

**Roseville Parks and Recreation
Commission Meeting
Tuesday March 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 February 3, 2015**
- 4. Deer Population Discussion**
- 5. Park and Recreation Renewal Program Status**
- 6. Staff Report**
- 7. Election of Chair and Vice Chair**
- 8. Other**
- 8. Adjournment**

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

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**ROSEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES FOR
FEBRUARY 3, 2015
ROSEVILLE CITY HALL ~ 6:30pm**

PRESENT: Bogenholm, Diedrick, D. Holt, M. Holt, Doneen, Gelbach, Newby, Stoner
ABSENT: Azer, Wall, both 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. Over 50 community members in attendance, many reserved their comments for later in the meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 6, 2015 MEETING

January 6, 2015 minutes passed unanimously.

4. DEER POPULATION DISCUSSION

Commission Chair D. Holt briefed those in attendance on the process the Commission has followed studying issues related to the deer population in Roseville. Holt also directed community members on how the meeting was to be conducted and guidelines for their participation in the meeting.

Brokke briefed the Commission and attendees on the Ramsey County Wildlife Management Program & DNR criteria and data. The decision to control wildlife is left to the individual communities in Ramsey County.

Brokke also addressed questions raised by community members attending the January 6, 2015 Commission meeting.

All presentation materials were included in the Commission packet and were made available online at the City of Roseville website.

Commission Chair D. Holt followed with the acknowledgement and comments on the work Commissioners Stoner & Newby did with staff to research wildlife feeding bans. T. Newby introduced the fact finding process while J. Stoner summarized the findings found from surveying surrounding communities.

T. Newby emphasized, that their work addresses a possible comprehensive ordinance that addresses a range of wildlife with exception for song birds.

- D. Holt inquired into the process for enacting such an ordinance.
 - Brokke explained how background information would be shared with the City Council, upon their direction the City Attorney would draft an ordinance that addresses wildlife management.

Commission Chair D. Holt opened the floor for comments by Community Members at 7:05pm.

- Roger Toogood shared photos of a neighborhood deer feeding station with the adjacent foot prints and droppings as well as photos of a group of 6 or more deer gathering in his back yard.
- Toogood also shared a letter from a University of Minnesota Veterinarian that addressed issues of disease carried by deer.

- Toogood recognized that he was speaking for himself as well as a group of neighbors who were not able to make it to tonight's meeting. All are in support of an ordinance banning deer/wildlife feeding.
- Toogood also spoke to the need for some sort of harvest as well as the feeding ban to manage Roseville's deer population.

Commissioner Newby referenced that a controlled hunt could be added to the feeding ban ordinance. Discussion followed on the timing of a hunt and how the soonest timing for this would be next fall.

- Mary Jo Schreiber recognized the depth of knowledge by Commissioners and extent of research done by those working on this topic. Ms. Schreiber is concerned about possible safety issues with the Metro Bow Hunting Resource Base based on photos and information found on their web site. Schreiber also feels the sharp shooting option is disturbing. Ms. Schreiber asked all to keep in mind the need to find balance between human life and property and hopes we can coexist with the deer. Schreiber also commented on the use of planting options that are deer resistant.
 - Ms. Schreiber supports a feeding ban.
- Melissa Jordan shared recent driving issues in Roseville that have involved deer and pointed out the lack of warning/awareness signs for deer along roads in areas of Roseville that have a heavier deer presence.
 - Ms. Jordan supports a feeding ban.
- Ginger Seybold lives by a homeowner who feeds the deer. She feels that because of this feeding there is an overpopulation of deer in her neighborhood leading to deer obstructing the walking path of walkers. She referenced a specific instance where the deer were protecting their young and became aggressive to her while she was walking her dog.
 - Ms. Seybold supports efforts to thin the deer population so the community and deer can better cohabitate.
- Andy Krawczyk has a deer feeder, supports a gun hunt rather than a bow hunt and supports a feeding ban. Suggests trying the feeding ban before considering a hunt.
- Lee Lundin appreciates the beautiful environment in Roseville and loves the deer. Ms. Lundin urged the commission to recognize that there are several points of view. Ms. Lundin described her neighborhood as a calm, rational group. "Roseville is not a kill community."
 - Ms. Lundin supports a feeding ban.
- Kris Simonson loves the wildlife in Roseville. Kris commented that there is a problem with the quantity of deer created by human actions. Ms. Simonson is in favor of a feeding ban for all wildlife. The problem has gone on too long resulting in the overpopulation of deer in Roseville.
 - Ms. Simonson encourages the use of a 2 prong approach that uses a feeding ban to maintain the population followed by control methods to reduce the population.
- Adele Kaufman is worried about personal safety because of the deer in Roseville.
 - Ms. Kaufman supports a feeding ban and methods to thin out the herd.
- Mary Lou Mohn is concerned that Roseville is becoming a deer park. You cannot scare deer any longer; the deer are becoming too tame. Ms. Mohn wondered if the recent coyote problem in the City is related to the increased deer population.
 - Ms. Mohn is interested in the City looking at comprehensive wildlife management including support of a feeding ban and methods to cull the herd.
- Jamie Becker-Finn has seen 21 deer at one time near her home in Roseville. Becker-Finn is a life-long deer hunter. Recognized the threat of lymes disease from deer.

- Ms. Becker-Finn encouraged the City to enact a feeding ban as soon as possible and added the need to include in the ordinance a timeline and measurable that triggers future hunt if needed.

Commissioner D. Holt asked about how we might go about getting info on the effectiveness of a feeding ban.

Commissioner Gelbach recognized the need for setting objectives tied to the feeding ban ordinance that would lead to a future hunt if needed.

- Laura Sigler commented that she appreciated the Commissions efforts to address this issue. Sigler's findings lead her to oppose a hunt and especially a bow hunt. Bow hunting is extremely inhumane. She recommended if the City is considering any kind of hunt they should look to sharp shooters. Her findings also say there is no proven linear link between deer and lymes disease. Ms. Sigler questioned if society was looking for an easy answer to the deer population with a hunt and if there is a lack of tolerance for the animal.
 - Ms. Sigler supports a feeding ban. Ms. Sigler also suggested more education in addition to the feeding ban. She believes a feeding ban should lead to the deer dispersing.
- Terry Moses stated he thinks a feeding ban is a good idea but feels more drastic action is rash. Mr. Moses question if there is more to the deer problem than just the growing numbers. Moses also voiced his belief that Ramsey County has been directed to manage the deer and inquired into why Ramsey County isn't handling the issue rather than the City.
 - Many Community members spoke to the fact that the County and DNR do not act on these issues that the responsibility has been directed to the individual municipalities in Ramsey County.
 - John Baker added his feeling that part of the problem is that the County has directed Cities to take care of the issue within their jurisdiction. He questioned if neighboring community actions have led to Roseville's growing deer population.
- Roger Toogood returned to the table to comment that it appears as if the recommendation to the Council is to ban feeding deer in Roseville he suggested the Commission add a means for harvesting the deer after 2 years if the feeding ban does not manage the deer population.
- Timothy Callaghan informed the group that his experiences say that the deer are not going to eat the items people are talking about. Wood chucks will eat everything. Callaghan also disputed the connection between deer and lymes disease. Callaghan asked what the majority of Roseville wants done? Callaghan suggested that a survey needed to be done to know what Roseville wants done with the deer. Callaghan also complained that he was unable to access documents and meeting materials on the City website.
 - Mr. Callaghan would not support a wildlife feeding ban, he would support a deer feeding ban.
 - Following Mr. Callaghan's comments about the inability to access the City website many in attendance disputed this fact and supported easy access to the materials.
- Eric Figgins shared possible projection of deer growth in Roseville if nothing is done. The potential growth is dramatic.
 - Mr. Figgins supports a feeding ban.
- Martin Jeffers commented that too many people treat deer like pets. Deer are too tame in Roseville. Mr. Jeffers has seen 21 deer in the pond near his home.
 - Mr. Jeffers supports a feeding ban.
- Kyle Wilson shared numbers that demonstrated the significant growth in the number of deer over time. Mr. Wilson sees a problem in reducing the deer population.

- Lou Bushard supports a feeding ban, culling and coordinating with neighboring communities to manage deer in Ramsey County.
- Tim Eckert inquired into whether Roseville has had a hunt in the past and wondered why it has taken so long to get to a point where we need a hunt. It is nice to see deer and likes living in the beauty of nature.
 - Mr. Eckert thinks a feeding ban may help.
- Peter Rhodes commented that we as a society have made areas in Roseville more attractive to deer by adding grass and removing mature trees.

Community comment wrapped up at 8:35am. Commission took a 5 minute break at this time.

Commissioner Doneen began the follow up discussion asking how do we want to address the outcomes of a feeding ban? Do we want to do something proactively at this point?

- Commission Chair D. Holt suggested a small group of Commissioners work with Director Brokke to pull together analysis and a comprehensive plan for the commission to consider at the next meeting.
 - Commissioner Gelbach added his interest in seeing all encompassing considerations that don't limit and give more options.
 - Commissioner Newby injected his concerns over a timeline just based on effect on the deer population and doesn't take into consideration the lessening/elimination of the conflicts caused.
 - Commissioner Stoner opined an observation that the feeding ban has almost no down side. Comments from community members at last month and today's commission meeting show a strong interest in supporting the feeding ban. Today's meeting has included increased support for a hunt of some sort. Stoner feels there are 3 points/areas to address;
 - Location matters. Address the deer problem based on issues in specific areas.
 - Validity for testing the feeding ban. Can we get good information in a given time frame? Can we get measurable data?
 - People appreciate knowing they were listened to. This is demonstrated by including a potential for a hunt in the ordinance. Concern that moving forward with a feeding ban now and future hunt considerations a timed poorly and lead to possible further delay.
 - Commissioner Doneen would like to see us explore coordinated efforts between municipalities and Ramsey County officials.
 - Brokke to arrange a meeting with D. Holt, Stoner & Newby to pull information together for Commission review at the March meeting.

5. PARK & RECREATION RENEWAL PROGRAM STATUS

Brokke summarized Renewal Program progress.

- Projects are moving along. Many are approaching completion with punch list items and spring site work remaining.
 - An area of special note; \$267,000 in Natural Resource grants have been secured to expand Natural Resource management opportunities.
 - Villa Park Neighborhood Preview was held on January 28. Great turnout, over 80 people visited the new park building.
 - The Mounds View property south of Autumn Grove Park has been officially purchased by the City and is now part of the parks & recreation system.

- 193 ○ Anfang added that 36 facility reservations have been taken in the past month. 25% of
194 these reservations are facilitating community groups and local organizations.
195

196 **6. STAFF REPORT**

- 197 • Busy weekend at the Skating Center, Daddy Daughter Dance on Friday Night, Girls Section
198 Hockey Game on Saturday and National Long Track Speed Skating competition on Saturday &
199 Sunday.
200

201 **7. OTHER**

- 202 • D. Holt inquired into the status of the Golf Course operations report. Brokke updated the
203 Commission on staff progress in compiling the information and added that he was meeting with
204 the City Manager, City Finance Director & Golf Course Superintendent the next day.
205 • D. Holt announced the three open Commission seats. Two of the three are full term positions
206 (three years) while one of the seats is a partial term. Applications are available online at
207 cityofroseville.com.
208 • Stoner thanked Parks & Recreation Department Assistant, Kara Thomas, for her work in
209 researching & compiling information on local deer population, issues and municipality actions.
210

211 Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm

212
213 Respectfully Submitted,
214 Jill Anfang, Assistant Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Lonnie Brokke
Date: February 23, 2015
Re: Notes for Commission Meeting on **Tuesday, March 3, 2015**

1. Introductions

2. Public Comment Invited

3. Approval of Minutes of the February 3, 2015 Meeting

Enclosed is a copy of the minutes of February 3, 2015. Please be prepared to approve or amend.

Requested Commission Action: Approve/amend meeting minutes of February 3, 2015

4. Deer Population Discussion

This item is continued from the February, 2015 meeting where the Commission received additional background information and had further discussion. Reflected in the minutes are comments made by residents that attended the meeting.

Included in your packet is a draft deer population report to the City Council with a number of attachments.

There is a placeholder on the Monday March 9, 2015 City Council meeting for you to provide them with your findings.

Requested Commission Action: Determine if any additional information is needed, consider final report and prepare for joint meeting on March 9, 2015.

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 staff, Commission, City Council and Community.

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

Requested Commission Action: Discuss progress and provide input

6. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

This is the time to elect the Chair and Vice-Chair for the upcoming year. The election may be done by voice vote or secret ballot depending on the wishes.

Requested Commission Action: Election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Roseville Parks and Recreation Commission

7. Staff Report

8. Other

9. Adjournment

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.

1 Excerpt prepared by Park Recreation Commissioner P. Gelbach
2

3 **City Council Direction to Parks and Recreation Dept**
4 **Excerpted From *DRAFT* – Minutes City Council Meeting**
5 **Monday, November 17, 2014**
6

7 **Joint Meeting with Parks and Recreation Commission**

8 Parks & Recreation Commission Chair Dave Holt

9 Commissioners Lee Diedrick and Jerry Stoner

10 Parks & Recreation Director Lonnie Brokke.
11

12 Chair Holt provided a brief recap of activities of the Commission since last meeting with
13 the City Council; and expressed the Commission's interest in meeting jointly on a quarterly basis
14 as agenda topics provide applicable.
15

16 Members addressed items as detailed in the Request for Council Action (RCA) dated
17 November 17, 2014.
18
19
20
21

22 **Deer Population in Roseville**

23 Commission is seeking direction from the City Council on specific issues with managing the
24 deer population.
25

26 **Overview**

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

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

35 **Possible action items based on Council discussion.**

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

ROSEVILLE DEER POPULATION REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL
3/9/15

BACKGROUND

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.

Attachments to review include:

- A. 2014 Ramsey County Map, including Roseville, showing the location where deer were counted
- B. Highlighted Map of the .77 sq. miles of habitat in Roseville
- C. Ramsey County Deer Management Study, including a survey conducted in 2012
- D. Survey of Ramsey County Cities updated in December 2014
- E. Ramsey County Natural Resource Management Plan - Wildlife Section
- F. A sample comprehensive ordinance from the City of Shoreview
- G. Summary presentation made in February 2015 to the Parks and Recreation Commission
- H. A spreadsheet of deer population related comments received over the last year

Public Process

There has been a significant amount of public input through written correspondence and at the Commission meetings in January and February, 2015. If the City Council decides to move forward with regulations and/or control mechanisms, it is recommended that a public hearing be well advertised and conducted.

Monitoring, Tracking and Inventorying

Following is a history of Roseville indicating deer numbers 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 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 snow	15	34	44	51	44	50	lack 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 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.

51 **Criteria**

52 The general acceptable number of deer criteria used by Ramsey County and guided by the MN DNR is 20-
 53 25 deer per square mile of habitat. The habitat area in Roseville is considered to be .77 sq. miles (see
 54 yellow highlighted areas on map) of wetland and park areas. According to the guidelines, Roseville's
 55 population is considered to be over the optimal carrying capacity of 15-19 deer and the deer appear
 56 concentrated in particular areas.

58 **Authorization and Control Requirements**

59 The decision to control deer is up to individual cities. To authorize a hunt, in all cases, the City i.e. City
 60 Council, City Manager, Police Chief would need to approve a cooperative agreement subject to all
 61 requirements.

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

65 For any type of control by hunting, an amendment of the City weapons ordinance would be required.

67 A framework for a Wildlife Management Ordinance should be considered. Deer are the issue at this time
 68 however; other wildlife control areas have previously been requested by residents including goose, turkey
 69 and most recently coyotes.

71 **Control Options**

72 The options for control include repellents, introducing predators, relocation, contraceptive, sharp shooting
 73 or bow hunting. Based on research of other communities including Ramsey County and the DNR, the most
 74 common, successful and preferred types of control are sharp shooting or bow hunting. Relocation and
 75 contraceptive control have been unsuccessful, expensive and are not used in Ramsey County or in the
 76 metro areas. More specifics on each control method are as follows:

78 **1. Options for Repelling Deer from Your Property**

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

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. Contraceptive

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.

5. Sharp Shooting

Through the Metro Bow Hunters Resource Base (MBRB) 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.

6. Bow Hunting

Sharp shooting 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. This is done cooperatively with the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture).

Costs

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 direct cost is estimated at \$215-\$270 per deer removed.

The annual monitoring and inventory costs are approximately \$800.

There is also an indirect cost for such items as staff time, organization, supplies and materials, enforcement... of administering a program. Currently capacity for Parks and Recreation staff is limited.

Partnerships

Ramsey County would be involved and help guide Roseville through a control process if desired.

Ramsey County and other cities in the County have allowed controlled deer hunts on private property and/or public property, either by bow hunters or sharp shooters.

Currently there is not a full and active coordinated effort between Ramsey County and the cities in Ramsey County. All efforts are up to each individual jurisdiction.

The potential components of a Comprehensive Deer Management Plan may include topics outlined in this report, a plan for coordinated efforts with and between the County and surrounding cities, as well as identifying the goals, objectives and policies of a city specific program.

Possible Locations for Control

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 individual cities on recommended areas.

Areas recommended would include the highly populated areas per the last aerial count.

- USDA (sharp shooting) - most likely would be the areas by Lake Owasso
- MBRB (bow hunting) - most likely would include larger areas such as Reservoir Woods and the area by Lake Josephine.

Process

The general process will include:

- Roseville decides whether or not a control is warranted
- Roseville decides whether or not a feeding restriction is warranted
- Roseville pursues an ordinance change
- Roseville enforces ordinance with violation
- 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

Suggested Roseville Ordinance Components

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.

Recommendation

1. Continue monitoring and inventorying
2. Develop an ordinance structure to include:
 - a. Wildlife feeding restriction
 - b. Exceptions
 - c. Penalties and enforcement
 - d. Options for as needed control mechanisms based upon survey numbers and criteria defined by Ramsey County and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
3. Immediately pursue a wildlife feeding restriction with exceptions
4. Establish a feeding enforcement method with a penalty
5. Include an option in the ordinance for a controlled hunt based upon the following:
 - a. Reassessment after two years of feeding ban and subsequent surveying to determine deer numbers and location
 - b. Proposal to pursue a hunt would be based on the established DNR carrying capacity criteria
 - c. A return to the City Council for approval
6. A proposed ordinance shall include a well publicized public hearing
7. Creation of a City Comprehensive Deer Management Plan

Prepared by Lonnie Brokke, Director of Parks and Recreation

Attachments:

- A. 2014 Ramsey County Map, including Roseville, showing the location where deer were counted
- B. Highlighted Map of the .77 sq. miles of habitat in Roseville
- C. Ramsey County Deer Management Study, including a survey conducted in 2012
- D. Survey of Ramsey County Cities updated in December 2014
- E. Ramsey County Natural Resource Management Plan - Wildlife Section
- F. A sample comprehensive ordinance from the City of Shoreview
- G. Summary presentation made in February 2015 to the Parks and Recreation Commission
- H. A spreadsheet of deer population related comments received over the last year

The map displays the proposed Alameda Corridor Transitway through the Roseville area. Key features include:

- Major Roads:** Roseville Avenue, Cleveland Avenue, Terminal Road, and Alameda Avenue.
- Lakes and Water Bodies:** Bennett Lake, Lake Merritt, Lake Temescal, and Lake Temescal.
- Transitway Stations:** Numbered 1 through 11, marked with red dots along the dashed transitway line.
- Geographic Features:** The map shows the surrounding urban landscape, including residential areas and commercial zones.

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

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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

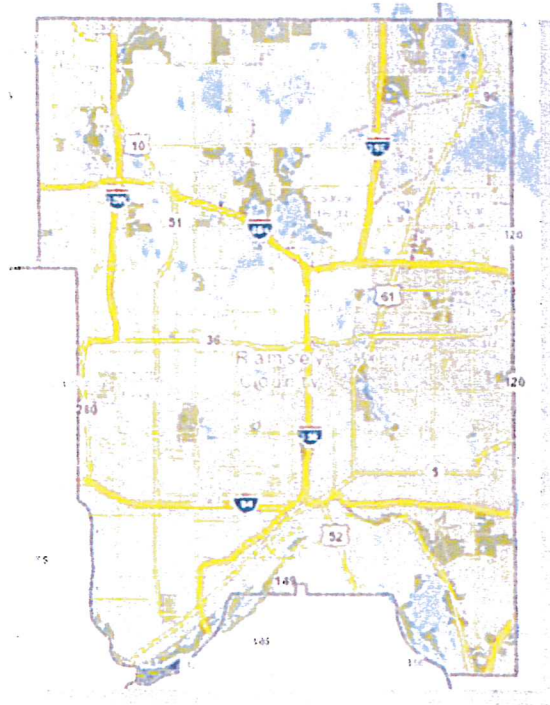


Figure 3 Ramsey county map

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 Dazenski	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:

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NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN

Section 3 Wildlife Management

Introduction

There are several species of wildlife found within the RCPRD System that warrant population monitoring and, as appropriate, population management. For those species specific management plans will be developed. At this time White-tailed Deer have exceeded the available habitat and Canada Geese have exceeded the social tolerance. The RCPRD has developed specific plans for deer and goose management. Other species of wildlife, such as raccoon, beavers, turkeys and coyotes may occasionally become problems. The RCPRD will deal with these on an as needed basis. Control may include removal or harassment. The RCPRD will continue to research and use cost effective wildlife management control measures as they are developed

Deer Management

Background

In 1999, the RCPRD established a Cooperative Deer Management Program. Prior to that, the Cities of St. Paul and North Oaks, the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant and H.B. Fuller Company had been involved in deer management and reduction programs. These programs varied from occasional removal of a few deer to regular programs removing several hundred deer. Maplewood, St. Paul, Shoreview, and White Bear Township showed interest in receiving additional information and/or assistance on deer management issues.

The RCPRD properties are the main blocks of land within the county that can support deer populations. Moderate deer browse damage is noticeable in most properties. Moderate to severe rub damage on new plantings is common in Snail Lake Regional Park and Tamarack Nature Center. The Aerial Deer Surveys starting in 1999 (in RCPRD Natural Resources files), conducted by RCPRD, originally showed four areas with a potential need for some control. The areas included Turtle Creek Open Space, Poplar Lake Open Space, the Otter Lake and Tamarack portions of Bald Eagle - Otter Lake Regional Park, and Pigs Eye/Battle Creek (including Maplewood south of I-94). The density of deer in and around these sites exceeded 50 deer per square mile. The Vadnais - Snail Lakes Regional Park also approached that level. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources normally recommends a density of less than 25 deer per square mile. Studies have shown that

RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

densities above that level leads to vegetation damage. The number of areas with high deer densities has increased over the years to include most parks with natural habitats.

The RCPRD has used archery as its main deer control tool. Hunts have been conducted at 11 locations. Records of these hunts are on file at the RCPRD. Sharpshooting was used once in the South Maplewood/Highwood area. This was a cooperative program with the Cities of St. Paul and Maplewood.

Objectives

The objectives of the Cooperative Deer Management Program are:

1. To maintain a deer herd at levels that will not affect the diversity of plants in the parks or alter the rate of natural succession.
2. To assist the municipalities in reducing deer/car collisions and other local deer complaints.
3. To maintain a deer herd at a level that minimizes damage to landscape plantings on County property.
4. To maintain a healthy deer herd on those sites large enough to sustain them.



White Tailed Deer in Battle Creek

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN

Deer Management Options

There have been a number of deer management options offered over the years (McAninch, J.B. (ed). 1995). Some management options are not feasible in Ramsey County and have not been included in this plan. The following options give a range of techniques to address different population levels. The options outlined below will involve the full participation of the surrounding cities.

1. **Controlled Archery Hunts during Normal Season.** In areas with moderate browse and a record of complaints and or deer/car collisions, general archery hunting could be used. The Metro Bow Hunters Resource Base (MBRB) can provide qualified hunters to hunt specific park sites. Special restrictions can be imposed to limit the times of hunting and the taking of bucks. The hunting period would extend over a number of weeks with low numbers of hunters in the field at any one time. This kind of hunt is preferred because it is generally non-disruptive, low-cost and involves low-staff time. These hunts are also effective on small (<200 acres) parcels. Sites are posted with signs informing users that a hunt is in progress and the site may or may not be closed to other activities. The cities provide special permits or give standing authority to the RCPRD for these hunts. The cost of this type of hunt are minimal.
2. **Special Permit Archery Removal after the Normal Season.** This is a method where the deer are hunted at specific baited sites. This technique is used outside of the regular hunting season. Special permits from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources are needed, as well as approval from the cities. The areas around the shooting sites need to be closed. Harvested deer would have to be turned over to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. This option needs sites with buffers of 100 yards or more.
3. **Firearm Sharpshooter Removal.** Sharpshooting is an expensive technique involving law enforcement personnel or contracting with a deer removal company. Special permits from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources are required, as well as approval from the cities. The areas around the shooting sites need to be closed. Harvested deer would have to be turned over to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Animal rights groups have accepted this technique as a humane method of removing deer. Sharpshooting can be safely done on small (<20 acres) parcels. Complaints about the safety and noise can arise, but using trained marksman and silencers can minimize these concerns. This is a high cost, potentially high staff and high profile removal option. Removal costs are a minimum of \$200.00 per deer, in 2005 dollars.

Deer Management Partners

Deer Management activities are conducted in partnership with numerous agencies and municipalities. Current contacts are maintained in the RCPRD Natural Resources files.

- (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

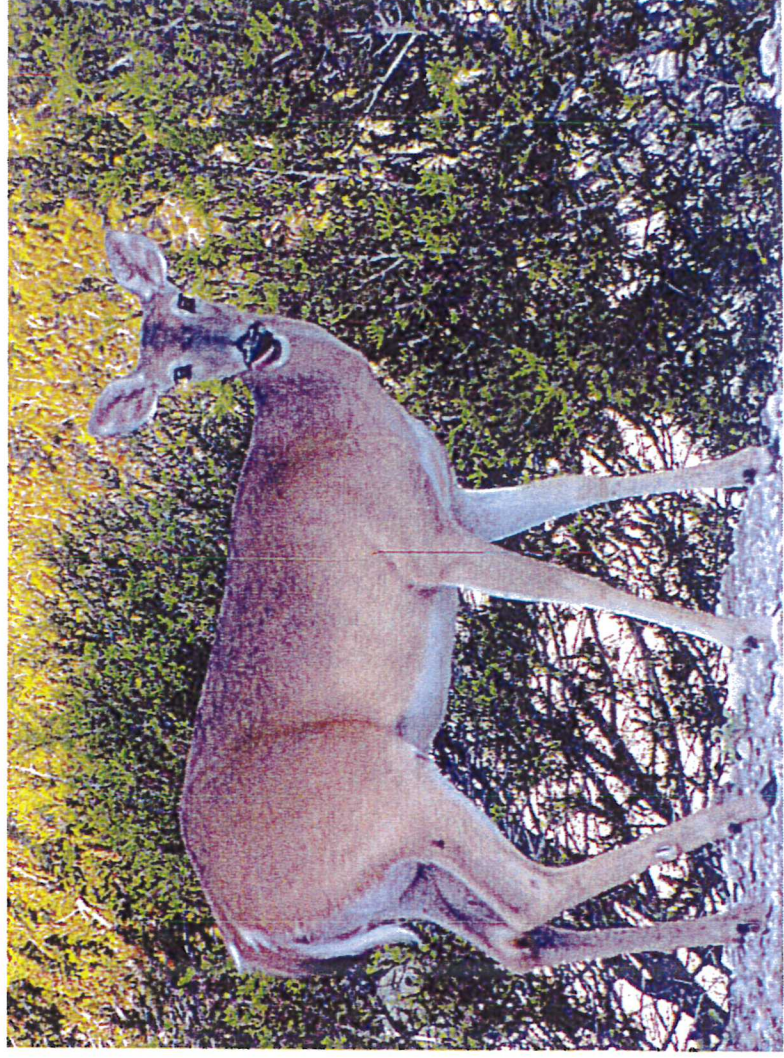
- (C) **Exception.** The provisions of Section 601.130(A) shall not apply to the employees or agents of the City, County, the State, the Federal government or veterinarians who in the course of their official duties have wild animals in their custody or under their management.
- (D) **Violations.** Violations 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.

Roseville Deer Population Discussion Parks and Recreation Commission

February 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
 - Status
 - 61 deer - February, 2014 survey
 - 43 deer – average over 9 yrs
 - Roseville's deer population over the carrying capacity of the land/habitat
- Roseville has approximately 0.77 square miles of deer habitat
- Roseville's numbers should be 15 – 19 deer



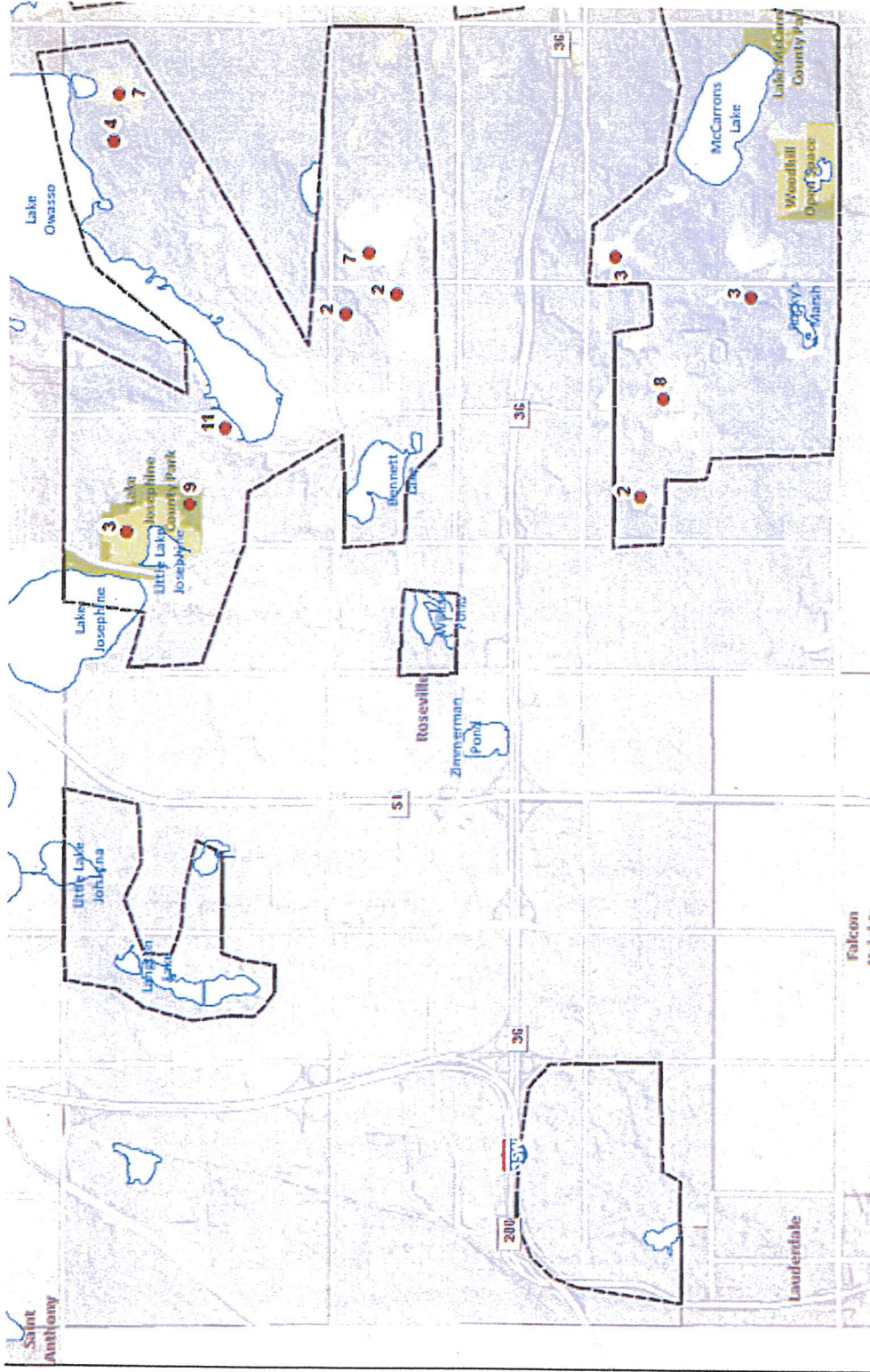
Survey Information



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
# 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.

[illegible]



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

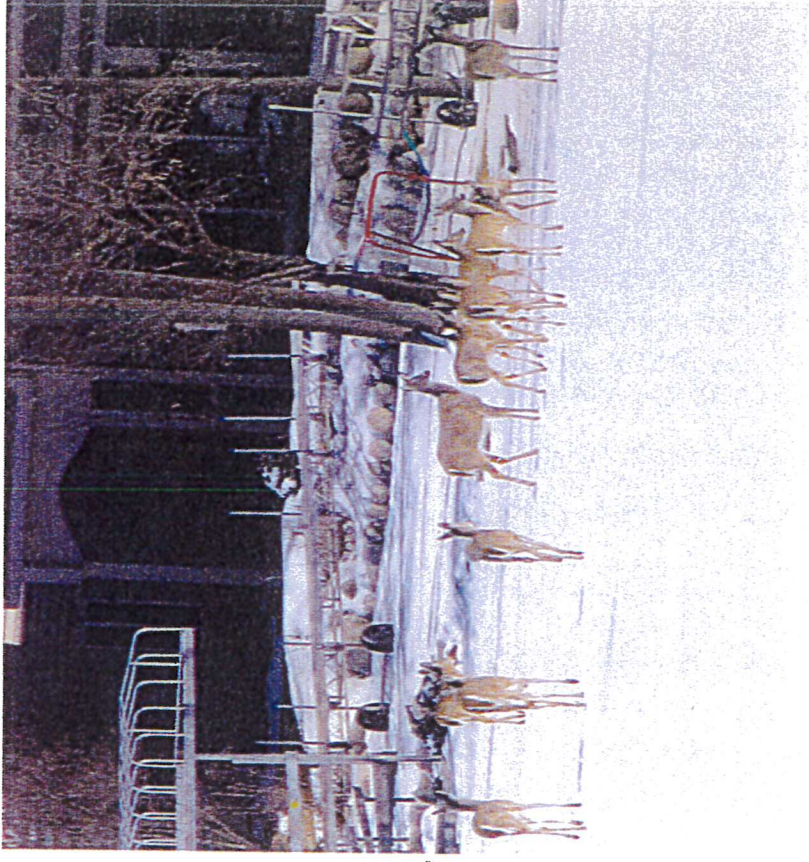
- Cost averages \$800 - \$1000 per doe
- Very stressful on the deer, and hasn't been proven to work per USDA studies
- More feasible in a fenced areas, not in open areas



Other Control Options (con't)

Living with Deer

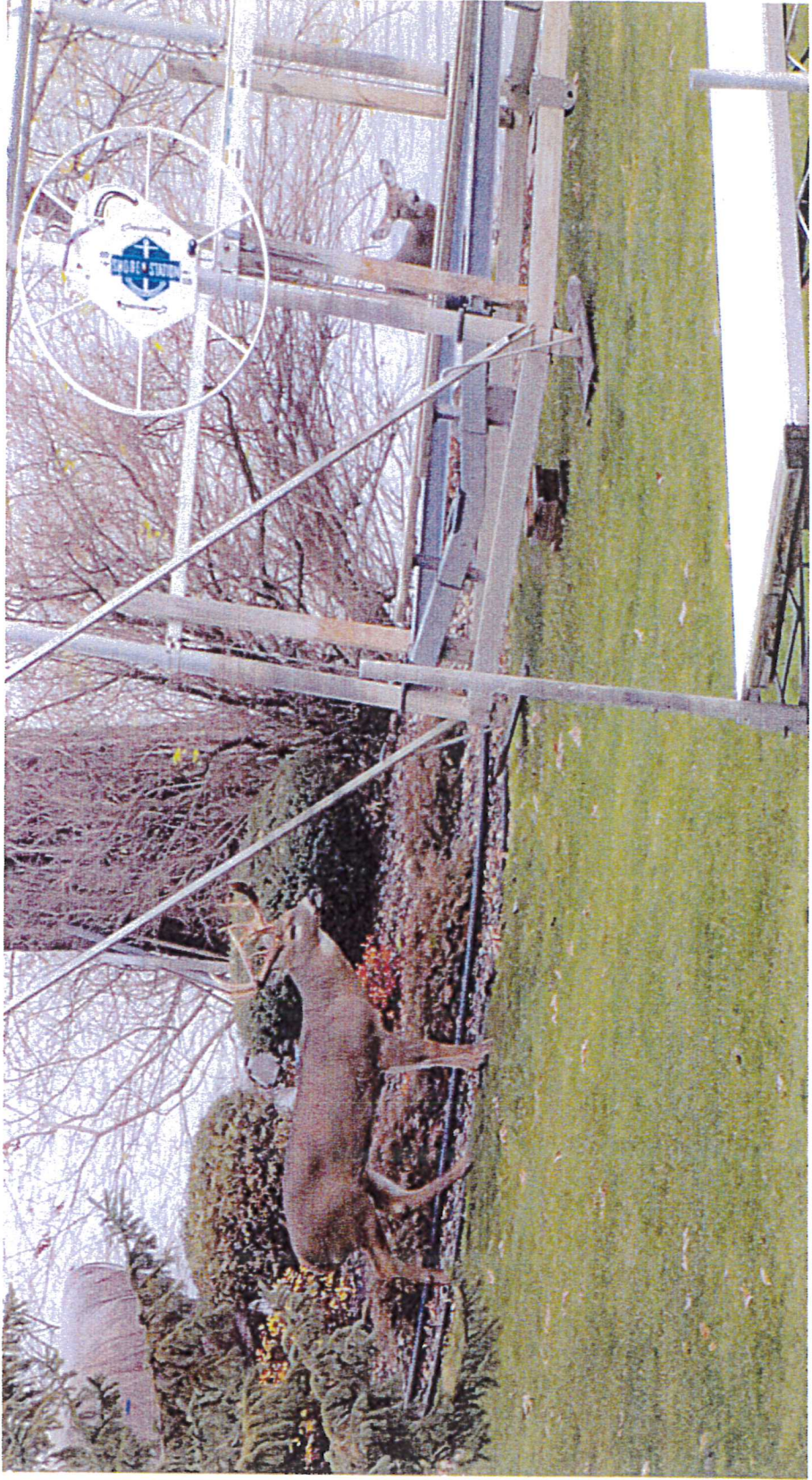
- Organic repellants on property, i.e. rotten eggs, blood meal, hot peppers, human hair
- Adequate fencing
- Predatory animals, i.e. dogs
- Avoid plants deer eat
- Feeding ban



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

Discussion



Questions/ Answers

From January 6, 2015 Parks & Recreation Commission meeting

- Q.** If there was a hunt in Roseville, what areas would be recommended?
- A.** Ramsey County and the US 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.
-
- Q.** Have there been any bad incidents as a result of a hunt?
- A.** None known
- Q.** What areas from the survey make up the .77 square miles of habitat?
- A.** The yellow highlighted areas (on the map) make up the .77 square miles of deer habitat. Wetland and park areas are typically deer areas of choice.
-
- Q.** Has there ever been any pro-activist demonstrations as a result of a hunt?
- A.** No
- Minimal opposition with no organized demonstration efforts
-
- Q.** What types of weapons are used during an organized hunt?
- A.** Rim fire .22 caliber suppressed (silenced) rifles and center fire .223 and .308 caliber suppressed (silenced) with the .223 being the most common.
- The USDA is permitted to use silencers.
- Standard bow and arrows are used
- Cross bows are allowed for those that are 70 and older and/or are physically disabled

Deer Population

Responses to questions at the Jan/Feb. 2015 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

6. Why does it cost more to kill the deer with a rifle than with a bow and arrow?

- Because of planning, implementation, and harvesting of animal when taken by sharp shooting- you are paying for the professional to do a duty. Call me for clarification if need be

7. Are there metrics or evidence of the effectiveness of a feeding ban surrounding cities?

Maplewood

They did not analyze what effect the feeding ban would have on the deer, they assume the deer find food from residents plantings and/or bird feeders even with a feeding ban.

North Oaks

It was 25 yrs ago when the feeding ordinance was written, no studies have been conducted . All they knew was that the initial aerial count was that there was approx.

1200 deer. So they knew they needed to start hunting along with the ordinance to lower the population to what it is today, which is about 300. For many years they would kill 200-300 each yr.

St. Paul

Not sure what affect the no feeding ordinance has had. Feels that if for sure would at least lessen the transfer of diseases due to them not eating out of the same feed bin.

Shoreview

The no feeding ban has definitely made a difference; they don't seem to have large congregated area of deer anymore. They are much more dispersed. There are fewer complaints with the feeding ban.

Vadnais Heights

They have no evidence if the/a feeding ban has helped or not, they have just always had a hunt because of the large aerial count numbers and all of the natural areas in Vadnais Heights.

Little Canada

The no feeding ban has made a difference and is working well.

8. Are deer ticks “deer borne”? or “mouse born”?

- See enclosed article

9. Is there a full coordinated and communicated effort by the county...or can there be... with all cities involved and the creation of a systematic approach to management of deer.

- There is not a full coordinated effort by the County or any particular city at this time. I believe there is a potential for this to occur.

10. Can deer crossing signs be installed in select areas, i.e. on dale street near central park and acorn park....?

- Government agencies authorize signage in their jurisdiction only, i.e. the City on City streets, the County on County roads and the State on State highways

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 nuisance. 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

Date	Received	Address	Summary of Comments
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 lilacs & 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?
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.
6/26/14	Phone	Terrace Drive	Too many deer. Neighbor counted 20 ticks on herself.
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.
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?
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.
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.
5/27/14	Phone	Heinel Drive	While walking my dog - a deer walked up to us & would not go away.
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.
5/16/14	Phone	HighCourte	15 or more at a time. Lyme Disease concern.
5/17/14	Phone	Matilda	Too many deer. Eaten all in yard.
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.
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 the 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.

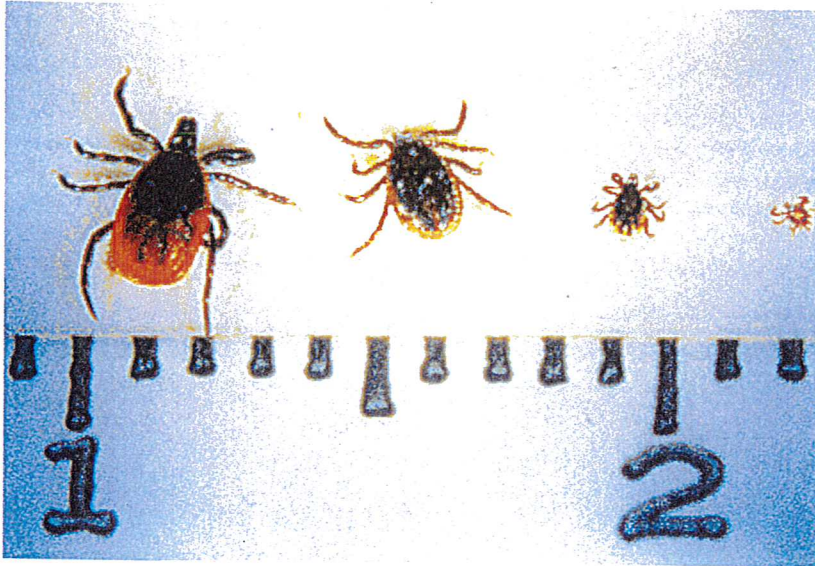
2015 Deer Comments

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. 1. walking through a heard of 10-11 is not pleasant. 2. deer sleep at the end of my sidewalk (20 ft from house) 3. 8 point buck staring at me from 50' away while walking to my mailbox. 4. walking north of the RR tracks a deer was grazing 6' away and didn't move. 5. South of the RR tracks on Dale where S. Owasso blvd. crosses deer jump out in front of vehicles. 6. deer sleep in my hostas. 7. deer eat my tomato plants to the ground. 8. 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.

Blacklegged Ticks (Deer Tick, Bear Tick)

The scientific name of the blacklegged tick is *Ixodes scapularis*. Many people still know the blacklegged tick by another common name, the deer tick. You may also hear it called the bear tick. They are all the same tick.

The blacklegged tick is much smaller than the wood (or dog) tick.



(Scale of image is centimeters.)

In this photo, the tick on the left is an adult female blacklegged tick, which is red and dark brown. To her right is an adult male blacklegged tick, which is smaller and dark in color. A nymph blacklegged tick is the second from the right, and a blacklegged tick larva is to the far right.

Adult females and nymphs can transmit infections through their bite.

Blacklegged Tick Life Cycle

Blacklegged ticks live two to three years and have three blood meals. The life cycle begins when the female lays eggs. As the eggs mature, they develop into larvae, then nymphs, and finally adults.

- Diagram: Two-Year Life Cycle of the Blacklegged Tick
(*Ixodes scapularis*, also known as the Deer Tick or Bear Tick)

Larval ticks

- From May through September, eggs hatch into larvae (plural).
- The larva (singular):
 - is the size of a period at end of sentence

- initially does not carry diseases such as Lyme disease, human anaplasmosis, or babesiosis
- may pick up diseases during its first meal from a diseased host
- Larvae usually feed on white-footed mice or other small mammals.
- If the mouse is infected with disease-causing organisms, the larva will become infected and be able to transmit these organisms during its second or third feeding
- The tick may also feed on a small mammal or bird that is not infected. These ticks cannot transmit disease in later feedings.
- After this feeding, the larvae molt into nymphs and become dormant until the following spring.

Nymphal ticks

- In the spring and summer of the tick's second year, primarily from May through early July, the nymph becomes active and takes its second feeding from a mammal.
- If the tick is carrying disease agents from its first feeding in the larval stage, it can transmit them during this second feeding.
- If the nymph was not already infected, it can become infected if the second meal host is carrying disease agents.
- The nymph is about the size of a poppy seed. Nymph stage ticks often look like a speck of dirt or a freckle on a person's skin.

Adult ticks

- In the fall of the second year, nymphs molt into adult ticks. Female adults are red or orange and larger than males.
- The adult female ticks feed and mate on large animals in the fall or early spring. The female lays her eggs, then dies.
- If the ticks did not get a blood meal in the fall, they go dormant over winter and seek a meal in the spring. A frost does not kill blacklegged ticks. Adults may become active as soon as it is above freezing. They are occasionally spotted during a temporary thaw in the winter.
- As female ticks feed over the course of several days, their bodies slowly enlarge with blood (engorge). Adult females infected with disease agents as larvae or nymphs may transmit disease during this feeding.
- Male ticks attach, but do not feed or become engorged. Because the adult males do not take a blood meal, they do not transmit Lyme disease, human anaplasmosis, or babesiosis.

Feeding and blood meals

- Blacklegged ticks feed on blood by inserting their mouth parts into the skin.
- They are slow feeders and will feed for 3-5 days.
- If the blacklegged tick is infected, it must be attached for 24-48 hours before it transmits Lyme disease, and at least 12-24 hours to transmit human anaplasmosis.

Blacklegged Tick Habitat

Where do we find blacklegged ticks?

- Blacklegged ticks live in wooded, brushy areas that provide food and cover for white-footed mice, deer and other mammals.
- This habitat also provides the humidity ticks need to survive.
- Exposure to ticks may be greatest in the woods (especially along trails) and the fringe area between the woods and border.
- Blacklegged ticks search for a host from the tips of low-lying vegetation and shrubs, not from trees.
- Generally, ticks attach to a person or animal near ground level.
- Blacklegged ticks crawl; they do not jump or fly. They grab onto people or animals that brush against vegetation, and then they crawl upwards to find a place to bite.
- White-tailed deer live throughout Minnesota, but blacklegged ticks are not found everywhere that deer live.

What can be done to control tick populations?

There are measures you can take to reduce the number of ticks around your home. In general, drier conditions mean fewer blacklegged ticks:

- Keep lawns mowed, brush trimmed, and leaf litter away from the home.
- Keep trails or paths in wooded areas on your property clear of vegetation.
- For more information:
[Minnesota Ticks and Their Control](#)
Minnesota Extension Service, U of MN
Attention: Non-MDH link
- [Tick Management Handbook \(PDF: 7,153KB/71 pages\)](#)
Tick management handbook with information on protecting yourself from ticks, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. Attention: Large file advisory, this document may load slowly. Non-MDH link
Tick Photos
- [Blacklegged Tick](#)
Iowa State's Deer Tick page has photos of the female, male, nymph and larva.
Attention: Non-MDH link
- [American Dog Tick \(often called "Wood Tick" in Minnesota\)](#)
Iowa State Entomology Image Gallery
Attention: Non-MDH link

**CITY OF ROSEVILLE
PARKS AND RECREATION RENEWAL PROGRAM
PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT**

February 25, 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	90% complete, Framing begun	Open House planned for March 25
Oasis Park	9/ 2014	70% complete	Open House planned April 23, 2015
Rosebrook Park	9/ 2014	70% complete	Open House planned April 22, 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	95% complete	Open House planned for March 26, 2015
Boardwalk	11/2014	100% built- moved to site to install	Have mobilized and begun installation as of February 25, 2015
E. BRIDGE REPLACEMENT			
Villa Park	7/2014	5% complete	Spring 2015 install

PROJECT NAME	START DATE	STATUS	COMMENTS
			completion expected – 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

PROJECT NAME	START DATE	STATUS	COMMENTS
Evergreen Park			Contractor approval 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	

PROJECT NAME	START DATE	STATUS	COMMENTS
Acorn Park		Grant Approach	
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	HANC project 2-21-15
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

PROJECT NAME	START DATE	STATUS	COMMENTS
Evergreen Park			2015 project
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 – Moundsvew property		Closing 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