
Sponsor: Parks & Recreation

Meeting Date: 9/2/2025

Title: Ramsey County 2025 Cooperative Deer Management Plan

File Number: 2025-321

Background and Rationale:

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

The CDMP seeks to manage the deer populations in the county through the use of archery and/or sharp shooting, in cooperation with neighboring municipalities. Deer populations that exceed the social or 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 2023, a total of 175 deer were observed within the survey boundaries. In the fall of 2024, 57 deer were harvested through the special archery hunts and an additional 29 deer were harvested through sharp shooting.

Based on the 2025 CDMP, in cooperation with the affected municipalities, Parks proposes conducting special archery hunts during the regular archery season, to run from October 20, 2025 to December 14, 2025, on seven 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 45-62 deer. Sharpshooting may be proposed in select areas with elevated populations; however, no areas meet the criteria at this time. Parks 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.

The Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Commission has reviewed the 2025 CDMP.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

Approve the Ramsey County Cooperative Deer Management Plan for 2025.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner McGuire, seconded by Commissioner Jebens-Singh.

Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Jebens-Singh, McGuire, McMurtrey, Miller, Moran, Ortega, and Xiong

By: 
Jason Yang, Chief Clerk - County Board