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# **Forest Preserve District of Will County**

## **Deer Management Program 2024-2025 Report**

**Summary Report for IDNR Deer Population Control Permit Numbers  
TSP025-24, TSP026-24, TSP026-24B, TSP027-24, TSP028-24, TSP029-24,  
TSP030-24, TSP031-24, TSP032-24, and TSP033-24.**

The Forest Preserve District of Will County removed a total of 274 white-tailed deer from nine preserve areas permitted for deer management (Lockport Prairie Complex, Romeoville Prairie Nature Preserve, Messenger Woods Complex, Hickory Creek Preserve, Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve, Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve, Raccoon Grove Complex, McKinley Woods Preserve, and the Kankakee Sands Complex) between December 2, 2024 and February 13, 2025.

Freedom Sausage, of Earlville, Illinois, processed 271 deer producing 10,755 pounds of ground venison. Northern Illinois Food Bank, in St. Charles, Illinois received the ground venison for distribution to needy families in northeastern Illinois. Internal organs and waste materials were collected for rendering by Kaluzny Brothers of Joliet, Illinois. One deer was deemed unsuitable for human consumption and properly disposed of.

As directed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, samples were taken from certain deer to test for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) before they were processed. The 135 samples collected were shipped to the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Two samples tested positive for CWD from the Kankakee Sands Complex. The meat from the two positive deer was collected by IDNR for disposition.

Brief analysis of the data indicates that, of the deer removed, 47% were female and 53% were male; 51% of all deer removed this season were adults, and 43% of all females were visibly pregnant. Across all preserves, the 129 females averaged 119 lbs., and the 145 males averaged 123 lbs.

Table 1. Age and sex distributions of all deer removed in the 2024-2025 season per site

Preserve Complex	Male	Female	Adult	Yearling	Fawn	Total
Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve	20	27	23	4	20	47
Hickory Creek Preserve	32	29	32	7	22	61
Lockport Prairie Complex	17	13	16	5	9	30
Messenger Woods Complex	20	10	20	0	10	30
McKinley Woods Preserve	14	10	11	3	10	24
Raccoon Grove Complex	6	4	7	1	2	10
Romeoville Prairie Complex	12	8	6	3	11	20
Sands Complex	11	11	14	3	5	22
Thorn Creek Nature Preserve	13	17	11	2	17	30
<b>Total:</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>274</b>
<b>Percent:</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>39%</b>	

Table 2. Average weights in pounds of male and female deer removed in the 2024-2025 season per site

<b>Preserve Complex</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve	122	114
Hickory Creek Preserve	126	125
Lockport Prairie Complex	126	117
Messenger Woods Complex	155	125
McKinley Woods Preserve	111	116
Raccoon Grove Complex	162	120
Romeoville Prairie Complex	125	95
Sands Complex	128	126
Thorn Creek Nature Preserve	99	102
<b>Overall Average:</b>	128	116