

Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department 2022 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 population evaluations and management. Locations for deer management are set from survey and hunter statistic data and management tools can then be chosen to maintain or reduce deer herds. When weather conditions allow, annual aerial surveys are conducted during the winter to determine deer herd populations. With guidance given from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources wildlife management department, the Ramsey County deer population goal is 15-20 deer per square mile of deer habitat. Management tools are implemented in areas that exceed this population goal. 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 auto/deer collisions and the spread of deer ticks that may carry Lyme disease. The 2022 management program was reviewed by the Ramsey County Parks Commission members.

Aerial Deer Survey and Population Estimates

An aerial survey was not completed in 2022 because of poor weather and lack of snowpack needed to properly see the deer on the ground. During the most recent survey, conducted in 2021, a total of 447 deer were observed within the survey boundaries. (See Attachment 1 for the aerial survey map) The 2021 aerial survey will be used in conjunction with 2021 sharpshooting and archery numbers to aid in determining reduction methods and goals.

Annual Archery Program

Annual archery hunts are held at select Ramsey County operated park locations, in conjunction with neighboring municipalities to maintain or reduce the deer population. Several other agencies and municipalities are conducting or planning deer management programs within their jurisdiction, in addition to the management programs on county property. These include the Arden Hills Army Training Site, H.B. Fuller and the cities of Little Canada, Maplewood, North Oaks, Shoreview, Saint Paul and Roseville. The cities of Gem Lake, Vadnais Heights and White Bear Township still allow archery hunting on private property under certain city criteria.

The Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department, in cooperation with the associated municipalities, is proposing to conduct special archery hunts on 7 county properties in the fall of 2022. (See Attachment 2) The program will be conducted using special archery hunts during the regular State of Minnesota archery season. Participants will be selected through the Metro Bowhunters Resource Base (MBRB), a non-profit organization who coordinates volunteer archers from the general public. 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 approximately 54 - 80 deer. A total of 50 deer were harvested during the 2021 season. Attachment 3 includes the 2021 hunt summary and harvest statistics. Given the decrease in estimated deer population in select areas, several hunts will have a reduced number of hunters this season and hunts will not occur at Bald Eagle-Otter Lakes Regional Park.

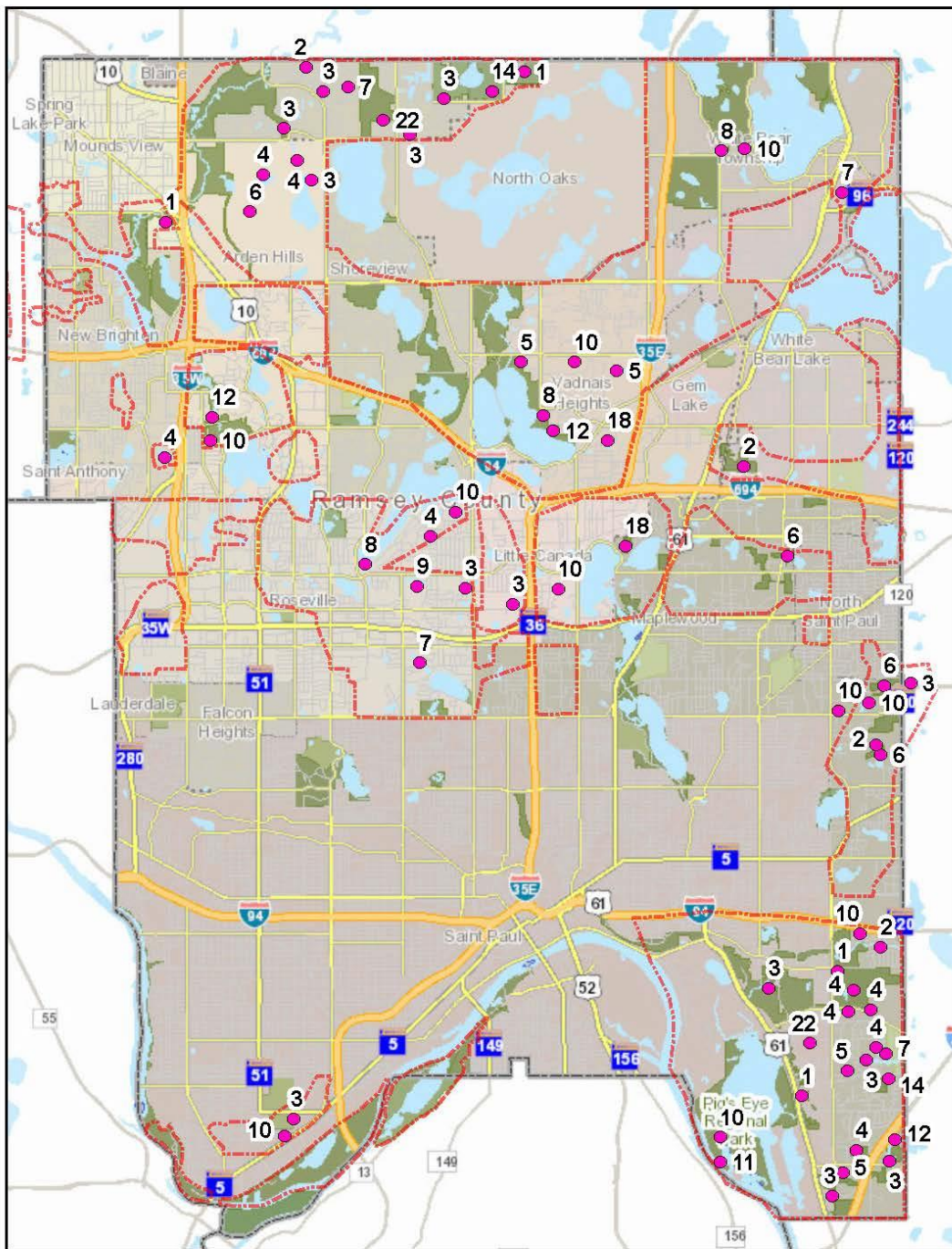
Sharp Shooting Program

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, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 the City of Maplewood, City of Saint Paul and Ramsey County Parks & 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 through sharp shooting and general locations is listed in the table below:

Location	City	2005	2014	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Highwood Ave Area	St. Paul / Maplewood	200			64	33	22	14	50
Larpenteur / Century Area	Maplewood		120	75					
	Annual totals	200	120	75	64	33	22	14	50
	Permitted take / Goal	200	120	75	100	75	75	50	50

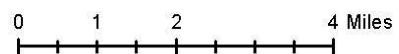
The 2021 removal efforts met the permitted goal of 50 deer, successfully reducing the deer population within the Highwood Ave area. The Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department, in cooperation with the affected municipalities, is proposing to allow sharpshooting on county land for the winter of 2022/2023 in select areas where the number of deer is between 3 to 10 times the target populations. Currently the areas of interest include locations within the City of Maplewood and City of Saint, which includes the Highwood and Larpenteur Avenue areas.

Attachment 1
2021 Aerial Deer Survey Map



Ramsey County Deer Survey 2021
 447 deer total in survey areas
 2/22 - 2/23

Deer 2021
 Survey Areas 2021



Attachment 2

Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department Ramsey County Cooperative Deer Management Archery Program (Fall 2022)*

Site	max # of hunters	expected harvest
(Fri-Sun)		
Poplar Lake	8	5-10
Pig's Eye	18	8-10
Fish Creek	12	6-8
Turtle Creek	10	4-8
(Mon-Wed)		
Battle Creek	15	7-10
Vadnais	20	10-15
<u>Rice Creek North Trail</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4 - 6</u>

*Non-Ramsey Sites***

Maplewood (Fri-Sun)

Priory	10	4-8
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St. Paul (Mon-Wed)

Highland	4	2-4
Crosby	10	2-5
Little Pigs Eye North (MN DNR & City of St. Paul)	4	2-4

* 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.

Attachment 3

**Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department
2021 Special Archery Deer Hunt Summary**

Archery Hunts

Ramsey County Parks and Recreation department’s 22nd 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 four non-Ramsey County sites, which included the Priory Park in Maplewood, Highland Park in St. Paul, land north of Little Pig’s Eye Lake owned by the MN DNR and City of St. Paul and Benson Airport in Whit Bear Township.

A total of 50 deer were harvested in 2021, compared to 82 in 2020. The 2021 deer harvest included: 18 adult doe, 4 fawn doe, 20 adult bucks, and 8 fawn bucks (see attached table). The antlerless harvest rate was 60% in 2021, which is a 14% decrease from 2020. The overall success rate for the special archery hunts was 34% in Ramsey County; state average for archery is 25%.

Minnesota Bowhunters Resource Base (MBRB) provided 147 archers, including hunt coordinators. 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.

2021 HARVEST STATS

<i>Ramsey County Sites</i>	Adult Doe	Fawn Doe	Adult Buck	Fawn Buck	Site Total
Battle Creek	4	0	6	2	12
Vadnais Lake	2	1	4	2	9
Rice Creek	1	0	0	1	2
Otter Lake	1	0	1	1	3
Poplar Lake	1	0	1	0	2
Fish Creek	4	0	2	0	6
Pig’s Eye	3	3	4	2	12
Turtle Creek	0	0	0	0	0
Tamarack Nature Center	0	0	0	0	0

TOTALS 16 4 18 8 46

Non-Ramsey County Park Hunts

Crosby	0	0	0	0	0
MN DNR	0	0	2	0	2
Benson Airport	0	0	0	0	0
Priory	2	0	0	0	2

TOTALS 2 0 2 0 4

TOTAL 50