

Forest Preserve District of Will County

Deer Management Program 2021-2022 Report

**Summary Report for IDNR Deer Population Control Permit Numbers:
TSP016-21, TSP017-21, TSP018-21, TSP019-21, TSP020-21, TSP020-21B,
TSP021-21, TSP022-21, and TSP023-21**

The Forest Preserve District of Will County removed a total of 280 white-tailed deer from eight preserve areas permitted for deer management (Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve, Romeoville Prairie Nature Preserve, Messenger Woods Complex, Hickory Creek Preserve, Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve, Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve, Plum Valley Preserve, and the Kankakee Sands Complex) between November 29, 2021 and February 7, 2022.

Freedom Sausage, of Earlville, Illinois, processed 279 deer producing 4,371 pounds of ground venison. Northern Illinois Food Bank, in St. Charles, Illinois received the ground venison for distribution to needy families in northeastern Illinois. One deer was deemed unfit for human consumption due to poor health and disposed of properly. Internal organs and waste materials were collected for rendering by Kaluzny Brothers of Joliet, Illinois.

As directed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, samples were taken from certain deer to test for Chronic Wasting Disease before they were processed. The 128 samples collected were shipped to the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. All samples tested negative for CWD.

Brief analysis of the data indicates that, of the deer removed, 50% were female and 50% were male; 56% of all deer removed this season were adults, and 53% of all females were visibly pregnant. Across all preserves in 2021-2022, the 140 females taken averaged 119 lbs., and the 140 males taken averaged 133 lbs.

Table 1. Age and sex distribution of all deer removed per site

PRESERVE	MALE	FEMALE	ADULT	YEARLING	FAWN	TOTAL
Lockport Prairie	5	10	10	4	1	15
Romeoville Prairie	7	4	8	3	0	11
Messenger Woods Complex	19	11	25	3	2	30
Hickory Creek	27	37	36	9	19	64
Goodenow Grove	31	19	24	11	15	50
Thorn Creek Woods	20	30	28	9	13	50
Plum Valley Preserve	13	17	18	2	10	30
Kankakee Sands Area	18	12	9	9	12	30
TOTAL	140	140	158	50	72	280
PERCENT	50%	50%	56%	18%	26%	

The Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve (LPN) take consisted of 10 females with an average weight of 130 lbs. and 5 males with an average weight of 144 lbs.

Table 2. Average deer weights (lbs.) by sex and age at Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve

Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve Summary								
Females	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight		Males	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight
Adult	6	894	149		Adult	4	613	153
Yearling	3	329	110		Yearling	1	106	106
Fawn	1	81	81		Fawn	0	0	N/A
Total	10	1305	130		Total	5	718	144

The Romeoville Prairie Complex (RPN) produced 4 females averaging 124 pounds and 7 males averaging 154 pounds.

Table 3. Average deer weights (lbs.) by sex and age at the Romeoville Prairie Complex

Romeoville Prairie Nature Preserve Summary								
Females	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight		Males	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight
Adult	2	268	134		Adult	6	979	163
Yearling	2	229	114		Yearling	1	102	102
Fawn	0	0	N/A		Fawn	0	0	N/A
Total	4	497	124		Total	7	1080	154

The Messenger Woods Complex (MWN) produced 11 females with an average weight of 141 lbs. and 19 males with an average weight of 149 lbs.

Table 4. Average deer weights (lbs.) by sex and age at the Messenger Woods Complex

Messenger Woods Complex Summary								
Females	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight		Males	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight
Adult	8	1232	154		Adult	17	2638	155
Yearling	2	227	113		Yearling	1	108	108
Fawn	1	88	88		Fawn	1	86	86
Total	11	1546	141		Total	19	2832	149

Hickory Creek Preserve (HCP) produced 37 females with an average weight of 118 lbs. and 24 males with an average weight of 146 lbs.

Table 5. Average deer weights (lbs.) by sex and age at Hickory Creek Preserve

Hickory Creek Preserve Summary								
Females	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight		Males	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight
Adult	20	2865	143		Adult	16	2481	155
Yearling	5	581	116		Yearling	4	461	115
Fawn	12	937	78		Fawn	7	568	81
Total	37	4383	118		Total	24	3510	146

Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve (GGN) produced 19 females with an average weight of 121 lbs. and 31 males with an average weight of 118 lbs.

Table 6. Average deer weights (lbs.) by sex and age at Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve

Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve Summary								
Females	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight		Males	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight
Adult	12	1719	143		Adult	12	1811	151
Yearling	1	115	115		Yearling	10	1090	109
Fawn	6	473	79		Fawn	9	753	84
Total	19	2306	121		Total	31	3654	118

The Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve (TCN) produced 30 females with an average weight of 120 lbs. and 20 males with an average weight of 149 lbs.

Table 7. Average deer weights (lbs.) by sex and age at Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve

Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve Summary								
Females	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight		Males	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight
Adult	14	2045	146		Adult	14	2453	175
Yearling	7	838	120		Yearling	2	203	101
Fawn	9	706	78		Fawn	4	324	81
Total	30	3590	120		Total	20	2980	149

Plum Valley Preserve (PVP) produced 17 females with an average weight of 131 lbs. and 13 males with an average weight of 121 lbs.

Table 8. Average deer weights (lbs.) by sex and age Plum Valley Preserve

Plum Valley Preserve Summary								
Females	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight		Males	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight
Adult	11	1695	154		Adult	7	1041	149
Yearling	1	123	123		Yearling	1	110	110
Fawn	5	408	82		Fawn	5	426	85
Total	17	2225	131		Total	13	1577	121

The Kankakee Sands Geologic Area produced 12 females with an average weight of 111 lbs. and 18 males with an average weight of 104 lbs.

Table 9. Average deer weights (lbs.) by sex and age at Kankakee Sands Geologic Area

Kankakee Sands Complex Summary								
Females	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight		Males	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight
Adult	4	560	140		Adult	5	673	135
Yearling	5	543	109		Yearling	4	448	112
Fawn	3	228	76		Fawn	9	759	84
Total	12	1331	111		Total	18	1880	104