

# **Forest Preserve District of Will County**

## **Deer Management Program 2016-2017 Report**

**Summary Report for IDNR Deer Population Control Permit Numbers:**  
JMJO20-16, JMJO21-16, JMJO22-16, JMJO23-16, JMJO24-16, JMJO25-16, JMJO26-16, JMJO27-  
16, JMJO28-16

The Forest Preserve District of Will County removed a total of 187 white-tailed deer from nine preserve areas permitted for deer management (Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve, Romeoville Prairie Nature Preserve, McKinley Woods Preserve, Lockport Prairie East, Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve, Hickory Creek Preserve, Raccoon Grove Nature Preserve, Thorn Creek Preserve and Prairie Bluff Preserve) between December 06, 2016 and February 01, 2016.

A brief analysis of the data indicates that of the deer removed, 64% were female and 36% were male, 32% of all deer removed this season were fawns, and 49% of all females were visibly pregnant.

<b>Age Class by Preserve</b>					
Preserve		Adult	Fawn	Yearling	Total
Lockport		5	2	3	<b>10</b>
Romeoville		9	3	2	<b>14</b>
McKinley		7	7	6	<b>20</b>
Lockport East		4	2	0	<b>6</b>
Goodenow		11	9	0	<b>20</b>
Hickory		29	21	10	<b>60</b>
Raccoon		7	2	3	<b>12</b>
Thorn Creek		20	10	3	<b>33</b>
Prairie Bluff		9	3	0	<b>12</b>
Total		101	59	27	<b>187</b>

In 2016-17, the 119 females taken averaged 120 lbs., and the 68 males taken averaged 126lbs. In 2015-16, the 117 total females taken from the combined preserves averaged 119 lbs., and the 83 males averaged 122 lbs.

Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve (LPN) take consisted of 7 females (70%) with an average weight of 114.8 lbs. and 3 males (30%) with a weight of 116.8 lbs.

Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
Female	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Adult	4	547.8	137.0
Yearling	1	111.0	111.0
Fawn	2	144.6	72.3
total	7	803.4	114.8
Male	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Adult	1	126.4	126.4
Yearling	2	224.0	112.0
Fawn	0	0	0
total	3	350.4	116.8

Romeoville Prairie Nature Preserve (RPN) take consisted of 9 females (64%) with an average weight of 125.7 lbs. and 5 males (36%) with a weight of 141.3 lbs.

Romeoville Prairie Nature Preserve			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
Female	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Adult	5	765.0	153.0
Yearling	2	211.6	105.8
Fawn	2	154.4	77.2
total	9	1131.0	125.7
Male	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Adult	4	635.4	158.9
Yearling	0	0	0
Fawn	1	71.0	71.0
total	5	706.4	141.3

McKinley Woods Preserve (MWP) produced a take of 10 females (50%) with an average weight of 98.3 lbs., and 10 males (50%) with an average weight of 134.0 lbs.

McKinley Woods Complex			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
Female	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Adult	2	283.4	141.7
Yearling	3	331.0	110.3
Fawn	5	368.6	73.7
total	10	983.0	98.3
Male	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Adult	5	826.0	165.2
Yearling	3	336.0	112.0
Fawn	2	178.8	89.4
total	10	1340.8	134.0

Lockport Prairie East (LPE) produced 2 females (33%) with an average weight of 133.7 lbs., and 4 males (66%) with an average weight of 121.0 lbs.

Lockport Prairie East			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
Female	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Adult	2	267.4	133.7
Yearling	0	0	0
Fawn	0	0	0
total	2	267.4	133.7
Male	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Adult	2	299.0	149.5
Yearling	0	0	0
Fawn	2	185.8	92.9
total	4	484.8	121.2

Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve (GGN) produced 15 females (75%) with an average weight of 114.5 lbs., and 5 males (25%) with an average weight of 126.8 lbs.

Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
Female	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Adult	8	1116.9	139.6
Yearling	0	0	0
Fawn	7	600.4	85.8
total	15	1717.3	114.5
Male	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Adult	3	475.0	158.3
Yearling	0	0	0
Fawn	2	159.0	79.5
total	5	634.0	126.8

Hickory Creek Preserve (HCP) produced a take of 41 females (68%) with an average weight of 116.4 lbs., and 19 males (32%) with an average weight of 123.7 lbs.

Hickory Creek Preserve			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
Female	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Adult	19	2732.8	143.8
Yearling	9	1030.0	114.4
Fawn	13	1010.4	77.7
total	41	4773.2	116.4
Male	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Adult	10	1613.8	161.4
Yearling	1	99.4	99.4
Fawn	8	636.4	79.6
total	19	2349.6	123.7

The Raccoon Grove Nature Preserve (RGN) produced 8 females (67%) with an average weight of 119.9 lbs., and 4 males (33%) with an average weight of 120.8 lbs.

Raccoon Grove Nature Preserve			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
Female	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Adult	5	695.8	139.2
Yearling	1	95.2	95.2
Fawn	2	168.0	84.0
total	8	959.0	119.9
Male	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Adult	2	266.0	133.0
Yearling	2	217.0	108.5
Fawn	0	0	0
total	4	483.0	120.8

The Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve (TCN) produced 20 females (61%) with an average weight of 131.1 lbs., and 13 males (39%) with an average weight of 120.4 lbs.

Thorn Creek Nature Preserve			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
Female	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Adult	13	1982.6	152.5
Yearling	2	221.0	110.5
Fawn	5	417.8	83.6
total	20	2621.4	131.1
Male	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Adult	7	1097.8	156.8
Yearling	1	98.4	98.4
Fawn	5	369.4	73.9
total	13	1565.6	120.4

The Prairie Bluff Preserve (PBP) produced 7 females (58%) with an average weight of 141.2 lbs., and 5 males (42%) with an average weight of 133.3 lbs

Prairie Bluff Preserve			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
Female	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Adult	6	906.7	151.1
Yearling	0	0	0
Fawn	1	81.8	81.8
total	7	988.5	141.2
Male	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Adult	3	501.1	167.0
Yearling	0	0	0
Fawn	2	165.4	82.7
total	5	666.5	133.3

Freedom Sausage, of Earlville, Illinois, processed 187 deer producing 8,415 pounds of ground venison. Meat from any animals with a destroyed and/or unusable Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) sample was to be disposed of. None of the CWD samples were positive in the 2016-17 season. Northern Illinois Food Bank, in St. Charles, Illinois received the ground venison (8,415 lbs.) for distribution to needy families in northeastern Illinois. Internal organs and waste materials were collected for rendering by Kaluzny Brothers of Joliet, Illinois.

As directed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), multiple samples were taken for CWD from the deer before they were processed. The samples obtained were shipped to Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory of the University of Illinois in Normal, Illinois. Staff shipped a total of 64 samples for CWD testing. No samples tested positive for CWD.

**Cost Analysis:**

Three FPDWC Police Officers, two FPDWC Police employees volunteering for the program, and four rotating volunteers participated on the Deer Management (DM) sharpshooting team. Two Natural Resource Management (NRM) employees assisted in the program with removing retropharyngeal lymph nodes and brain stem samples. These employees were on a rotating shift, with only one employee participating in the program at a time.

Here are the shifts that the officers and employees worked during the deer management season:

- Officer 1 – November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 – February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, approx 2:00pm-12:00am, Monday through Thursday
- Officer 2 – November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 – February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017, approx 2:00pm-12:00am, Monday through Thursday
- Officer 3 – December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017, approx 2:00pm-12:00am, Monday through Thursday
- NRM – December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, approx 4 hours per DM day

These officers also worked deer management duties on Sundays and Fridays. These officers had to be replaced on their regular shifts by part time patrol officers. A separate full time officer was used to deliver the deer to Freedom Sausage, Earlville, IL on Wednesdays and Fridays. This officer was not replaced on shift and therefore does not account for any staffing costs below. The NRM employee was not replaced and therefore does not account for any staffing costs below. Below is a chart detailing an approximate cost of police staff utilized during this program. This chart reflects the cost of part time officers used to replace full time officers on patrol. The program was permitted for December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 through March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**Police Staffing Costs:**

	Hours			Hourly Wage <sup>1</sup>	Totals
Officer 1	540	*	x	\$20.67	= \$11,161.80
Officer 2	600	**	x	\$20.67	= \$12,402.00
Officer 3	400	***	x	\$20.67	= \$8,268.00
					<b>\$31,831.80</b>

\* 13.5 weeks, 4 days per week, 10 hours per day = 540 hours (PT replacement)  
 \*\* 15 weeks, 4 days per week, 10 hours per day = 600 hours (PT replacement)  
 \*\*\* 10 weeks, 4 days per week, 10 hours per day = 400 hours (PT replacement)  
<sup>1</sup> 2016 PT wage was \$19.59, 2017 is \$21.74, \$20.67 is the average.

**Operational Costs:**

Company	Purpose	Cost
Freedom Sausage	processing	\$6,732.00
Southwest Mechanical	cooler repairs	\$2,828.87
Lowes, Metalline, Grainger	bldg A-frames and misc	\$1,704.86
Big R	bait	\$1,170.73
WCSO	Ammunition	\$1,057.50
Misc	supplies	\$965.35
Kaluzny Bros Inc	rendering	\$750.00
Dellwood Tire & Auto	tires	\$623.24
Cabella's	tree stands, etc	\$479.97
Berkots, DD/BR, etc	food	\$306.16
Brownells	weapon repairs	\$169.31
		<b>\$16,787.99</b>

Miscellaneous supplies and necessities purchased during the program included various tools, miscellaneous nuts and bolts, gloves, gutting tools, rifle equipment, flashlights, batteries, clothing and gear, etc.

$$\begin{array}{rcccccc} \text{Staffing} & & \text{Operational} & & & & \\ \text{Costs} & & \text{Costs} & & \text{Total Deer} & & \text{Cost per deer} \\ \$31,831.80 & + & \$16,787.99 & = & \$48,619.79 & / & 187 & = & \$260.00 \end{array}$$

**\$260/deer**

Staffing costs were slightly higher this year, as the program manager was promoted to Sergeant and was training two officers to take over the program for next season. Also, the part time wage went up therefore increasing the cost to replace officers on shift.

The cost per deer during the 2015-2016 deer management program was \$238.75 indicating that the efficiency of the Deer Management sharpshooting team remained consistent. Since the inception of the District's Deer Management Program in 2010, a total of 37,800 pounds of ground venison has been donated to the Northern Illinois Food Bank for distribution to needy families in northeastern Illinois: (6,030 lbs. in 2010-2011; 4,455 lbs. in 2011-2012; 9,900 lbs. in 2013-2014; 9,000 lbs. in 2014-2015; and 8,415 lbs. in 2016-2017).