

Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department 2018 Ramsey County Cooperative Deer Management Program

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners, in December of 1999, approved a deer population management plan. Since the approval of the plan, the Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department has implemented an annual deer management program, which includes the use of archery and/or sharp shooting as deer management tools. Annual aerial surveys are conducted during the winter to determine deer herd populations. Locations for deer removal are set from survey and hunter statistic data and management tools can then be chosen to maintain or reduce deer herds. Deer herd populations that exceed the carrying capacity of the land can be detrimental to the overall health of the herd and impact the public through increased car/deer collisions and the spread of deer ticks that may carry Lyme disease. With guidance given from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources wildlife management, the deer population goal is 15 -20 deer per square mile of deer habitat in Ramsey County. The 2018 management program was approved by the Ramsey County Parks Commission on July 11th, 2018.

Annual Archery Program

Annual archery hunts are held at county park locations in conjunction with neighboring municipalities to maintain or reduce the deer population. A number of agencies and municipalities are conducting, or planning deer management programs within their jurisdiction, in addition to the management programs on county property. This includes the Arden Hills Army Training Site, H.B. Fuller, and the cities of Little Canada, Maplewood, North Oaks, Shoreview, St. Paul and Roseville. The cities of Gem Lake, Vadnais Heights and White Bear Township still allow archery hunting on private property.

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department, in cooperation with the affected municipalities, is proposing to conduct special archery hunts on 7 county properties in the fall of 2018, see Attachment 1. The program will be conducted using special archery hunts during the regular archery season. Participants will be selected through the Metro Bowhunters Resource Base (MBRB) and hunts will be restricted to dates established by the Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department. Archers will be allowed to keep the deer shot during the regular season. These hunts are expected to remove 70-115 deer. A total of 91 deer were harvested during the 2017 season, see Attachment 2, which includes the 2017 hunt summary and harvest stats.

Sharp Shooting Program

Firearm sharpshooting can be used to quickly reduce numbers to a safe level in areas where the deer herd has far exceeded the population goal. The Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department used sharpshooting in 2005 as a deer reduction option in conjunction within the cities of Maplewood and St. Paul. In 2014, 2015, and 2016 the Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department aided the city of Maplewood with coordinating sharpshooting on city and county land in northern sections of Maplewood.

In 2017 the city of Maplewood, city of St. Paul and Ramsey County Parks and Recreation department coordinated with the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant

Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services for the removal of deer through sharp shooting, within southeastern Ramsey County. The total deer removed within this area was 64, which was short of the 100-deer removal goal. Information taken from the 2018 aerial survey shows the population within this area still far exceeds the goal by five times the amount of deer.

The Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department, in cooperation with the affected municipalities, is proposing to allow sharpshooting on county land for the winter of 2018/2019 in select areas where the amount of deer is between 3 to 10 times the target population. At this time the areas of interest include locations within the city of Maplewood and city of St. Paul in southeastern Ramsey County.

Aerial Deer Survey

An aerial survey was completed in 2018, with a total of 659 deer observed within the survey boundaries. This is an increase from the 482-deer counted during the last survey in 2016. The deer population exceeds the overall goal of 15-20 per square mile of deer habitat in certain areas. See Attachment 3 for aerial survey map.

2017 Deer Car Collisions

There were 240 reported car / deer collisions in 2017 within Ramsey County compared to 235 collisions in 2016 and 222 in 2015.

Attachment 1.

Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department Ramsey County Cooperative Deer Management Archery Program (Fall 2018)*

Site	max # of hunters	expected harvest
(Fri-Sun)		
Poplar Lake	16	5-10
Pig's Eye	24	10-20
Fish Creek	12	8-15
Turtle Creek	10	4-8
(Mon-Wed)		
Battle Creek	26	15-20
Vadnais	20	10-15
Rice Creek North Trail	7	4 - 6

*Non-Ramsey Sites***

St. Paul

(Mon-Wed)

Highland	4	2-4
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(Fri-Sun)

Little Pigs Eye North		
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(MN DNR & City of St. Paul Lands)	4	4-5
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White Bear Township

(Fri-Sun)

Benson Airport	4	4-5
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*County Property used by city special Hunt****

Kohlman Marsh	TBD	TBD	--
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* All sites will have two 3-day hunts during October, November or December.

They will be Fri-Sun or Mon-Wed.

** These hunts are held on city owned property and approved by their city councils. Ramsey County Parks assists in the hunter management and coordination.

*** The City of Little Canada holds a special hunt on properties surrounding county open space. This allows them access to Ramsey County property. Ramsey County does not coordinate the hunt.

Attachment 2.

Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department 2017 Special Archery Deer Hunt Summary

Archery Hunts

Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department's 18th annual special permit archery hunt, in conjunction with St. Paul, Maplewood, Little Canada, Vadnais Heights, Shoreview, and White Bear Township, was a safe and successful season. There were multiple 3-day hunts in October, November, and December within 9 Ramsey County sites. Ramsey County assisted with the hunt coordination on two non-Ramsey County sites, which included Highland Park in St. Paul and land north of Little Pig's Eye Lake owned by the MN DNR and City of St. Paul.

A total of 91 deer were harvested, compared to 79 in 2016, and included: 36 adult doe, 18 fawn doe, 29 adult bucks, and 8 fawn bucks (see attached table). The antlerless harvest rate was 68% in 2017, which is a 2% decrease from 2016. The overall success rate for the special archery hunts was 66% in Ramsey County; state average for archery is 25%. The weather during the hunts started out cold and went to mild to then very cold.

Minnesota Bowhunters Resource Base (MBRB) provided 136 archers, including hunt coordinators, at each site for the 2017 season on Ramsey County sites. No safety problems were reported during any of the hunts. Some park users continued to use the park trails during the hunts, even with "park closed" signage. This is an annual occurrence and archers have adapted to the potential of having park patrons in the hunt areas.

**Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department
2017 Special Archery Deer Harvest Summary**

<i>Ramsey County Sites</i>	Adult Doe	Fawn Doe	Adult Buck	Fawn Buck	Site Total
Battle Creek	5	2	8	2	17
Vadnais Lake	4	6	3	1	14
Rice Creek	4	0	1	0	5
Poplar Lake	1	0	2	0	3
Fish Creek	5	3	5	2	15
Snail Lake Marsh	1	0	0	0	1
Pig's Eye	7	5	2	2	16
Turtle Creek	0	0	2	0	2
Tamrack Nature Center	5	1	2	1	9

TOTALS 32 17 25 8 82

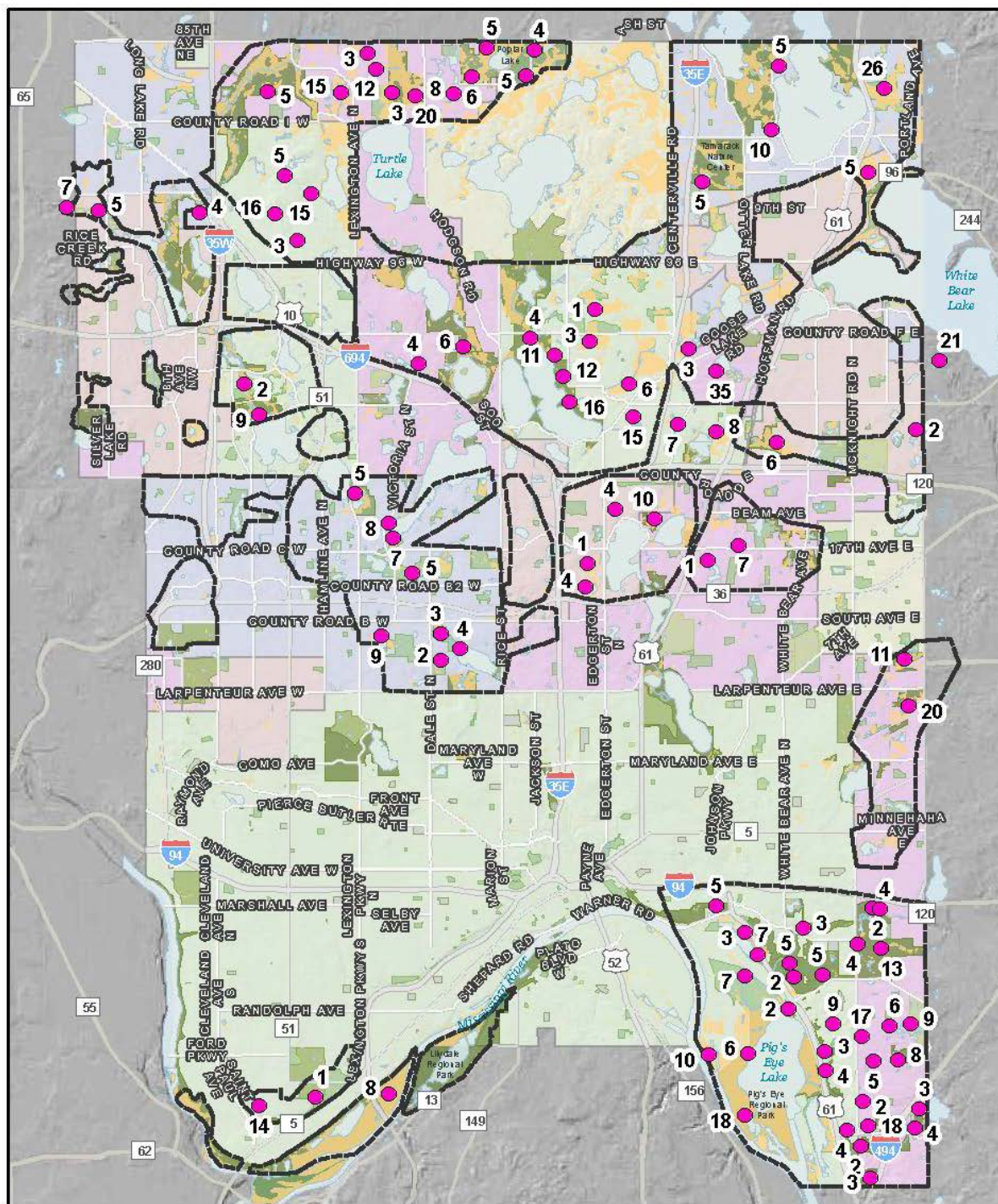
Non-Ramsey County Park Hunts

Crosby	4	1	3	0	8
MN DNR	0	0	1	0	1

TOTALS 4 1 4 0 9

TOTAL 91

Attachment 3. 2018 Aerial Deer Survey Map



Ramsey County Deer Survey 2018
Feb. 2018 - 659 Deer Total in Survey Areas

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

