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**Sponsor:** Parks & Recreation

**Meeting Date:** 8/8/2023

**Title:** Ramsey County 2023 Cooperative Deer Management Plan

**File Number:** 2023-344

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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. The cities of Saint Paul, Maplewood, Little Canada, Vadnais Heights, Shoreview, and White Bear Township are participants in the Cooperative Deer Management Plan that involves the removal of deer on Ramsey County properties.

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 2022, a total of 175 deer were observed within the survey boundaries. In the fall of 2022, 61 deer were harvested through the special archery hunts and an additional 20 deer were harvested through sharp shooting.

Based on the 2023 Program, the Parks and Recreation department, in cooperation with the affected municipalities, proposes conducting special archery hunts during the regular archery season, to run from October 6, 2023, to December 17, 2023, on seven county sites and two 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 47-69 deer. Sharpshooting might be proposed in areas with elevated populations. Parks and Recreation staff will continue to work with United States Department of Agriculture and local Minnesota Department of Natural Resources conservation officers to donate all future deer harvested through sharp shooting to those in need.

The Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed the 2023 Cooperative Deer Management Program.

**Recommendation:**

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

Approve the Ramsey County Cooperative Deer Management Plan for 2023

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Xiong, seconded by Commissioner Frethem.  
Motion passed.

Aye: - 5: Frethem, Martinson, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Xiong

Absent: - 2: McGuire, and Moran

By: Mee Cheng  
Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board