

A Coastal Approach To Suburban Deer Management
for the
Village of Southampton



SCDM
Prepared by Michael Tessitore

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September 12, 2024

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SUMMARY

The Village of Southampton is fragmented by open space, residential homes, farmland, beaches and a vibrant business district. This coastal community realizes a reduction in their human population after the summer months and is well postured for a fall and winter bowhunting program. The less restrictive discharge setbacks for archery equipment and the proven success that Suffolk County Deer Management has had in controlling deer populations in Remsenburg, checks all the boxes for costs, safety and effectiveness that the Village Board demands.

In 2023, the Village of Southampton committed to a 3 year Deer Management Program, which runs from October 1st to January 31st with the option of extending the hunting program through New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) issued Deer Damage Permits (DDP). It is further recognized that fawn recruitment levels will need to be maintained once the desired deer population levels have been met. While some members of the community prefer non-lethal methods over hunting, the 6.5 square miles of diverse landscape bordering the Shinnecock Indian Reservation to its west and the Atlantic Ocean to its south, creates too many challenges in containing a sterilization effort in this uncontained environment.

PROBLEM DEFINITION & THE BIG 3

The east end of Long Island is not immune to white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) related conflicts. In fact, Suffolk County leads the state for the “most deer-related accidents” and is ranked in the top three of the northeast states considered to be high-risk areas for contracting 1 of 13 tick-borne illnesses.

<https://usafacts.org/articles/which-states-have-the-highest-risk-for-lyme-disease-and-other-tickborne-diseases/>

Besides public health and safety concerns, the ecosystem of Suffolk County is suffering major imbalances due to the overpopulation of deer. Deer overbrowsing has decimated the understory of our forests and wooded areas. Nesting areas and essential habitat for ground birds and other animal species has been destroyed.

“Additionally, browsing by deer at high densities:

- *reduces diversity in the forest understory;*
- *enables invasive species to out-compete natives; and*
- *prevents seedlings of many species from growing into the next generation of trees.”*

<https://dec.ny.gov/nature/animals-fish-plants/white-tailed-deer/deer-management-conflict-avoidance/overabundance#:~:text=Plant%20diversity%20and%20forest%20structure&text=Because%20mature%20canopy%20trees%20aren,to%20out%2Dcompete%20natives%3B%20and>

The Big 3; Motor vehicle accidents, tick borne illnesses and indigenous & ornamental plant species destruction are the main conflicts that have caused other municipalities in New York State to start considering “Suburban Deer Management” options.

For decades the five eastern townships have been primed for deer proliferation, especially since the establishment of the Community Preservation Fund (CPF) in 2002, which authorized these towns within the Peconic Bay Region to impose a real estate transfer tax to protect and preserve open spaces paid for by real estate buyers. Through its preservation efforts the CPF program has single-handedly created the most significant and expansive deer bedding areas and safe havens in our region. By preserving these naturally vegetative areas adjacent to urban sprawl, we essentially put the bedroom right next to the buffet table.

White-tailed deer populations have increased tenfold over the past 13 years, while avoiding carrying capacity limitations and superseding population densities well beyond what the natural habitat can support. It has been our experience that these sanctuary areas are also being used by neighbors and others for various activities.

Proponents of non-lethal deer management options will suggest that, “humans took away the deer’s habitat through the demand for development”, but the truth is, we have supplemented their nutrition with our backyard plantings, allowing them to thrive in areas that would not support their current numbers. We have also been told that the lack of natural predators on the east end has allowed deer populations to go unchecked, but research has shown that predators would never deplete a food source.

In fact, the eastern coyote, which has made its way to Long Island by traversing train tracks, tunnels, shorelines and highways, prefers soft targets like raccoons, mice and voles. Human trash also supplements these wily canine’s diverse diet and is easily accessible from NYC to Montauk Point. These de facto apex predators have no need to risk injury or harm by engaging big game animals like deer, when landscapes like Southampton Village provide the basic essentials for their survival.

REGULATORY CONSTRAINTS & DISCHARGE SETBACK CONCERNS

With many municipalities and local leaders seeking intel on how-to deal with deer and their effects on local communities, we must first recognize the legal mandate and regulatory authority as set forth by New York State;

“the basis for New York’s deer management program which is established in the New York State Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) which spells out specific policy, authority and responsibility related to the deer resource. Excerpts of selected law include:

[Section 11-0105](#)

The State of New York owns all fish, game, wildlife, shellfish, crustacean and protected insects in the state, except those legally acquired and held in private ownership.

[Section 11-0303](#)

The general purpose of powers affecting fish and wildlife, granted to the department by the Fish and Wildlife Law, is to vest in the department, to the extent of the powers so granted, the efficient management of the fish and wildlife resources of the state. Such resources shall be deemed to include all animal and vegetable life and the soil, water and atmospheric environment thereof, owned by the state or of which it may obtain management, to the extent that they constitute the habitat of fish and wildlife as defined in section 11-0103. Such management shall be deemed to include both the maintenance and improvement of such resources as natural resources and the development and administration of measures for making them accessible to the people of the state.

To such extent as it shall deem feasible without prejudice to other functions in the management of fish and wildlife resources of the state and the execution of other duties imposed by law, the department is directed, in the exercise of the powers conferred upon it, to develop and carry out programs and procedures which will in its judgment, (a) promote natural propagation and maintenance of desirable species in ecological balance, and (b) lead to the observance of sound management practices for such propagation and maintenance on lands and waters of the state, whether owned by the state or by a public corporation of the state or held in private ownership, having regard to (1) ecological factors, including the need for restoration and improvement of natural habitat and the importance of ecological balance in maintaining natural resources; (2) the compatibility of production and harvesting of fish and wildlife crops with other necessary or desirable land uses; (3) the importance of fish and wildlife resources for recreational purposes; (4)

requirements for public safety; and (5) the need for adequate protection of private premises and of the persons and property of occupants thereof against abuse of privileges of access to such premises for hunting, fishing or trapping.”

“the potential for deer populations to exceed carrying capacity, impact other plant and animal species, conflict with land- use practices, and affect human health and safety necessitate efficient and effective herd management.

Accordingly, DEC’s legal mandate for deer management reflects the diverse interests affected by deer and directs DEC to manage deer with consideration of ecological impacts, human land uses, recreation and public safety. Balancing the deer population with the often conflicting demands of the various stakeholders impacted by deer has been and continues to be a fundamental challenge for deer managers.”

- NYSDEC Management Plan for White-tailed Deer in New York State 2012-2016, Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources Bureau of Wildlife, October 2011

With this in mind, local leaders have been charged with weighing the options of the many approaches to consider for their deer management program, based on Environmental Conservation Laws and Regulations, efficacy, costs, implementation, operational constraints, stakeholder opinion and available resources. The Village of Southampton considered the totality of these components and adopted a Deer Management Plan that met the needs of their unique area, while also sharing their methodologies and experiences with others in this Community Based Deer Management Plan.

White-tail deer are considered a valuable big game animal to the hunting community and are highly regulated. The harvesting of these animals comes under strict guidelines, which are generally regulated under “fair chase” hunting principles and careful attention to their yearly harvest rates by hunters is measured by the NYSDEC. Legal hunting implements that can be used for Suffolk County (*Wildlife Management Unit 1C or WMU 1C*) are limited to bow, shotgun and muzzleloaders, but the village has opted to utilize bows and crossbows exclusively, with the following discharge setbacks and regulations as follows;

Bows

- Discharge setback 150’ from dwelling
- Long (stick), recurve or compound bow with a draw weight in excess of 35 pounds. A legal arrowhead is non-barbed, has 2 or more cutting edges and is at least 7/8 inches wide.

Crossbows

- Discharge setback 250’ from dwelling
- Consists of a bow, a string, and either compound or recurve limbs with minimum width of 17 inches (tip of limbs, uncocked), mounted on a stock.
- The stock shall have a trigger with working safety that holds the string and limbs under tension until released.
- It shall have a minimum overall length from the butt of the stock to the front of the limbs of 24 inches and be able to launch a minimum 14 inch arrow/bolt, not including the legal arrowhead.
- It shall have a draw weight of 100 to 200 pounds.

Crossbows are only permitted to be used in WMU 1C under an accommodation for disabled hunters or under a Deer Damage Permit, as long as the 250’ discharge setback for crossbows can be met. Due to their tactical platform and having the ability to be pre-loaded, crossbows are a great tool for suburban deer management and should be considered in the archery seasons of Suffolk and Westchester County. Crossbow use has been implemented in the SHVDMP on properties that have met the above mentioned criteria.

Additionally, big bore air rifles are not a legal hunting implement in NYS to date, but would be a highly effective tool for suburban environments with its less restrictive discharge setback and suppressed

report. Bows have the least restrictive discharge setback, which has proven to provide more opportunities for hunters targeting deer in sensitive suburban environments with minimal effect to the community. Below is a link to NYSDEC Legal Hunting Implements;

<https://dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/hunting/deer-bear/regulations#legalimplements>

EXCLUSION & OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Fencing in the “residence district” is limited to a side and rear yard height of 6 ft. with a front yard restriction of 4 ft. in height, limiting the overall effectiveness of excluding deer using these barriers. Only hi-tensile steel fencing with a height of 8 feet is effective in keeping deer out of secured property and currently is not an option in the village. Cattle gates are an effective addition to fencing a property where the driveway can not support an automatic gate.

Habitat modifications and native plant species, which are more resistant to deer foraging are recommended to property owners looking to limit deer foraging activity on their properties. Spraying of bitters and products that use capsaicin can be effective at protecting desired ornamentals from deer foraging, but become less effective overtime or when exposed to rain or watering systems. Cattle gates, scare devices, and effigies have additional costs, but are ineffective if installed without incorporating other methodologies.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The Village of Southampton did consider a multi-pronged approach toward deer management and like most municipalities saw an equally divided opinion on how to deal with the deer population by its constituents. Those who were indifferent toward the deer did recognize that the village needed to act swiftly before the population got further out of control. Those who supported lethal methods pushed for a deer management program forthwith and touted the success of other communities who engaged the help of local hunters. Having a small population of resident hunters, Southampton Village chose to enlist Suffolk County Deer Management and their vetted, trained and insured bowhunters for the village’s program. The choice to use experienced management hunters provided the accountability and data collection that the village desired to run an effective program. Local hunters are welcome to participate in the village’s deer management program but must go through SCDM’s vetting process.

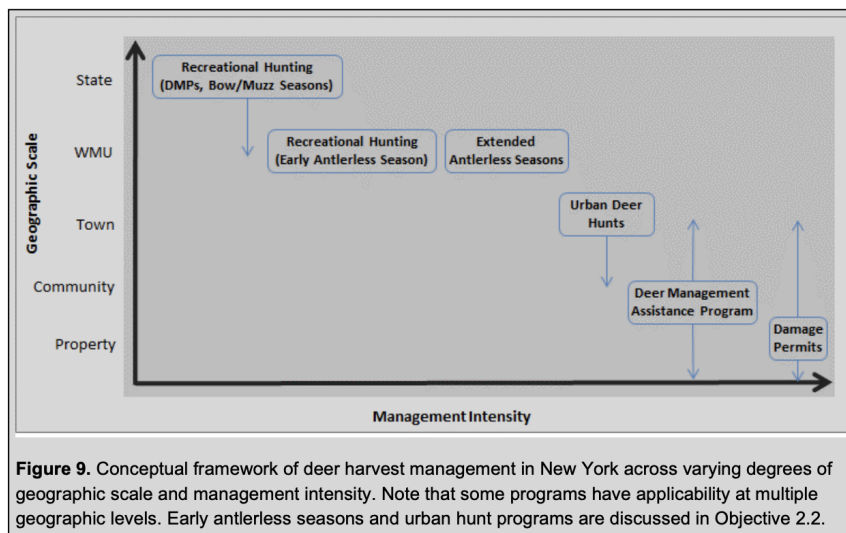
Non-lethal options were problematic due to the village’s size, the ability to contain a sterilization program within the village limits and excessive operational costs. Federal funding and grant money was not an option. When the public learned that the deer being harvested were also processed for human consumption, there was an overwhelming acceptance of the bowhunting program, in fact;.

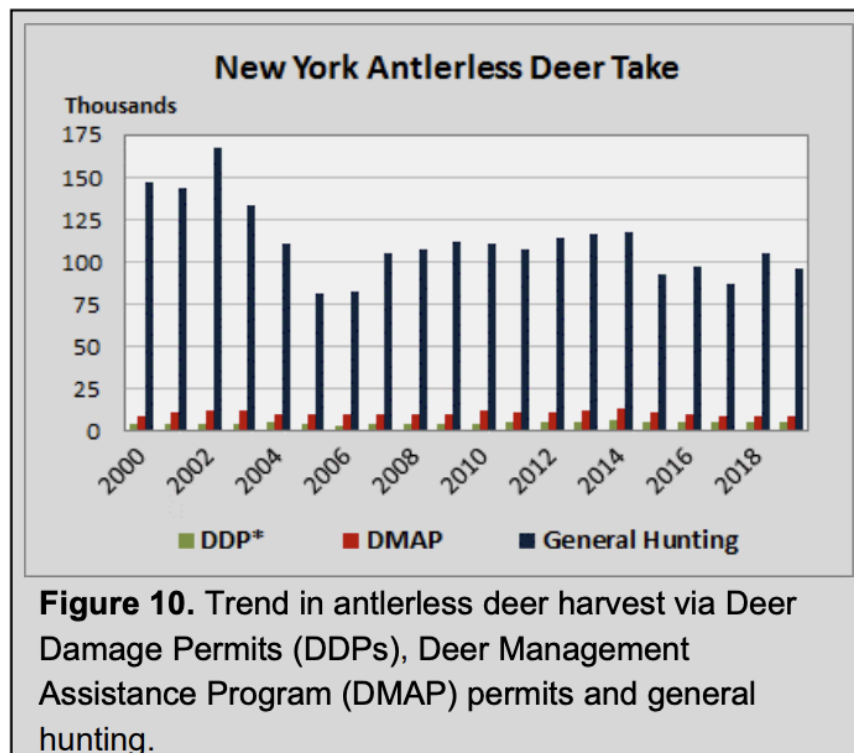
“According to research by both the federal government and the outdoor industry, the most supported reasons for hunting by the general public include food, wildlife management issues and human safety. Wildlife management issues, such as overpopulation, and human safety matters, while highly accepted, pull in many variables including habitat loss, suburban sprawl, trash removal and many other topics that can lead you down a rabbit hole of larger issues and points of contention with people whose background, experience and perception of hunting vary greatly from your own. As with most arguments in this country right now, perspective and perception muddle the conversation.”

<https://sportsmensalliance.org/news/the-gateway-to-hunting-acceptance/>

NYS NUISANCE WILDLIFE LAWS

“Each year, DEC responds to countless inquiries and complaints about nuisance and damaging deer or situations of deer overabundance (Appendix 6), and sometimes these contacts can be satisfied with technical advice alone. However, protective actions that landowners can take on their own are often not adequate to reduce damage. In many cases, deer population reduction is necessary, and DEC’s primary method of controlling deer density continues to be the harvest of antlerless deer during the fall hunting seasons. DEC has structured a tiered system of harvest management to provide meaningful scales of management intensity to meet varying stakeholder objectives (Figure 9). Regulated hunting as a tool for reducing deer-related damage generally works best over large areas or when damage is not severe. For intensive local site control during the hunting seasons, qualifying landowners can receive Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) permits. These permits provide antlerless tags for use on specified properties. In addition to addressing damage situations, DMAP facilitates custom deer management efforts by hunter-landowners who want to remove more does to change their buck harvest opportunities. In situations where significant crop damage occurs outside of normal hunting time frames or regulated hunting doesn’t remove enough deer to reduce damage to a sustainable level, Deer Damage Permits (DDPs) are an additional option with more flexibility. Most DDPs are exclusively for taking antlerless deer, and they often authorize methods that are not legal for hunters, like shooting at night with lights and taking deer outside of hunting seasons. DMAP and DDPs are designed for local effect; impact of these permits on regional deer populations is minor compared to overall harvest of antlerless deer by hunters (Figure 10).”





https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife_pdf/deerplan21.pdf

DEER DAMAGE PERMITS (DDP) EXPLAINED

“Deer Damage Permits (DDPs) may be issued in situations where deer harvest during the regular hunting seasons doesn't reduce the negative impacts of abundant local deer populations. These impacts include:

- *agricultural, horticultural, and silvicultural damage;*
- *impacts to biodiversity and native plant communities; and*
- *threats to human health and safety.*

Damage occurs under a variety of circumstances. In most cases, deer populations in rural areas are managed through hunting. This lowers the impact of deer-related damage. Some farmland may experience damage due to seasonal attractants, such as crops. If the property is located near areas with low or no hunting pressure, damage is more likely to occur. Likewise, urban and suburban environments attract deer due to limited hunter access. Vehicle accidents, vegetation damage, and tick-borne diseases create a need for population reduction.

DDPs are not meant to be a replacement for hunting. They should increase deer harvest by licensed hunters. Individuals seeking DDPs should include legal recreational hunting in their efforts.

DDP Rules and Regulations

Deer may only be taken by the assigned permit holder and approved agents. Permit activity outside of approved lands is prohibited. All deer taken must be reported to DEC. Permits are

generally issued for use before or after open deer hunting seasons. Deer damage permit activity may be limited to harassment techniques, though additional methods may be approved. They may allow the killing of deer through a variety of non-hunting techniques. These methods include shooting at night, use of bait, or capture-and-kill. Surgical sterilization of deer, as part of an integrated deer management program that also includes lethal removal, may be permitted. Removal of deer exceeding approved numbers is prohibited. Tags are provided for the number of approved deer per permit. Most permits are for the removal of antlerless deer (adult does and fawns) only. Capture and relocation methods are not covered under DDPs.

DDP Application and Eligibility

Individuals interested in obtaining a Deer Damage Permit should download a DDP application (PDF) or contact your regional DEC Wildlife office. Eligibility for permits is based on demonstrated impacts and the lack or failure of other practical alternatives to reduce the problem. Applications from municipalities or agencies must include a plan for monitoring impacts. This helps determine if their efforts are effective. Additionally, they should specify how they intend to distribute the venison. Applications are free and there is no deadline.”

<https://dec.ny.gov/nature/animals-fish-plants/white-tailed-deer/deer-management-conflict-avoidance/deer-damage-permits>

DEER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (DMAP) EXPLAINED

“The Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) enables biologists to help landowners and resource managers implement site-specific deer management on their lands. DEC issues a special permit and a determined number of deer tags to a landowner or resource manager, or a group of landowners or resource managers, whose property is in need of site-specific deer management efforts. DMAP permits are valid for use only during the open deer hunting seasons and can only be used by licensed hunters. Only deer without antlers or having antlers measuring less than three inches in length may be taken under the authority of a DMAP permit.

Responsibilities

Under DMAP, the landowner or resource manager is responsible for distributing the antlerless deer tags. Hunters hunting under DMAP are responsible for reporting each harvested deer to both the permit holder and to DEC. The permit holder must submit a harvest summary report to DEC each year, postmarked by January 15, except that permit holders in Suffolk County must send their report by February 15. All DMAP permits will expire on July 31, three (3) years following the year of application, unless revoked earlier by the department.

Number of Tags

No more than two DMAP tags (four as per below) may be used per hunter per year per DMAP permit. A hunter may fill two tags (four as per below) on each of multiple separate DMAP permits. There is no limit on the number of DMAP permits that a hunter may be authorized to take deer on. Additionally, the department, at its discretion, may authorize the use of up to four DMAP tags per hunter per year on DMAP permits in Wildlife Management Units where the objective is to reduce the deer population.

DMAP is intended to supplement but not replace Deer Management Permits on specific sites. In some situations, Damage Permits may also be necessary to help landowners reduce deer numbers.

DMAP Eligibility

To be eligible for DMAP, applicant(s) must own or control lands in New York State that meet one of the following criteria:

- *Land where agricultural damage has been documented or can be documented by the DEC, or:*
- *A municipality that has an identified social or ecological problem due to deer within their municipal boundary. Municipal applicants must maintain a list of all participating properties with written consent of the associated landowners. They must ensure a process of tag distribution that provides equal opportunity for licensed hunters, or:*
- *Land where deer damage to significant natural communities has been documented or can be documented by the DEC, or:*
- *Land contained in one or more parcels totaling 100 or more acres of forest land and sharing a contiguous boundary, or multiple non-contiguous parcels of forest land of at least 100 acres each within the same or adjacent Wildlife Management Unit(s), where forest regeneration is negatively impacted by deer. Parcels of less than 100 acres may also be considered, if enrolled in the Real Property Tax Law section 480a program. The negative impact must be identified in an existing forest and/or land management plan for the land, or:*
- *Land contained in one or more parcels totaling 1000 or more acres and sharing a contiguous boundary that is involved in custom deer management such as Quality Deer Management (QDM). A deer management plan is required, or:*
- *Land where deer damage has been documented or can be documented by the DEC, and which is adjacent to or bordering a parcel of publicly-owned land that is at least 250 acres and is not open to deer hunting by law, regulation, or public agency policy.*

Two or more landowners with contiguous boundaries may cooperate to meet the above acreage requirements to be eligible for DMAP.

Purpose of a DMAP

The Deer Management Assistance Program aids in controlling targeted populations of white-tailed deer. Additionally, damage to agriculture, plant communities, and property decreases. It improves landowner-sportsman relationships. Times and public attitudes have changed. Landowners no longer provide the level of open access they once did. DMAP offers an avenue for landowners to meet deer management needs on their property, while providing an incentive to give licensed hunters access to deer and deer hunting. Lastly, it helps to provide sound deer management practices, such as QDM, to produce custom white-tailed deer hunting opportunities.”

[*https://dec.ny.gov/nature/animals-fish-plants/white-tailed-deer/deer-management-conflict-avoidance/management-assistance-program*](https://dec.ny.gov/nature/animals-fish-plants/white-tailed-deer/deer-management-conflict-avoidance/management-assistance-program)

NON-LETHAL METHODS & COST CONSIDERATIONS

Sterilization programs for female deer like the Immunocontraceptive, “Porcine Zona Pellucida” (PZP), and contragestation agents, proved to be too expensive and limited in their efficacy. One could argue that if sterilization was truly an effective management tool for controlling deer populations and other species like wild horses, then sterilization by design and application would completely eviscerate these animals from the landscape. Additionally, the use of chemicals to anesthetize these animals prior to the sterilization process are also a concern for the environment, the general public and hunters who may feed a chemically injected deer to their family.

Sterilization of males requires the same methods and tactics as mentioned above including capture, tagging and surgical procedures, which must be performed under “special permits”, as well as requires additional police resources, public participation and highly trained veterinarian staff to effectuate the

program. Support staff compensation was a budgetary concern and did not fit within the village's capital projects goal.

As a diverse coastal community with a history of hunting, it was clear that the residents of the Village of Southampton would be better served facilitating a controlled hunting program rather than a costly, experimental program. The goal of any animal population control program is to not extinct the species, but to reduce the numbers to a manageable level that benefits the community and environment. Below is an article high-lighting the costs of sterilization programs from other areas.

Ineffective Deer Sterilization Programs Cost Taxpayers Millions
by Brian McCombie

"Apparently, sterilizing wild deer can be an extremely good-paying job—with taxpayers footing some extremely large bills. According to the Staten Island Advocate, a deer sterilization program currently being run in Staten Island, N.Y., had an operating budget of \$4.1 million.

However, the article revealed that "a detailed cost breakdown of the three-year program obtained by the Advance through a Freedom of Information Law request shows that just 7.6 percent of [that]...went toward supplies to sterilize the borough's bucks and bait to lure them. The remaining \$3.7 million of that contract was used to pay senior scientists, wildlife biologists and technicians, and veterinarians charged with capturing and sterilizing the deer."

Many of the people working on the sterilization program earned six-figure incomes for less than six months' worth of work.

"In the first year of the program," the Advocate reported, "one senior scientist charged with 'capture and sterilization' earned \$375,000 for just 150 days of work. Another senior scientist who documents list as doing 'site visit, project design and set up, administrative, permitting' earned \$58,650 for 30 days of work. Two other wildlife biologists, also tasked with capturing and sterilizing deer, together earned \$558,000 for 150 days of work."

The New York Post discovered much the same in its investigation of the Staten Island sterilization program. "Dr. Anthony DeNicola, founder of the nonprofit White Buffalo Inc., was paid up to \$2,500 a day for 250 days of project management and field sterilization work during the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 seasons, according to city budget documents reviewed by The Post."

Meantime, Dr. DeNicola's wife took in "\$1,600 a day for 150 days of work—a total of \$240,000...Together, the DeNicolas' bloated salaries gobbled up to 29 percent of the project's first-year expenses." White Buffalo also brought in a veterinarian from Wisconsin to train the other vets in deer sterilization techniques, paying him \$26,250 in total—or \$1,750 a day.

"Since then, the project's vets have been earning between \$1,050 and \$1,700 daily," the Post added. "So far the city has given 1,456 randy bucks the snip at a cost of \$2,652.95 per animal under the terms of White Buffalo's no-bid emergency contract."

Often thanks to the agitation by and insistence of animal rights extremists and anti-hunters, a number of American communities have tried or are trying deer sterilization as a way to curb problem deer herds. Ann Arbor, Mich., was the site of one such sterilization program—until the Michigan Legislature and then-governor Rick Snyder took a more common-sense stance on the issue.

In December, both the Michigan House of Representatives and State Senate passed a bill prohibiting communities from adopting deer sterilization programs. The bill was later signed into law by Snyder.

“The bill,” the Detroit Free Press noted, “targets the City of Ann Arbor, the only city in the state that has been using a sterilization program to help manage its deer herd... For the last two years, Ann Arbor has been using a two-pronged approach: using sharp shooters [sic] to kill the herds in open areas of the city and capturing and sterilizing does in densely populated neighborhoods.”

In 2017 alone, the city sterilized 54 deer and hired sharpshooters to kill 100 more. In 2018, Ann Arbor set aside \$370,000 for the two programs.

“Why do we need deer sterilization in the first place when we have sportsmen who are fully capable of managing our deer species?” said Rep. Triston Cole, R-Mancelona, who sponsored the legislation when the bill was up for consideration. “This is a wonderful opportunity for urban residents to learn about quality deer management and the benefits of hunting to the entire state.”

As NRAHLF.org has reported in the past, suburban and, yes, even urban deer archery-only hunts can be extremely effective means of controlling deer populations. And much of the funding for these hunts is covered by the hunters themselves through permit and application fees.

Maybe it’s time residents in urban and suburban areas faced with burgeoning deer numbers look to hunters to save them hard-earned tax dollars. Unless, of course, these same residents are happy with paying up \$1,000 or more per day, per person, for programs that have yet to be proven effective.”

In a letter dated June 30, 2017 to Mayor Dahlgard of Head of Harbor, New York, Dr. Allen Rutberg of Tufts University proposed the following;

“in October 2016, the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University and The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) jointly propose a cooperative deer immunocontraception project with Avalon Park and Preserve and the Village of Head of the Harbor (HoH).

While our primary objectives include further exploring the feasibility and efficacy of remote delivery of long-acting PZP vaccines and investigating non-invasive technologies for identifying deer, the overriding goal of this research project is to test and refine tools that will help better enable the wider humane management of suburban white-tailed deer populations with immunocontraception.”

http://www.villagehohny.org/tufts_deer_proposal.pdf

During the Avalon Park and Preserve and the Village of Head of the Harbor PZP Sterilization Program, Allen T. Rutberg, PhD of Tufts University and Kali Pereira, MS, BSN RN of The Humane of the United States;

“captured ~80 female deer over a three to four year period (winter 2018-2020 or 2021) using tranquilizers delivered by dart. All captured deer will be fitted with ear-tags to allow individual identification” at a cost of \$242,215.50, totalling \$3027.69 per animal.

These results proved to be extremely costly, while requiring the same protocols necessary for lethal management options including;

- gathering access permission from property owners
- shooting deer at close range with tranquilizer darts
- transporting the animal
- performing the procedure and then releasing them back into the field

In 2014, the Long Island Farm Bureau received a grant of \$300,000 from the federal government to kill deer on private and publicly owned land, thus elevating local budgetary limitations. The federal grant money given to the Farm Bureau was then paid back to the federal government’s USDA Wildlife Services

to be contracted to facilitate the culling program. The costs of federal agents killing deer on private properties ended with a cost of \$1592.50 per animal. In contrast, Southampton Village's Deer Management Program during the Suffolk County 2023-2024 bowhunting season yielded 103 deer killed, costing the village \$20,000, which equated to a cost of \$194.17 per deer.

Long Island White-tailed Deer Damage Management Demonstration Project Report, Prepared by: United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services, August 2014

"During this demonstration project WS had permission from 16 landowners to perform deer management on over two dozen properties. While monitoring these locations in eastern Suffolk County for deer sign or activity, WS removed deer on 12 properties—the remaining properties either showed no sign of deer activity or did not provide safe shooting zones. During 2014, WS culled a total of 192 deer from stationary locations and by mobile teams.

WS intentionally targeted adult female deer to further reduce the impact of the breeding population. In optimal foraging conditions, 1-year-old juvenile females typically produce one fawn per year whereas adult 2-year-old females will produce twins or triplets (Verme and Ullrey 1984), thus it can be estimated that the local population was reduced an additional 179%. All removals were conducted from the last week in February through the first week of April 2014."

PILOT HUNTING PROGRAM 2015

Beginning in 2015, the Village of Southampton worked with the not-for-profit *Hunter For Deer* (HFD), to develop an informal bowhunting program to test the waters on public acceptance and bowhunting efficacy in the village. The program focused on a small group of properties owned by proponents of lethal methods to address the deer on their properties considered to be a nuisance.

HFD was successful in lobbying for less restrictive archery discharge setbacks throughout the state in 2014 and also worked with Assemblyman Fred Thiele to write legislation expanding hunting opportunities and season dates. HFD's Pilot Suburban Deer Management Program in 2013, known as "The Remsenburg Project", was spearheaded by the Remsenburg Association and very successful within its first year. HFD used their vetted, trained and insured bowhunters to kill deer in the small hamlet at no cost to the residents. The benefit to the hunters was access to prime hunting opportunities and the ability to take home the venison to their families.

HFD's Certified Bowhunters took 71 female deer and 3 males that first season, proving that this type of program can be safe and effective for suburban hamlets in the Hamptons. In an effort to provide a more comprehensive deer management program for sensitive-suburban environments HFD transitioned from the not-for-profit to a private sector business named Suffolk County Deer Management (SCDM). SCDM had specialized training and licenses meeting the demands and requirements to perform special service for local governments. SCDM's "Bowhunting in Sensitive Environment's Course" also trained recreational hunters to be "management focused" and cognizant of working in tight communities with little room for error or conflict. SCDM's bowhunters are certified through its training course, proficiency testing and mandatory criminal background check. Many of SCDM's Certified Bowhunters also have the distinction of being NYSDEC Licensed Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators.

After the first hunting season in Southampton Village, under Mayor Michael Irving, the participating property owners noticed instant relief from browsing deer pressure. The 3-5 resident doe groups that were observed on each property were dispatched by SCDM Certified Bowhunters and removed in plastic sleds. Deer were gutted and processed at SCDM Headquarters in Westhampton Beach for human consumption. Data from the pilot program including date of kill, deer harvest numbers, sex, and property location were collected but not made available to the public since it was done informally.

POPULATION DENSITY & LETHAL CONSIDERATIONS

While hunting has always been part of the east end community, it has evolved from a “necessity” to more of a “recreational activity” for locals and visiting trophy hunters. The value and contribution that recreational hunting brings to the community is still a positive addition to Southampton Village’s pro-hunting Deer Management approach, but if left as the only management tool, recreational hunting would prove to be ineffective, as recreational hunters would only shoot deer with antlers on their head.

“The 2023-24 estimated deer harvest included an estimated 112,224 antlered bucks (i.e., adult males) and an estimated 97,557 antlerless deer (i.e., adult females and fawns of either sex). Statewide, this represents a 3.6 percent decrease in antlered buck harvest and a 15.6 percent decrease in antlerless deer harvest from last season. The decrease in antlerless deer harvest, which is approximately 15 percent lower than the five-year average, is concerning because DEC manages deer populations through actions that encourage harvest of antlerless deer. Harvesting antlerless deer helps ensure deer populations remain in balance with available habitat and do not exceed levels of public acceptance that can lead to increased crop damage, deer-vehicle collisions, and other potentially negative deer-related impacts. Harvesting antlerless deer also helps ensure deer are able meet their nutritional demands for antler development, fawn recruitment, and body growth.”

-NYSDEC 2023-2024 Deer Harvest Estimates

<https://dec.ny.gov/news/press-releases/2024/5/dec-announces-2023-24-deer-harvest-estimates#:~:text=New%20York%20State%20Department%20of,harvested%20an%20estimated%20209%2C781%20deer.>

In WMU 1C, recreational hunters only harvested approximately 10% of the local deer population annually and this statistic goes for much of the Wildlife Management Units In the state. In order to account for fawn recruitment every year, hunters need to remove around 23% of the local deer population annually. This trend has been occurring for the past 10 years with an extrapolated deer population for Suffolk County being estimated at 30,000 individual animals in 2013, growing exponentially at a 13% increase per year since. The increase in numbers has dispersed deer west into Nassau County, specifically 1 ½ year old males. The NYSDEC and other wildlife professionals do not continue to extrapolate deer numbers annually, instead they rely on hunter harvest reports, deer sighting indices and the examination of meat processing and check station records to evaluate deer populations for each management zone. Other factors that can contribute to fawn recruitment rates are predators, genetic disorders, accidents, injury, habitat conditions and diseases such as chronic wasting disease (CWD) and Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD).

“Notable Numbers

- 15.8 and 0.6 – number of deer taken per square mile in the units with the highest (WMU 8R) and lowest (WMU 5F) harvest density.
- 67.9 percent – portion of the adult buck harvest that was two-and-a-half years or older statewide, up from 45 percent a decade ago, and 30 percent in the 1990s.
- 49.9 percent – portion of successful deer hunters that reported their harvest as required by law. This is slightly above the five-year average of 48.6 percent.
- Approximately 1.7 percent – the precision of DEC’s 2023-24 statewide deer harvest estimate.
- 13,638 – number of hunter-harvested deer checked by DEC staff in 2023 to determine hunter reporting rate and collect biological data (e.g., age, sex, antler data).
- 2,713 – deer tested for CWD in 2023-24; none tested positive. DEC has tested more than 65,000 deer for CWD since 2002.

Deer harvest data are gathered from two main sources -- harvest reports required within seven days of harvest of all successful deer hunters, and DEC’s examination of harvested deer at meat processors and check stations across the state. [Harvest estimates](#) are made by cross-referencing these two data sources and calculating the total harvest from the reporting rate for each zone and tag type.”

-NYSDEC 2023-2024 Deer Harvest Estimates

<https://dec.ny.gov/news/press-releases/2024/5/dec-announces-2023-24-deer-harvest-estimates#:~:text=New%20York%20State%20Department%20of,harvested%20an%20estimated%2020209%2C781%20deer.>

According to discussions with Wildlife professionals and NYSDEC staff, the Village of Southampton is estimated to have over 100 deer per square mile. Environmental studies have shown that deer densities <30 deer per square mile in suburban areas, “allow for a healthier, more diverse forest habitat which can support a healthy deer herd as well as other native wildlife”, but all deer management programs need continued maintenance to cover fawn recruitment numbers in the fall.

“Population control programs have two phases: the initial reduction phase when the number of deer removed is high, and the maintenance phase after deer densities have been lowered and fewer deer are handled. It should be emphasized that any population control effort will require long-term maintenance. Management efforts may occur annually following attainment of population density goals or less frequently depending on program efficiency and local deer management objectives. Regardless of the culling frequency, residents should be committed to a long-term population control program to maintain the deer density near a community-determined goal.”

*–“Managing White-Tailed Deer in Suburban Environments - A Technical Guide”
Anthony J. DeNicola, Kurt C. VerCauteren, Paul D. Curtis, and Scott E. Hygnstrom*

“Deer play vital roles in the natural and cultural environment of New York and are highly valued for their beauty and grace as well as the utilitarian benefits they provide. However, the abundance of deer in many parts of the state is causing increasing problems, particularly in suburban and urban areas. This page and its sub-pages provide information on the origins and implications of this situation and various avenues for addressing these problems.

In response to this issue, in 2017 the New York State Legislature passed legislation requiring DEC to produce a [report on deer management techniques in urban and suburban areas](#) (PDF). The law specified eight topics to be covered in the report:

- 1. an evaluation of methods other than hunting that may be employed to reduce deer populations;*
- 2. methods to mitigate deer damage, including vehicle collisions;*
- 3. measures employed by DEC to minimize human-deer conflict;*
- 4. methods to enhance public engagement in and awareness of deer management issues;*
- 5. methods to reduce the spread of illnesses such as Lyme disease;*
- 6. identification of urban and suburban areas of the state with high deer densities;*
- 7. the basis for DEC's deer population target levels; and*
- 8. effective management measures employed in other states.*

Because urban/suburban deer management is complex and influenced by a variety of socio-political and biological factors, DEC organized this report as a comprehensive review of the issue, providing additional information beyond that which was requested by the 2017 legislation.”

<https://dec.ny.gov/nature/animals-fish-plants/white-tailed-deer/deer-management-conflict-avoidance/overabundance>

“In 2020, DEC began using a two-part approach to establish deer population trajectories for each Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) Aggregate, incorporating data about public desires for deer population change and the status of deer impacts on forest sustainability. Outcomes of this process yield a recommendation to manage the deer population toward an approximate 25%

increase, a 25% decrease, or for the local population to remain stable for the next 10-year period. We are now using a survey-based process to gather the information on citizens' preferences that will help DEC biologists set deer population objectives."

"In 2018-2020, DEC collaborated with the Cornell University Center for Conservation Social Science to survey homeowners throughout the state with questions about:

- their interests and concerns related to deer;*
- how they would like to see the deer population in their area change over the next several years; and*
- how important deer management issues are to them.*

2018: [Understanding Local Residents' Deer Population Preferences - 2018 \(PDF\)](#)

2019: [Understanding Local Residents' Deer Population Preferences - 2019 \(PDF\)](#)

2020: [Understanding Local Residents' Deer Population Preferences - 2020 \(PDF\)](#)"

<https://dec.ny.gov/nature/animals-fish-plants/white-tailed-deer/deer-management-program/determining-deer-population-objectives>

PLANNING COMMISSION - DEER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FORMATION 2021

In 2021, The Southampton Village Planning Commission was charged with spearheading a Deer Management Committee to research and make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees on how to deal with the deer issue. After several meetings with commentary by the general public and weighing the benefits of lethal and non-lethal options, the Planning Commission was comfortable recommending bowhunting to address the deer population in the village.

The diverse landscape, coordinated preservation efforts and the uniqueness of this coastal community has created the perfect storm for local conservationists, politicians and residents seeking balance between man and nature. Historically, the indigenous population has always had deep roots as a farming, fishing and hunting community and the tradition has continued since the establishment of Southampton Town, in that;

"The Village of Southampton, which was settled as Southampton Town in 1640 and incorporated in 1894, began with a small group of English Puritans who set sail from Lynn, Massachusetts and landed at what is now known as Conscience Point. It was to become the first permanent English settlement in the State of New York and was named after the British Earl of Southampton.

The early settlers established their "plantation" at the head of Old Town Pond, where it is believed they constructed their first homes. The Native American Shinnecock tribe sold additional land to the settlers adjoining their original grant of "eight miles square" and also shared their knowledge of planting corn and fertilizing with fish, growing crops, trapping game, and digging clams and scallops from the nearby bays."

- Zach Studenroth, Village Historian

- Munsell, History of Suffolk County, 1882. & Goddard, Colonizing Southampton, 2011

SHVDMP PROPOSAL BY SCDM 2023-2024

On January 04, 2024, Suffolk County Deer Management sent a Deer Management Proposal to the Village of Southampton Board of Trustees laying out the services they would perform and execute as follows;

["Southampton Village Deer Management Plan Proposal](#)

Introduction

The establishment of white-tailed deer in the village has prompted the Mayor and Trustees to develop a comprehensive Deer Management Plan for 2023. After much debate and years of consultation, the scope of the work has been agreed upon to remove the overpopulation of white-tailed deer, on village owned and managed properties, through safe and accountable bowhunting. If action isn't taken to control the population growth of these animals, there will be an increase in conflicts with the residents, the native landscape and understory will be decimated and a public health crisis will be imminent.

In the past, recreational hunters only harvested approximately 10% of the deer population in Suffolk County annually. In order to account for fawn recruitment every year we need to remove 23% of the local deer population. This trend has been occurring for the past 10 years with an extrapolated deer population for Suffolk County being estimated at 30,000 individual animals in 2013. Given this data the deer population in Suffolk County has grown exponentially at 13% larger per year since and has forced deer to migrate and disperse into Nassau County. In 2013 our 501.c3 not-for-profit, Hunters For Deer, created the first ever suburban deer management program, utilizing local recreational bowhunters, who were trained at our facility to be "management bowhunters". This style of accountable, pro-hunting deer management has been copied and adopted by many municipalities across the country because of its cost effectiveness and proven success at targeting local deer populations in sensitive areas. To be clear, this is not a recreational hunting opportunity, but rather a management program, designed to put the advantage in favor of the bowhunter and reduce deer numbers in specific areas. The benefit to the hunters, for their time and equipment, is access to deer rich environments so they can fill their freezers.

Hunting-implement discharge setbacks favor longbows in suburban areas because it is less restrictive and safe. In fact, there has never been a second party bowhunting incident in Suffolk County ever. Through our not for profit Hunters For Deer and our private company Suffolk County Deer Management, we have had zero incidents since starting our deer management program.

Below, I have created a proposed outline for managing Southampton Village's Deer Management Plan (SHVDMP), as well as, the scope of the work that would be required by the Wildlife Control Operator (WCO). I look forward to your input and the guidance from the Mayor, Trustees, SHV Boards, Department Heads and the SHV Police Department, as we navigate these final steps."

A map of the village was also created through the App "Huntstand" and divided the village into 4 quadrants and notated. Property owners who submitted SCDM's Property Owner Consent form had the option to participate in the program by selecting the appropriate checkboxes as follows;

"hereby grant exclusive permission to Suffolk County Deer Management and it's Certified Bowhunters;

☐ *to hunt and harvest deer,*

☐ *to be within setbacks and to recover deer that have been harvested,*

"on my property, in accord with the guidelines and standards, as set by the NYSDEC, during the 2024-2025 Suffolk County bowhunting season."

As properties came into the program, they were outlined on the Huntstand map and a symbol marking where to park and location of treestand was notated accordingly. The Huntstand map was dynamic and allowed SCDM's Certified Bowhunters to navigate the property in real-time using GPS.

A digital calendar program was also utilized to facilitate hunting schedules, stand availability, property restrictions and property owner notes. Participating property owners also had full control of the hunting activity schedule with some owners requiring certain restrictions due to work, family, laborer activity and personal vacation schedules. Google Forms were used to record data specific to deer harvest numbers, sex, location, time, and hunter tag information for each deer killed. Hunting Incident Reports were also generated to keep digital records of hunter harassment and incidents observed by SCDM's Certified Bowhunters while in the field.

VILLAGE BUDGET / TIMETABLE

Suffolk County Deer Management has proposed a 5 year Deer Management plan at the following costs per year to offset management and insurance requirements set by the village.

Year 1 - \$20,000
Year 2 - \$25,000
Year 3 - \$25,000
Year 4 - TBD
Year 5 - TBD

COMPARATIVE DEER MANAGEMENT COSTS

Other villages and towns have adopted Hunters For Deer's Deer Management Program and hired a Wildlife Coordinator / Manager to run their programs at \$30,000/year without having the proven success that we have had over the past 10 years.

SOUTHAMPTON VILLAGE DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN ADOPTED 2023

On 1/24/2023, the establishment of white-tailed deer, along with the conflicts they have caused due to their overpopulation in the Village of Southampton and the costs of past deer culling efforts, has prompted the Mayor and Trustees to adopt a comprehensive deer management plan, known as the "Southampton Village Deer Management Plan" (SHVDMP) via Resolution 2023-048;

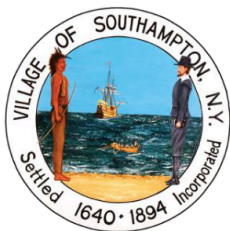
"WHEREAS the population of deer has dramatically increased throughout the Village of Southampton and has created health and safety concerns for residents, and

WHEREAS Suffolk County Deer Management has demonstrated that it meets New York State licensing requirements to provide the Village with deer management services, and

WHEREAS Suffolk County Deer Management possesses the education and training to provide such services as well as past experience with the Village and its procedures, and

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees believes that Suffolk County Deer Management's retention therefore will be in the best interests of the Village, now therefore be it "

[See Resolution on next page](#)



Village of Southampton

23 MAIN STREET
SOUTHAMPTON, NEW YORK 11968-4899

Phone: (631) 283-0247
Fax: (631) 283-4990
Website: www.southamptonvillage.org

Resolution 2023-48 1/24/2023

Information: WHEREAS the population of deer has dramatically increased throughout the Village of Southampton and has created health and safety concerns for residents, and WHEREAS Suffolk County Deer Management has demonstrated that it meets New York State licensing requirements to provide the Village with deer management services, and WHEREAS Suffolk County Deer Management possesses the education and training to provide such services as well as past experience with the Village and its procedures, and WHEREAS the Board of Trustees believes that Suffolk County Deer Management's retention therefore will be in the best interests of the Village, now therefore be it RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees authorizes the exception for Professional and Technical services contemplated by the Village of Southampton Procurement policy and approves the proposal and contract with Suffolk County Deer Management to develop a deer management plan for the Village in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 to be paid from Trustee Special Projects.

Department:	Village Hall	Sponsors:
Category:	Resolutions	Functions:

Financial Impact

Body

Voting

Motioned: Jesse Warren
Seconded: Gina Arresta
Y: Jesse Warren, Gina Arresta, Robin Brown, Roy Stevenson, William Manger
N: None
A: None

Certified By:

Cathy M. Sweeney
Village Clerk
Incorporated Village of Southampton

FIRST YEAR DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN RESULTS 2023-2024

In the first year running SHVDMP, SCDM reported the following results;

Total Deer Harvested: 103

Breakdown as follows;

Females - 83

Male - 20

Not recovered - 3

CONSIDERATIONS

While SCDM considers the number of deer harvested to be a success, if the team had access to more properties in the village, the program would have produced more harvested deer. Please keep in mind that the program is and can only be successful if more private property owners participate and support the program. Without hunting access, parcels become sanctuary spots for deer to thrive.

Properties like Wickapogue Pond, Ruth Wales Dupont Sanctuary and those managed by Peconic Land Trust, Southampton Town CPF, Nature Conservancy, Keane or Southampton Hospital are major sanctuary parcels in the village that hold significant amounts of deer. These properties also have been found to have tree stands, spiked trees and trail cameras on them, indicating that hunters are using these parcels, while the SHVDMP is not. While SCDM does support 'management conscious hunting', recreational and trophy hunting is not effective at managing deer populations exclusively, but does serve as an additive to the overall program.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXPAND THE PROGRAM

While we did focus on public outreach through our network, friends of the program and door knocking, in order to grow the program and be more successful next season we recommend the following;

- *create a page on the SHV government site supporting and promoting the SHVDMP and how people can participate*
- *send out a mailer or email to residents advertising about the village's deer management program*
- *promote the effectiveness and safety of the bowhunting program, noting that there has never been a second party bowhunting incident in Suffolk County*
- *address the trophy hunting, poaching and interference by other hunters in the village*

DEER DAMAGE PERMITS

Lastly, from February 1st to September 30th, the village and property owners can apply for Deer Damage Permits (DDP) to allow hunting to continue outside of the regular archery season. DDPS allow other tools to effectively target deer and do not follow fair chase principles that we are restricted to during the regular archery season.

I have reached out to DEC staff to see if we can participate in a Deer Assistance Management Permit (DMPA), but was advised to apply for DDPS for individual parcels if this was a route the village wished to pursue. It was also recommended to create a Community Based Deer Management Plan. In my experience and understanding the needs of the village, this would realistically give us an additional 2 months of hunting, February and March, since Southampton Village is a summer community and would probably not want hunting from April to September. This option is open to discussion and I will facilitate the goals of the village accordingly.

In closing, the results of deer harvested in the village were as expected and viewed as a success for the SHVDMP. In general, hunters take 2700-3000 deer in Suffolk County during the regular hunting season, including Deer Damage Permits. Other hunters in the village took an unknown number of deer in the village, as well as, drivers who had collisions with these animals. The baseline for the SHVDMP has been set at 100. We can go up, go down or remain the same, but these numbers will give us a true accounting of the deer population in the village.

In my experience, we will see a trend of deer harvest moving downward after the first 3 years and maintaining an average number at some point. That average number" reflect 23% of the total population, which illustrates fawn recruitment each year. It's up to the village to decide how many deer they are comfortable with per square mile at that point. We know that if an area has over 30 Deer per square mile, we will see indigenous plant species being destroyed and if we reach 15 deer per square miles, we will see a 90% tick reduction. Either way, SCDM is committed to reaching the goals of Southampton Village.

VILLAGE BOARD RESOLUTION 2024-377- CONTINUING SHVDMP

On June 25, 2024 the Village of Southampton Board of Trustees agree to a two year contract continuing the Deer Management Plan with SCDM as follows;

“WHEREAS the population of deer has dramatically increased throughout the Village of Southampton and has created health and safety concerns for residents; and

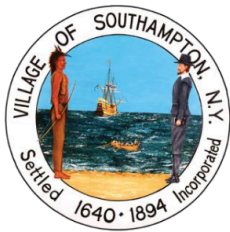
WHEREAS the Village of Southampton previously contracted with Suffolk County Deer Management to develop and implement a Deer Management Plan for the Village; and

WHEREAS, Suffolk County Deer Management has successfully completed its original 2023 contract with the Village, developed a deer management plan for the Village and demonstrated success in culling the Village deer population by 100 deer; and

WHEREAS, Deer Management for population control requires continued maintenance for long term success; and

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees believes that renewing our agreement with Suffolk County Deer Management is in the best interests of the Village;”

See Resolution on next page



Village of Southampton

23 MAIN STREET
SOUTHAMPTON, NEW YORK 11968-4899

Phone: (631) 283-0247
Fax: (631) 283-4990
Website: www.southamptonvillage.org

Resolution 2024-377 6/25/2024

Information: WHEREAS the population of deer has dramatically increased throughout the Village of Southampton and has created health and safety concerns for residents; and
WHEREAS the Village of Southampton previously contracted with Suffolk County Deer Management to develop and implement a Deer Management Plan for the Village; and
WHEREAS, Suffolk County Deer Management has successfully completed its original 2023 contract with the Village, developed a deer management plan for the Village and demonstrated success in culling the Village deer population by 100 deer; and
WHEREAS, Deer Management for population control requires continued maintenance for long term success; and
WHEREAS the Board of Trustees believes that renewing our agreement with Suffolk County Deer Management is in the best interests of the Village;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract renewal and extension with Suffolk County Deer Management for the years 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 to continue its deer management plan for the Village in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 per year to be paid from Trustee Special Projects.

Department:	Village Hall	Sponsors:
Category:	Resolutions	Functions:

Financial Impact

Body

Voting

Motioned: Gina Arresta
Seconded: William Manger
Y: William Manger, Gina Arresta, Robin Brown, Roy Stevenson, Leonard Zinnanti
N: None
A: None

Certified By:

Cathy M. Sweeney
Village Clerk
Incorporated Village of Southampton

EXCLUSION & OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Fencing in the “residence district” is limited to a side and rear yard height of 6 ft. with a front yard restriction of 4 ft. in height, limiting the overall effectiveness of excluding deer using these barriers. Only high tensile steel fencing with a height of 8 ft. is effective in keeping deer out of a secured property and currently this is not an option.

Habitat modifications and native plant species which are more resistant to deer foraging are recommended to property owners seeking to limit deer foraging activity on their properties, but local landscape professionals still receive requests from their customers for ornamental species like Hydrangeas, due to their attractive appearance. Spraying of bitters and products that use capsaicin can be effective at protecting ornamentals from deer, but are less effective overtime or exposed to rain or sprinkler systems. Cattle grates, scare devices, and effigies have additional costs and installation challenges but are ineffective without incorporating other methodologies.

FUTURE PLANS

The Village of Southampton chose to avoid a public health crisis by addressing the expanding deer population through responsible bowhunting. Doing nothing was not an option. The adoption of its Deer Management Plan, *“A Coastal Approach to Suburban Deer Management for the Village of Southampton”*, provides the village and other municipalities a template to perfect a deer management plan specific to the uniqueness of their boundaries.

The village will continue their Deer Management Plan during the 2024-2025 Regular Bow Hunting Season and incorporate Deer Damage Permits from February to March 15th with the hopes of reducing deer numbers to a manageable level. Sanctuary properties and other areas where deer are found to congregate will be identified and solicited to participate in the village’s deer management program. Property owners are encouraged to participate in the deer management program to help curtail the growing deer population before it becomes unmanageable.

MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES

Deer conflicts in the Village of Southampton will be measured using information and data from the following;

- Dead Deer carcass removal numbers from Highway Dept.
- Deer Harvest Numbers from SCDM’s CBH Tags
- Forest regeneration observations survey
- Public survey on deer sightings
- Infrared Drones may be used to gather population data in the future as the technology advances and costs become competitive
- Bait site monitoring may also occur during the winter months

PLAN FOR MONITORING

The Village of Southampton has decided to take a cumulative data approach from each season to understand the village’s deer population numbers. Instead of counting deer via extrapolation, deer harvest reports from the program will be compared annually, until the number plateaus and deer conflicts and sightings have diminished to an acceptable frequency.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Suffolk County Deer Management

- Michael Tessitore - Author / Deer Management Consultant

Southampton Village Trustees

- William Manger, Mayor
- Leonard Zinnanti, Deputy Mayor
- Robin Brown, Trustee
- Roy Stevenson, Trustee
- Edward Simioni, Trustee

Southampton Village Planning Commission

- Christian Picot, Chair ('25)
- Michel Brogard ('25)
- Michael Anderson ('27)
- Jacob H. Yahiaian ('27)
- Jeanne Sdroulas ('27)

Southampton Village Deer Advisory Committee

- Michael Anderson ('27)
- Christian Picot, Chair ('25)
- Michel Brogard ('25)

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING DOCUMENT / REFERENCE LINKS

<https://www.jimsterba.com/>

<https://sportsmensalliance.org/news/the-gateway-to-hunting-acceptance/>

<https://bioone.org/journals/journal-of-medical-entomology/volume-51/issue-4/ME13232/The-Relationship-Between-Deer-Density-Tick-Abundance-and-Human-Cases/10.1603/ME13232.short>

http://www.villagehohny.org/tufts_deer_proposal.pdf

<https://bpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.cornell.edu/dist/a/4227/files/2015/11/IntegratedApproachForManagingWTDDeerInSuburbanEnvironments-28ax086.pdf>

<https://bpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.cornell.edu/dist/a/4227/files/2015/11/ManagingWhite-TailedDeerInSuburbanEnvironments-132mruu.pdf>

<https://bpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.cornell.edu/dist/a/4227/files/2015/11/evaluation-of-deer-management-options-sk6qn4.pdf>

https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife_pdf/deerplan21.pdf

<https://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/Health-Services/Public-Health/Preventive-Services/Arthropod-borne-Diseases/Ticks>

<https://usafacts.org/articles/which-states-have-the-highest-risk-for-lyme-disease-and-other-tickborne-diseases/>

<https://dec.ny.gov/nature/animals-fish-plants/white-tailed-deer/deer-management-conflict-avoidance/overabundance#:~:text=Plant%20diversity%20and%20forest%20structure&text=Because%20mature%20canopy%20trees%20are,to%20out%20Dcompete%20natives%3B%20and>

<https://dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/hunting/deer-bear/regulations>

<https://www.townofbethlehem.org/DocumentCenter/View/4427/Deer-PZP-Fact-Sheet-7-12?bidId=>