



White-tailed Deer in the MetroParks Part II

Nick Derico
Natural Resources Manager

Last Edited: 03/10/23

The following presentation outlines:

- **Mill Creek MetroParks**
 - Our Mission
 - Our Master Plan
 - Our Facilities
- **White-tailed Deer in MCMP (Review)**
 - Visual Confirmation
 - Historical Data
 - Current Data
 - Carrying Capacity
 - Critical Impacts
 - We Are Not Alone
- **Public Input**
 - Survey Results
 - Aerial Survey Accuracy
- **White-tailed Deer Management in MCMP**
 - Past Efforts
 - Management Authority in Ohio
 - Our Plan
 - How to Learn More



Presentation Overview

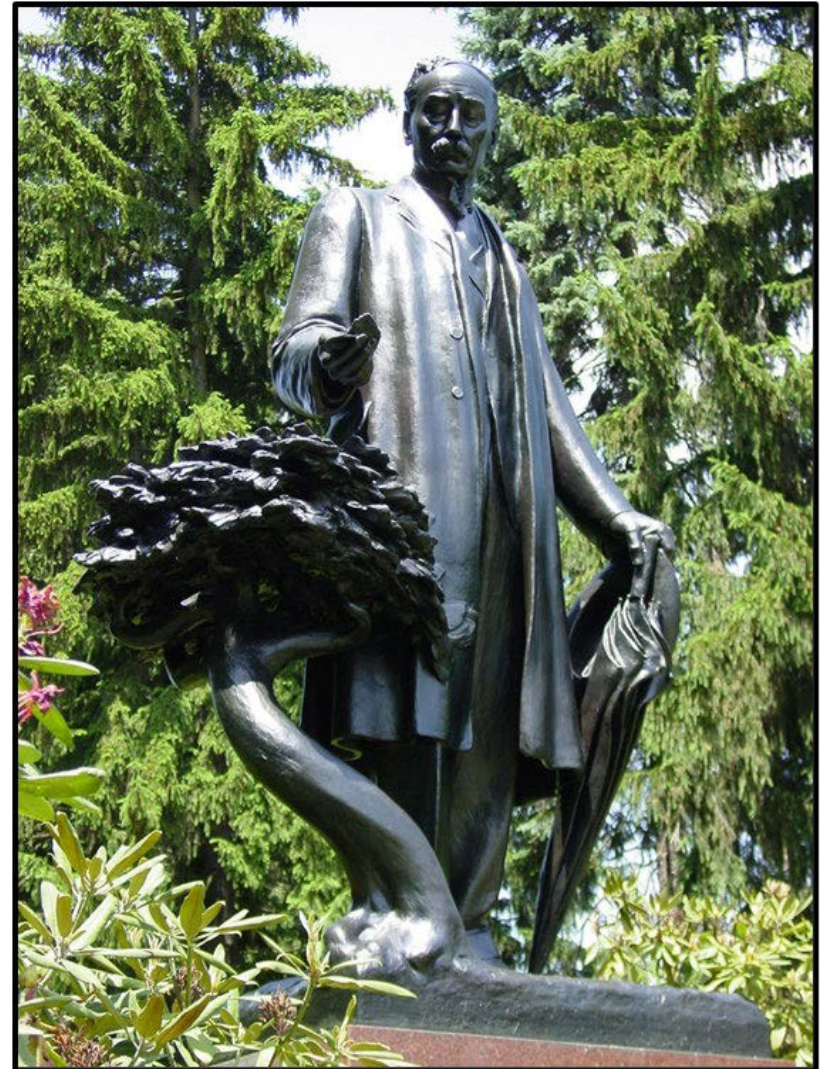
Mission Statement

The mission of Mill Creek MetroParks is to provide park, recreational, educational and open space facilities of regional significance. In fulfilling this mission our objectives are:

- To be responsive to community needs
- To be environmentally sound
- To be adaptable
- To be economically feasible

Link to Mission Statement:

<http://www.millcreekmetroparks.org/contact/about/mission-statement/>



MCMP: Our Mission

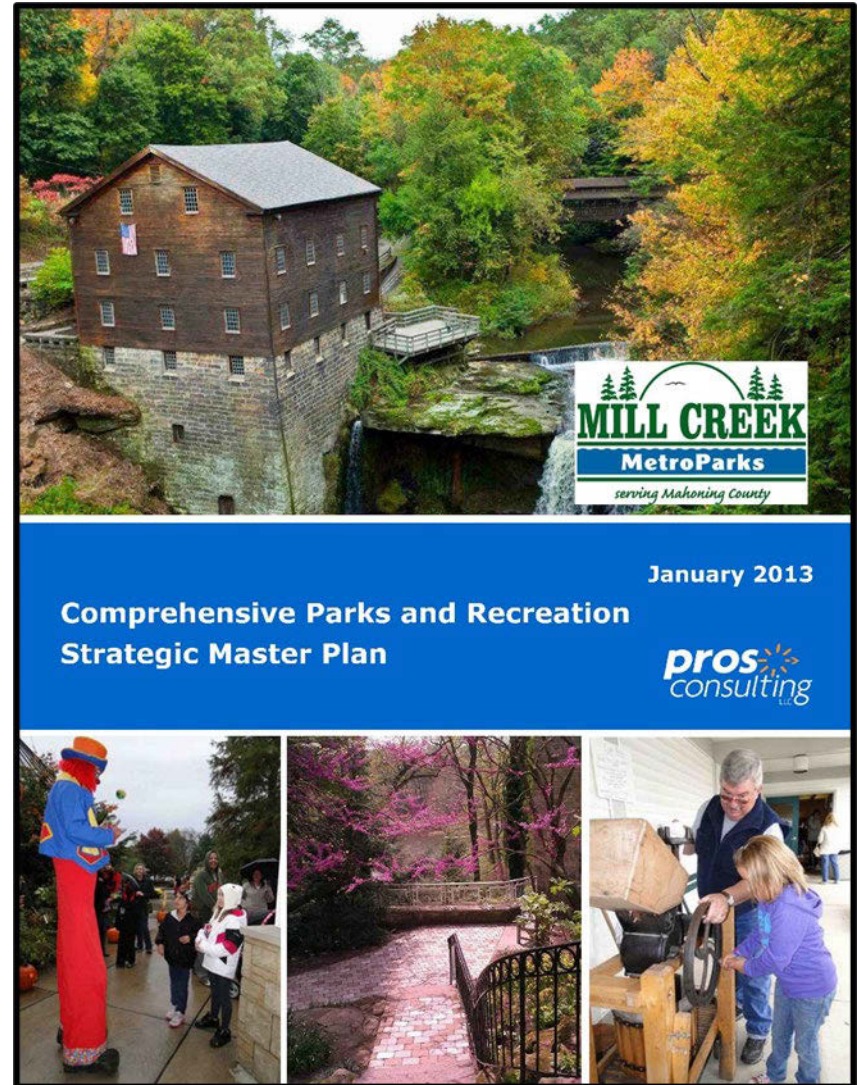


Strategic Master Plan

- Community Engagement
- Stewardship
- Our People
- **Natural Resources**
- Recreation & Education
- Infrastructure

Link to Strategic Master Plan:

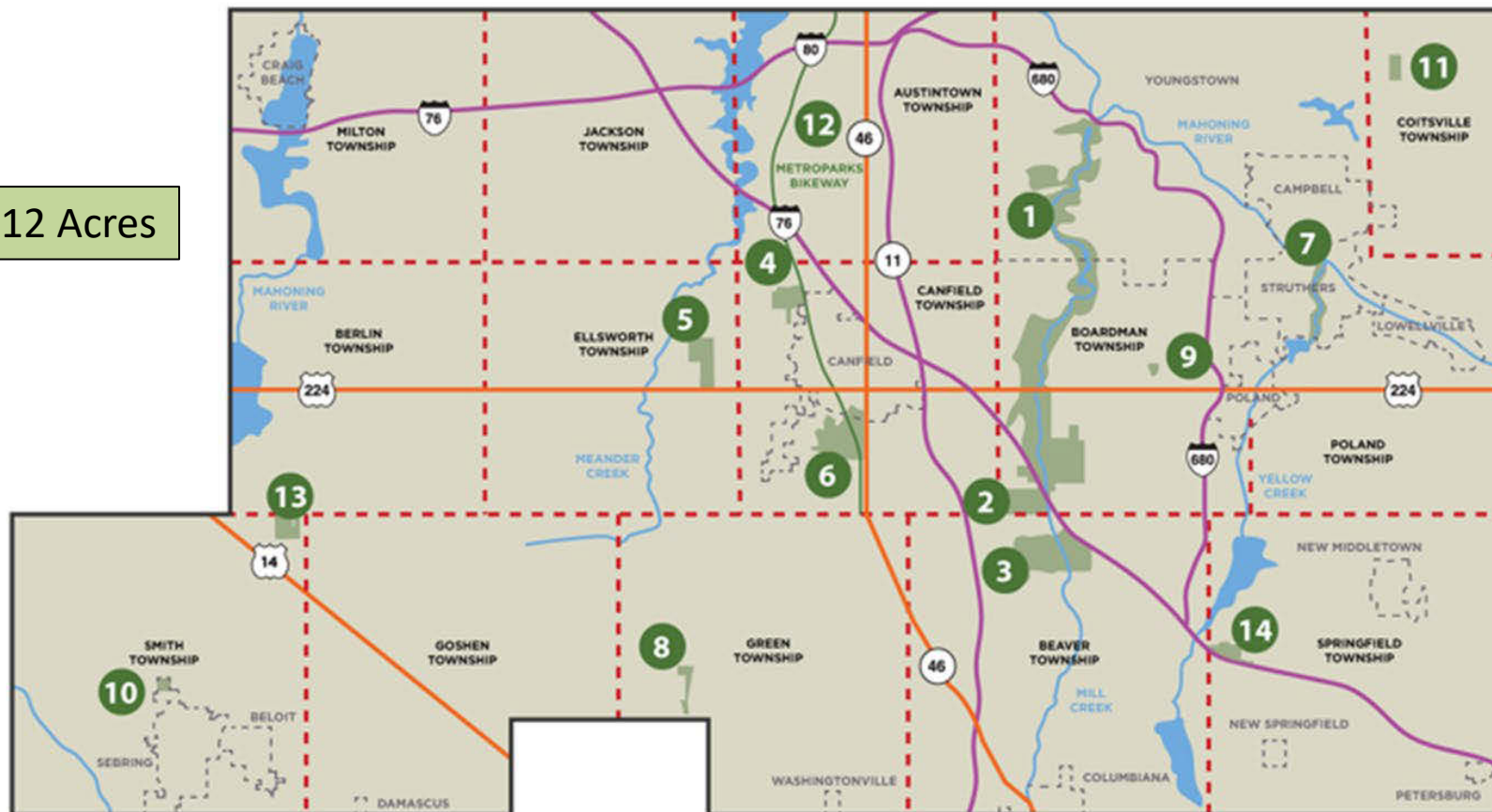
<http://www.millcreekmetroparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Mill-Creek-MetroParks-Strategic-Master-Plan-FINAL.pdf>



MCMP: Our Master Plan

millcreekmetroparks.org

5,012 Acres



- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. MILL CREEK PARK | 6. METROPARKS FARM/METROPARKS ADMINISTRATION | 11. MCGUFFEY WILDLIFE PRESERVE |
| 2. MILL CREEK PRESERVE | 7. YELLOW CREEK PARK | 12. METROPARKS BIKEWAY |
| 3. MILL CREEK WILDLIFE SANCTUARY | 8. EGYPT SWAMP PRESERVE | 13. HAWKINS MARSH |
| 4. SAWMILL CREEK PRESERVE | 9. CRANBERRY RUN HEADWATERS | 14. SPRINGFIELD FOREST |
| 5. VICKERS NATURE PRESERVE | 10. SEBRING WOODS | |



MCMP: Our Locations

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Presentation Overview



White-tailed Deer in Mill Creek MetroParks Part I

Nick Derico

Natural Resources Manager

Last Edited: 02/10/23

Slide Taken From February 13, 2023 Presentation



Slide Taken From February 13, 2023 Presentation

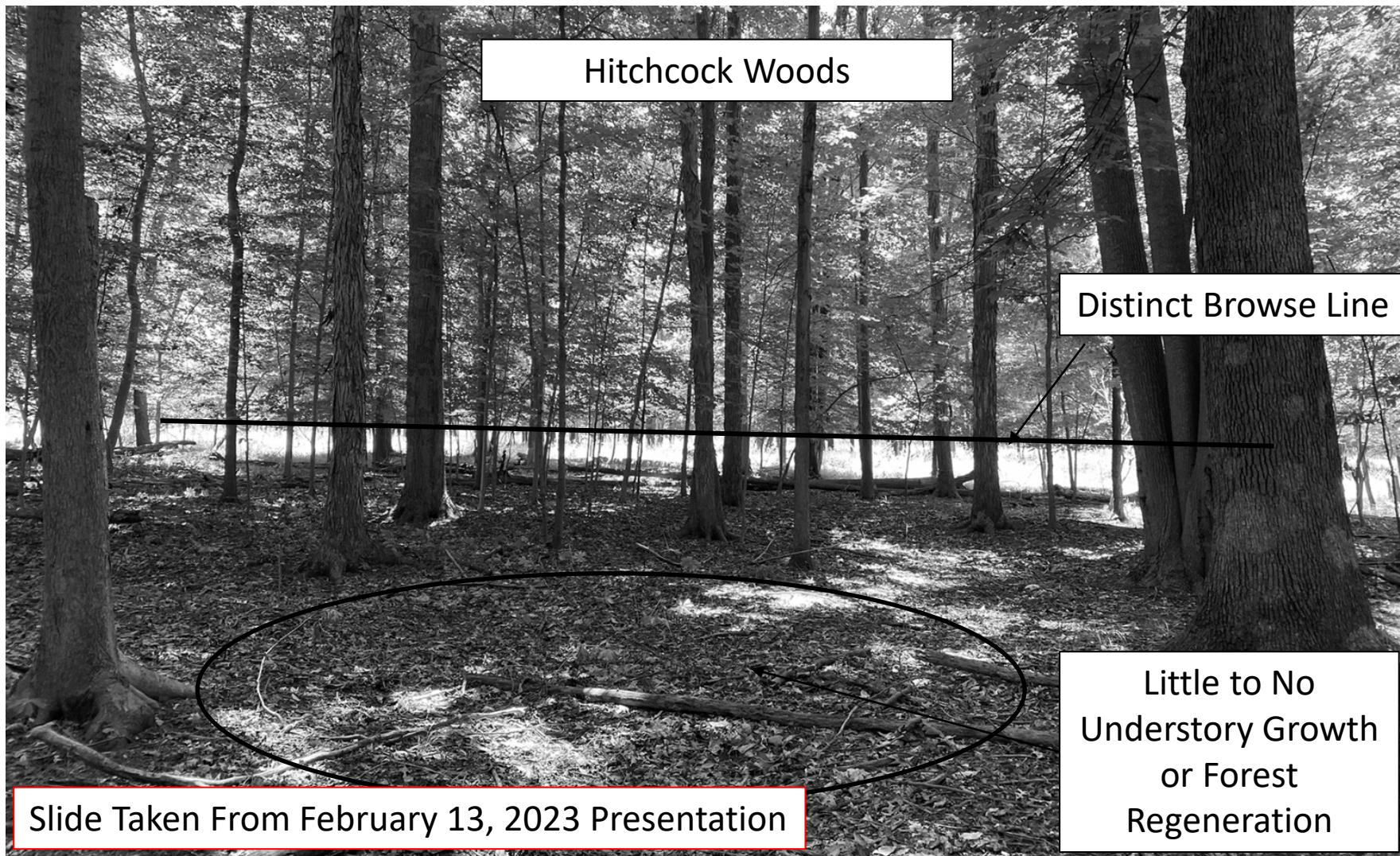


Slide Taken From February 13, 2023 Presentation



Slide Taken From February 13, 2023 Presentation





Hitchcock Woods

Distinct Browse Line

Little to No
Understory Growth
or Forest
Regeneration

Slide Taken From February 13, 2023 Presentation

Historical Aerial Survey Data

Survey Area – Mill Creek Park (South of Shields Rd.), Huntington Woods, and Hitchcock Woods (~1660 Acres or 2.59 Sq Mi)

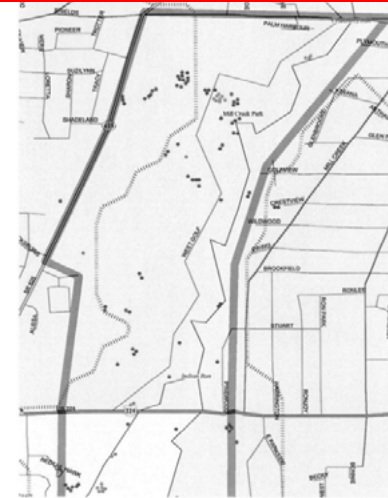
The MetroParks commissioned eleven (11) aerial surveys between February 1997 and January 2002 using both helicopter and fixed wing aircraft.

February 7, 2000 – Fixed Wing Aircraft (Infrared)

- 255 Deer Detected = 98.4 Deer/Mi²

Recommended Population Densities Are 10-20 Deer/Mi² to Remain Below Ecological Carrying Capacity

No Aerial Survey Data Available from January 2002 – January 2022

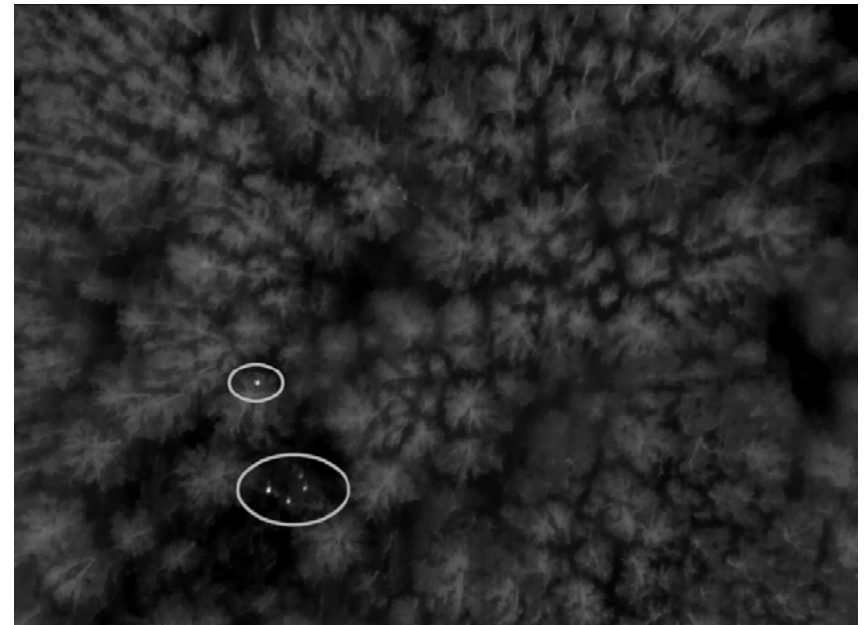


Deer in MCMP: Historical Data

Aerial Infrared Survey:

In 2022, an aerial infrared survey was conducted on January 21st (Central Area) and January 26th (Regional Facilities) utilizing FLIR thermal imaging technology mounted to a fixed-wing aircraft.

- Snow Cover on Ground
- Sub 10 Degree Temperatures
- Lowest Possible Flight Altitude for Increased Resolution and Accuracy
- Total Survey Area Included (8,908) Acres.
- Survey Area Included All MCMP Properties Plus a 400' Buffer.
- Confidence Interval $\geq 85\%$



*Survey Footage is Reviewed in Video Format from Multiple Angles to Provide Increased Accuracy

Deer in MCMP: Current Data

Aerial Infrared Survey: Hitchcock Woods



- Each Pin Represents a Heat Signature Consistent with that of a Deer with a Confidence Interval $\geq 85\%$
- The Number Inside Each Pin Indicates the Number of Heat Signatures Present
- Pins Marked With "X" Fall Outside MCMP Boundaries but Within the 500' Buffer Area
- Pins Marked With "XX" Fall Outside of the Buffer Area and Are Not Included in the Population Estimate

689 Acres Surveyed (1.06 Mi²)
429 Deer Detected
398 Deer/Mi²

Aerial Infrared Survey: Mill Creek Park SR 224 to Shields



- Each Pin Represents a Heat Signature Consistent with that of a Deer with a Confidence Interval $\geq 85\%$
- The Number Inside Each Pin Indicates the Number of Heat Signatures Present
- Pins Marked With "X" Fall Outside MCMP Boundaries but Within the 500' Buffer Area
- Pins Marked With "XX" Fall Outside of the Buffer Area and Are Not Included in the Population Estimate

1626 Acres Surveyed (2.54 Mi²)

**903 Deer Detected
355 Deer/Mi²
(MCP Totals)**

Aerial Infrared Survey: Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary



- Each Pin Represents a Heat Signature Consistent with that of a Deer with a Confidence Interval $\geq 85\%$
- The Number Inside Each Pin Indicates the Number of Heat Signatures Present
- Pins Marked With "X" Fall Outside MCMP Boundaries but Within the 500' Buffer Area
- Pins Marked With "XX" Fall Outside of the Buffer Area and Are Not Included in the Population Estimate

482 Acres Surveyed (0.75 Mi²)
267 Deer Detected
355 Deer/Mi²

Aerial Infrared Survey: Results for All Parks

				Thermal Signatures Observed within Park Boundaries			
	Park	Park Size (acres)	Park size (sq miles)	Count	Acres per Deer	Deer per Acre	Deer per Sq Mile
Central	Mill Creek Park	1,626	2.54	903	1.80	0.56	355
	Hitchcock Woods	689	1.08	429	1.61	0.62	398
	Huntington Woods	383	0.60	354	1.08	0.92	592
	Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary	482	0.75	267	1.81	0.55	355
	Collier Preserve	303	0.47	124	2.44	0.41	262
East	McGuffey Wildlife Preserve	78	0.12	48	1.63	0.62	394
	Yellow Creek	76	0.12	80	0.95	1.05	674
	Springfield Forest	89	0.14	69	1.29	0.78	496
	Cranberry Run Headwaters	27	0.04	19	1.42	0.70	450
West	Vickers Nature Preserve	262	0.41	116	2.26	0.44	283
	Sebring Woods	39	0.06	37	1.05	0.95	607
	Egypt Swamp Preserve	75	0.12	54	1.39	0.72	461
	Sawmill Creek	167	0.26	141	1.18	0.84	540
	MetroParks Farm	402	0.63	197	2.04	0.49	314
	Hawkins Marsh	161	0.25	97	1.66	0.60	386
Totals and Averages:		4,859	7.59	2,935	1.66	0.60	387

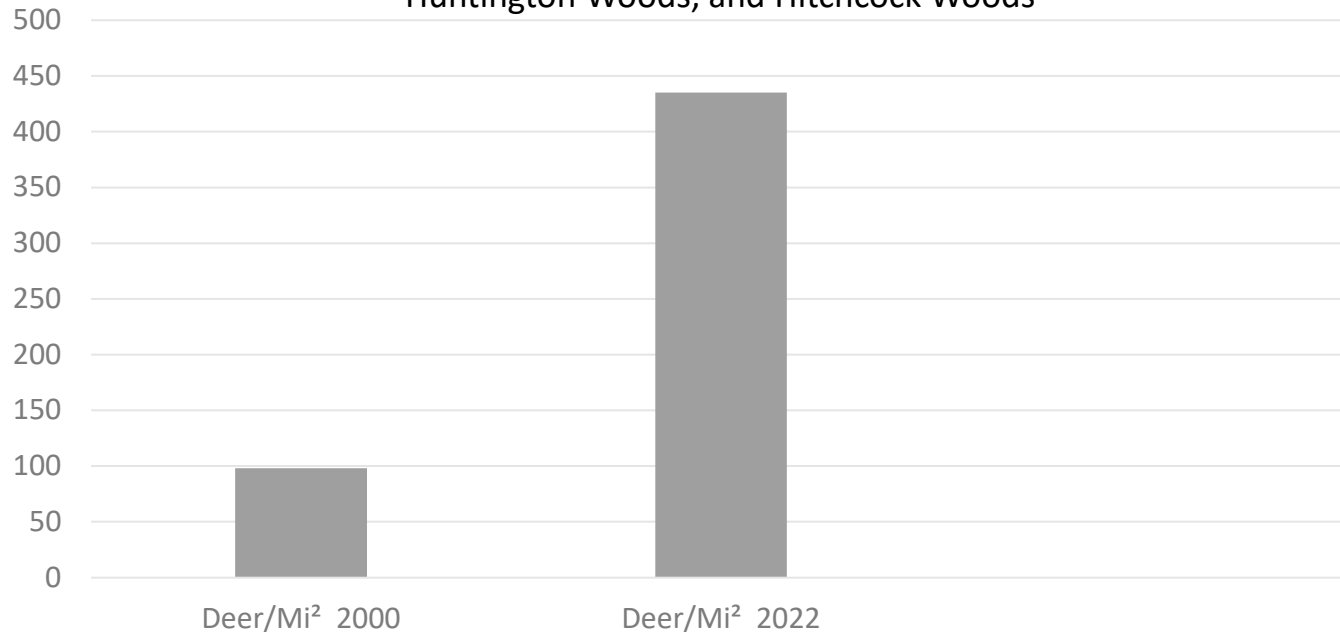
Recommended Population Densities Are 10-20 Deer/Mi² to Remain Below Ecological Carrying Capacity.

Our Results Average 387 Deer/Mi²

Deer in MCMP: Current Data

Then vs Now:

Comparison of Deer Density 2000 – 2022 in MCP (South of Shields Rd.),
Huntington Woods, and Hitchcock Woods



~442% Increase in Population Density Over 22 Years

Current Population Densities are on Average More Than **19x Greater** Than the Generally Accepted Estimate of Ecological Carrying Capacity (10-20 Deer/mi²) Across All MetroParks Properties

Deer in MCMP: Current Data

NDA's Trail-Camera Survey Computation Form

Bucks^U (unique) 14 → Bucks^U 14 ÷ Bucks^T 262 = Pop. Factor 0.053

Bucks^T (total) 262

Does^T (total) 1447 → 1447 x 0.053 = Does^U 76.69

Fawns^T (total) 130 → 130 x 0.053 = Fawns^U 6.89

Correction Factor

Bucks^U 14 x 1.11 = Bucks 15.54

Does^U 76.69 x 1.11 = Does 85.13

Fawns^U 6.89 x 1.11 = Fawns 7.65

Adjusted Population Estimates

For a 14-day survey, enter a correction factor of 1.11
For a 10-day survey, enter a correction factor of 1.18
*Assuming camera density of 1 per 100 acres.

Carry Down to Additional Formulas

NATIONAL DEER ASSOCIATION
©Copyright 2015 by NDA

Does 85.13 ÷ Bucks 15.54 = Does per Buck 5.48

Fawns 7.65 ÷ Does 85.13 = Fawns per Doe 0.90

Acreage Surveyed 300 ÷ Total Pop. 108.32 = Acres/Deer 2.77

Total Pop. 108.32 x 640 = 69325 ÷ Acreage Surveyed 300 = Deer/Square Mile 231



Carrying Capacity Defined:

Biological Carrying Capacity (BCC)

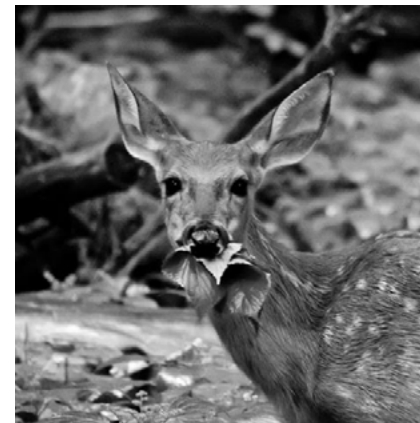
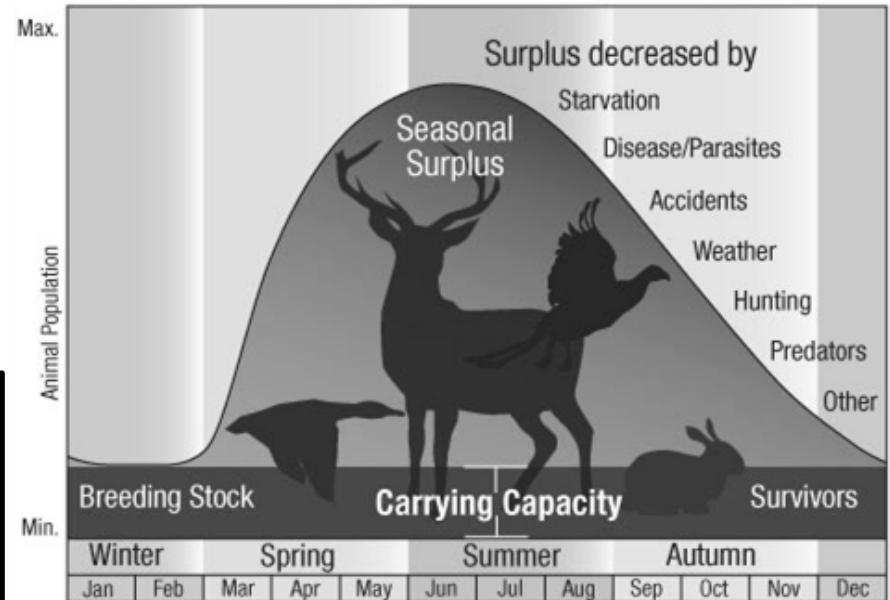
- The density in which a population (in this case white-tailed deer) can sustain themselves on the landscape over the long-term based upon available resources (food, water, shelter).

Ecological Carrying Capacity (ECC)

- The density in which white-tailed deer populations have no negative impacts to their surrounding environment and allow for natural regeneration of flora.

Cultural Carrying Capacity (CCC)

- The density in which white-tailed deer populations are socially tolerated in a community, this figure can vary greatly based upon public opinion and commonly exceeds both biological and ecological carry capacities.



Ecological Damage:



Poor Herd Health:

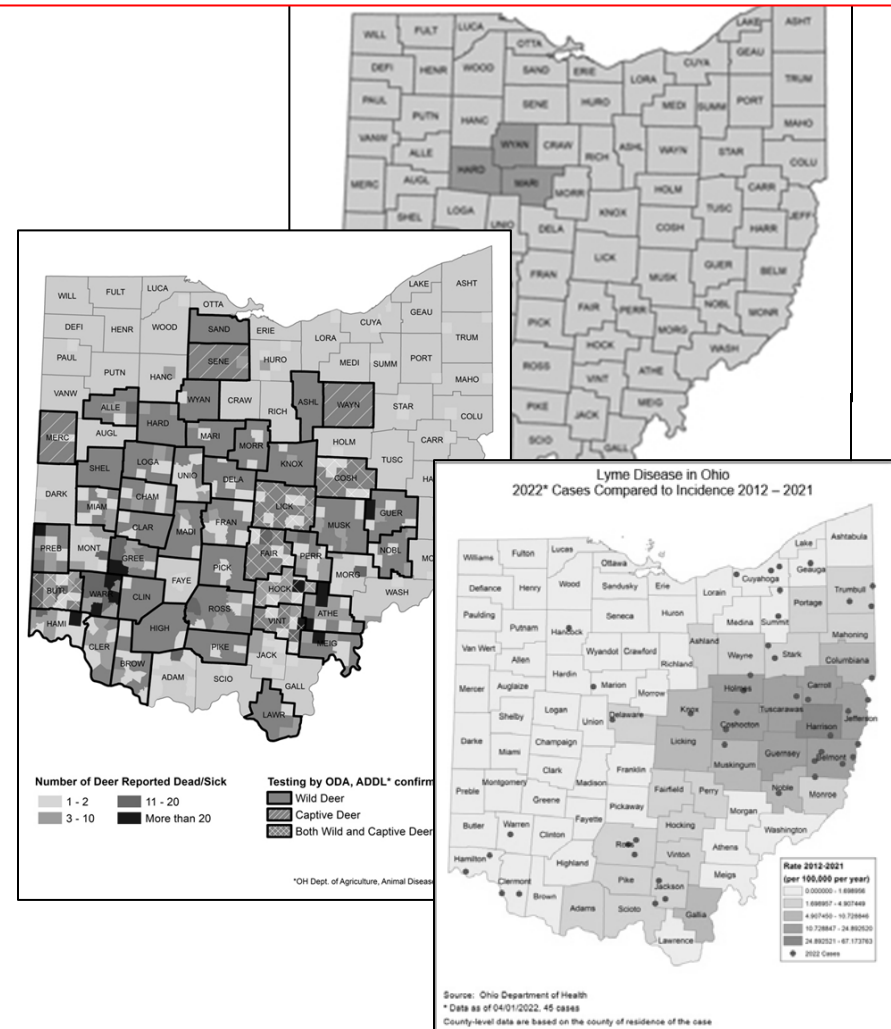
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Disease Concerns:

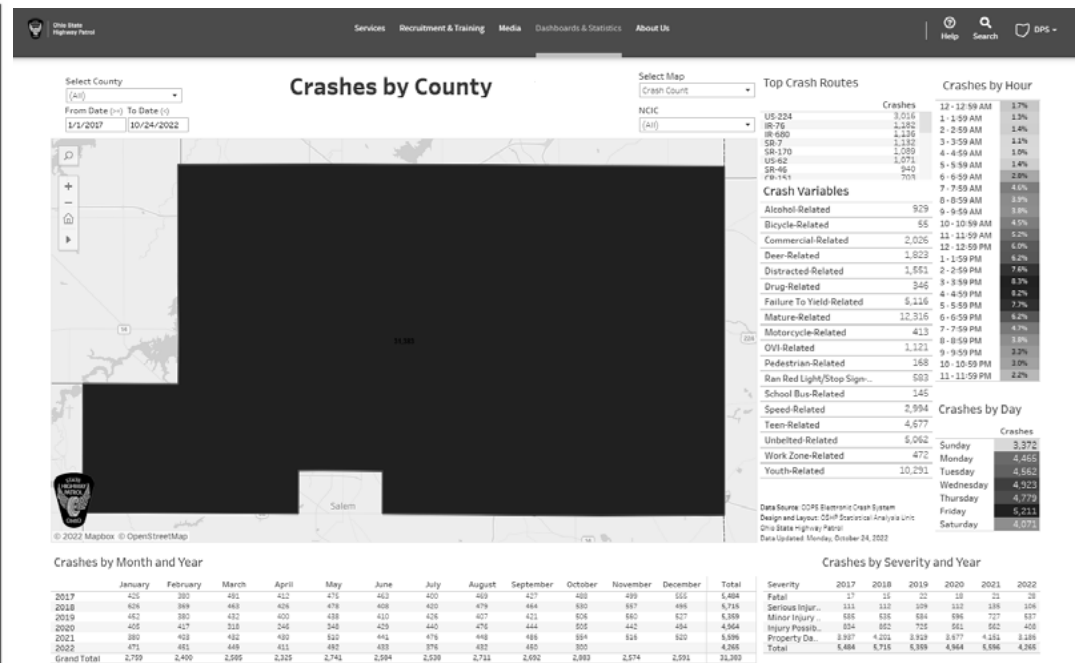
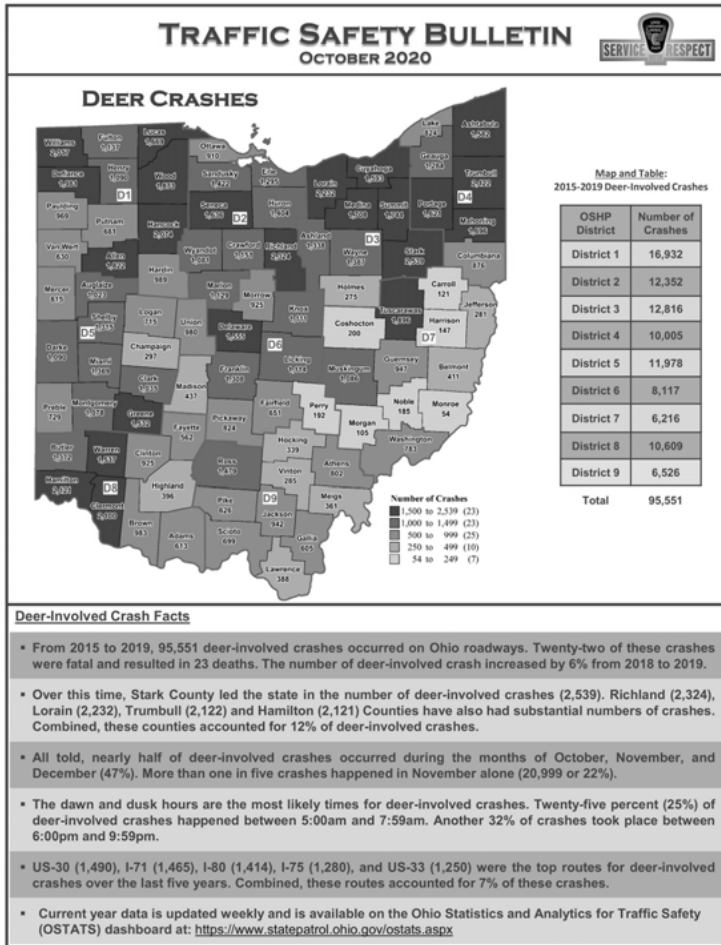
The overpopulation of any animal can lead to increased concern for the spread of disease and in the case of the white-tailed deer the primary concerns are:

- Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)
- Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD)
- Lyme Disease
- Other Tick-Borne Pathogens



Deer in MCMP: Critical Impacts

Property Damage:




2015-2019 crash data from the Ohio State Highway Patrol shows Mahoning County as having a high incidence of deer-vehicle collisions ranking 15th out of 88 counties with a total of 1,696 collisions (~424 per year).

- ~\$4000 of Damage Caused per DVC

Deer in MCMP: Critical Impacts



Community Concerns:



The Vindicator


Austintown

Which Mahoning County commissioner or Mill Creek MetroParks board member needs to spend thousands of dollars repairing, hopefully, only their car to realize the deer overpopulation in this area is a public safety problem?

LOCAL NEWS





Deer goes through school bus windshield, hurts driver




By: Michael Reiser
Posted: Feb 10, 2023 / 11:42 AM EST
Updated: Feb 10, 2023 / 11:42 AM EST



JOINT PRESS RELEASE - Ohio Heads into Peak Time for Deer-Related Crashes

October 03, 2022



Share this   

Joint Media Release

COLUMBUS – AAA, The Ohio Department of Insurance, Ohio State Highway Patrol and Ohio Department of Natural Resources want to remind motorists of the increase in deer-related traffic crashes this time of year.

NEWS

Motorcyclist dies after striking deer in Milton Township

As of 7:25 a.m., Mahoning Avenue was closed in the area of the crash near the Dollar General.

3 hrs 19 mins ago
Updated: 2 hrs 39 mins ago
By Mike Gauntner

NEWS

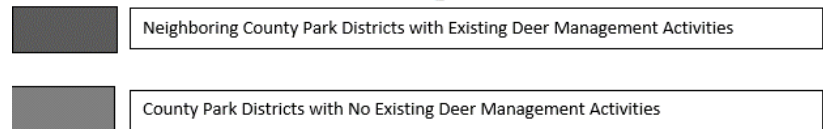
3 dead after SUV hits deer, then truck on Indiana Toll Road

State police say three people died and two others were injured when an SUV struck a deer along the Indiana Toll Road and crashed into an oncoming pickup truck.

Tuesday, October 4th 2022, 5:57 AM EDT
Updated: Tuesday, October 4th 2022, 5:58 AM EDT

Deer in MCMP: Critical Impacts





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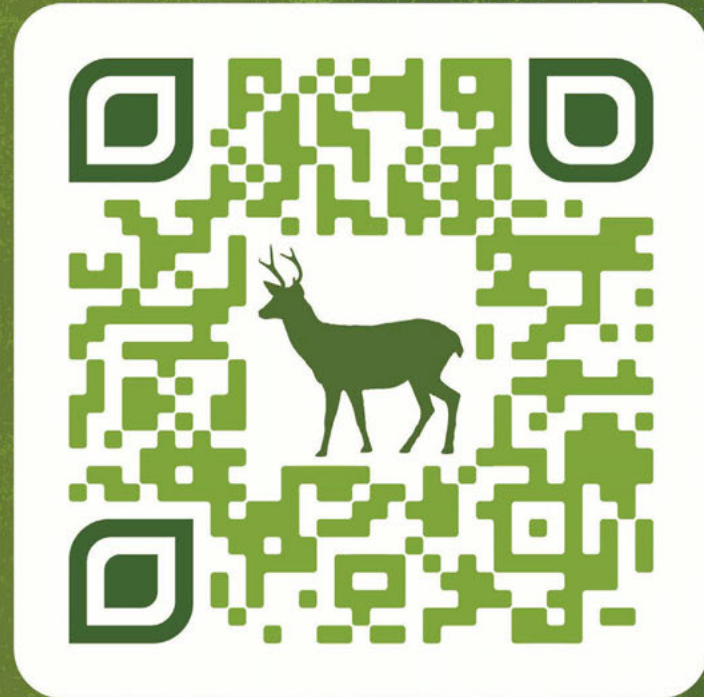


Presentation Overview

WE WANT YOUR INPUT ►

Scan the code with your mobile device to learn more and have the opportunity to provide comments.

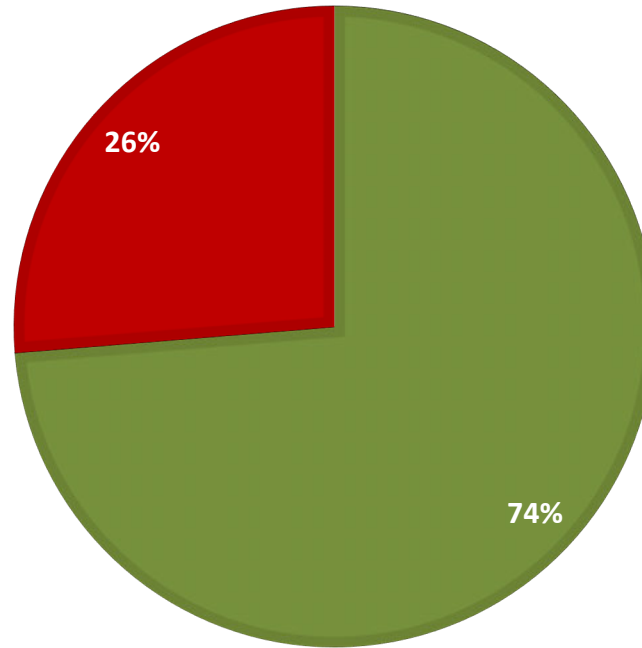
[www.millcreekmetroparks.org/
white-tailed-deer-in-mill-creek-metroparks/](http://www.millcreekmetroparks.org/white-tailed-deer-in-mill-creek-metroparks/)



Survey Results:

Are you a Mahoning County Resident?

■ Yes ■ No



407 Total Verified Responses

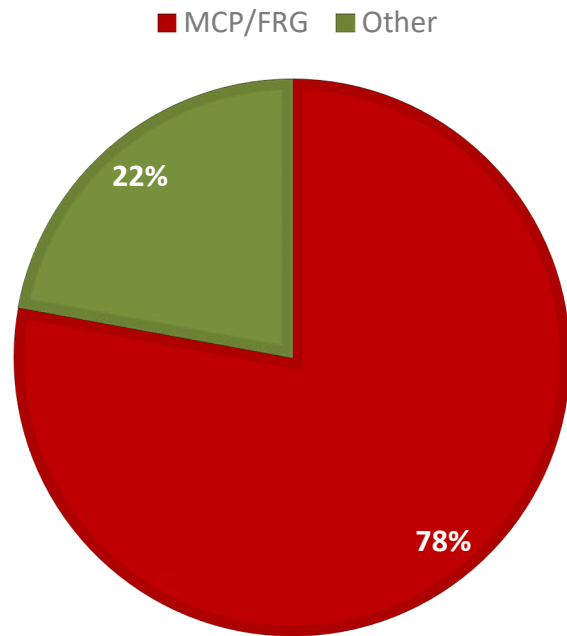
Emails Were Verified by a 3rd Party Service

Any Invalid Emails or Duplicates Were Removed

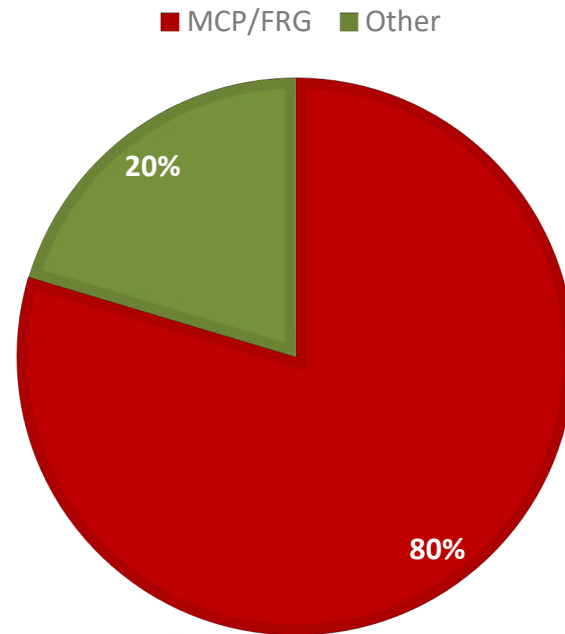
Survey Results:

What MetroParks Property Do You Visit Most Often?

ALL RESPONSES



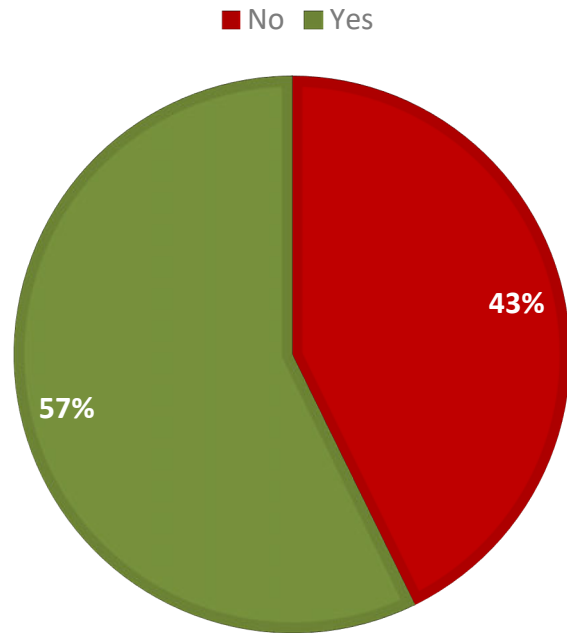
MAHONING COUNTY RESIDENTS



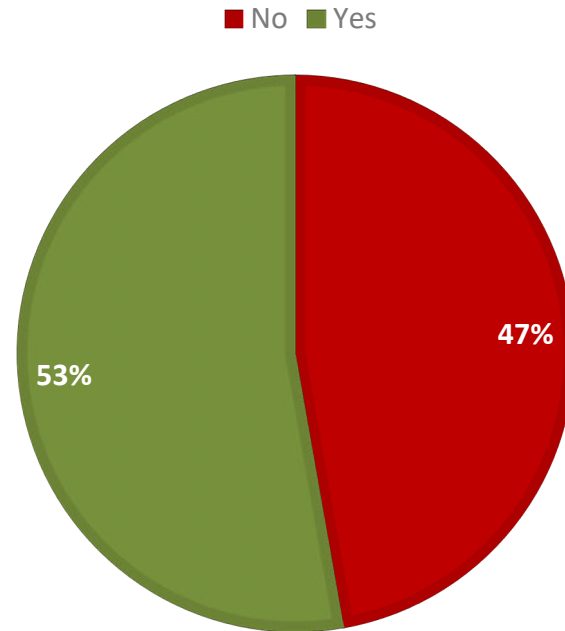
Survey Results:

Based on what you've seen during your visits, do you believe there are too many deer in the MetroParks?

ALL RESPONSES



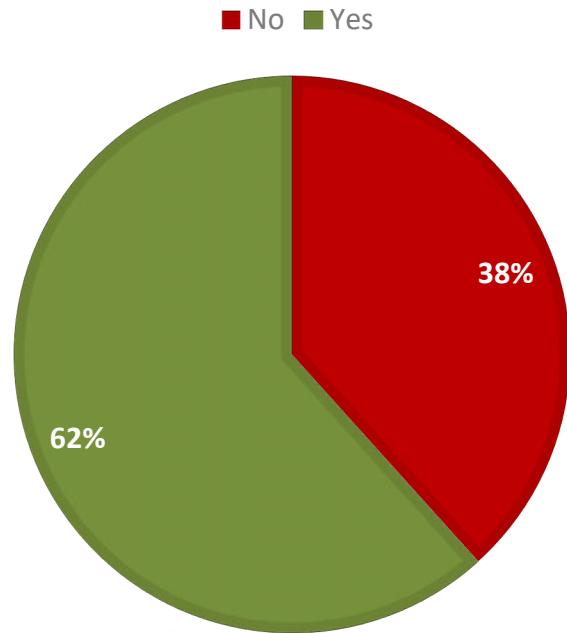
MAHONING COUNTY RESIDENTS



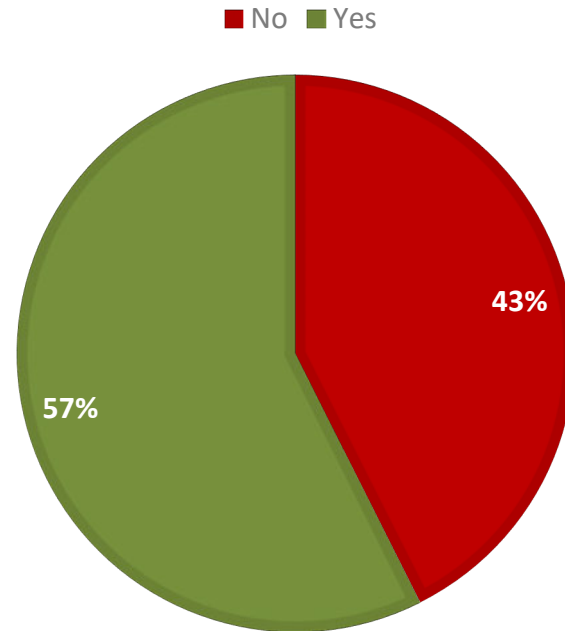
Survey Results:

Do you think something needs to be done to address the deer population within the MetroParks?

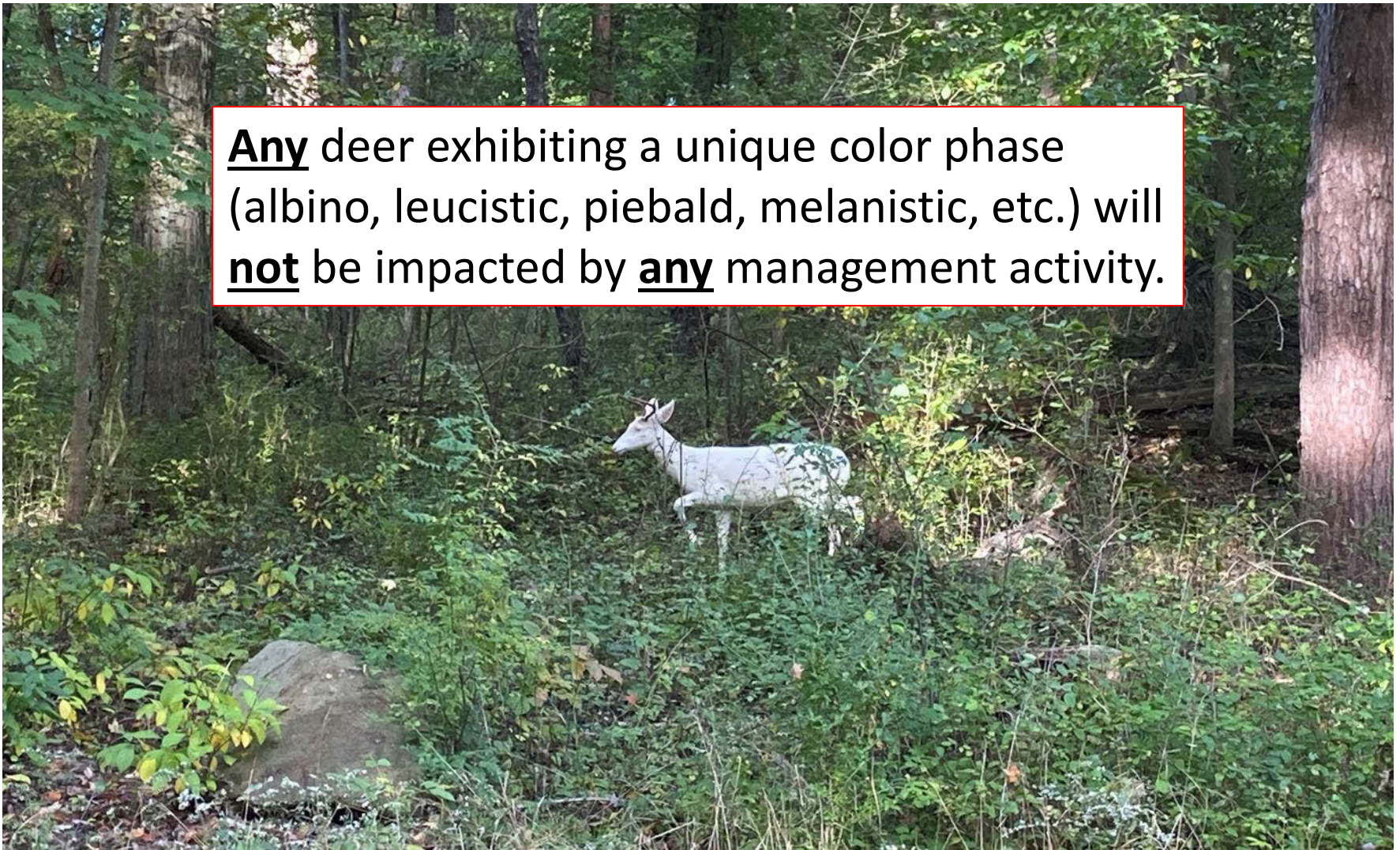
ALL RESPONSES



MAHONING COUNTY RESIDENTS



Any deer exhibiting a unique color phase (albino, leucistic, piebald, melanistic, etc.) will **not** be impacted by **any** management activity.



Aerial Infrared Survey Accuracy: Results for All Parks

				Thermal Signatures Observed within Park Boundaries			
	Park	Park Size (acres)	Park size (sq miles)	Count	Acres per Deer	Deer per Acre	Deer per Sq Mile
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Totals and Averages:		4,859	7.59	2,935	1.66	0.60	387

85% Confidence Interval

Total Park
Acreage

Convert to
Square Miles
(Total Acres/640)

Divide the
Number of Sq Mi
per Park by # of
Deer Observed

Equals Deer/Mi²
Figure



Deer in MCMP: Public Input

Aerial Survey Accuracy:

- The area behind Birch Hill Cabin was walked by Park Staff on 2/23/23 with 14 deer being visibly seen and photographed.
- The results of the aerial survey indicated a total of 22 deer in this same area.
- 22 x 85% Confidence Interval = 18 Deer



Deer in MCMP: Public Input

Aerial Survey Accuracy:

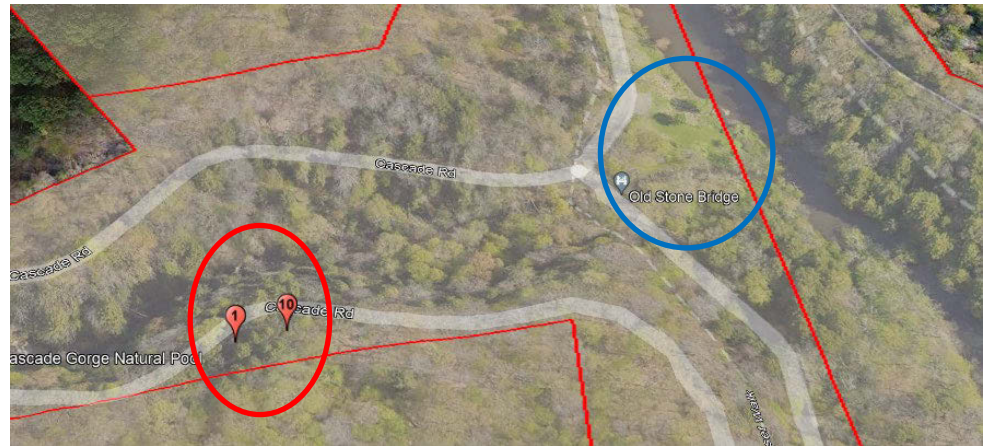
- 6 – 8 deer are commonly seen at the Ford Nature Center, as shown in this photo.
- The results of the aerial survey indicated a total of 9 Deer in the immediate vicinity of FNC.
- 9 x 85% Confidence Interval = 7.65 Deer



Deer in MCMP: Public Input

Aerial Survey Accuracy:

- This picture taken at Lake Cohasset in March of 2022, shows a herd of 10 deer.
- The results of the aerial survey indicated a total of 11 deer in close proximity to this location.
- 11 x 85% Confidence Interval = 9.35 Deer



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Presentation Overview

Past Efforts:

1998-1999:

- Hitchcock Woods
- Huntington Woods

1999-2000:

- Hitchcock Woods
- Huntington Woods

2000-2001:

- Hitchcock Woods
- Huntington Woods
- Mill Creek Park (Shields Rd. to 224)

No Controlled Hunting Program or Other Active Management Since 2001

Controlled Bow Hunt in Hitchcock Woods

Hitchcock Woods, Mill Creek MetroParks' 1000-acre parcel of preserved open space south of Rt. 224 in Boardman, has suffered a severe degree of vegetation and habitat loss due to an overpopulation of white-tailed deer. In order to control the size of the deer herd, the Board of Park Commissioners has authorized a controlled bow hunt in Hitchcock Woods from October 31, 1999 through January 29, 2000.

A lottery will be held by the Park District at the Mahoning County Farm on September 22 at 4 p.m. to select qualified bowhunters. Hunters must meet the following requirements to be included in the lottery:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Reside in Mahoning County
- Complete an International Bowhunter Education Course or a state-sponsored hunter education course
- Pass an archery proficiency test to be held at the Lowellville Rod and Gun Club
- Obtain proper state hunting licenses along with a minimum of two antlerless tags (removal of a buck with the regular license will be permitted)

Hitchcock Woods will be closed to the public during hunting season. Only 25 hunters will be allowed in the Woods at any one time. Crossbows and baiting will be permitted. All hunters must use an approved tree stand and stay at least 150 yards from park property lines. All state game laws are to be observed.

Archery proficiency tests are scheduled at the Lowellville Rod & Gun Club on Quarry Road off U.S. Route 224 in Poland Township on the following dates:

Wednesday, July 21 from 4 - 8 p.m.
Wednesday, August 18 from 4 - 8 p.m.
Sunday, August 29 from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Wednesday, September 1 from 4 - 8 p.m.



Deer Management in MCMP: Past Efforts

Management Authority:

The Ohio Division of Wildlife is responsible for the statewide management of our wildlife resources, including the white-tailed deer.

All deer management programs in the State of Ohio are governed **solely** by the Ohio Division of Wildlife and any management actions **must** follow their guidelines.



Deer Management in MCMP: Authority

ODOW Approved Management Methods:

Controlled Hunting

- Proven to be an Effective Management Tool Over Time
- Considered to be an Ethical Means of Management
- Provides a Long-term and Sustainable Solution to Manage Deer Populations
Provides Recreational Opportunity (334,736 Licensed Hunters Statewide in 2021, 2176 in Mahoning County)
- Unique Opportunity in Mahoning County

Targeted Removal

- Proven to be an Effective Management Tool in Both the Short and Long-term
- Considered to be an Ethical Means of Management
- Provides a Long-term and Sustainable Solution to Manage Deer Populations in Areas Where Traditional Hunting Practices are not Feasible.
- Allows for the Collection of Scientific Data (Weight, Sex, Age, Disease Testing, Etc.)
- Will Provide Over 200 Meals per Deer to the Community Through Local Food Banks and Other Outreach Programs.

Do Nothing

- Does Not Allow for the Sustainable Management of our Natural Resources
- Perpetuates the Continued Degradation of the Vegetative Community and Overall Health of our Wildlife



Deer Management in MCMP: Our Plan

ODOW Non-Approved Management Methods:

Fertility Control

- Both Immunocontraception and Surgical Sterilization Have Been Extensively Studied by Numerous Organizations and have Proven to be Ineffective at Managing Deer Populations in Wild Free-Ranging Populations.
- Immunocontraception and Surgical Sterilization are **Not** Currently Permitted by the Ohio Division of Wildlife for use in Deer Management Programs – These Practices are **Only** Permitted for Use in Research Settings.
- Any Research Project Presented to the ODOW Must be Conducted by a Legitimate Research Institution, Have Clearly Defined Goals, and Must Research a Novel Idea.



Relocation

- The Relocation of White-tailed Deer is **Not** a Permitted Method of Management by the Ohio Division of Wildlife
- The Issue of White-tailed Deer Overpopulation is a Nation-Wide Problem – Where Would They Go?
- Disease Transmission – Moving Animals From One Area to Another Drastically Increase the Risk of Spreading Disease Such as CWD.



Deer Management in MCMP: Our Plan

Management Recommendations:

Controlled Hunting Program

- To reduce and manage white-tailed deer populations, the MetroParks is recommending the implementation of a controlled hunting program, beginning in the fall of 2023 in partnership with the Ohio Division of Natural Resources: Division of Wildlife at all Regional Facilities, where deemed safe and ecologically sound.



Targeted Removal Program

- Several areas throughout the MetroParks are not suited for hunting due to safety concerns based upon public usage of the facility and the total available acreage. To safely and effectively meet management goals in these areas the MetroParks is recommending a targeted removal program be implemented in partnership with USDA Wildlife Services.

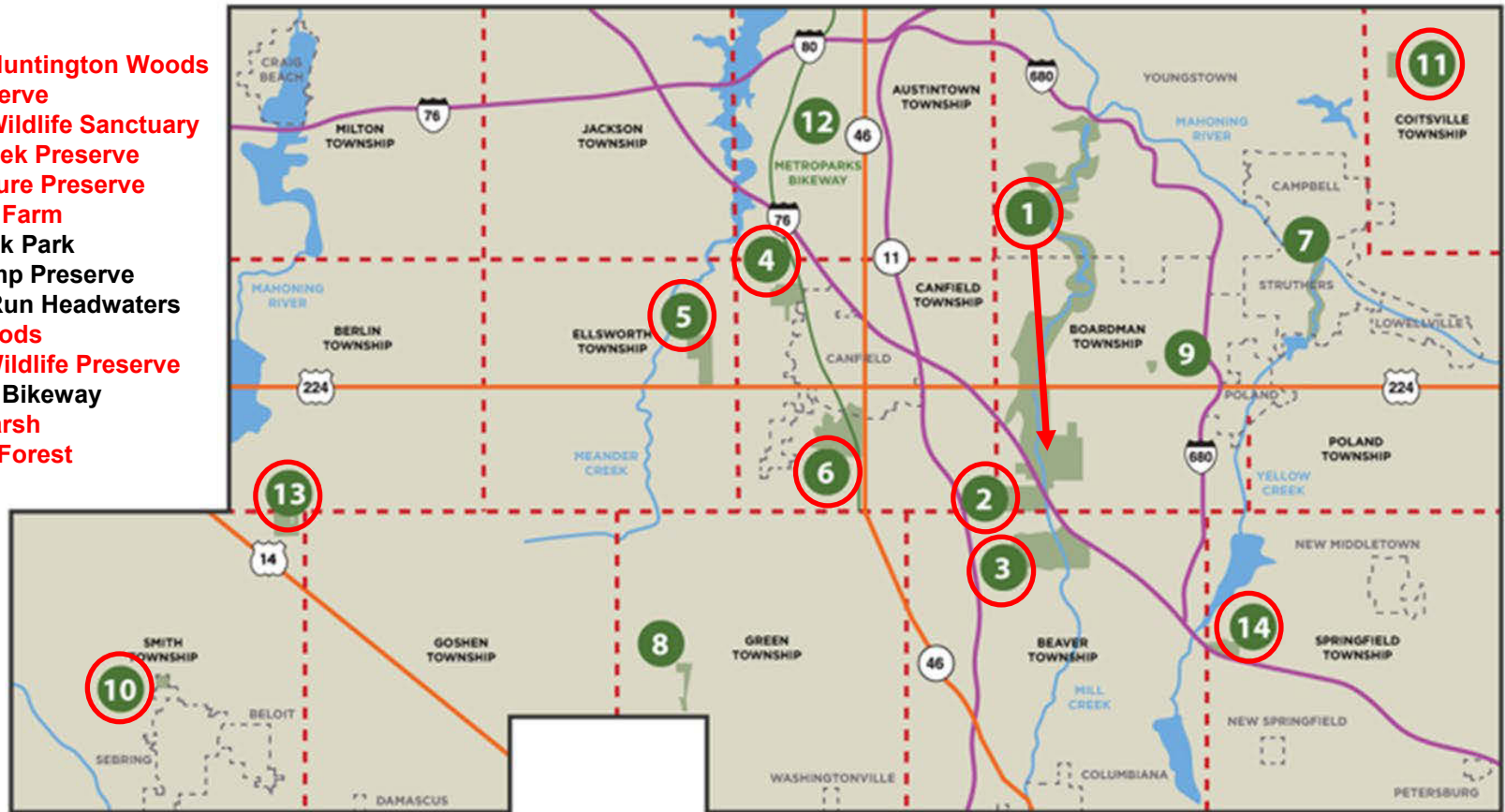


Deer Management in MCMP: Our Plan

Controlled Hunting Program:

No Hunting Will Take Place in Mill Creek Park (North of 224) or Yellow Creek Park

1. Hitchcock/Huntington Woods
2. Collier Preserve
3. Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary
4. Sawmill Creek Preserve
5. Vickers Nature Preserve
6. MetroParks Farm
7. Yellow Creek Park
8. Egypt Swamp Preserve
9. Cranberry Run Headwaters
10. Sebring Woods
11. McGuffey Wildlife Preserve
12. MetroParks Bikeway
13. Hawkins Marsh
14. Springfield Forest

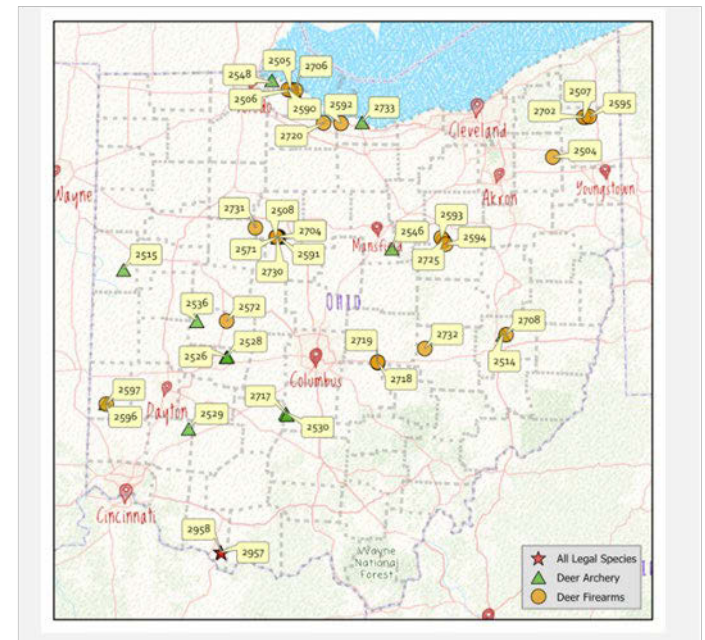
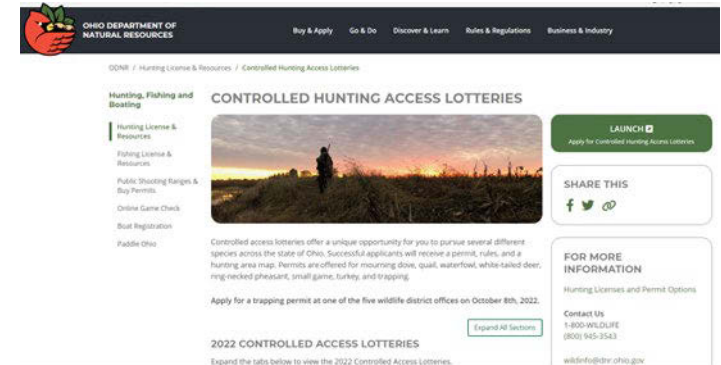


Deer Management in MCMP: Our Plan

Controlled Hunting Program:

Participants of the controlled hunting program will be chosen at random through a lottery conducted by the Ohio Division of Wildlife.

- Permit holders will be subject to both a list of MetroParks provided rules and regulations, and the statewide hunting regulations defined by ODOW – all of which will be **enforceable by law**.
- A \$3.00 application fee will be collected by the Ohio Division of Wildlife to cover administration costs associated with conducting the lottery – these proceeds will **not** benefit the MetroParks.
- Application Period: July 1 – July 31
- Permit Award Notifications: Mid-August
- Controlled Hunting Opportunities Will be Primarily Archery-Only, however Additional Firearm Hunting Opportunities Will be Incorporated at **Select** Regional Facilities



Controlled Hunting Program:

Only white-tailed deer may be harvested as part of this controlled hunt.

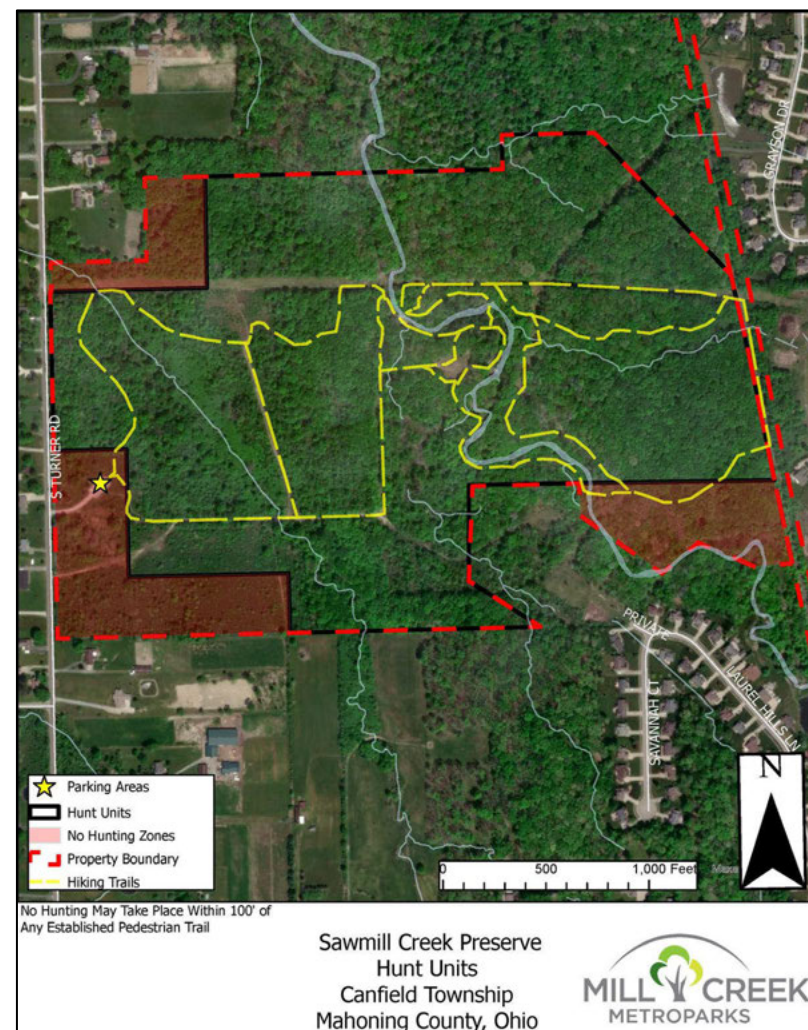
The number of hunters per property will be limited based upon available acreage with ~50 acres per permit – in total, there will never be more than 38 permit holders at any given time across all properties.

Permitted hunters may bring one (1) guest per day during their permit period.

Hunters are encouraged to harvest antlerless deer to effectively reduce overall population levels.

Hunters are not permitted to harvest any deer exhibiting a unique color phase (albino, leucistic, piebald, melanistic, etc.).

Failure to abide by any of the rules and regulations provided will result in the immediate revocation of the individuals controlled hunting permit and appropriate law enforcement action will be taken as required by MCMP Police and/or the County Wildlife Officer.



Deer Management in MCMP: Our Plan

Controlled Hunting Program:

- Archery-Only Permit Windows Will Begin on September 23rd and Will Continue Until February 3rd and Will Correspond with the Statewide Archery Season at **Select** Facilities.
- Archery-Only Permit Windows Will Be 1-Week in Length, Beginning on a Sunday and Ending on the Following Saturday.
- In Total, This Structure Will Provide Opportunity for 582 Archery Hunters and their Partners Throughout the Season.
- All Facilities Will Remain Open to the Public During Archery-Only Permit Windows, With Hunters Not Being Permitted to Actively Pursue Game Within 100' of a Marked Trail.
- Signage Will be Installed at Each Facility, Notifying the Public That Permitted Archery Hunting is Taking Place.



Deer Management in MCMP: Our Plan

Controlled Hunting Program:

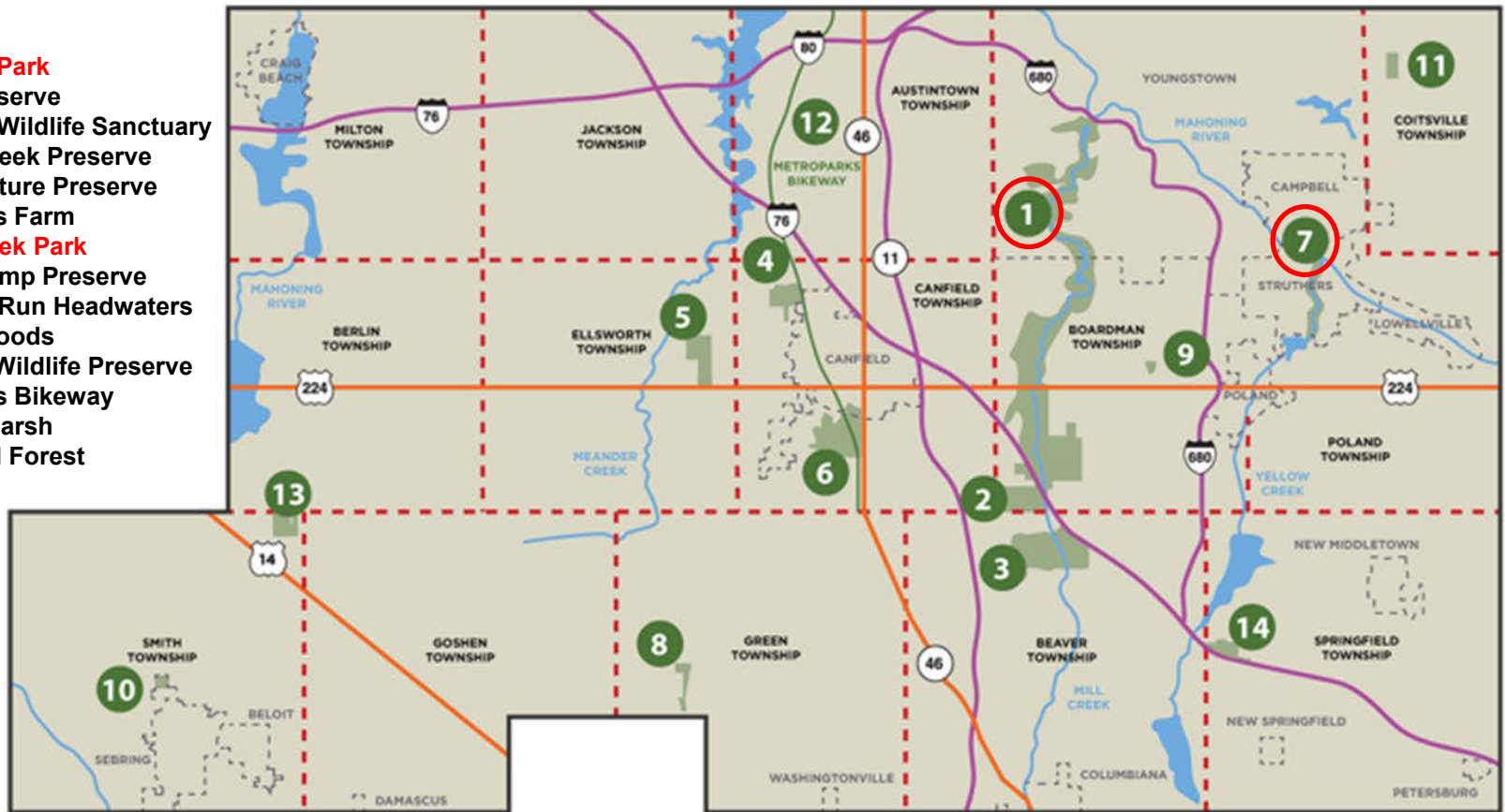
- Firearm Permit Windows Will Take Place Outside of the Statewide Firearm Hunting Season at Select Facilities.
- Firearm Permit Windows Will be 1-day in Length with Three (3) Separate Blocks of Time Being Dedicated to Firearm Hunting:
 - 11/12-11/18
 - 12/4-12/9
 - 1/14-1/20
- In Total, This Structure Will Provide Opportunity for 680 Firearm Hunters and their Partners Throughout the Season.
- All Applicable Facilities Will be Closed to the Public During Firearm Permit Windows.
- Signage Will be Installed at Each Facility, Notifying the Public of the Facility Closure.



Deer Management in MCMP: Our Plan

Targeted Removal Program:

1. **Mill Creek Park**
2. Collier Preserve
3. Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary
4. Sawmill Creek Preserve
5. Vickers Nature Preserve
6. MetroParks Farm
7. **Yellow Creek Park**
8. Egypt Swamp Preserve
9. Cranberry Run Headwaters
10. Sebring Woods
11. McGuffey Wildlife Preserve
12. MetroParks Bikeway
13. Hawkins Marsh
14. Springfield Forest



Targeted Removal Program:

A targeted removal program operates outside of typical hunting regulations, utilizing deer damage permits issued by the Ohio Division of Wildlife to effectively reduce deer populations to meet management goals in urban/suburban areas where safe hunting practices may not be achievable.

Targeted removal may also be used to supplement controlled hunting efforts at various locations, as needed.

Timing: October – March, Depending Upon Weather Conditions and Staff Availability

Operations will typically begin at dusk and continue into the night.



Deer Management in MCMP: Our Plan

Targeted Removal Program:

Applicable portions of Park will be **closed** to the public during **all** targeted removal operations – the public will be notified in advance and appropriate signage will be in place.

Deer will be harvested by federally employed professional marksmen using suppressed firearms and night vision and/or thermal imaging technology.

Use of a firearm is considered an **ethical** means of euthanasia by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).

All venison from USDA harvested deer will be processed and **donated** to the community through local food banks and community outreach programs. On average a single mature deer will provide over 200 (1/4 pound) servings of high-quality meat to families in need.

Any deer exhibiting a unique color phase (albino, leucistic, piebald, melanistic, etc.). Will **not** be targeted during **any** management operations.



Deer Management in MCMP: Our Plan

Goals:

Short-Term

Restore ecological balance by reducing population densities of white-tailed deer on MetroParks properties to within recommended carrying capacity using best management practices.

Enhance and restore areas previously damaged by overbrowsing and other negative impacts associated with an overabundance of white-tailed deer through sound habitat management practices.

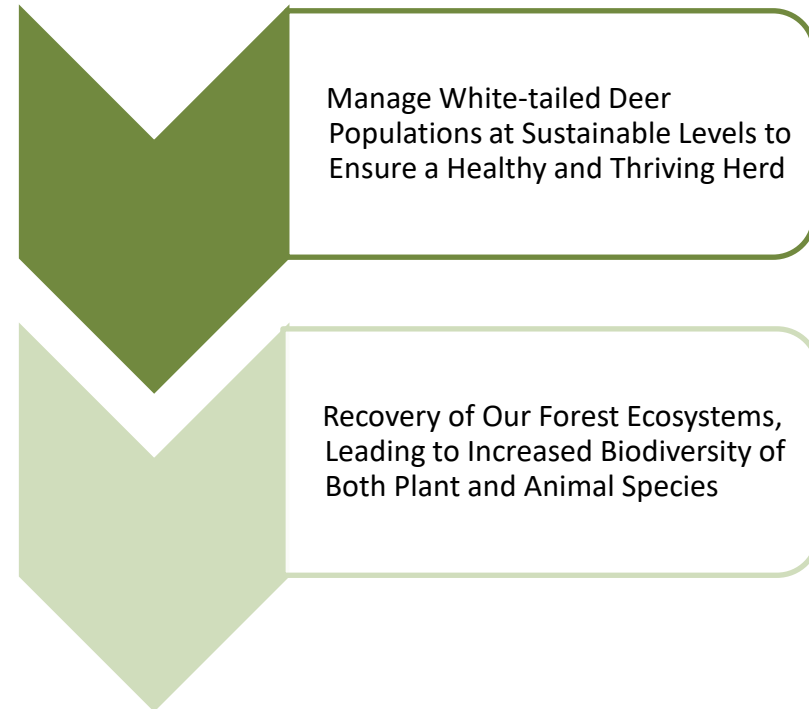
- **Timeline: 5-10 Years**

Long-Term

Manage white-tailed deer populations on MetroParks property in a sustainable fashion, within ecological carrying capacity in perpetuity.

Maintain a balanced and diverse ecosystem, focused on the biodiversity of native plants and wildlife.

- **Timeline: 10+ Years**



Monitoring Progress:

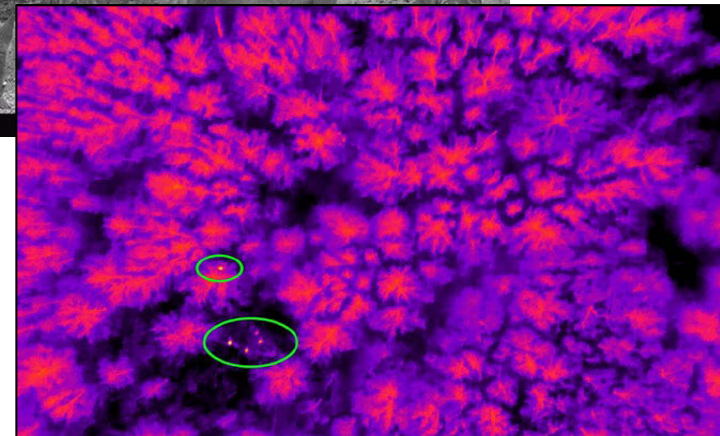
An integrated survey program has been established to continue monitoring our deer herd and the health of our forest ecosystems as we move forward.

Survey Methods

- Continued Aerial Infrared Surveys
- Helicopter Surveys (Non-Infrared)
- Trail Camera Monitoring
- Browse Surveys
- Vegetation Surveys



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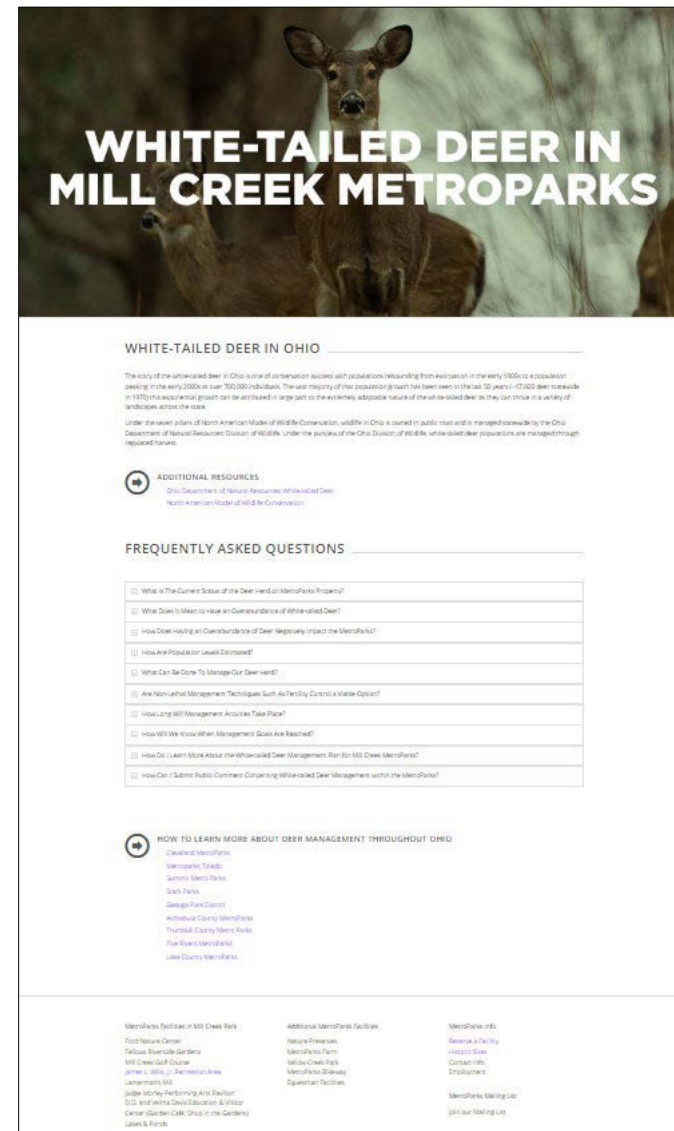


Deer Management in MCMP: Our Plan

Education and Communication:

Education and communication will be key components in both the short and long-term to the success of the Mill Creek MetroParks: White-tailed Deer Management Plan.

- A dedicated webpage to deer management within the MetroParks, with all relevant information being available to the public.
- Educational programming surrounding the ecology of the white-tailed deer and the impact they have on their local ecosystems.
- An annual report of management activities will be provided to the Board and will be made available on the webpage.



Deer Management in MCMP: Our Plan

Education and Communication:

Additional Resources:

An Integrated Approach for Managing White-Tailed Deer in Suburban Environments: The Cornell University Study

- <https://deeradvisor.dnr.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/resources/IntegratedApproachForManagingWTDeerInSuburbanEnvironments-28ax086.pdf>

Managing White-Tailed Deer in Suburban Environments: A Technical Guide

- <https://deeradvisor.dnr.cornell.edu/resource/managing-white-tailed-deer-suburban-environments-technical-guide>

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies: Methods for Managing Deer in Populated Areas

- https://www.fishwildlife.org/application/files/7315/3745/9637/AFWA_Deer_Mngmt_Pop_Areas_August_31_2018_version.pdf

Cuyahoga National Park: Final White-tailed Deer Management Plan EIS

- <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/showFile.cfm?projectID=10817&MIMETType=application%252Fpdf&filename=CUVA%20Final%20White%20Tailed%20Deer%20Management%20Plan%20EIS%2Epdf&sfid=197719>

An Annual Summary of Ohio's Deer Program

- <https://ohiodnr.gov/static/documents/wildlife/wildlife-management/Ohio+Deer+Summary+2021.pdf>



Deer Management in MCMP: Our Plan



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millcreekmetroparks.org

