

ROSEVILLE
REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Date: 10-24-2016

Item No.: 14.e

Department Approval



City Manager Approval



Item Description: Roseville Deer Management

BACKGROUND

The City of Roseville, in conjunction with Ramsey County, has been completing aerial surveys of the deer population since 2004. The aerial surveys consist of a helicopter “fly over” after a fresh snowfall counting the number of deer seen. In addition to the deer tracking the Roseville Police Department, MN Highway Patrol and Roseville Public Works also track the number of cars hit by deer and carcass removal requests. Below are the results of the deer tracking in Roseville since 2004:

Year	Deer Survey	# of Car's Hit - Roseville PD	# of Cars Hit - MN Patrol	Deer Carcass Removal
2004	36	0	0	0
2005	N/A ¹	0	0	2
2006	15	0	0	3
2007	34	0	0	3
2008	44	3	0	5
2009	51	3	11*	6
2010	44	2	16*	3
2011	50	0	16*	5
2012	N/A ¹	0	15*	6
2013	57	3	9*	6
2014	61	1	0	10
2015	N/A ¹	5	9	11
2016	52	3	1	2

N/A¹ – No survey completed due to lack of snow

* – Includes all animals hit by vehicles, including deer

Based on the amount of habitat in Roseville it was determined by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) that our city can support a population of 15-19 deer.

In 2014, deer population concerns were raised, specifically in the Owasso area. The complaints have primarily been regarding:

- Damage to gardens and vegetation in resident's yards
- Tameness of deer
- Health concerns

In response to the growing concerns, Roseville adopted a Wildlife Management Ordinance in 2015. The ordinance included a feeding ban on wild animals typically found in Roseville. The feeding ban prohibits:

- Distributing one or more gallons of grains, vegetables, fruits, nuts, or hay within a 24-hour period is prohibited
- Having a salt lick at a location that regularly attracts wild animals is prohibited
 - o Note: The ordinance includes an exemption for small backyard bird feeders

Penalties for violating the feeding ban are a series of administrative fines, including \$100 for the first violation, \$200 for a second and \$300 for subsequent violations within a two-year period.

The Roseville Community Development Code Enforcement Officer enforces the feeding ban. Since the ordinance was enacted there have been six official complaints reported and followed up on.

The ordinance also allows for organized hunts to control the city's deer population, should the City Council determine a need based on deer population counts.

At the time the ordinance was adopted the Parks and Recreation Commission suggested to monitor the deer population for 2 years to understand the feeding ban's impact. However, there still appears to be community concern for the large numbers of deer in Roseville.

To help better understand potential control options, Parks and Recreation Staff worked with representatives from the; MNDNR, Ramsey County, Department of Agriculture (USDA) the Metro Bow Hunters Resource Base (MBRB) and Nuisance Animal Removal Service (NARS).

Based on the research the available options for deer control include:

1. Sharp Shooting

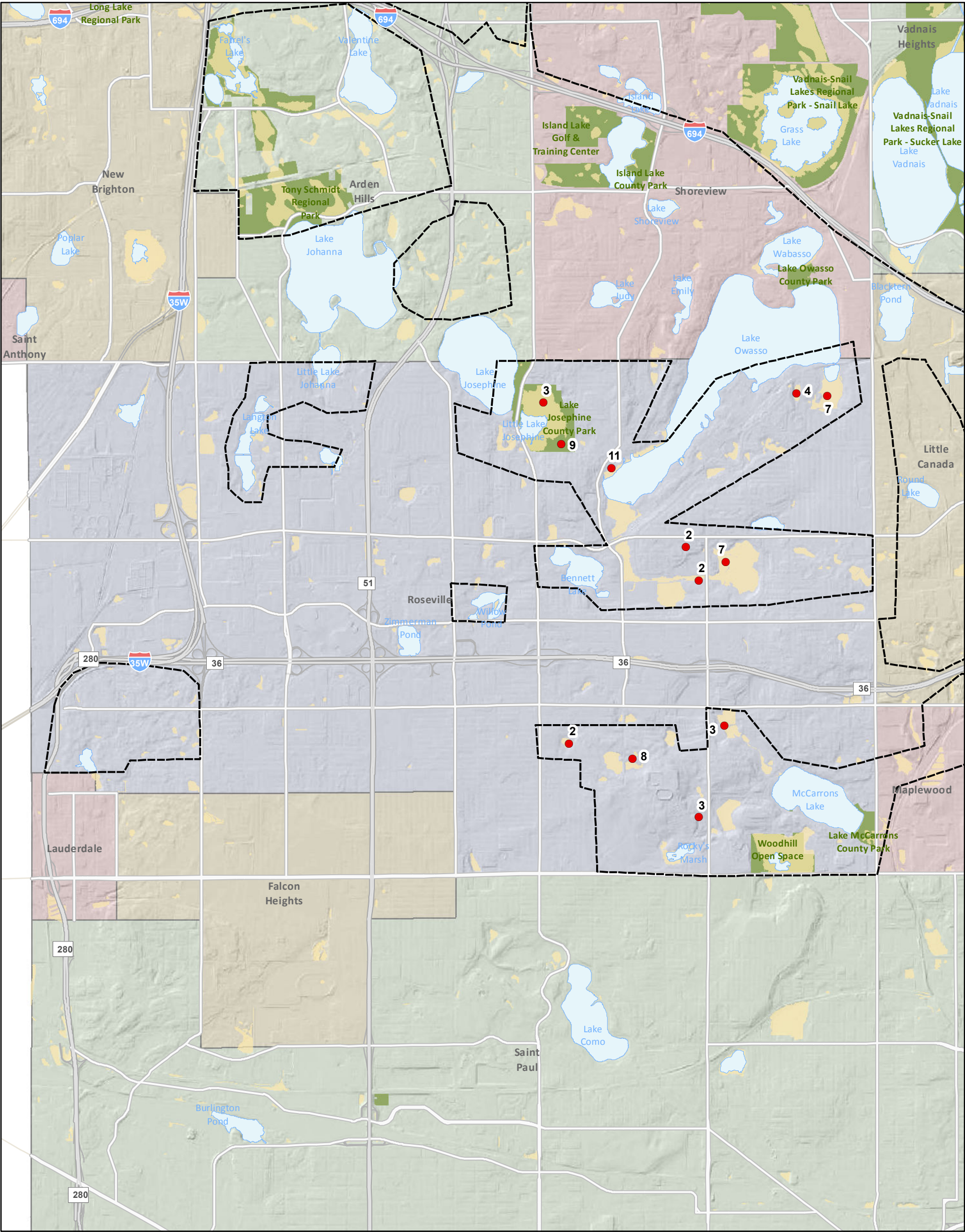
Specially-trained deer sharp shooters from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) are hired to come into a community with the purpose of removing a large amount of deer at one time. They are trained to shoot as efficiently and effectively as possible to minimize the possibility of the herd scattering, and to quickly dispatch deer and maintain safety to surrounding residents.

2. Bow Hunting

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.

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Comparisons ▾	USDA - Sharpshooting ▾	MBRB - Bow Hunting ▾	NARS - Trapping ▾
Hunt Type	Gov. Agency. Deer Solution provided to Cities as a Govt. Service.	Sport	Bait and Cages used to Trap deer
Cost	20 Deer ~ \$6,600. Cost Recovery Only.	\$0	\$350.00/Deer
Population Reduction	Good - Not a sport. Effective Management Tool.	Fair - Sport	Fair - Removal Success Varies based on Trap Placement and Deer Tendencies
Reduction Rate	5 deer/night - Work until City identified removal number is reached.	Average 10+ Deer/Hunt	Varies Based on the Number of Traps
Deer Analysis	Yes - Blood Work (Disease & Overall Health), Fetus Tracking. Reports provided to City.	No	No
Potential Blood Trail	None. Deer fall immediately. Removed Humanely. Blood Clean-up provided by USDA.	100-300 Yards	Deer shot in trap. Removal provided by NARS.
Safety Incidents	0	0	0
Work Area	Car	Tree Stand	Cage & Car
Required Acreage	0	Varies by Topography	N/A
Time	Night Time - Tuesdays & Thursdays (Least Busy Hours)	Multiple Weekends	Varies
Require Parks Shutdown	No	Yes	No
Bait Used	Yes	No	Yes
Tools Used	223 Handgun (With Silencer), Thermal Imaging, Trail Cameras	Bow	22 Caliber (No Silencer)
Mark	1 Inch/100 Yards, Silencer on Gun	5 of 5 arrows in 4" target at 20 yards	No test needed due to close proximity of the animal
Meat Donation	Yes - City Decision	No - Bowhunter recovers and keeps meat	Yes - City Decision
Season	January 1 - March 31st	09/17/16 - 12/31/16	Depends on MNDNR Permit requests from City
Special Permit	Yes - MN DNR	No	Yes - MN DNR
Agreement Required	Yes	Yes	Yes
Police Dept.	USDA Creates Safety Plan with Police	MBRB Works with police to ensure safety.	Discharge permit issued from PD. PD Notified when traps are being checked via phone call.



Ramsey County Deer Survey 2014

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

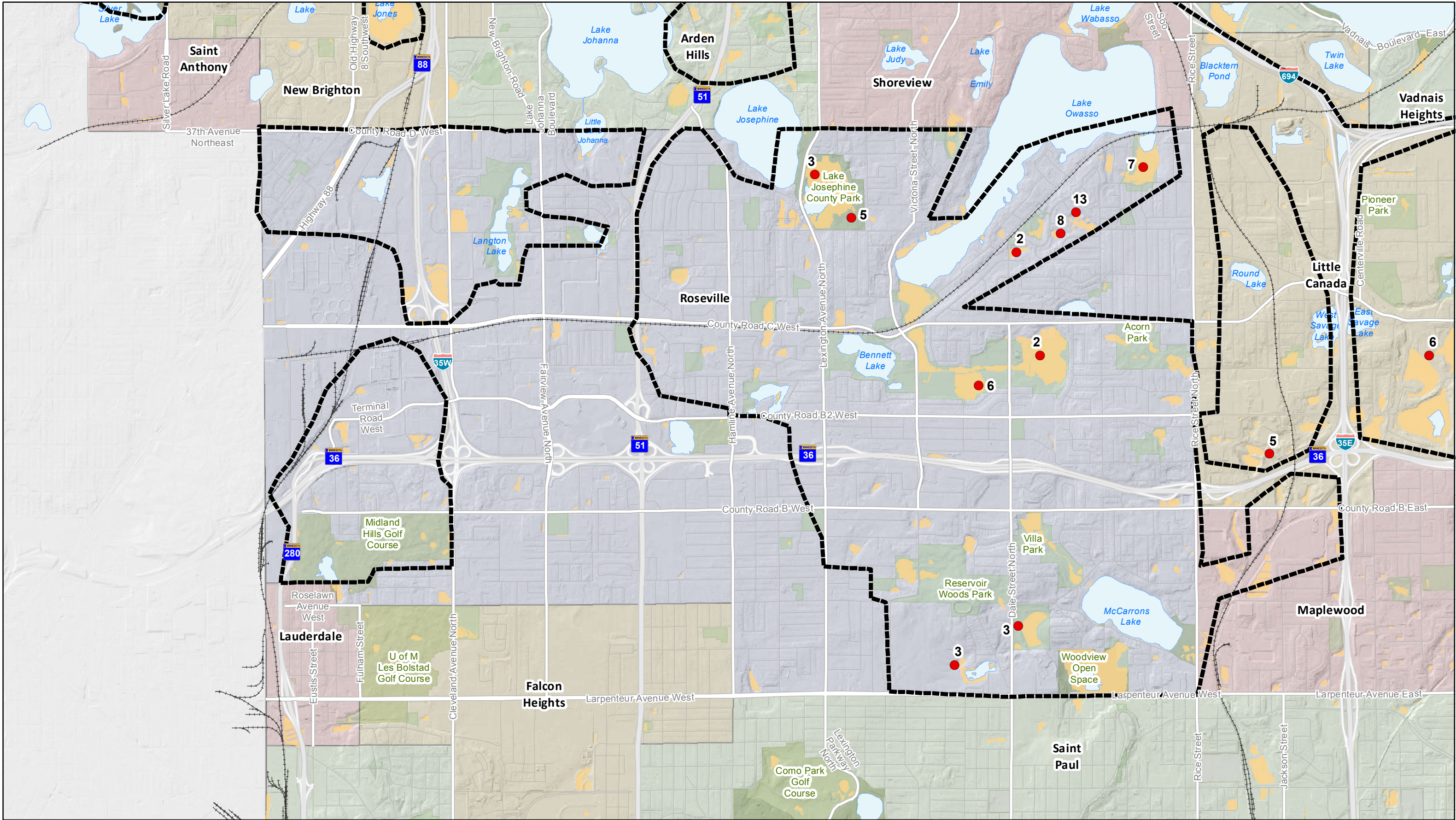
Survey Boundary

Wetlands

Ramsey County Parks Land



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

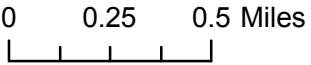


Deer Survey 2016 - Roseville

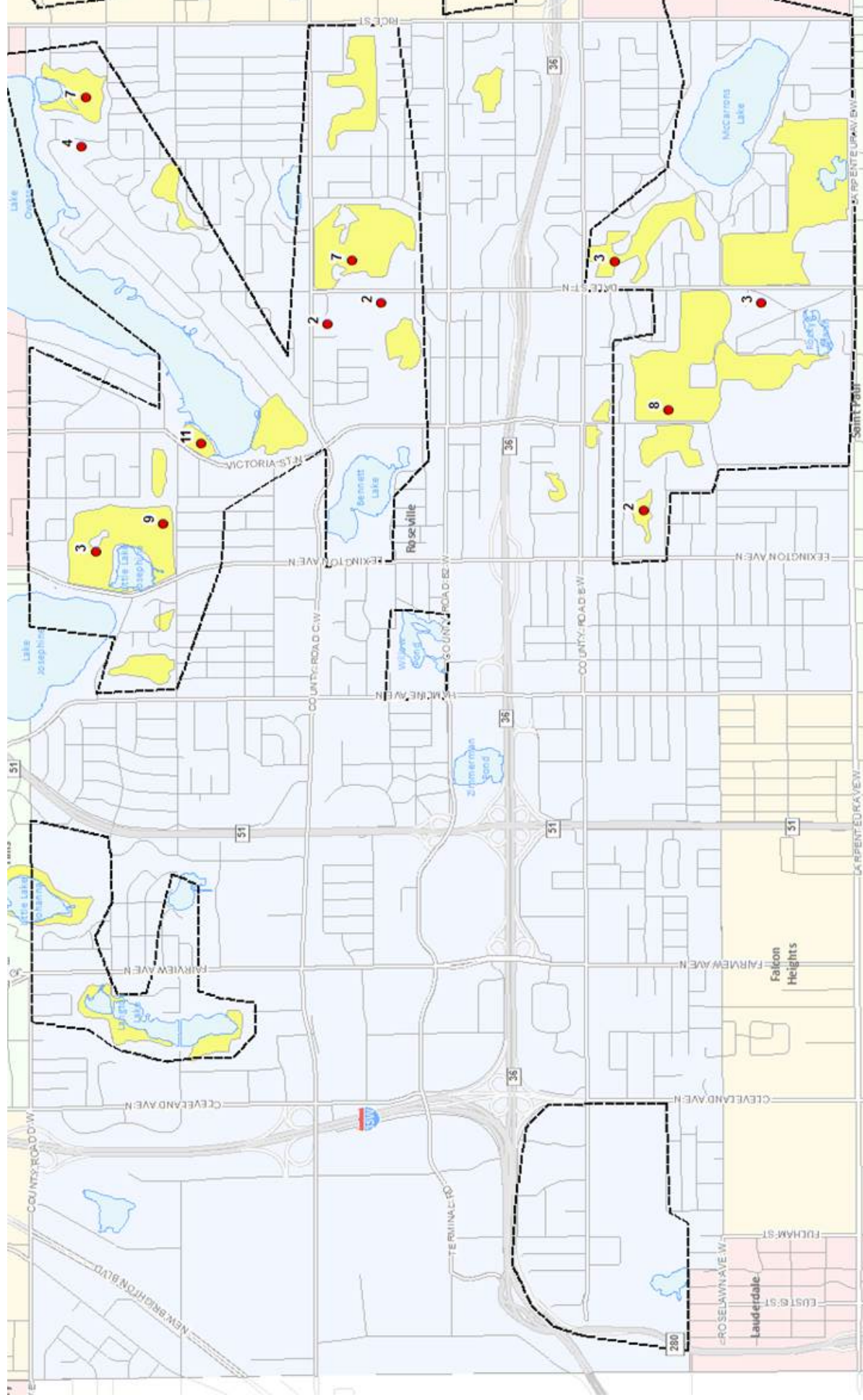
2-10-16

TOTAL - 52

- Deer
- ▭ Survey Boundary
- Wetlands



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



City of Roseville
ORDINANCE NO. 1485

AN ORDINANCE CREATING

TITLE 4, CHAPTER 411

**AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE
IN THE CITY**

THE CITY OF ROSEVILLE ORDAINS:

SECTION 1: Title 1, Chapter 411 of the Roseville City Code is created to read as follows:

411.01: PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this Chapter to manage wildlife within the city and eliminate intentional feeding of wild animals for the following reasons:

- (a) Management of wildlife in urban areas is important to the health of residents and the animals.
- (b) Population management of wildlife is necessary to ensure a stable balance of resources and the reduction in nuisances for residents.
- (c) Intentional feeding causes unwanted concentrations of wild animals, ~~which can destroy garden crops and landscaping in areas of the city.~~
- (d) Intentional feeding results in an increased potential of public safety problems including car/animal crashes and the spreading of diseases.

411.02: DEFINITIONS

Wild Animal. Any animal that is not normally domesticated in the state, including but not limited to raccoons, turkeys, coyotes, deer, feral cats, foxes, ~~and~~ skunks, and waterfowl ~~ducks, geese, swans, herons, and egrets.~~

411.03: FEEDING OF WILD ANIMALS PROHIBITED

A. Except as hereinafter provided no person shall intentionally feed wild animals within the City.

B. Intentional feeding is defined as distributing one gallon or more within in one 24-hour period of grain, vegetables, fruits, nuts, hay, or a salt lick on the ground or at a location less than 5 feet above the ground or at any other location or in any other manner that regularly attracts wild animals.

C. The provisions of Section 411.03 shall not apply to the following:

- 1. Persons maintaining incidental living food sources such as fruit trees and other live vegetation
- 2. Persons feeding common small backyard birds using self-enclosed feeding devices or containers at least 5 feet above the ground.
- 3. Persons that cannot physically place materials 5 feet or higher from the ground as long as they comply with the other standards contained in Chapter 411.03(B).

3. Employees or agents of the City, County, State, the Federal government or veterinarians who in the course of their official duties have wild animals in their custody or under their management.

4. Persons caring for animals at the Roseville Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

5. Persons bringing wildlife into Roseville for educational purposes.

D. Violation of this ordinance provision will be subject to an administrative fine of \$100 for the first violation, \$200 for a second violation, and \$300 for each subsequent violation within a 24-month period. This section does not prohibit, prevent, or bar any other applicable remedies available at law for any conduct described in Section 411.03 including, but not limited to, nuisance abatement, civil injunction or criminal prosecution.

E. The Community Development Department is authorized to implement and enforce the provisions of 411.03. The Community Development Director shall promulgate rules, regulations, and/or policies consistent with all provisions herein.

F. Any person or persons against whom an administrative fine is imposed under Section 411.05 may appeal such administrative penalty pursuant to Chapter 102 of City Code.

411.04: DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN

A. The City shall develop and maintain a deer management program to manage the number of deer that may be adequately supported by suitable habitat within the City of Roseville. At a minimum, the deer management plan shall contain the following:

14. Provision of education to residents on the best management practices for coexisting with the deer population.

21. A bi-annual deer population count, as weather permits, using methodology endorsed or utilized by Ramsey County.

32. Determination of the amount of suitable deer habitat utilizing Minnesota Department of Natural Resources information and resources.

43. Tracking of the location of vehicle/deer accidents.

~~4. Provision of education to residents on the best management practices for coexisting with the deer population.~~

5. Annual reports to the City Council on the deer management program, including information about other deer hunts conducted within Ramsey County.

B. Notwithstanding other provisions of this Code, for purposes of managing the deer population in accordance with the adopted deer management program, deer hunts may from time to time be approved by the City Council, including the timing, location, method, and safety precautions, among other provisions, for such hunts.

411.05 SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this ordinance is found to be invalid for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction, the validity of the remaining provisions shall not be affected.

SECTION 2: Title I, Chapter 503.10 of the Roseville City Code is hereby amended:

503.10 USE OF BOW AND ARROW

As used in this chapter, the term "bow and arrow" is defined as a bowed shaft of material such

as metal, wood or plastic, the ends of which are pulled into a bow formation by a string, cord, wire or any other type of material and used for the purpose of propelling an arrow by means of the power developed in pulling the string against the tension of the bow and further provided that the arrow used is pointed or is equipped with a pointed head of metal, plastic or other material capable of penetrating an object when propelled by the bow.

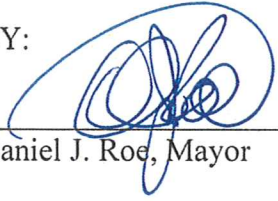
It is unlawful for any person to shoot a bow and arrow except: in a school program, on school grounds and supervised by a member of its faculty, a community class, a City Council authorized deer hunt pursuant to City Code Section 411.04, or on a bow and arrow range specifically authorized by the Chief of Police.

SECTION 3 : Effective date. This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication.

Wildlife Management Ordinance

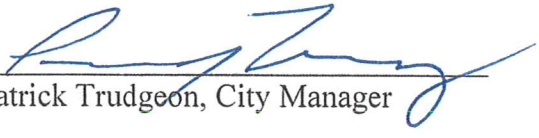
CITY OF ROSEVILLE

BY:



Daniel J. Roe, Mayor

ATTEST:



Patrick Trudgeon, City Manager

Seal

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3 **City of Roseville**
4 **Deer Population Management Program and Policy**

5 **Purpose of Policy:**

6 Based on the City of Roseville's desire to balance the need for urban services with the
7 protection and management of our natural surroundings, the city hereby authorizes its deer
8 management program. The program is intended to maintain deer as an asset to the
9 community; prevent starvation and disease from overpopulation of deer; reduce the number
10 of motor vehicle accidents involving deer; and preserve and protect the land of property
11 owners;

12
13 **Scope**

14 City staff will administer a program of deer management within the parameters established
15 by this policy.
16

17 **Deer Population Count**

18 Bi-annually, an estimate of the deer population will be made using methodology endorsed by
19 the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and conducted by Ramsey County.
20 This information will also be shared with the DNR.
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22 **Suitable Deer Habitat**

23 The amount of suitable deer habitat within Roseville will be determined by staff and updated
24 periodically based on development trends. Suitable habitat within Roseville includes city-
25 owned open space, private open space, wetlands (excluding water bodies), flood plains, and
26 any other undeveloped land. Minnesota DNR wildlife specialists establish an upper limit on
27 the number of deer that can be supported per square mile of suitable habitat.
28

29 **Removal of Deer**

30 The city may from time to time conduct a hunt in order to remove a portion of the deer within
31 Roseville. The City Council may order a hunt at their discretion after reviewing the most
32 recent deer population counts and amount of suitable deer habitat within Roseville. ~~Deer may~~
33 ~~be removed through the use of an archery hunt.~~
34

35 The city must comply with DNR regulations regarding the removal of deer. This includes
36 receiving any applicable permits and removing deer during periods authorized by the DNR.
37 Removal methods must be approved by the DNR and must ensure the highest degree of
38 safety to residents.
39

40 **Vehicle/Deer Accidents**

41 Staff will review the locations of vehicle/deer accidents and take reasonable steps to improve
42 the safety of these areas when possible and feasible.
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45 **Educating Residents**

46 The city will provide education to residents on the best management practices for coexisting
47 with the deer population. Other community education efforts will be undertaken to inform
48 residents about the deer management program.

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50 **Annual Report to City Council**

51 Annually, city staff will provide the city council with a report on the status of the deer
52 management program, including information about other deer hunts conducted within
53 Ramsey County.

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57 Approved by Roseville City Council: _____
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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.

