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**Sponsor:** Parks & Recreation

**Meeting Date:** 8/23/2022

**Title:** Ramsey County 2022 Cooperative Deer Management Plan

**File Number:** 2022-442

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**Background and Rationale:**

On December 14, 1999, by Resolution 99-500, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approved the Cooperative Deer Management Plan for the removal of deer on Ramsey County properties. The cities of Saint Paul, Maplewood, Little Canada, Vadnais Heights, Shoreview and White Bear Township are participants in the Cooperative Deer Management Plan

The plan's management of deer populations in Ramsey County is through the use of archery and/or sharp shooting, in cooperation with neighboring municipalities. Deer 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 through the spread of deer ticks that may carry Lyme disease.

Ramsey County sets population goals of 15-20 deer per square mile of deer habitat, as recommended by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The deer population exceeds the overall goal of 15-20 per square mile of deer habitat in certain areas.

During the most recent survey conducted in 2021, a total of 447 deer were observed within the survey boundaries. In the fall of 2021, 50 deer were harvested through special archery hunts with an additional 50 deer harvested through sharp shooting.

In the 2022 Cooperative Deer Management Program, the Parks & Recreation department, in cooperation with the affected municipalities, proposes conducting special archery hunts during the regular archery season, running from October 7, 2022, to December 18, 2022. These hunts will occur on seven county sites and four non-county sites. Participants for these hunts will be selected by the Metro Bowhunters Resource Base. It is anticipated that these special archery hunts will remove 54-80 deer. Sharpshooting is also proposed in select areas which could remove up to 20-30 additional deer. Ramsey County Parks & Recreation staff have worked with the United States Department of Agriculture and local Minnesota Department of Natural Resources conservation officers to donate all deer harvested through sharp shooting to those in need.

**Recommendation:**

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

Approve the Ramsey County Cooperative Deer Management Plan for 2022.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Carter, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

By:   
Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board