment or material being used as part of an authorized wildlife management program unless the person is on land which they own or has the express permission of the City or County, the City or County's authorized agent, or the owner of the property.
 - (4) No person shall enter any area which the City or County has closed to the public as part of an authorized wildlife management program and the City or County has provided notice of such closure by conspicuously posting signs or by other reasonable means.

Kara Thomas

From: Goodnature, Mike <mike.goodnature@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Sent: Wednesday, December 31, 2014 11:05 AM
To: Kara Thomas; Lonnie Brokke
Subject: Deer removal info

Lonnie and Kara,
Here is some info I put together, let me know if you need any more info.

There is approx. 0.77 square miles of deer habitat within the City of Roseville. Using the MN DNR guidelines of 20-25 deer per square mile of deer habitat for optimal carrying capacity there should be around 15-19 deer within the City of Roseville. There were 61 deer counted in Roseville during the 2014 aerial survey. This puts the deer population at 42-46 deer over the carrying capacity of the land.

Options for deer removal:

1. Archery hunts—
 - Archery hunts at any given location average the removal of 10 deer.
 - This method is used to maintain current levels and there will still be a growth in population
 - If conducted during the regular Archery season no special permit is required from the MN DNR
 - The appropriate City departments/boards will have to approve the use of bows and/or hunting within the City limits
 - Metro Bow Hunter Resource Base can provide qualified archers to conduct hunts
2. Sharp Shooting –
 - This method is an efficient way to quickly bring down the population of the deer herd to manageable levels
 - Several municipalities within the Metro use sharpshooting, even on an annual basis
 - Private business and public agencies, such as the USDA, can provide sharp shooting services
 - Sharp shooting requires permits and approval through the MN DNR
 - Sharp Shooting will have to be approved by the appropriate City departments/boards to allow for the discharge of firearms for the use of deer removal within the city limits

Michael Goodnature
Natural Resources Manager
Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department
2015 N. Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
PH: 651-748-2500 ext. 347
mike.goodnature@co.ramsey.mn.us

Roseville Deer Population Discussion Parks and Recreation Commission

January 2015



Background

- Ramsey County has Wildlife Management Program – City of Roseville does not
- Ramsey County conducts an annual aerial surveys – Roseville participates
- Survey numbers considered minimum – not all are seen
- Ramsey County and DNR have general criteria – 20 – 25 deer per sq. mile of habitat
- Roseville has approximately 0.77 square miles of deer habitat
- Roseville's numbers should be 15 – 19 deer



- Status
 - 61 deer - February, 2014 survey
 - 43 deer – average over 9 yrs
 - Roseville's deer population over the carrying capacity of the land/habitat

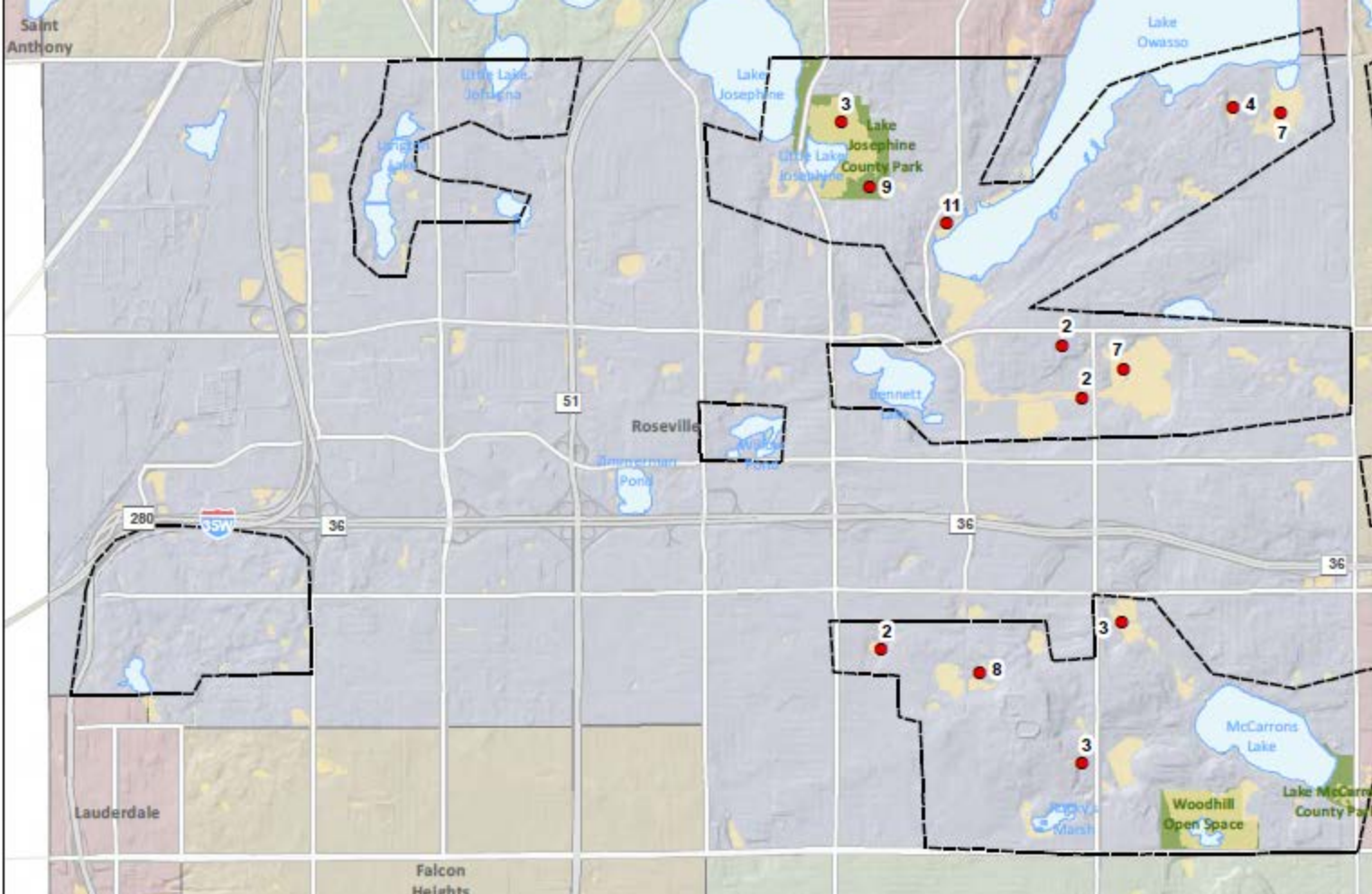


Survey Information



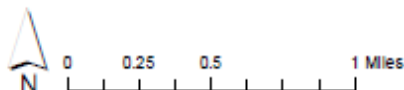
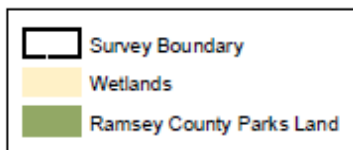
YEAR	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
# of Deer	36	lack of snow	15	34	44	51	44	50	lack of snow	57	61
# of cars hit Roseville PD	-	-	-	-	3	3	2	0	0	3	1
# of cars hit State patrol	-	-	-	-	0	11*	16*	16*	15*	9*	0

*** These figures are inclusive of all animals hit by vehicles, including deer, but not exclusively deer.**



Ramsey County Deer Survey 2014

Jan. 29, 2013 & Feb. 4 - 6, 2014



LOCATION	2014 DEER TOTALS
AAHATS	64
GEM LAKE	61
LITTLE CANADA	17
MAPLEWOOD	319
ROSEVILLE	61
SAINT PAUL	160
SHOREVIEW	96
VADNAIS HEIGHTS	105
WHITE BEAR LAKE	40
WHITE BEAR TOWNSHIP	60
TOTAL	983

What are others doing?

2012

- Surveyed 14 Ramsey County Communities
 - 7 communities had issues
 - 7 communities had no issues
 - 5 had organized bow hunts



2014

- Surveyed 15 Ramsey County Communities
 - 9 communities have issues
 - 6 communities have no issues
 - 7 have bow and/or sharp shooter organized hunts
 - The 7 that had organized hunts have all been successful

Typical Comments

Complaints

- Too many deer
- People feeding deer
- Deer scat in yards
- Vegetative damage
- Deer repellent isn't working
- Vehicle/deer collision concerns
- Diseases (ticks carrying Lyme)
- Safety - Deer have become too tame

Pro- Deer

- If we want natural areas in Roseville, we will have to learn to live with the deer
- We love the deer, they were here before us, we moved into their space
- Enjoy the deer and don't feel like there are too many
- Such beautiful, gentle creatures! No complaints

Common Control Options

Archery Hunts

- No cost
- Archers pay an annual fee to the Metro Bowhunters Resource Base (MBRB)
- Archery hunts remove 10 deer on average
- This method is used to maintain current levels
- Still may be growth
- If conducted during the regular Archery season no special permit is required from the MN DNR
- MBRB provide qualified archers to conduct hunts
- Archers keep their deer or they can donate to food shelves
- Appropriate City approval is required to approve the use of bow & arrow hunting within the City limits

Sharp Shooting

- Cost averages -\$215 - \$270 per deer
- This method is an efficient way to quickly bring down the population of the deer herd to manageable levels
- Several municipalities within the Metro use sharpshooting
- Private contractors and public agencies (i.e. USDA) can provide sharp shooting services
- Sharp shooting requires permits and approval through the MN DNR
- The venison is donated to local food shelves
- Appropriate City approval is required to approve the use of weapons for hunting within the City limits

Other Control Options

Currently not used, or recommended

Relocation

- Costs are unknown and have been known to be more expensive
- Very stressful on the deer, many die soon after release, apparently due to the stress of capture and handling
- May cause more car/deer collisions due to the deer trying to find a different habitat
- Transferring of diseases is/has been a concerning issue on transports

Contraceptive/Sterilization

- Cost averages \$800 - \$1000 per doe
- Very stressful on the deer, and hasn't been proven to work per USDA studies
- More feasible in a fenced areas, not in open areas



Other Control Options (con't)

Living with Deer

- Organic repellants on property, i.e. rotten eggs, blood meal, hot peppers, human hair
- Adequate fencing
- Predatory animals, i.e. dogs
- Avoid plants deer eat
- Feeding ban



Process

- The decision to control deer is up to individual cities. In all cases, the City would need to approve a cooperative agreement subject to all requirements
- Monitoring and inventory
- Decide whether or not a control is warranted
- Pursue an ordinance change (Shoreview example)
- Work with Ramsey County to determine control type and location
- Work directly with the Minnesota Bowhunters Resource Base (MBRB) &/or United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) depending on method desired
- If a hunt is desired on private land, all land owners would need to sign an agreement

Deer Population

Responses to questions at the 1-6-15 Parks & Recreation Commission meeting

1. If there was a hunt in Roseville, what areas would be recommended?

- Ramsey County and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and/or the Minnesota Bow Hunters Resource Base (MBRB) would provide a site review and work with us on recommended areas.
- Areas recommended would include the highly populated areas per the last aerial count or where they feel the deer concentration is high.
 - USDA - most likely would be the areas by Lake Owasso
 - MBRB -most likely would include larger areas such as Reservoir Woods and the area by Lake Josephine.

2. What areas from the survey make up the .77 square miles of habitat?

- The yellow highlighted areas make up the .77 square miles of deer habitat. Wetland and park areas are typically deer areas of choice.

3. Have there been any bad incidents as a result of a hunt?

- None known

4. Has there ever been any pro-activist demonstrations as a result of a hunt?

- No
- Minimal opposition with no organized demonstration efforts

5. What types of guns are used during a shoot?

Rifle

- Both rim fire .22 caliber suppressed (silenced) rifles and center fire .223 and .308 caliber suppressed (silenced) rifles with the .223 being the most commonly used. Type depends on the site at where they are conducting control and at what distance they'll be shooting at
- The USDA is permitted to use silencers

Bows

- Standard bow and arrows are used
- Cross bows are allowed for those that are 70 and older and/or are physically disabled

Meeting of Staff and Commissioners Stoner and Newby 1-15-15

As a result of the January 6, 2015 Commission meeting, Commission members Newby and Stoner met with staff on Thursday, January 15, 2015 to discuss what a structure of a potential ordinance might be if the city chooses to go this route. The following is suggested:

1. Establish a Wildlife Management Ordinance that provides a framework for an overall Wildlife Management Program (WMP) to include the following:
 - a. Feeding Restriction/Ban
 - i. To include all wild animals including deer, geese, coyote,
 - ii.
 - b. Exceptions to feeding restrictions to include:
 - i. Songbirds
 - ii. Use of Deer resistant feeders, i.e. enclosures accessible to birds only
 - iii. Food/garden plots
 - iv.
 - c. Penalties
 - i. Violations enforced – who does it and how?
 - ii. Penalty to include meaningful consequences
 - iii.
 - d. Include control mechanisms as warranted, i.e. hunts
 - i. Weapon use
 - ii. Permitting process
 - iii.
2. Suggested timeframe for the deer population discussion:
 - a) February, 2015 – Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
 - i. Present answers to the questions asked at the January, 2015 meeting
 - ii. Gather additional information, ideas and input
 - iii. Determine if any additional questions need to be answered
 - iv. Add/delete/adjust from (WMP) above
 - b) February/March – have a joint meeting with the City Council when ready
 - i. Present and discuss the information gathered so far
 - ii. Seek additional ideas, guidance and direction
 - iii. Possibly ready to provide advice to the City Council
 - iv.
 - c) If agreeable, provide information to the City Attorney to draft an ordinance

KSTP.COM — 5 EYEWITNESS NEWS**Deer Reach Further into Roseville Residential Neighborhoods**

Updated: 01/22/2015 8:01 AM KSTP.com By: Katherine Johnson

Roseville city leaders are considering everything from contraception to a controlled hunt in order to reduce the growing deer population in residential neighborhoods.

The Roseville Parks and Recreation Commission is currently studying how other suburbs keep the deer count down.

"There has been some harvesting that's been done Ramsey County wide, not specifically in Roseville, but there have been harvests in nearby communities," said Parks and Recreation Director Lonnie Brokke.

"I really started noticing them five or six years ago," Roger Toogood said. He enjoys watching the deer outside his window, but has also noticed the numbers are drastically increasing.

"All of us love deer. We just enjoy it," he said. "But it gets to the point of... what's the right balance?"

"There appears to be more discussion in the community about it in the last year or two," said Brokke.

The number of deer sightings reported to the city has almost doubled in the past decade, from 36 sightings in 2004 to 61 sightings in 2014.

"This last summer, we had 13 right up at the end of this Cul de Sac here," said Toogood.

The east side is pretty well split in half, right now, when it comes to implementing a deer policy.

Eight cities allow a controlled harvest and in some cases, enforce a feeding ban, including Blaine, Gem Lake, Little Canada, Maplewood, North Oaks, St. Paul, Shoreview and Vadnais Heights.

Seven cities, including Roseville, Arden Hills, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Mounds View, North St. Paul and Spring Lake Park don't have a deer policy at all.

Ramsey County does have a Wildlife Management Program that monitors the population for the county but it is up to each individual city to decide on whether to allow a hunt within city limits.

The Roseville Parks and Rec. Commission will meet Feb. 3 at the Lexington Park building, 2131 Lexington Ave. North. The meeting is open to the public and starts at 6:30 p.m.



2014 Deer Comments

Date	Received	Address	Summary of Comments	Follow up	
5/18/14	E-mail	HighCourte	Recently advised that you are the contact in Roseville regarding our concern over the deer population and damage they are causing to shrubs as well as the danger they pose on the residential streets. Recently we watched at least 15 deer roam through our yard, nibble on a few shrubs, wander out into the street and move on to the neighbors yard. Last fall we invested over \$8,000 in landscaping & shrubs. The deer are a definite threat to how well our plants will do. The deer population in this area is simply too much. I recently was sent an article suggesting bird feeders are major reason the deer come onto our property. PLEASE, I have one feeder that is deer resistant, however I have never seen a deer near it. They are here for the shrubs! Aside from above, driving our roads are like living in a video game, you never know when a deer will come darting out. And as you quickly learn, where there is one there is more! If you have ever been in an accident with a deer you will understand the damage they can do to a vehicle. Then of course there is the pain and suffering the animal experiences. Is there anything that can/will be done by the city of Roseville? They are beautiful animals, but there are just too many of them in this residential area.	Sent E-mail	
5/18/14	E-mail	Little Bay Rd	The deer aren't the problem. The appearance of So. Owasso Blvd. is. The clear cutting has really taken away from what was once a nice barrier with the tracks and the townhome area. If they could clean up a bit more it would help some.		
5/19/14	E-mail	HighCourte	The deer population is way to high. How about cutting it down to 0? They eat lots of trees & bushes, and leave lots of scat.	Sent E-mail	
5/27/14	E-mail	Centennial Drive	My husband & I bought our house almost 2 yrs ago. We love living in Rsvl & are looking for ways to update & improve our home, We would like to do some landscaping @ the house to make it more attractive but are very concerned about the amount of deer in our yard. That has delayed projects to our yard as we feel the money put into landscaping would be wasted. We currently have 4 or more deer that walk thru our yard on a daily basis. We actually have a "Deer Trail" worn into our grass. My husband & I would both support action in Roseville to reduce the deer population size.	Sent E-mail	
5/19/14	Phone		Problem with deer. South Owasso neighborhood. Damaged shrubs. Droppings	Called LM - 5/19/14	
5/19/14	E-mail	Woodbridge St	There are a lot of folks complaining about the deer up in the S. Owasso neighborhood. I just want to register as a resident of this area who understands that this neighborhood is RIGHT next to all of the natural area around Lake Owasso so yes, we have deer and no, we don't have a problem with it. A few folds feeding the deer in the hood have not helped. I do not think we have too many deer, unless you just don't believe in deer in the city at all, which is pretty had to accomplish with the natural areas we all appreciate so much.	Sent E-mail	
5/18/14	E-mail	Sandy Hook Drive	Impossible to keep flowers, shrubbery & evergreens alive with 9 - 12 deer browsing several times week. They are so used to people that they will come right at you. 47 deer in our quadrant are too many. We would like Roseville to reduce the heard substantially.	E-mail failed. Called	
5/20/14	E-mail	Sandy Hook Drive	I counted 12 or 13 near a house on S. Owasso Blvd. Pictures attached.		
6/25/14	Phone	Heinel Drive	Too many deer. Support Harvest	Did not want a call back	
5/19/14	Phone		Decimated. Havoc. Too many.	Phone Call 5/19/14	
5/19/14	E-mail	Sandy Hook Drive	I believe the deer population along the track on So. Owasso Blvd has become a very big nuisensece. I counted 13 lingering along the railroad crossing!!! This is a dangerous situation, as one or two or five could jump in front of ones vehicle. Many other communities have had hunts or other ways of getting rid of them!!	Sent E-mail	
5/18/14	E-mail	HighCourte	We have been inundated with the deer population this past winter and spring. At one time we had anywhere from 7 - 14 sleeping under the big pine trees in our back yard. They are very docile and help themselves to eating our shrubs and deciduous trees. Anything you could do to help us eliminate this huge problem would be appreciated. Thank you.	Sent E-mail	
5/19/14	E-mail	Highpoint Curve	We love our deer!! We live in Owasso Hills. The deer were here before us. We moved into their space. We love seeing them!!! We wish people were concern about all the garbage we see on the streets, intersections, highways etc. on our city of Roseville. Thank you.	Sent E-mail	
6/3/14	Phone		Bothered that there is a campaign to eliminate deer. We can live with them. Eating trees are o.k. Not too many deer. Enjoy the deer. Deer were here first. Not happy with everyone asking to call me to complain.	Phone Call 6/3/14	
5/18/14	E-mail	Matilda Street	I just want to say I enjoy the deer and don't feel there are too many. I don't want them "Culled". There is a discussion on next door about this. I don't want you to hear from only the ones who are concerned about deer eating their bushes, etc...		
5/18/14	phone	Mapleview Park Matilda	Too many deer. 17 deer in yard at once. No fear. Would like a bow hunt like Little Canada.	No phone # left, sent E-mail	

2014 Deer Comments

Date	Received	Address	Summary of Comments	Follow up	
5/19/14	E-mail	Sandy Hook Drive	This is our 12th spring at their address & the deer damage is the worst that I've seen. I had 2 pots of pansies & they lasted one day before the deer ate the flowers & pulled some of the plants out of the posts. They have chewed tops of lilies & Hostas when they have barely broken the ground. The decimated the young strawberry plants. I have now covered them with netting & they are starting to come back. You have to be careful where you walk in part of my back yard because of all the deer scat. Does Roseville have any plans of what to do about the deer overpopulation?	sent E-mail	
5/18/14	E-mail	HighCourte	The deer have taken over the NE corner of Roseville. They wander through our streets as if they owned them. It is only a matter of time before there is a serious accident. I go through many gallons of anti deer spray to the point the deer think of it as salad dressing. They pay no attention to you when we yell at them to stop eating our flowers, shrubs and small trees. I saw so many pregnant does this winter that the herd has to increase by at least 50%. We need to get rid of them before they ruin our neighborhoods.	Sent E-mail	
6/26/14	Phone	Terrace Drive	Too many deer. Neighbor counted 20 ticks on herself.	Phone Call 6/26/14	
5/18/14	E-mail	Sandy Hook Drive	We have too many deer in our neighborhood & their #'s are increasing. They eat plants & bushes, leave droppings and stand dangerously in the street at night. We see as many as 8 at a time along the RR tracks beside S. Owasso Blvd. . Other suburbs reduce their deer population. I think Roseville should too. Thanks for giving this problem consideration.	Sent E-mail	
5/18/14	E-mail	HighCourte	A lot of discussions about the deer around the neighborhood. (Link embedded in e-mail) I just want to add to all the comments that we live in a townhome development with a wide open green area, well maintained because of the work of volunteers and the money we put in. Other parts of this neighborhood is composed by ramblers from the 50s, very often fenced and/or invisible fenced for dogs. The deer go where it's easy to circulate, safe (no dogs) and where they could find easy food, meaning our area. I totally agree that we are lucky to live in an area where wild life is so vibrant, but there is a balance to find. Overpopulation of local isolated deer herds can be detrimental to both deer and humans. With no predators except an occasional neighborhood dog and nowhere else to go, deer populations explode. I read somewhere that deer population densities greater than 30 deer per square mile may cause problems with habitat and conflict with people. It seems we reach this proportion. I really would like to hear from DNR about it and what the city consider to do?	Sent E-mail	
5/21/14	Phone	Heinel Drive	25 yr residents, rare to see a deer eating flower, rhubarb. TOO many deer. Tracks. Repellent doesn't work. Definitely more in past 5 years. Scared to walk after dark. Not afraid dogs or people. Herd of 6 or 8 deer. Garden damage. Tree damage. feeding ordinance/enforcement.	Phone Call 5/21/14	
5/19/14	E-mail	Sandy Hook	The deer have been in our area for a long time but are now in sight because Xcel and Wright Bros. destroyed thousands of trees, many old growth, and bushes. The deer now have no cover. It is sad that Roseville allowed this to happen. Please do not blame the deer and destroy them also. our neighborhood is not as beautiful and natural as it was.	Sent E-mail	
5/27/14	Phone	Heinel Drive	While walking my dog - a deer walked up to us & would not go away.	Phone Call 5/27/14	
5/16/14	Phone	Rice Street	See lots all the time. 2 dead deer in yard-Crossing at Rice Street. Has neighbor that feeds deer (need ordinance).		
5/19/14	VM		Highpoint curve. North of C, East of Dale. Upset about eating flowers, trees. Need to thin out herd.	Phone Call 5/19/14	
5/16/14	Phone	HighCourte	15 or more at a time. Lyme Disease concern.	Phone Call 5/18/14	
5/17/14	Phone	Matilda	Too many deer. Eaten all in yard.	No phone # left	
5/26/14	E-mail	Little Bay Road	Saturday we found a newborn fawn on our back step. We took pictures & it did not move. We were afraid it was dead, but found info. on the internet that said that is how newborn fawns act. Once it got dark, the doe took it away. I know the deer are terrible pests & eat all our plants, but we still enjoy them so much. Such beautiful, gentle creatures! I have no complaints.		
5/17/14	Phone	Centennial Drive	Too many deer. No fear. Eating Hostas. Concern of car accidents 4:30 p.m . 3 deer, dog barking, no fear. Should reduce.	No phone # left	
5/16/14	Phone		Too many deer. They are not spooked at all. Damages to plants & shrubs, trimmed lilac bushes. Concerned about kids out in the yard. There were 6-8 in our back yard.		

2015 Deer Comments

Date	Received	Address	Summary of Comments
1/5/2015	E-mail	Woodbridge St	Lives by Lady Slipper park, occasionally see deer in the neighborhood. Feels that the individuals that are complaining about the deer live next to, or by someone that is feeding year round, in fact right outside their front door. That makes the deer congregate in that area, they cross the road to that feeding station as well. Feels if that problem is fixed, the deer will eventually learn to go elsewhere. That same area also abuts a formerly large, wooded lot that has been cleared & is being totally developed with large expensive homes backing right onto Ladyslipper Park - where the deer used to hang out. Fails to see any part of the Park where a hunt could take place without being literally in peoples back yards. Folks who live on the edge of "natural" areas normally appreciate the wildlife and put fences and other obstacles around planting so valuable they don't want them eaten (we did with this with White Pines).
1/6/15	PR Comm	Lydia Avenue	Does support the feeding ban. Can't even put a bird feeder in his yard because of the deer. Has bucks in his yard that wreck his trees. Uses chicken wire around the trees or they shred the trees. Likes deer but feels there are too many Roseville.
1/6/15	PR Comm	Chatsworth	Doesn't have a problem with deer, have lots of deer in his yard approx. 8 deer at one time. Has a problem with feeding them though. There are folks that do feed between Co. Rd. D & Millwood. One with a trough.
1/6/15	PR Comm	Woodbridge St	Map of .77 acres or square mile?
1/6/15	PR Comm	Sandy Hook Drive	Lives near Ladyslipper park. Have lived in Roseville for 15 years. Wife likes planting flowers, over the last few years, she hasn't been able to plant them.
1/6/15	PR Comm	Chatsworth	See a lot of deer and wildlife. Supports the feeding ban. Feels challenged by deer when out walking his dog.
1/6/15	PR Comm	Wheaton	Lived in Roseville since 1978. Does not think Roseville has a deer problem. Does not have faith in the deer numbers that the DNR provides. Does support the feeding ban.
1/6/15	PR Comm	N. Chatsworth	Lives by the DQ and loves the deer.
1/6/15	PR Comm	Matilda Street	Have seen a lot fewer deer this year due to a neighbor selling off his land, the deer have moved. Enjoy seeing the deer.
1/6/15	PR Comm	Woodbridge St	lives close to Ladyslipper. Has come close to hitting deer with his car, but feels it's only because someone on Western feeds them. Not big on having a hunt in the Ladyslipper area would like to see other options first. Likes deer but doesn't like to see them in his yard, and people feeding them. People have rights too, not just the deer. Would like to see people stop feeding them.
1/9/2015	E-mail		Not sure we should be looking at he population of the deer just in the "Roseville" area. It might be more interesting and information to look at it from a neighborhood concentration standpoint,. In the Owasso area we have a large population of deer, I saw 6 of them in a swampy area. I've seen them laying in the shade of the evergreens trees in our neighborhood - no fear of people, this is their home and they have acclimated to humans. I have seen as many as 8 - 10 roaming the neighborhood looking for food. Lyme disease concerns. I have 4 family members (do not live in Roseville) that have been diagnosed with Lymes.
1/21/2015	E-mail		Deer are gorgeous creatures that need our protection. It is a shame that we allow anyone to hunt them. Please protect the deer population in Roseville, they are a delight to view and have gracing our lands. PROTECT OUR DEER POPULATION FROM PEOPLE WHO WANT AN EXCUSE TO KILL.
1/22/2015	E-mail	Schoolmaster Drv.	Please, Leave the deer alone. They have the right to live.

2015 Deer Comments

Date	Date	Date	Date
1/22/2015	Letter	Sandy Hook Drive	Since my family moved here in 2003, I have always enjoyed being both near the downtown cities and relatively close to the peaceful countryside. Roseville is a great location, in my opinion, and has always made efforts to bring a harmonious agreement between nature and human activity. We live near the Lady Slipper Park road expansion which always hosts its fair share of ducks, geese, and birds in the spring and summer. I enjoy the neighbors slowing their cars to catch a glimpse of the tranquility of the deer family carefully crossing the street or just watching from the brush by the side of the road. Often times neighbors will take a photo of these friendly creatures or just spend a few extra moments. The deer population has grown a bit recently, but so has the wonder, the warmth, and excitement for fellow animal lovers. The agreement between animals and human activity is, of course, a compromise. I just hope it will not be a sacrifice. I do believe there are always other options for action. What alternatives have been suggested besides a city deer hunt? Hopefully, a no-kill option will be the decision. What problems do the deer pose to human activity? One answer voiced by residents is the deer feeding on gardens and vegetation. Some peaceful options to consider are: - o Anything noisy, such as large wind chimes - o Anything that will throw off the deer's sense of smell, such as store bought repellent sprays or home remedies - o Motion-activated sprinklers - o Planting thorny bushes or plants nearby - o Mirrors displayed in gardens - o Bright lights
1/25/2015	E-mail		Please do not resort to deer hunting in Roseville it is totally unnecessary. There are so few deer it is a waste of resources for the City to hunt deer based on a few citizens issues. If we had natural space in the area for deer it wouldn't be a problem but we don't. Deer will continue to show up even if you kill them because we are a completely developed City. I fear accidental shootings of people or their pets could result in this attempt. I think coyotes & raccoons pose a much bigger nuisance than deer do. There are other ways to circumvent deer from our much populated city. Dangerous people are much more of a threat to Roseville than deer.
1/26/2015	E-mail	Matilda Street	Have deer passing through our yard, we enjoy them very much. We also enjoy seeing them in Acorn Park and want that to continue. Appreciate the fact that we live in the city and have the abundance of wildlife around us, that is one of the reasons why we chose to live where we do. Used to have a bird feeder in our front yard, and the deer would clean it out. We have since removed it and most of the deer traffic stopped. Simple solution would be to stop feeding them where we don't want deer. It worked for us. Roseville has done a wonderful job creating green space & preserving natural habitat. As a result, wildlife is among us which we enjoy seeing. You can't pick & choose what wildlife shows up at your house if you are putting feed out, just enjoy them all. Do not believe city tax \$\$'s should spent on this all.
1/28/2015	E-mail	Heinel Drive	We need some kind of deer thinning in Roseville. How this is achieved is up to your committee. I would be all for a deer hunt, but we probably should start with a feeding regulation. Listing of 8 encounters with deer. <u>1.</u> walking through a heard of 10-11 is not pleasant. <u>2.</u> deer sleep at the end of my sidewalk (20 ft from house)<u>3.</u> 8 point buck staring at me from 50' away while walking to my mailbox. <u>4.</u> walking north of the RR tracks a deer was grazing 6 ' away and didn't move. <u>5.</u> South of the RR tracks on Dale where S. Owasso blvd. crosses deer jump out in front of vehicles. <u>6.</u> deer sleep in my hostas. <u>7.</u> deer eat my tomato plants to the ground. <u>8.</u> deer eat my rubarb, also to the ground. When I moved in 25+ years ago, I would see maybe 3-4 deer per year. Now it is rare to NOT see a deer when driving at dusk. My opinion: The deer are too tame. If a dog or human can walk within 6 feet of a grazing deer, that is too tame. The deer need something to be more afraid of humans. Only thing, I can think of is hunting. The report that is widely circulated (Roseville/Ramsey county report?), says there are 3-4 times too many deer. The number of deer must be reduced. If the goose feeding policy helped on another lake, it would seem that a deer feeding policy would help the deer problem. Many of the cities around Roseville have a feeding policy and hunting programs. If Roseville enacts a feeding policy, it may help to eliminate hunting programs in other cities. Final comments: I like deer, but there are TOO many deer. Seeing deer should be a novel event and not a daily nuisance event. Do not eliminate the deer, but definitely thin the deer population to the recommended numbers.

CITY OF ROSEVILLE
PARKS AND RECREATION RENEWAL PROGRAM
PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT
January 29, 2015

PROJECT NAME	START DATE	STATUS	COMMENTS
A. BUILDING REPLACEMENT/SITE			
Lexington Park	5/2014	96% complete	Open House completed-Punch list items remaining and spring site work
Sandcastle Park	6/2014	96% complete	Open House completed-Punch list items remaining and spring site work
Villa Park	6/2015	95% complete	Open House completed January 28, 2015 –punch list items and spring site work
Autumn Grove Park	9/ 2014	75% complete, Framing begun	Open House Planned for first quarter 2015
Oasis Park	9/ 2014	60% complete	Open House Planned for first quarter 2015
Rosebrook Park	9/ 2014	50% complete	Open House Planned for first quarter 2015
B. SHELTER REMODEL			
CP FOR Parks – DALE STREET	9/2014	95% complete	Fall completion planned
CP Foundation - WEST	9/2014	100% complete	Fall completion planned
CP Ballfields	9/2014	50% complete	Fall completion planned
C. SKATING CENTER REPAIRS			
Painting of Exterior	8/2014	100 % complete	
Replace exterior doors on Arena		100% complete	
Block Work			2015 project
Vestibule Improvements			2015 project
D. HANC			
Exterior Work	6/2014	95% complete	
Interior Work	11/2014	80% complete	2/2015 completion
Boardwalk	11/2014	80% built- to move on to site for install	Spring 2015 completion – currently fabricating
E. BRIDGE REPLACEMENT			
Villa Park	7/2014	5% complete	Spring 2015 install completion expected –

PROJECT NAME	START DATE	STATUS	COMMENTS
			currently fabricating
F. LIGHTING SYSTEMS REPLACEMENT			
Lake Bennett Trail	6/2014	100% complete	
Courts in conjunction w/ project			See courts
Autumn Grove Park rink lights		100% complete	Install fall 2014
Lexington Park rink lights		100% complete	Install fall 2014
Villa Park rink lights		100% complete	Install fall 2014
Sandcastle Park rink lights			Install fall 2014
G. COURT REFURBISHMENT/SITE			
Acorn Park	2015		Resurface only
Autumn Grove Park	10/2014		
Bruce Russell Park	9/2014	85% complete	Complete and playable, color coat to be done in spring 2015
Evergreen Park	9/2014	85% complete	Complete and playable, color coat to be done in spring 2015
Howard Johnson Tennis Court	7/2014	95% Complete	Complete and playable, color coat to be done in spring 2015
Pocahontas Park Tennis Court	7/2014	95% Complete	Complete and playable, color coat to be done in spring 2015
Sandcastle Park	Fall 2014		
H. FIELD IMPROVEMENTS			
CP Victoria #2, 4, 5, & 6	8/ 2014	80% complete	Fall 2014 completion
CP Victoria #1 & 3			2015 project
Evergreen Park # 1, 2 (west)	4/2015		2015 project
Evergreen Park # 3,4	8/2015		2015 project
CP Legion			2015 project
I. IRRIGATION IMPROVEMENTS			
Acorn Park			Contractor approval 1/26/15
Autumn Grove Park			Was alternate – is not planned
CP Dale Street			Contractor approval 1/26/15
CP Lexington			Contractor approval 1/26/15
CP Victoria			Started with in house staff
Evergreen Park			Contractor approval

PROJECT NAME	START DATE	STATUS	COMMENTS
			1/26/15
Langton Lake Park			Contractor approval 1/26/15
Lexington Park			Started with in house staff
Rosebrook Park			Contractor approval 1/26/15
J. NATURAL RESOURCES			
Grants			\$ in grants applied for 1-26-15 awarded and approved \$146,376
1. Interpretive Signage			
All Parks		Core Project	
2. Lake Restoration			
CP Lexington		Grant Approach	
3. Native Landscaping			
Autumn Grove		Grant Approach	
4. Pond Buffer Restoration			
Keller Mayflower Park		Grant Approach	
Howard Johnson Park		Grant Approach	
5. Prairie Reconstruction			
CP Dale Street East		Core Project	
Acorn Park		Core Project	
6. Prairie/Savanna Restoration			
Reservoir Woods		Core Project	
Applewood Overlook		Grant Approach	
7. Shoreline Restoration			
CP Lexington		Core Project	
Langton Lake Park		Core Project	
Reservoir Woods		Grant Approach	
Oasis Park		Core Project	
Willow Pond Park		Core Project	
8. Stream Restoration			
Oasis Park		Grant Approach	
9. Water Quality Improvements			
CP Dale East		Grant Approach	
10. Wetland Restoration			
CP Dale East		Grant Approach	
CP North		Grant Approach	
CP Victoria East		Grant Approach	
Langton Lake Park		Core Project	
Reservoir Woods Parks		Core Project	
Villa Park		Core Project	
Ladyslipper Park		Core Project	
Acorn Park		Grant Approach	

PROJECT NAME	START DATE	STATUS	COMMENTS
Willow Pond Park		Grant Approach	
Owasso Hills Park		Grant Approach	
Pocahontas Park		Grant Approach	
Valley Park		Grant Approach	
11. Woodland/Forest Restoration			
CP Dale East		Core Project	
CP Lexington		Core Project	
CP North		Grant Approach	
CP Victoria East		Grant Approach	
Langton Lake Park		Grant Approach	
Reservoir Woods Park		Core Project	
Villa Park	9/29/14	Core Project	
Ladyslipper Park		Grant Approach	
Oasis Park		Grant Approach	
Acorn Park		Core Project	
Applewood Park		Grant Approach	
Willow Pond Park		Grant Approach	
Materion Park		Grant Approach	
Cottontail Park		Grant Approach	
Pioneer Park		Grant Approach	
Pocahontas Park		Grant Approach	
Valley Park		Grant Approach	
Tamarack Park		Grant Approach	
Rosebrook Park		Grant Approach	
Autumn Grove Park		Grant Approach	
Woodhill Park		Grant Approach	
Evergreen Park		Grant Approach	
Owasso Hills Park		Grant Approach	
K. DISC GOLF COURSE			
Improvements	Fall 2014		2014 & 2015 project Design complete
L. PATHWAYS/SIDEWALKS			
County B2 and Victoria		90% complete- restoration to be finished in spring	10/2014 completion
County B		100% complete	10/2014 completion
VARIOUS PARKS			
Pocahontas Park		100% complete	10/2014 completion
Howard Johnson Park		100% complete	10/2014 completion
Langton Lake Park		90% complete	
Upper Villa Park			2015 project
Mapleview Park			2015 project
Evergreen Park			2015 project

PROJECT NAME	START DATE	STATUS	COMMENTS
M. PLAYGROUNDS			Community build emphasis
Acorn Park	Fall 2014	95% complete	Community build 10/25/2014
Bruce Russell Park			2015 project
CP Lexington			2015 project
CP Victoria West			2015 project
CP Victoria East- Ballfields	Fall 2013	95% complete	
Howard Johnson Park	Spring 2014	100% complete	Community build
Langton Lake Park at C2	Summer 2014	100% complete	
Langton Lake Park at Ballfields	Fall 2014	100 % complete	Community build
Mapleview Park			2015 project
Materion Park	Spring 2014	Complete	Community build
Oasis Park			2015 project
Tamarack Park			
Upper Villa Park			2015 project
N. PROPERTY ACQUISITION			
Hamline and Lydia – Moundsview property		Completed 1/21/15	Will be capping wells and reviewing landscape work to be done to make it usable
SW Roseville			

Green- project underway

Orange – prep work being done

Red- not started

Purple - complete

TBC= To Be Completed

Progress Report: Roseville Natural Resources Restoration Projects* (1.26.15)

	RESTORATION TYPE/ACTIVITY																				
Park	Woodland			Praire/Savanna			Shoreline			Stream				Wetland					Graphic Design		
	Initial cut/treat of invasive woody	Native seeding of grasses/flowers	Grow-in maintenance	Site preparation	Native seeding of grasses/flowers	Grow-in maintenance	Site preparation	Native seeding/Planting of grasses/flowers	Grow-in maintenance	Survey/data gathering	Site preparation	Native seeding/Planting of grasses/flowers	Grow-in maintenance	Survey/data gathering	Initial treat of vegetation	Hydrologic restoration	Native seeding/Planting of grasses/flowers	Grow-in maintenance	Interpretive signage planning	Graphic Design	Manufacture/Install
Acorn Park	80%	80%	P	100%	50%	P	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	100%	80%	P	P	P			
Central Park Dale East	50%	50%	P	P	P	P	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA			
Central Park Lexington	50%	50%	P	P	P	P	80%	P	P	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA			
Langton Lake Park	100%	80%	35%	NA	NA	NA	100%	100%	0.35	NA	NA	NA	NA	100%	100%	P	P	P			
Owasso Hills (NC)	P	P	P	P	P	P	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	P	NA	P	P			
Oasis Park	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	100%	100%	15%	5%	P	P	P	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA			
Reservoir Woods	5%	5%	5%	P	P	P	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	P	P	P	P			
Villa Park	100%	50%	P	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	100%	20%	P	P	P			
Willow Pond Park	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	80%	P	P	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA			
Interpretive signage	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	10%	P	P

key: xx%=percent complete; P = pending work, NA = Not applicable/work type not planned for this park; NC = Non-core project

*Additional, non-core projects may be added as additional grant funding is secured

Roseville Natural Resources Public Outreach

Section Title	INFORM Letter (CITY)	Public meeting	Park Patrons (CITY)	Park Patrons (CONTRACTOR)	Door-to-door contact (CITY)	Door-to-door contact (CONTRACTOR)	Comments
Section 1: Central Park Dale East	X						Work anticipated to begin in early 2015
Section 2: Central Park Lexington	X		X	X			Some initial shoreline and woodland restoration work completed in late fall/early winter 2014
Section 3: Langton Lake Park	X		X	X			Ongoing work, extension of work initiated c. 2010, plus expansion of woodland restoration work.
Section 4: Reservoir Woods Base							Work anticipated to begin in early 2015
Section 5: Villa Park	X		X	X		X	Initial woodland restoration work substantially completed in fall 2014. Select homes visited by contractor.
Section 6: Oasis Park	X		X	X			Shoreline restoration work begun and substantially completed in fall 2014
Section 7: Acorn Park	X	X	X	X	X	X	Homes immediately bordering park visited.
Section 8: Willow Pond Park	X			X	X		Shoreline restoration work begun in fall 2014

prepared 1-6-15

Roseville Natural Resources Volunteer/Community Engagement Events

Park/Location	Time Frame	Description
Langton Lake	September 2014	Planting of 2,060 native woodland grass, sedge and flower plants in woodland areas at Langton Lake. This effort included nearly 30 volunteers from Stantec as part of their "Stantec in the Community" day event.
Central Park Dale East	September 2014	Collection of seed by a group of AFSA high school students from native wildflower plants at Central Park Muriel Sahlin Arboretum. Seed will be used for restoration projects within City Parks natural areas during the Park Renewal Program Natural Resources Restoration.
ANTICIPATED EVENTS		
Acorn Park	January 2015	Gather and stack cut invasive/nonnative brush as part of woodland/savanna restoration at Acorn Park. Should conditions be unfavorable for this activity, volunteers will assist with broadcast seeding of native woodland/savanna grass, sedge and flower seed.
Reservoir Woods	February 2015	Gather and stack cut invasive/nonnative brush as part of woodland/savanna restoration areas. Should conditions be unfavorable for this activity, volunteers will assist with broadcast seeding of native woodland/savanna grass, sedge and flower seed.
Central Park Lexington	March 2015	Gather and stack cut invasive/nonnative brush as part of woodland/savanna restoration areas. Should conditions be unfavorable for this activity, volunteers will assist with broadcast seeding of native woodland/savanna grass, sedge and flower seed, or pulling garlic mustard plants.
Villa Park	April 2015	Planting of native hardwood tree seedlings in woodland restoration areas (and potentially pulling invasive, nonnative garlic mustard)
Willow Pond Park, Oasis Park, and/or Bennett Lake	May 2015	Shoreline restoration planting of native grass, sedge, flower potted plants by volunteers.
Willow Pond Park, Oasis Park, and/or Bennett Lake	June 2015	Shoreline restoration planting of native grass, sedge, flower potted plants by volunteers.
Central Park Muriel Sahlin Arboretum	July 2015	Native flower, grass and sedge plants in formal bed at arboretum. Planting is intended to serve as a seed orchard for native plants - seed will be collected from these plants by volunteer Parks Natural Resources Stewards and then used for natural resources restoration efforts in park natural areas.
Multiple Park Natural Areas	Fall/Winter 2015	Gather and stack cut invasive/nonnative brush as part of woodland/savanna restoration areas. Should conditions be unfavorable for this activity, volunteers will assist with broadcast seeding of native woodland/savanna grass, sedge and flower seed.

prepared 1-6-15

Roseville Parks & Recreation Renewal Program - Natural Resource Restoration Grants

Park/Project	Core Project?	Grant Funding Agency	Grant Program	Grant funding request	City Match	Total	Grant Due date	Successful?	Notes
Langton Lake Kids Fishing Lake Habitat Restoration	Y	MN DNR	MN DNR Conservation Partners Legacy Grant	\$89,168	\$9,908	\$99,076	9/15/2011	YES	Initial grant-funded work complete
Owasso Hills, Acorn Park, Bennett Lake (3 locations), Willow Pond	Y	Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District	Shoreline/Habitat Restoration Grants	\$30,000	\$85,500	\$115,500	8/13/2014	PENDING	Grant approved by RWMWD - Project pending negotiation/agreement between RWMWD and City of Roseville. Last contact between RWMWD/City November 2014
Various Park locations	Y	Ramsey Conservation District	Emerging Invasive Species Treatment Grant	\$4,590	\$1,531	\$6,121	9/4/2014	YES	Reimbursement for work done
Reservoir Woods, Central Park, Bennett Lake (Please see work plan for details)	Y, Plus others	MN DNR	MN DNR Conservation Partners Legacy Grant	\$120,966	\$362,898	\$483,864	9/19/2014	YES	Work anticipated to proceed in mid- January 2015, pending approval by City Council
Capitol Regions Watershed District, Villa Pak Wetland Restoration	Y	Capitol Regions Watershed District	Habitat Restoration	\$22,410	\$2,490	\$24,900	10/10/2014	YES	City applied for funds for Reservoir Woods and Villa Pak - Villa Park approved
		TOTAL GRANT AMOUNTS		\$267,134	\$462,327	\$729,461			As of 12/31/14

City of Roseville City Council Community Announcement

- Meeting Date:** All Commissions
- Item:** City has vacancies on several commissions
- Details:** We encourage residents to get involved in helping shape city governance
- Date:** Deadline to apply is March 2
Interviews week of March 9
Appointments made March 23
- Questions:** 651-792-7001
- Other:** Information at www.cityofroseville.com/commissions
Applications at www.cityofroseville.com/commapp

Ethics Commission – two vacancies

Finance Commission –one vacancy

Human Rights Commission – one vacancy for partial term

Parks and Recreation Commission – two vacancies and one partial term

Planning Commission – two vacancies

Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission – two vacancies

Commissioners appointed to three-year term that begins April 1 through March 31, 2018

Eagan's Blue Rhino Studio brings mammoths to the masses



Tim Quady, co-owner of Blue Rhino Studio, takes a look at a small model of a huge cottonwood tree they're building for Roseville's Harriet Alexander Nature Center at Blue Rhino Studio in Eagan on Monday, December 29, 2014. (Pioneer Press: Ben Garvin)

By Nick Woltman

nwoltman@pioneerpress.com

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Visitors to "Mammoths and Mastodons: Titans of the Ice Age," a traveling exhibit on display at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, come face to face with life-sized animals that have been extinct for more than 10,000 years.

But you'd swear they're fresh from the taxidermist.

They were built at Blue Rhino Studio in Eagan, a custom exhibit design and fabrication firm that works with museums, zoos and visitor centers to create lifelike models and dioramas.

"It's a very unusual job," said Tim Quady, the company's owner and co-founder.

Blue Rhino started out more than 16 years ago doing work for theme parks and restaurants in addition to museums. Quady has narrowed its focus over the years to projects that "engage, inspire and educate," he said.

Most recently, the company completed a series of six different animal habitat dioramas for an exhibit opening later this month at the San Diego Natural History Museum.

Like most of their projects, Blue Rhino was a subcontractor on the year-long San Diego job, this time working with the Science Museum of Minnesota.

Quady met Blue Rhino co-founder Dave Leak while the two men were working for a local museum services company in the late 1990s. Although they loved the work they were doing, Quady said, that company eventually outgrew them.

"I was a small part of a very, very big machine," Quady said. He and Leak left and started Blue Rhino Studio.

GROWING WITH THE TIMES

At first, they weren't picky about the projects they took on. The fledgling company's first job was a small replica of the Split Rock Lighthouse for an MSP Airport bar, which Quady built in his garage.

A month or so later, they leased an inexpensive 6,200-square-foot space in Bloomington.

From their new workshop in the early 2000s, Quady and Leak worked on projects for mini-golf courses, water parks, restaurants, movie theaters and what was then Camp Snoopy in Mall of America.

"When we started out, we were all things to all people," Quady said. "At the time, I was happy to do anything that kept the lights on."

And keeping the lights on was one of the few expenses they had -- the partners kept their overhead low.

"We were very cautious, very careful," Quady said.

Within a year, he and Leak hired their first employee. Jim Burt, who studied art at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, came on full-time as Quady's assistant. He is now Blue Rhino's lead sculptor.

"It's a dream job," Burt said. "It's the type of job I never thought existed when I was in school."

Burt's first project for the company was an exhibit on the Wannagan Creek paleontological site for the Science Museum of Minnesota -- one of Blue Rhino's first major museum dioramas.

They have since done work for the Minnesota Historical Society, the Boston Children's Museum and the American Museum of Natural History, among several others.

COMMITMENT TO MISSION

It didn't take long for the company to outgrow its Bloomington home. In 2007, Quady and Leak moved Blue Rhino -- then 16 employees -- into its 16,750-square-foot space in Eagan.

But the recession hit the company hard. Quady and Leak lost employees to layoffs and attrition.

Amid the economic downturn, Blue Rhino landed one of its most challenging projects to date -- the assortment of prehistoric creatures for Mammoths and Mastodons, a traveling exhibit commissioned by Chicago's Field Museum.

Not only were the animals difficult to build, but they also had to be easily disassembled and moved. Successfully completing this project has helped Blue Rhino build a reputation. The company has no sales people; its business is entirely referral-based.

Blue Rhino emerged from the recession smaller, with only 12 full-time employees. And in 2012, Leak sold his interest in the company, leaving Quady as its sole owner.

Over the years, Quady's role has evolved to be less hands-on and more managerial. The company has evolved, too. Quady has steered it away from work that doesn't conform to its educational mission.

Blue Rhino now employs 16 full-timers and a small stable of freelancers.

FOCUS ON QUALITY

Blue Rhino is between major projects right now, and Quady is taking advantage of the slow holiday season to complete a long overdue renovation of the company's headquarters.

The sounds of drills and saws in Blue Rhino's offices compete with the sounds of drills and saws in the adjacent workshop, where employees are assembling a styrofoam tree for the Harriet Alexander Nature Center in Roseville.

On the workshop's upper floor, Burt is putting the finishing touches on a Paleo Indian hunter that will complement a prehistoric bear he recently completed for the yet-to-open Ancient Ozarks Heritage Museum in Missouri. Burt spent about 160 hours on the bear over a six-week period, covering it with goat hair a pinch at a time.

Burt and his coworkers go to extreme lengths to achieve not only a realistic appearance with their work, but scientific accuracy, too.

"I feel like I need to know what's going on underneath the skin of these animals," Burt said.

The new year is shaping up to be a busy one for the Blue Rhino team. They already have three major projects in development: one for the San Diego Zoo and the other two for state parks in Pennsylvania, all to be completed by December 2015.

Quady's small staff means he must turn away a good deal of work he would like to pursue.

"We could be a lot bigger," he said. "But this is as big as I want to be."

Quady says the size of his staff allows them to focus on quality over quantity. It also gives each employee a chance to work on a great variety of projects.

"We're never doing the same thing twice," Burt said. "The type of work we're doing now is the stuff I've always dreamed of doing."

Nick Woltman can be reached at 651-228-5189.

Link to the article: http://www.twincities.com/business/ci_27246945/eagans-blue-rhino-studio-creates-exotic-educational-displays

Link to the photo slideshow: <http://mng-twincities.smugmug.com/Blue-Rhino-studios>



Fabrication artist Nicole Nelson works on a tree branch intended for a huge Cottonwood Tree for Roseville's Harriet Alexander Nature Center at Blue Rhino Studio in Eagan on Monday, December 29, 2014. (Pioneer Press: Ben Garvin)

