

REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Date: 3-9-15
Item No.: 11.a

Department Approval



City Manager Approval



Item Description: Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting with the City Council

BACKGROUND

The Parks and Recreation Commission have traditionally met with the City Council annually. At the joint meeting on June 9, 2014, it was determined that it would be beneficial for more regular discussion.

At the November 17, 2014 meeting with the City Council, one of the topics discussed and agreed upon that needed further research was the Roseville deer population. It was requested that the Parks and Recreation Commission gather further information and provide a recommendation.

Included in your packet is a background report with a number of attachments. Parks and Recreation Commission representatives will be at your March 9, 2015 meeting to discuss further.

Staff recommends that the City Council, after having the conversation with the Park and Recreation members, schedule further discussion about the deer population in Roseville for the April 13 City Council work session.

Prepared by: Lonnie Brokke, Staff Liaison

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

ROSEVILLE DEER POPULATION REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL
ROSEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
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
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Public Process

There has been a significant amount of public input through written corresponded and at the Commission meetings in January, February and March 2015. If the City Council decides to move forward with regulations and/or control mechanisms, we recommend 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.

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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.

54 **Criteria**

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

61 **Authorization and Control Requirements**

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

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

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

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

74 **Control Options**

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

- 81 1. Feeding restrictions/ban
 - 82 ■ To include all wild animals including deer, geese, coyote with exceptions and
 - 83 penalties for violations

84
85
86
87 2. Options for repelling deer from property

- 88 ▪ Organic repellents are marketed across the country, with anecdotal evidence to their
- 89 efficacy: compounds using garlic, rotten eggs, blood-meal, and capsaicin (the heat in
- 90 hot peppers) appear to be the most effective.
- 91 ▪ Adequate fences around property or vegetation.
- 92 ▪ Presence of —predatory animals: e.g., dogs.
- 93

94 3. Introducing predators - reintroducing predators would not be feasible in an urban setting for

95 three reasons:

- 96 • There is no suitable habitat for deer predators.
- 97 • There is a potential for these predators to kill non-deer targets.
- 98 • Close proximity to humans would negatively impact public safety.
- 99

100 4. Relocation

101 Relocating deer is costly, impractical, and ineffective. Relocation is also very stressful to

102 deer, and high mortality rates are associated with relocation. The spread of deer diseases is

103 another concern. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources does not allow this

104 technique.

105

106 5. Contraceptive

107 While effective for the individual deer, contraceptives are not an efficient means of overall

108 deer population control because they must be applied to nearly every female in the herd. A

109 booster would also have to be applied annually. This process is estimated to cost \$800-

110 \$1000 per doe, with \$200-\$300 per year maintenance. The Minnesota Department of

111 Natural Resources does not allow this technique.

112

113 6. Sharp Shooting

114 Sharp shooting is another method which has proven successful. Specially-trained deer sharp

115 shooters are hired to come into a community with the purpose of removing a large amount

116 of deer at one time. They are trained to shoot as efficiently and effectively as possible to

117 minimize the possibility of the herd scattering, and to quickly dispatch deer and maintain

118 safety to surrounding residents. This is done cooperatively with the USDA (United States

119 Department of Agriculture).

120

121 7. Bow Hunting

122 Through the Metro Bow Hunters Resource Base (MBRB) individual citizens can participate

123 in urban archery hunts. During these hunts, hunters emphasize shooting antlerless deer in the

124 hopes of reducing the number of does in the deer population. Deer populations are more

125 quickly reduced when the number of does is reduced.

126

127 **Costs**

128 The cost of this new program would be the responsibility of the City.

129

130 There is no direct cost associated with an archery hunt. For sharp shooting, the direct cost is estimated at

131 \$215-\$270 per deer removed.

132

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

There is an indirect cost for such items as staff time, organization, supplies and materials, enforcement, etc. of administering a program. Current 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.

Comprehensive Deer Management Plan Components

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.

- o USDA (sharp shooting) - most likely would be the areas by Lake Owasso
- o 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

1. Feeding Restriction/Ban
 - a. To include all wild animals including deer, geese, coyote,
2. Exceptions to feeding restrictions to include:
 - a. Songbirds
 - b. Use of Deer resistant feeders, i.e. enclosures accessible to birds only
 - c. Food/garden plots

184
185
186
187
188 3. Penalties

- 189 a. Violations enforced – who does it and how?
190 b. Penalty to include meaningful consequences
191

192 4. Include control mechanisms as warranted, i.e. hunts

- 193 a. Weapon use
194 b. Permitting process
195
196

197 **Recommendation**

198 The Parks and Recreation Commission recommends to:

- 199
200 1. Continue to inventory and monitor
201
202 2. Develop an ordinance structure to include:
203 a. Wildlife feeding restriction
204 b. Exceptions
205 c. Enforcement and penalties for violations
206 d. Options for as needed control mechanisms based upon survey numbers and criteria defined
207 by Ramsey County and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
208
209 3. Immediately pursue a wildlife feeding restriction with exceptions
210
211 4. Establish a feeding enforcement method with a penalty
212
213 5. Include an option in the ordinance for a controlled hunt based upon the following:
214 a. Reassessment after two years of feeding ban and subsequent surveying to determine deer
215 numbers and location
216 b. Proposal to pursue a hunt would be based on the established DNR carrying capacity criteria
217 c. A return to the City Council for approval
218
219 6. Conduct a well publicized public hearing for the proposed ordinance
220
221 7. Create a City comprehensive Deer Management Plan
222

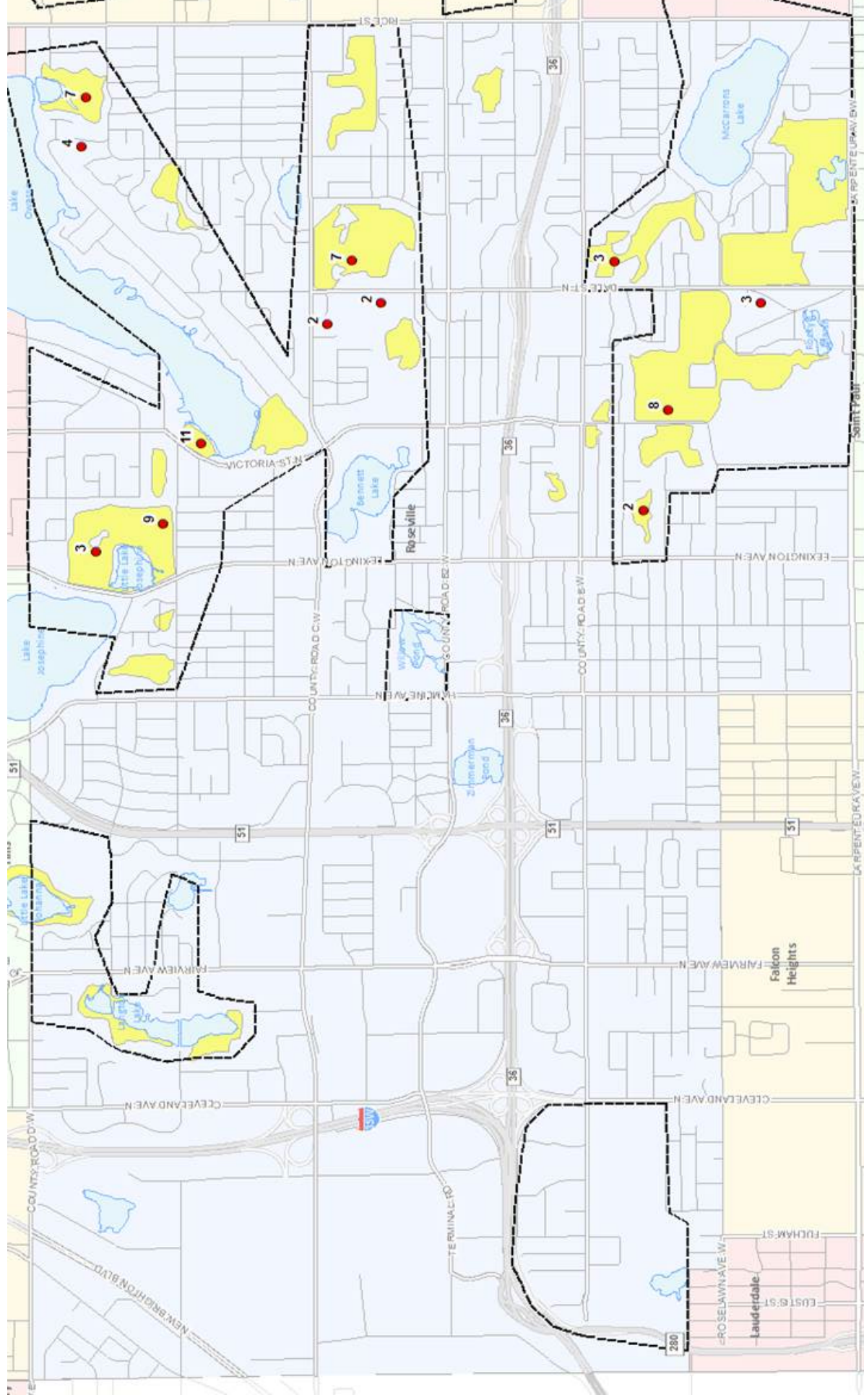
223 Prepared by Lonnie Brokke, Director of Parks and Recreation
224

225 **Attachments:**

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

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



Ramsey County Deer Management: The Human Dimension



Authors

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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

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

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Executive Summary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Steve Dzenski
Parks Supervisor,
City of Mounds View

Introduction

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

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

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

General deer biology

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



Figure 1 Range map of white-tailed deer

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

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

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

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



Figure 2 Grazing deer

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

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

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

Carrying Capacity:

1 deer per every 20 acres

Description of Ramsey County

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

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



Figure 3 Ramsey county map

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

Deer in Ramsey County

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

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

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

Survey of Ramsey County Communities

Table 1 Summary of city deer management survey

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

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

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

Description of the plan

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

Monitoring/Inventorying

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

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

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

Actions

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

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

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

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

Frequently Asked Questions (F.A.Q)

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

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

How many deer are in Ramsey County?

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

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

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

Is it safe to approach deer?

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

Should I feed deer?

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

Do deer carry disease that put my family at risk?

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

How do I keep deer out of my backyard?

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

Is there a policy in place for deer management?

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

How do I avoid hitting deer with my car?

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

Did you know?

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

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

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

Deer Fact sheet

Basic Deer Biology

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

Why are deer overpopulated?

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

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

Problems of Overpopulation

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

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

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

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

Relocation

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

Contraceptives/Sterilization

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

Introducing Predators

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

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

Options for Repelling Deer from Your Property

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

Deer and Plants

Plants Deer Avoid

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

Plants Deer Will Sometimes Eat

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

Plants Deer Prefer

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

For More Information on Deer Management:

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

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

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

National Geographic. (2012). *Wild Animals*. Retrieved from National Geographic:
<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/white-tailed-deer/>

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

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

Table 1 Summary of city deer managment survey

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

Table 1 Summary of city deer managment survey

North St. Paul	Keith Stachowski	2012 - Deer are not an issue, no resident complaints in 14 years.	2012 - Southwood Park project leaders have mentioned a few deer eating vegetation. 1 deer killed on the roads every 5 years handled by Community Service Dept.	No							No response to updated survey to date
Community	Deer Management Contact	Are Deer an issue in the community?	Common Complaints	Do you have a Deer policy?	Bow hunt	Sharp Shoot	Success?	Private land	Public land	Wildlife Management Plan?	
Roseville	Lonnie Brokke	Yes, overpopulation. Track numbers determined by Ramsey County fly overs each year.	Vegetative destruction.Tameness of deer & health concerns.	No	No	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	No	
Saint Paul	Mike Koranda	Deer are an issue, they are a public nuisance. St. Paul harbors the densest deer population in the City.	Vegetation damage. Personal safety children with respect to tame wild deer. Complaints Violating the city law feeding ordinance.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Shoreview	Terry Schwerm	Overpopulation of deer in open spaces.	None related to Lyme disease. Complaints of vegetative damage. Deer roaming into yards. Citations to those that feed wildlife. Blanket ordinance for the orchard from Nov. - Jan. Gets most complaints about the southern border, Northern Roseville.	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Spring Lake Park	Marian Rygwall	2012 - Deer are currently not an issue. No complaints.	2012 - Deer are currently not an issue. No complaints.	No							No response to updated survey to date
Vadnais Heights	Chris Hearden	Many calls are forwarded to the DNR. They rely on the DNR studies. There is a deer management task force. Work with DNR to get recommendations.	Many calls are forwarded to the DNR. They rely on the DNR studies. There is a deer management task force. Work with DNR to get recommendations.	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

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

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.

Ord. 870
Rev. 10/16/10

(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.

- (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
- Roseville has approximately 0.77 square miles of deer habitat
- Roseville's numbers should be 15 – 19 deer



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



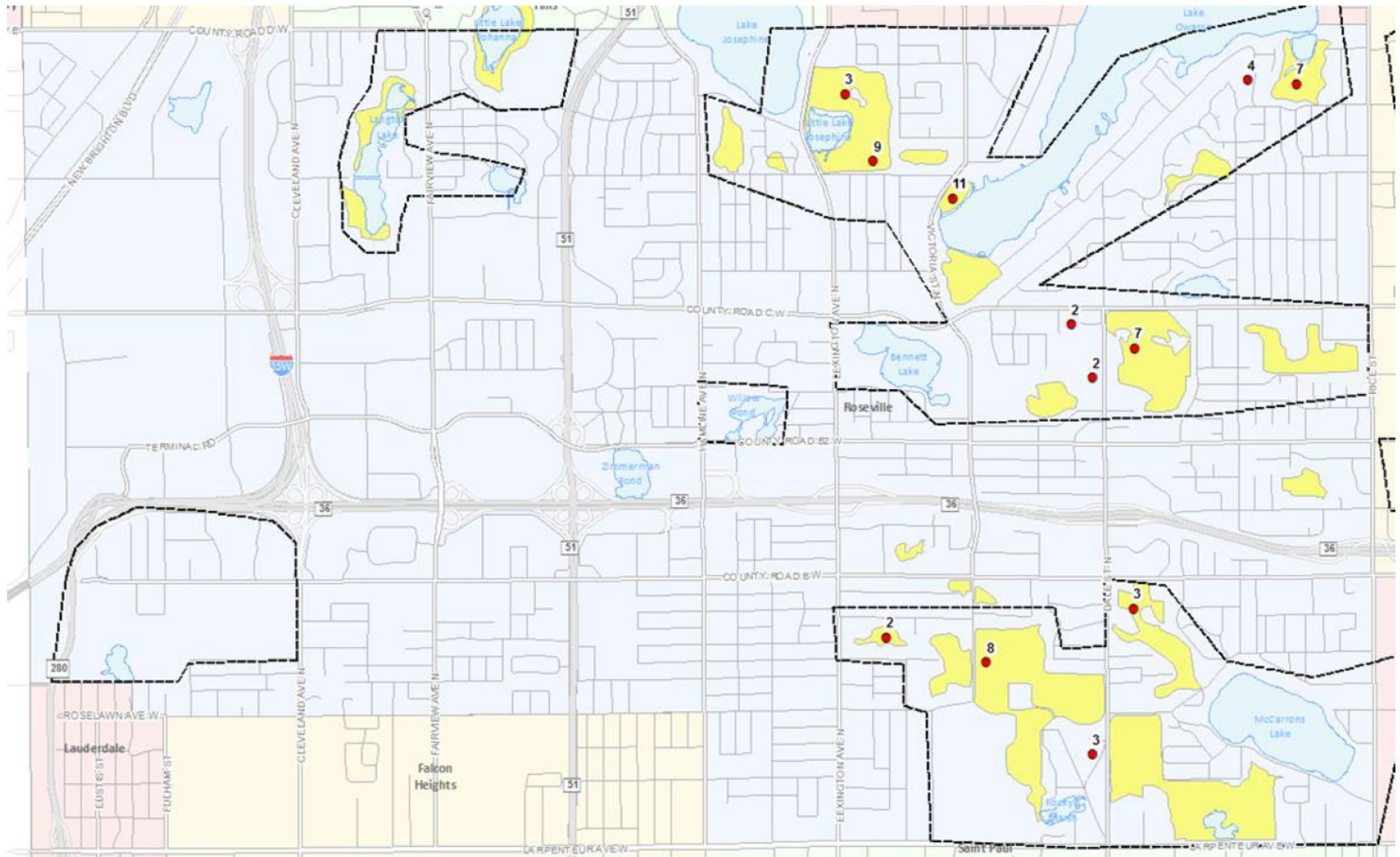
Survey Information

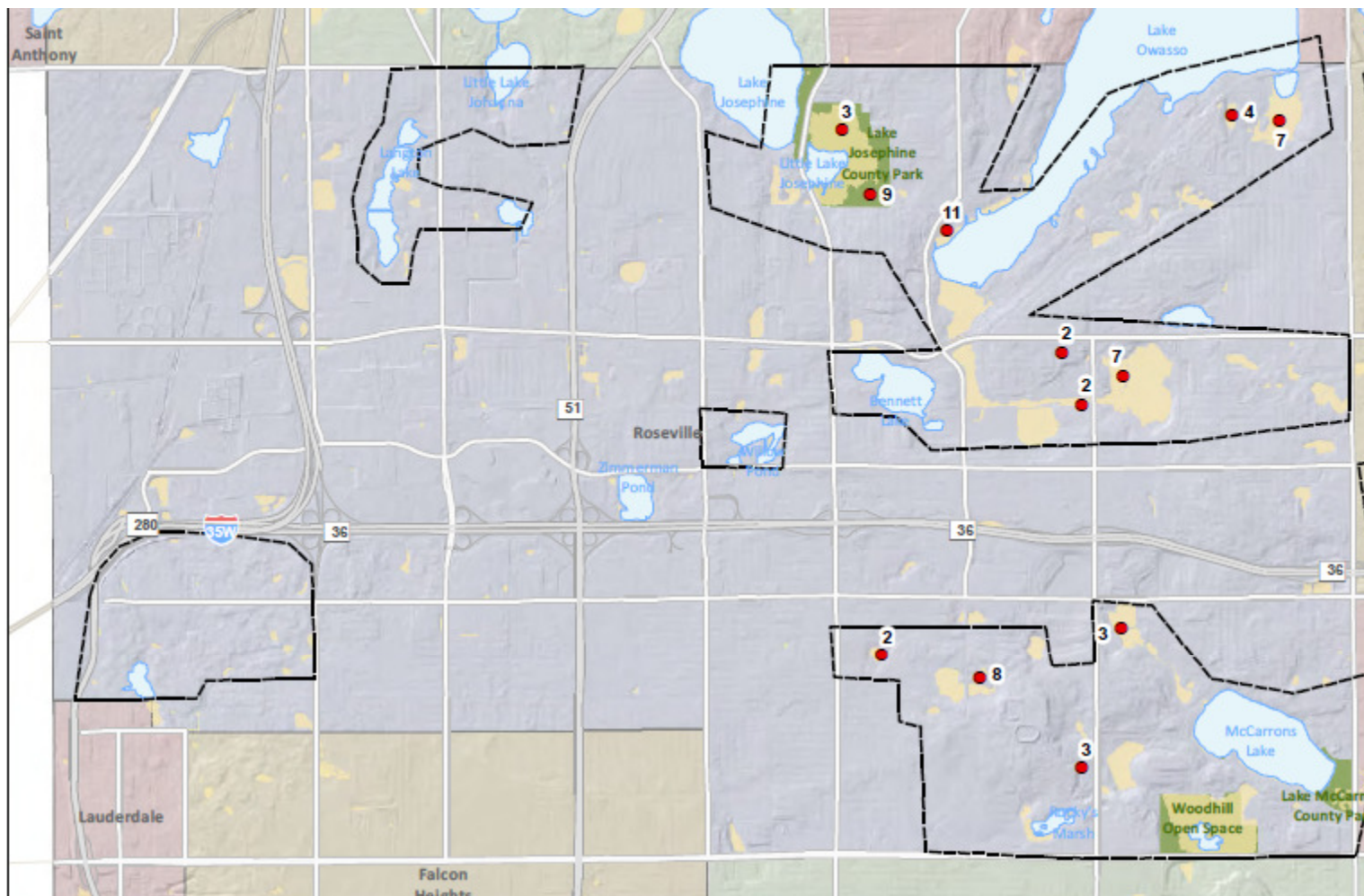


YEAR	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
# of Deer	36	lack of snow	15	34	44	51	44	50	lack of snow	57	61
# of cars hit Roseville PD	-	-	-	-	3	3	2	0	0	3	1
# of cars hit State patrol	-	-	-	-	0	11*	16*	16*	15*	9*	0
# of dead deer picked up in Roseville - Public Works	-	2	3	3	5	6	3	5	6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

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

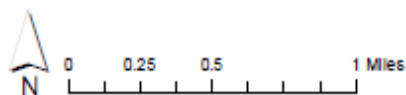
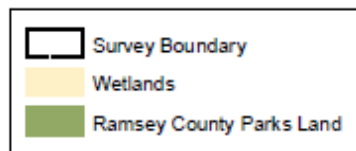
The yellow shaded areas are what make up the .77 square miles of Deer habitat in Roseville





Ramsey County Deer Survey 2014

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



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 repellant 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

2014 Deer Comments

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

2014 Deer Comments

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

2015 Deer Comments

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

2015 Deer Comments

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