

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mill Creek MetroParks entered into a Cooperative Service Agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services to implement portions of the park's Deer Management Program during the 2023-2024 management season. Under this agreement, WS performed all targeted removal activities, site preparation, field dressing, data collection, and transportation of harvested deer to a butchering facility to be processed for donation and human consumption.

The targeted removals were conducted in accordance with the Ohio Division of Wildlife Deer Damage Control Permit #18048. Deer management occurred on two separate nights. The targeted removal program focused on the southern portion of Mill Creek Park (Boardman Township), with all activity taking place between Shields Road and U.S. Route 224. Thirty-eight deer were removed by Wildlife Services. Seventy-nine percent (79%) of the total harvest was comprised of female deer.

Deer were processed for human consumption by a Litchfield, Ohio based processor. A total of 1,071.5 pounds of processed meat from deer harvested on this project was donated by the park to the Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley. Due to staff limitations, the Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley declined the venison donation that resulted from the 11/30/24 targeted removal. Instead, that 284.3 pounds of venison was donated to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

**United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Wildlife Services**

**2023-2024 Summary Report of Activities
Mill Creek MetroParks Targeted Removal Program**



[Mill Creek MetroParks Logo](#)

Submitted by:
USDA APHIS Wildlife Services
6100 Columbus Ave.
Sandusky, OH 44870



This document should be cited as:

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services. 2023-2024 Summary Report of Activities for the Mill Creek MetroParks Targeted Removal Program. Cooperative Service Agreement No.2472395691RA. 7pp.

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OVERVIEW

Need for Action

In support of white-tailed deer management to reduce damage to natural resources, the Ohio Division of Wildlife (DOW) issued Deer Damage Control Permit # 18048, authorizing Mill Creek MetroParks (MCMP) to remove up to 30 deer using targeted removal. That permit was amended on 11/29/2023 to include the authorized take of an additional 14 deer. The permit stipulated that only seven of those deer could be antlerless. The remaining seven were to be antlered deer. The DOW is the regulatory authority of wildlife in Ohio. The DOW urban/suburban deer management goal is to provide a deer population that will allow maximum recreational, aesthetic, and economic benefits while minimizing conflicts with property damage, loss of ecological biodiversity, and ensuring the overall health of the deer herd. It was under this permit that MCMP requested the assistance of Wildlife Services (WS) in meeting some of the objectives outlined in their Deer Management Plan. Specifically, MCMP would rely on professionally trained marksman from WS to perform targeted removals in areas where controlled hunting is not feasible or where controlled hunting alone fails to meet MCMP management objectives (MCMP 2023).

METHODS

Targeted Removal

For 2023/2024 the targeted removal program was focused on the southern portion of Mill Creek Park (Boardman Township), with all activity taking place between Shields Road and U.S. Route 224. The area was inspected by representatives from WS and MCMP to establish safe shooting zones before the targeted removals took place. MCMP rangers were on location, providing site security during each targeted removal effort.

Wildlife Services used rifles equipped with noise suppression devices, also known as suppressors. Suppressors quiet the muzzle blast of a rifle shot by slowing and redirecting the gases produced when the ammunition is discharged. A suppressor does not silence the sonic signature (sonic crack) of the projectile (bullet) in flight. In accordance with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) guidelines for euthanasia, shots were placed with the goal of penetration and destruction of brain tissue, causing an instant loss of consciousness.

Wildlife Services used forward looking infrared (FLIR) technology aided by night vision devices and/or firearm mounted spotlights when conducting sharpshooting activities. Wildlife Services utilized a handheld FLIR unit to locate and observe deer in complete darkness. These capabilities also further enhanced WS ability to ensure the safety of humans and pets during operations.

Data Collection and Processing

All harvested deer were tagged using temporary tags created by WS per DOW permit instructions. Each tag contained a unique identification number. Harvested deer were transported to a central processing station within the park. Biological data (gender, age, live weight) was collected for every deer. Deer were aged by assessing the tooth replacement and wear of the lower jaw (Severinghaus 1949). Deer were classified into the following age (years old) categories; 0.5, 1.5, 2.5, 3.5, 4.5 and 4.5+. The DOW places all deer older than 4.5 years of age into the 4.5+ category.

Deer were processed for human consumption by a Litchfield, Ohio based processor. A total of 1,071.5 pounds of processed meat from deer harvested on this project was donated by the park to the Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley. Due to staff limitations, the Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley declined the venison donation that resulted from the 11/30/24 targeted removal. Instead, that 284.3 pounds of venison was donated to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

RESULTS

Effort

Wildlife Services conducted targeted removals on two different nights (Table 1). A total of 18-person hours were utilized to remove 38 deer from the established management area within Mill Creek Park. This yielded a ratio of 0.47-person hours per deer harvested (total number of person hours spent shooting/total number of deer removed) (Table 2).

Table 1. WS targeted removals in Mill Creek Park, Ohio, 11 October and 30 November 2023.

Date	Deer Removed
10/12/2023	30
11/30/2023	8

Table 2. Effort required by WS to harvest 38 deer in Mill Creek Park, 11 October and 30 November 2023.

Number of Days	Number of Person Hours	Number of Deer Removed	Average Number of Deer Removed per Day	Number of Man Hours per Deer Removed
2	18	38	19	0.47

Age and Sex Distribution

Seventy-nine percent (79%) of the total harvest was comprised of female deer.

Table 3. Age and sex distribution of deer harvested by WS in Mill Creek Park, 11 October and 30 November 2023.

Age Class	Male	Percent of Total Harvest	Female	Percent of Total Harvest	Total for Age Class	Percent of Total Harvest
0.5	7	18%	10	26%	17	45%
1.5	1	3%	4	11%	5	13%
2.5	0	0%	8	21%	8	21%
3.5	0	0%	5	13%	5	13%
4.5	0	0%	2	5%	2	5%
4.5+	0	0%	1	3%	1	3%
Total	8	21%	30	79%	38	100%

Harvest Locations

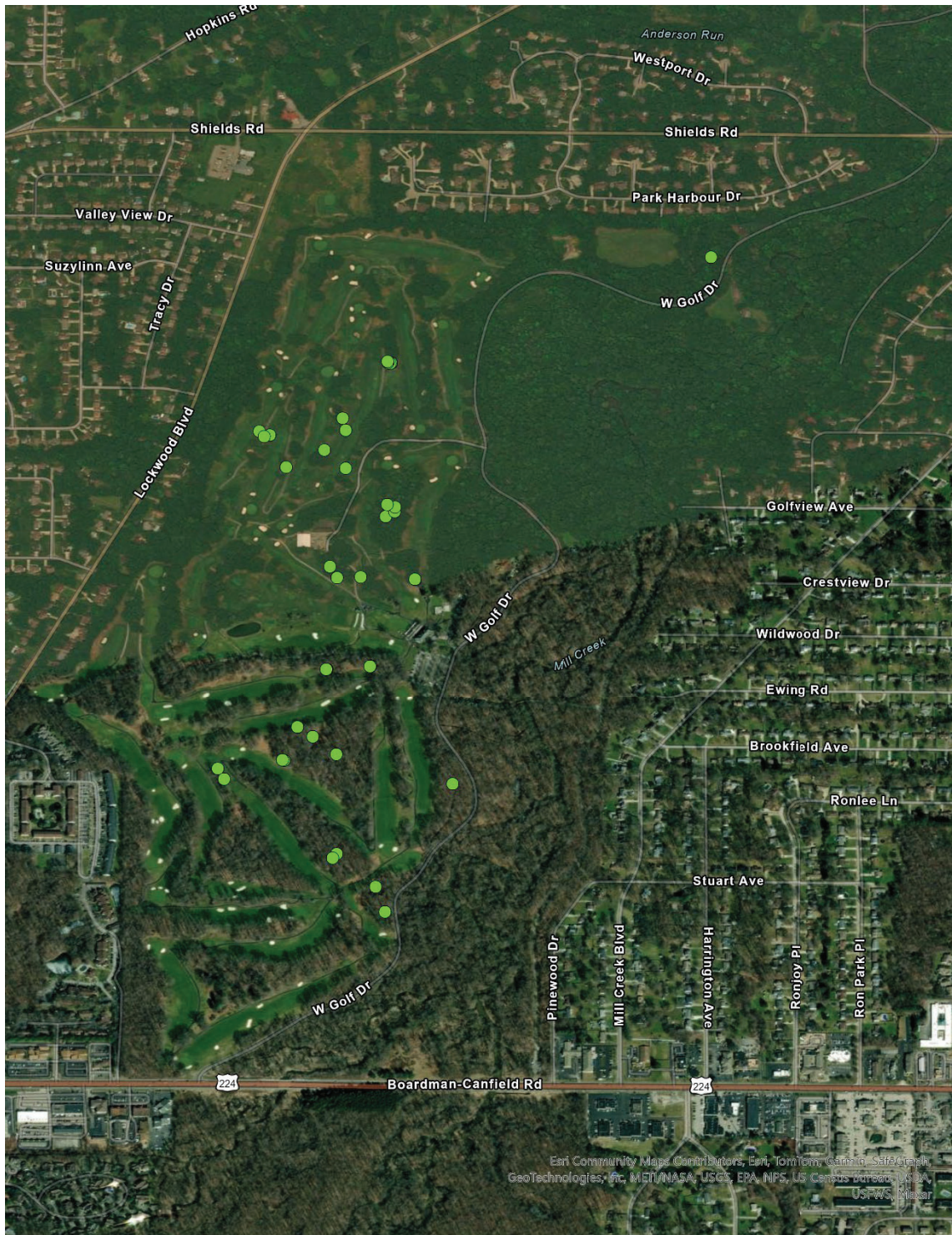


Figure 1. A map depicting the harvest locations of deer removed by WS during the targeted removals in Mill Creek Park, 11 October and 30 November 2023.

Live Weight

Figure 2 depicts the mean live weights (lbs.) for deer harvested during management activities in Mill Creek Park. Mean weights (lbs.) have been calculated by age class for both males and females.

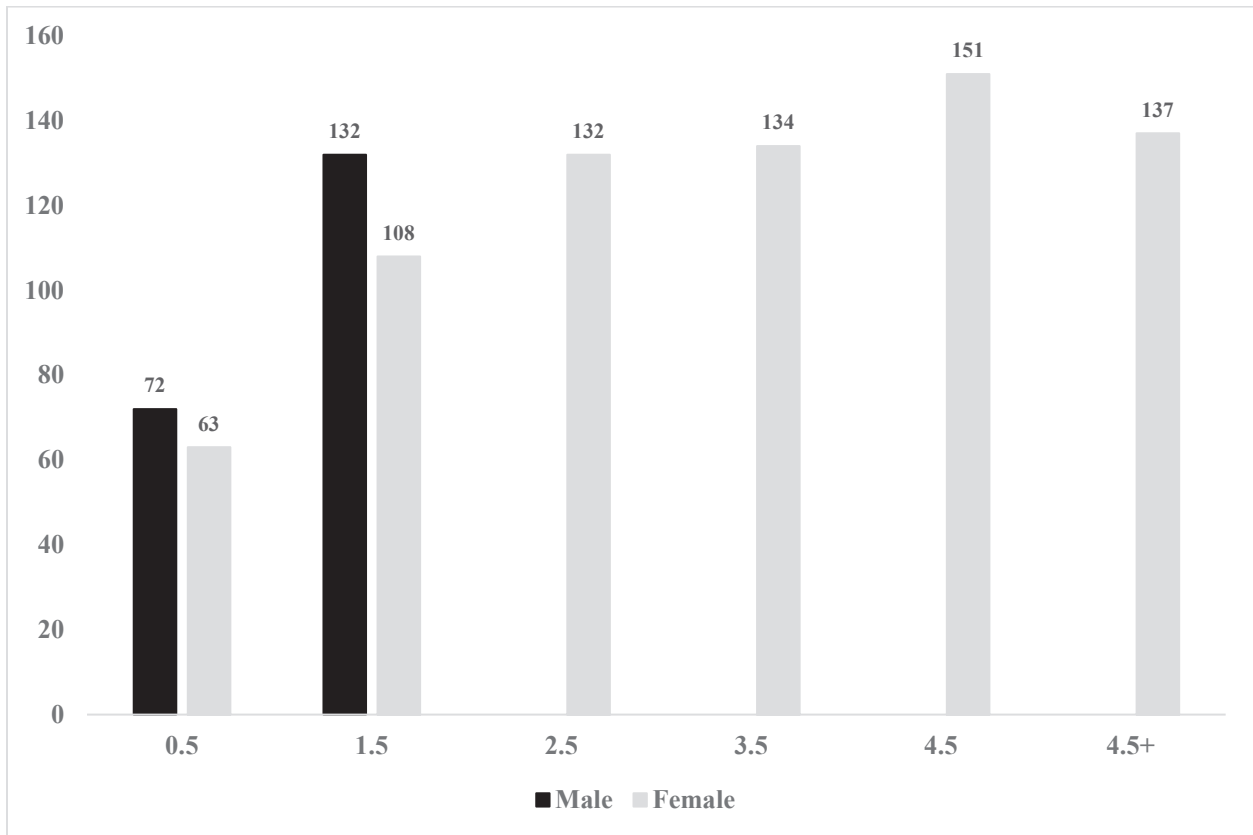


Figure 2. Mean live weights calculated by age class for male and female deer harvested by WS in Mill Creek Park, 11 October and 30 November 2023.

FUTURE MANAGEMENT

In 2023, MCMP finalized the development of a goal-oriented Deer Management Plan (MCMP 2023). The Deer Management Plan should be reviewed on an annual basis and updated periodically to reflect changing trends in science and culture. Wildlife Services will continue to support MCMP in evaluating and refining their Deer Management Plan and monitoring techniques to ensure that the most appropriate, effective, and current management practices are being utilized.

Management techniques considered in the Deer Management Plan included the use of hunting through controlled public hunts and targeted removals (MCMP 2023). Some combination of the two techniques will likely be the most efficient and cost-effective means for MCMP to reduce deer conflicts on properties where they have management authority. When possible, lethal management should be supported with non-lethal measures for an Integrated Wildlife Damage Management (IWDM) approach. The most effective approach to resolving wildlife damage is to integrate the use of several methods simultaneously. Management alternatives should be reviewed and updated annually. Goals should be evaluated and updated to reflect changes in deer populations, damage to natural resources, and overall public perception to deer within the MCMP. As the deer management program continues there may be a need to refine or change techniques to have continued success (MCMP 2023).

LITERATURE CITED

Mill Creek MetroParks (MCMP). 2023. White-tailed Deer Management Plan. 7 September 2023. 208 pp.

APPENDIX 1. 2023-2024 Biological Data for Deer Removed by WS

Date	ID Number	Sex	Age	Live Weight
10/12/2023	FY24MC001	Female	1.5	113.6
10/12/2023	FY24MC002	Male	0.5	76
10/12/2023	FY24MC003	Female	0.5	60.2
10/12/2023	FY24MC004	Female	0.5	77.3
10/12/2023	FY24MC005	Female	2.5	148.8
10/12/2023	FY24MC006	Female	2.5	129.2
10/12/2023	FY24MC007	Female	3.5	142.6
10/12/2023	FY24MC008	Male	0.5	78.4
10/12/2023	FY24MC009	Female	0.5	68.9
10/12/2023	FY24MC010	Female	0.5	47.8
10/12/2023	FY24MC011	Female	2.5	116.4
10/12/2023	FY24MC012	Female	1.5	97.4
10/12/2023	FY24MC013	Female	4.5+	136.8
10/12/2023	FY24MC014	Male	0.5	61.2
10/12/2023	FY24MC015	Female	2.5	166
10/12/2023	FY24MC016	Female	0.5	59.4
10/12/2023	FY24MC017	Female	1.5	110
10/12/2023	FY24MC018	Female	0.5	64.3
10/12/2023	FY24MC019	Male	0.5	68.2
10/12/2023	FY24MC020	Female	3.5	144.1
10/12/2023	FY24MC021	Female	0.5	62
10/12/2023	FY24MC022	Female	4.5	132.8
10/12/2023	FY24MC023	Female	3.5	123.3
10/12/2023	FY24MC024	Female	3.5	135
10/12/2023	FY24MC025	Female	0.5	52
10/12/2023	FY24MC026	Female	2.5	115
10/12/2023	FY24MC027	Male	0.5	59
10/12/2023	FY24MC028	Female	4.5	170
10/12/2023	FY24MC029	Female	2.5	131
10/12/2023	FY24MC030	Female	1.5	110.4
11/30/2023	FY24MC031	Female	3.5	127
11/30/2023	FY24MC032	Male	0.5	88
11/30/2023	FY24MC033	Male	0.5	74
11/30/2023	FY24MC034	Female	2.5	112
11/30/2023	FY24MC035	Female	0.5	67
11/30/2023	FY24MC036	Female	2.5	136
11/30/2023	FY24MC037	Female	0.5	72
11/30/2023	FY24MC038	Male	1.5	132

APPENDIX 2. 2023-2024 Mill Creek MetroParks Ohio Division of Wildlife Deer Damage Control Permit

Control Permit Number: 18048
Key: 2479905670

Division of Wildlife
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
DEER DAMAGE CONTROL PERMIT

DNR 8004

The following permit is issued to:

Nick Derico (330) 702-3000
(Name of Landowner, Lessee, or Agent) (Phone No. w/Area Code)
7574 Columbiana Canfield Rd. **Canfield** **44406**
(Mailing Address) (City) (Zip Code)

This permit may be utilized on the following properties in Mahoning County:

Address (closest road intersection if no address)	
1. <input type="checkbox"/> Mailing Address (if checked)	
2. Mill Creek MetroParks Properties	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	

Only the below listed shooters may be present while pursuing deer utilizing this Deer Damage Control Permit:
 • All shooters (except for Ohio resident landowners, their spouses, and children) must have a current Ohio hunting license to take deer under this permit.
 • All shooters are subject to a background check and may be denied as a shooter if they have been convicted of a prior wildlife or weapons offense.

Shooter's Legal Name	Date of Birth
1. USDA Wildlife Services	1/1/2000
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

This permit shall be in effect from **September 20, 2023** to **March 31, 2024**

This permit authorizes the killing of a total of **44** deer on properties listed on this permit.

The following types of deer may be killed: Antlerless deer Antlered deer

The following must be notified: (not required to notify if "N/A" is written).


before shooting each day: N/A _____ at () _____
 after shooting each day with the number of deer shot: N/A _____ at () _____

Special conditions of this permit: **Special conditions are outlined in the letter emailed to you and shall be attached to this permit. This permit notes an increase from 30 to 44 deer and shall replace the previously issued permit.**

ND (Initials) I acknowledge that if I am not the landowner, I must have written permission from the landowner prior to utilizing this permit to conduct control activities on the listed property(ies).

ND (Initials) I certify that I have read and understood all of the rules and conditions for the use of this permit listed on the front and back of this permit. Further, I understand that any failure to comply with all of the provisions of this permit will result in its immediate revocation and that any misuse of this permit will result in prosecution. I also understand that this permit does not supersede, and I must adhere to, any local laws, rules, or ordinances that pertain to the properties where this permit will be utilized.

ND (Initials) I certify that all statements made by me in this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief and that I understand that knowingly and willfully providing false information and applying for this permit/license is a violation of Section 2921.13 of the Ohio Revised Code for which I am subject to arrest.


 _____ (Signature of Landowner, Lessee, or Agent) 11/29/23 (Date)

Deer Management End of Operations Report for

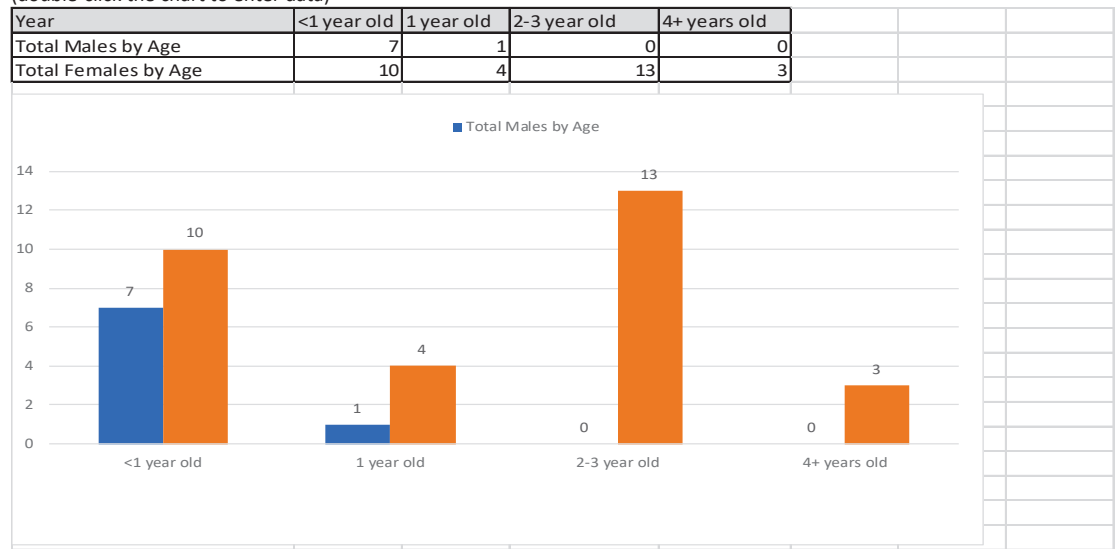
Mill Creek MetroParks

For the 2023/2024 Season

****Note-additional reports and data can be submitted with this report, but are not required****

The following is the breakdown by sex/age for the deer removed:

(double-click the chart to enter data)



A total of deer were removed. of the deer removed resulting in

pounds of meat were delivered to

remaining deer were receipted to the following:

Div. of Wildlife Deer Tag #	Name of person/organization who was receipted the deer

If any deer removed as part of this permit were tested for diseases (ex. CWD), attach the location where each sample was taken and the results to this report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mill Creek MetroParks entered into a Cooperative Service Agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services to implement portions of the park's Deer Management Program during the 2024-2025 management season. Under this agreement, WS performed all targeted removal activities, site preparation, field dressing, data collection, and transportation of harvested deer to a butchering facility to be processed for donation and human consumption.

The targeted removals were conducted in accordance with the Ohio Division of Wildlife Deer Damage Control Permit #27910. Deer management occurred on three separate nights. The targeted removal program focused on the southern portion of Mill Creek Park (Boardman Township), with all activity taking place between Midlothian Blvd and U.S. Route 224. Seventy-five deer were removed by Wildlife Services. Sixty-five percent (65%) of the total harvest was comprised of female deer.

Deer were processed for human consumption by a Litchfield, Ohio based processor. A total of 3,292.4 pounds of processed meat from deer harvested on this project was donated by the park to the Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio.

**United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Wildlife Services**

**2024-2025 Summary Report of Activities
Mill Creek MetroParks Targeted Removal Program**



[Mill Creek MetroParks Logo](#)

Submitted by:
USDA APHIS Wildlife Services
590 E Western Reserve Road
Poland, OH 44514



This document should be cited as:

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services. 2024-2025 Summary Report of Activities for the Mill Creek MetroParks Targeted Removal Program. Cooperative Service Agreement No.2572395691RA 8pp.

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OVERVIEW

Need for Action

In support of white-tailed deer management to reduce damage to natural resources, the Ohio Division of Wildlife (DOW) issued Deer Damage Control Permit # 27910, authorizing Mill Creek MetroParks (MCMP) to remove up to 75 deer using targeted removal. The permit stipulated that at least 60% of the targeted removals must be antlerless deer. The DOW is the regulatory authority of wildlife in Ohio. The DOW urban/suburban deer management goal is to provide a deer population that will allow maximum recreational, aesthetic, and economic benefits while minimizing conflicts with property damage, loss of ecological biodiversity, and ensuring the overall health of the deer herd. It was under this permit that MCMP requested the assistance of Wildlife Services (WS) in meeting some of the objectives outlined in their Deer Management Plan. Specifically, MCMP would rely on professionally trained marksman from WS to perform targeted removals in areas where controlled hunting is not feasible or where controlled hunting alone fails to MCMP meet management objectives (MCMP 2024).

METHODS

Targeted Removal

In the 2024-2025 management season, the targeted removal program was focused on the southern portion of Mill Creek Park (Boardman Township), with all activity taking place between Midlothian Blvd and U.S. Route 224. The area was inspected by representatives from WS and MCMP to establish safe shooting zones before the targeted removals took place. MCMP rangers were on location, providing site security during each targeted removal effort.

Wildlife Services used rifles equipped with noise suppression devices, also known as suppressors. Suppressors quiet the muzzle blast of a rifle shot by slowing and redirecting the gases produced when the ammunition is discharged. A suppressor does not silence the sonic signature (sonic crack) of the projectile (bullet) in flight. In accordance with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) guidelines for euthanasia, shots were placed with the goal of penetration and destruction of brain tissue, causing an instant loss of consciousness.

Wildlife Services used forward looking infrared (FLIR) technology aided by night vision devices and/or firearm mounted spotlights when conducting sharpshooting activities. Wildlife Services utilized a handheld FLIR unit to locate and observe deer in complete darkness. These capabilities also further enhanced WS ability to ensure the safety of humans and pets during operations.

Data Collection and Processing

All harvested deer were tagged using temporary tags created by WS per DOW permit instructions. Each tag contained a unique identification number. Harvested deer were transported to a central processing station within the park. Biological data (gender, age, live weight) was collected for every deer. Deer were aged by assessing the tooth replacement and wear of the lower jaw (Severinghaus 1949). Deer were classified into the following age (years old) categories; 0.5, 1.5, 2.5, 3.5, and 4.5+. The DOW places all deer older than 3.5 years of age into the 4.5+ category.

Deer were processed for human consumption by a Litchfield, Ohio based processor. A total of 3,292.4 pounds of processed meat from deer harvested on this project was donated by the park to the Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio.

RESULTS

Effort

Wildlife Services conducted targeted removals on three different nights (Table 1). A total of 10.5-person hours were utilized to remove 75 deer from the established management area within Mill Creek Park. This yielded a ratio of 0.14-person hours per deer harvested (total number of person hours spent shooting/total number of deer removed) (Table 2).

Table 1. WS targeted removals in Mill Creek Park, Ohio, 7 October- 28 October 2024.

Date	Deer Removed
10/07/2024	40
10/09/2024	14
10/28/2024	21

Table 2. Effort required by WS to harvest 75 deer in Mill Creek Park, 7 October- 28 October 2024.

Number of Days	Number of Man Hours	Number of Deer Removed	Average Number of Deer Removed per Day	Number of Man Hours per Deer Removed
3	10.5	75	25	0.14

Age and Sex Distribution

Sixty-five percent (65%) of the total harvest was comprised of female deer.

Table 3. Age and sex distribution of deer harvested by WS in Mill Creek Park, 7 October- 28 October 2024.

Age Class	Male	Percent of Total Harvest	Female	Percent of Total Harvest	Total for Age Class	Percent of Total Harvest
0.5	9	12%	9	12%	18	24%
1.5	9	12%	12	16%	21	28%
2.5	3	4%	10	13%	13	17.3%
3.5	5	7%	11	15%	16	21.3%
4.5+	0	0%	7	9%	7	9.3%
Total	26	35%	49	65%	75	100%

Harvest Locations

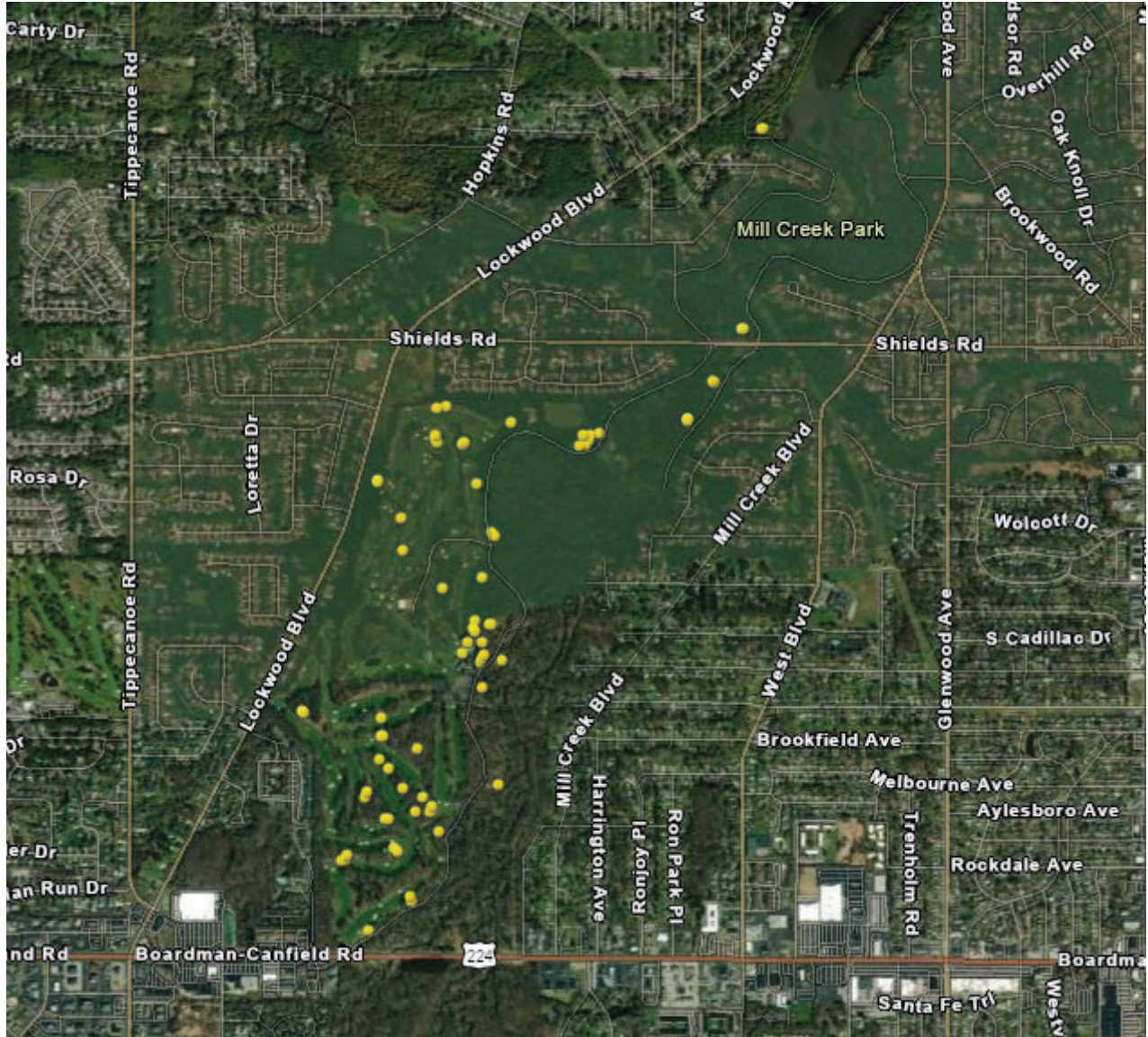


Figure 1. A map depicting the harvest locations of deer removed by WS during the targeted removals in Mill Creek Park, 7 October- 28 October 2024.

Live Weight

Figure 2 depicts the mean live weights (lbs.) for deer harvested during management activities in Mill Creek Park. Mean weights (lbs.) have been calculated by age class for both males and females.

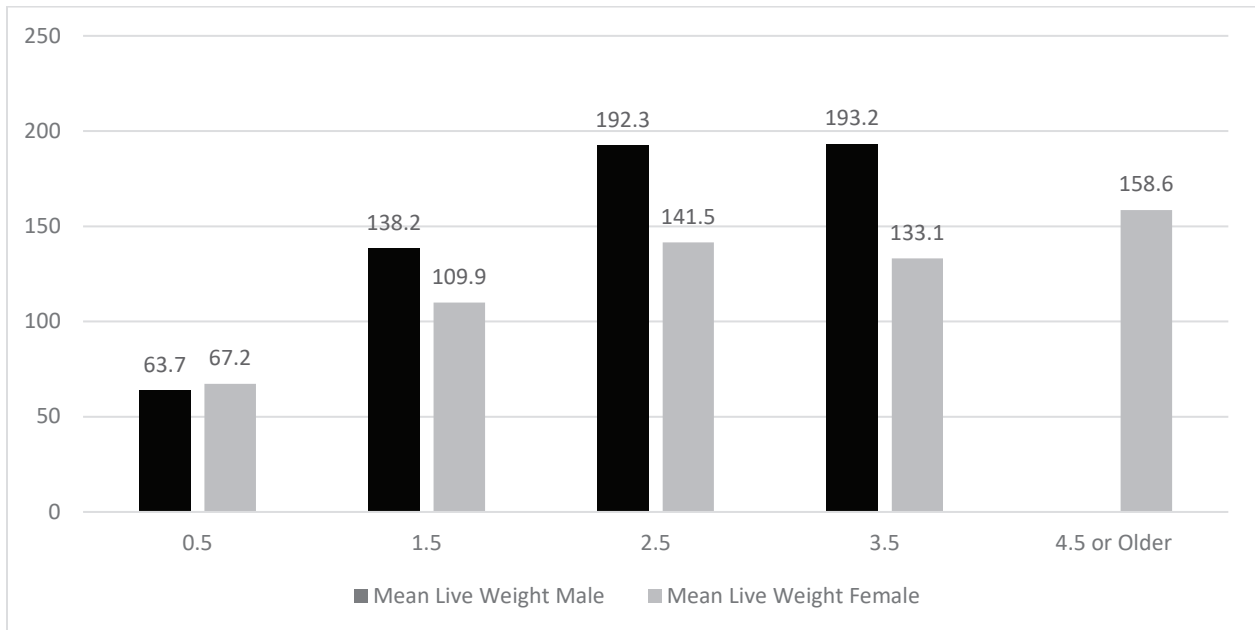


Figure 2. Mean live weights calculated by age class for male and female deer harvested WS in Mill Creek Park, 7 October- 28 October 2024.

FUTURE MANAGEMENT

In 2024, MCMP reviewed and updated the Deer Management Plan based on the results of the program in the 2023-2024 season (MCMP 2023). The Deer Management Plan should continue to be reviewed on an annual basis and updated periodically to reflect changing trends in science and culture. Wildlife Services will continue to support MCMP in evaluating and refining their Deer Management Plan and monitoring techniques to ensure that the most appropriate, effective, and current management practices are being utilized.

Management techniques considered in the Deer Management Plan included the use of hunting through controlled public hunts and targeted removals (MCMP 2024). Some combination of the two techniques will likely be the most efficient and cost-effective means for MCMP to reduce deer conflicts on properties where they have management authority. When possible, lethal management should be supported with non-lethal measures for an Integrated Wildlife Damage Management (IWDM) approach. The most effective approach to resolving wildlife damage is to integrate the use of several methods simultaneously. Management alternatives should be reviewed and updated annually. Goals should be evaluated and updated to reflect changes in deer populations, damage to natural resources, and overall public perception to deer within the MCMP. As the deer management program continues there may be a need to refine or change techniques to have continued success (MCMP 2024).

LITERATURE CITED

Mill Creek MetroParks (MCMP). 2024. White-tailed Deer Management Plan. 17 September 2024. 29 pp.

APPENDIX 1. 2024-2025 Biological Data for Deer Removed by WS

Date	ID Number	Sex	Age	Live Weight
10/7/24	FY25MC001	Female	2.5	124
10/7/24	FY25MC002	Female	2.5	175
10/7/24	FY25MC003	Male	3.5	139
10/7/24	FY25MC004	Female	3.5	126
10/7/24	FY25MC005	Female	1.5	114
10/7/24	FY25MC006	Male	0.5	76
10/7/24	FY25MC007	Female	3.5	130
10/7/24	FY25MC008	Female	1.5	116
10/7/24	FY25MC009	Male	0.5	58
10/7/24	FY25MC010	Female	2.5	137
10/7/24	FY25MC011	Female	3.5	130
10/7/24	FY25MC012	Female	4.5+	157
10/7/24	FY25MC013	Male	1.5	148
10/7/24	FY25MC014	Male	1.5	106
10/7/24	FY25MC015	Female	4.5+	184
10/7/24	FY25MC016	Female	1.5	121
10/7/24	FY25MC017	Female	3.5	128
10/7/24	FY25MC018	Male	0.5	76
10/7/24	FY25MC019	Female	0.5	74
10/7/24	FY25MC020	Female	0.5	63
10/7/24	FY25MC021	Male	3.5	196
10/7/24	FY25MC022	Female	2.5	126
10/7/24	FY25MC023	Male	0.5	66
10/7/24	FY25MC024	Female	3.5	143
10/7/24	FY25MC025	Female	0.5	68
10/7/24	FY25MC026	Female	1.5	124
10/7/24	FY25MC027	Female	0.5	76
10/7/24	FY25MC028	Female	2.5	134
10/7/24	FY25MC029	Male	1.5	130
10/7/24	FY25MC030	Male	0.5	45
10/7/24	FY25MC031	Female	1.5	94
10/7/24	FY25MC032	Male	3.5	202
10/7/24	FY25MC033	Male	2.5	190
10/7/24	FY25MC034	Male	1.5	124
10/7/24	FY25MC035	Female	0.5	52
10/7/24	FY25MC036	Male	0.5	42
10/7/24	FY25MC037	Female	2.5	178
10/7/24	FY25MC038	Female	1.5	88
10/7/24	FY25MC039	Female	3.5	122
10/7/24	FY25MC040	Male	0.5	62
10/9/24	FY25MC041	Male	1.5	150
10/9/24	FY25MC042	Male	2.5	175

10/9/24	FY25MC043	Female	2.5	124
10/9/24	FY25MC044	Female	3.5	126
10/9/24	FY25MC045	Female	2.5	137
10/9/24	FY25MC046	Female	4.5+	151
10/9/24	FY25MC047	Female	0.5	75
10/9/24	FY25MC048	Female	1.5	117
10/9/24	FY25MC049	Female	4.5+	186
10/9/24	FY25MC050	Female	3.5	139
10/9/24	FY25MC051	Female	3.5	143
10/9/24	FY25MC052	Female	2.5	147
10/9/24	FY25MC053	Male	2.5	212
10/9/24	FY25MC054	Male	3.5	221
10/28/24	FY25MC055	Female	1.5	113
10/28/24	FY25MC056	Female	2.5	133
10/28/24	FY25MC057	Male	1.5	120
10/28/24	FY25MC058	Male	0.5	65
10/28/24	FY25MC059	Male	0.5	83
10/28/24	FY25MC060	Female	3.5	148
10/28/24	FY25MC061	Female	1.5	112
10/28/24	FY25MC062	Male	1.5	154
10/28/24	FY25MC063	Male	1.5	159
10/28/24	FY25MC064	Female	0.5	59
10/28/24	FY25MC065	Female	1.5	103
10/28/24	FY25MC066	Female	1.5	122
10/28/24	FY25MC067	Female	4.5+	150
10/28/24	FY25MC068	Female	4.5+	148
10/28/24	FY25MC069	Female	0.5	59
10/28/24	FY25MC070	Female	3.5	129
10/28/24	FY25MC071	Female	4.5+	134
10/28/24	FY25MC072	Female	1.5	95
10/28/24	FY25MC073	Female	0.5	79
10/28/24	FY25MC074	Male	1.5	153
10/28/24	FY25MC075	Male	3.5	208

APPENDIX 2. 2024-2025 Mill Creek MetroParks Ohio Division of Wildlife Deer Damage Control Permit

Control Permit Number: 27910 Key: 64009551641	Division of Wildlife Ohio Department of Natural Resources DEER DAMAGE CONTROL PERMIT	DNR 9004
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The following permit is issued to:

Nick Derico <small>(Name of Landowner, Lessee, or Agent)</small>	(330) 702-3000 <small>(Phone No. w/Area Code)</small>
7574 Columbiana Canfield Rd. <small>(Mailing Address)</small>	Canfield <small>(City)</small>
	44406 <small>(Zip Code)</small>

This permit may be utilized on the following properties in Mahoning County:

Address (closest road intersection if no address)
1. <input type="checkbox"/> Mailing Address (if checked)
2. Various Mill Creek MetroParks Lands
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.

Only the below listed shooters may be present while pursuing deer utilizing this Deer Damage Control Permit:
 • All shooters (except for Ohio resident landowners, their spouses, and children OR someone holding a Commercial Nuisance Wild Animal Control License) must have a current Ohio hunting license to take deer under this permit.
 • All shooters are subject to a background check and may be denied as a shooter if they have been convicted of a prior wildlife or weapons offense.

Shooter's Legal Name	Date of Birth
1. USDA Wildlife Services	1/1/2000
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

This permit shall be in effect from October 01, 2024 to March 31, 2025
 This permit authorizes the killing of a total of 75 deer on properties listed on this permit.
 The following types of deer may be killed: Antlerless deer Antlered deer
 The following must be notified: (not required to notify if "N/A" is written).
 before shooting each day: N/A at ()
 after shooting each day with the number of deer shot: N/A at ()
 Special conditions of this permit: Special conditions are outlined in the letter emailed to you and shall be attached to this permit.

I acknowledge that if I am not the landowner, I must have written permission from the landowner prior to utilizing this permit to conduct control activities on the listed property(ies).
 I certify that I have read and understood all of the rules and conditions for the use of this permit listed on the front and back of this permit. Further, I understand that any failure to comply with all of the provisions of this permit will result in its immediate revocation and that any misuse of this permit will result in prosecution. I also understand that this permit does not supersede, and I must adhere to, any local laws, rules, or ordinances that pertain to the properties where this permit will be utilized.
 I certify that all statements made by me in this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief and that I understand that knowingly and willfully providing false information and applying for this permit/license is a violation of Section 2921.13 of the Ohio Revised Code for which I am subject to arrest.

	10/3/24
(Signature of Landowner, Lessee, or Agent)	(Date)

Page 1

Deer Management End of Operations Report for

Mill Creek MetroParks

For the 2024/2025 Season

****Note-additional reports and data can be submitted with this report, but are not required****

A total of deer were removed through lethal mgmt. of those deer were given to food bank resulting in pounds of meat donated. The remaining deer were receipted to the following:

Div. of Wildlife Deer Tag #	Name of person/organization who was receipted the deer
FY25MC040	Disposed of, not processed

The following is a summary by sex/age for all deer removed through lethal management:

	Fawn (<1 yr old)	Yearling (1 yr old)	Young Adult (2 or 3 year old)	Old Adult (4 yr old +)
M	9	9	8	0
F	9	12	21	7

If any deer removed as part of this permit were tested for diseases (ex. CWD), you are required to provide the results of those tests to the Division of Wildlife once you receive them.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mill Creek MetroParks entered into a Cooperative Service Agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services to implement portions of the park's Deer Management Program during the 2025-2026 management season. Under this agreement, WS performed all targeted removal activities, site preparation, field dressing, data collection, and transportation of harvested deer to a butchering facility to be processed for donation and human consumption.

The targeted removals were conducted in accordance with the Ohio Division of Wildlife Deer Damage Control Permit #32980. Deer management occurred on four separate nights. The targeted removal program focused on the southern portion of Mill Creek Park (Boardman Township), with all activity taking place between Midlothian Blvd and U.S. Route 224. Fifty deer were removed by Wildlife Services. Fifty-eight percent (58%) of the total harvest was comprised of female deer.

Deer were processed for human consumption by a Litchfield, Ohio based processor. A total of 2198.9 pounds of processed meat from deer harvested on this project was donated by the park to the Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio.

**United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Wildlife Services**

**2025-2026 Summary Report of Activities
Mill Creek MetroParks Targeted Removal Program**



[Mill Creek MetroParks Logo](#)

Submitted by:
USDA APHIS Wildlife Services
590 E Western Reserve Road
Poland, OH 44514



This document should be cited as:

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services. 2025-2026 Summary Report of Activities for the Mill Creek MetroParks Targeted Removal Program. Cooperative Service Agreement No.2672395691RA 8pp.

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OVERVIEW

Need for Action

In support of white-tailed deer management to reduce damage to natural resources, the Ohio Division of Wildlife (DOW) issued Deer Damage Control Permit # 32980, authorizing Mill Creek MetroParks (MCMP) to remove up to 50 deer using targeted removal. The DOW is the regulatory authority of wildlife in Ohio. The DOW urban/suburban deer management goal is to provide a deer population that will allow maximum recreational, aesthetic, and economic benefits while minimizing conflicts with property damage, loss of ecological biodiversity, and ensuring the overall health of the deer herd. It was under this permit that MCMP requested the assistance of Wildlife Services (WS) in meeting some of the objectives outlined in their Deer Management Plan. Specifically, MCMP would rely on professionally trained marksman from WS to perform targeted removals in areas where controlled hunting is not feasible or where controlled hunting alone fails to MCMP meet management objectives (MCMP 2025).

METHODS

Targeted Removal

In the 2025-2026 management season, the targeted removal program was focused on the southern portion of Mill Creek Park (Boardman Township), with all activity taking place between Midlothian Blvd and U.S. Route 224. The area was inspected by representatives from WS and MCMP to establish safe shooting zones before the targeted removals took place. MCMP rangers were on location, providing site security during each targeted removal effort.

Wildlife Services used rifles equipped with noise suppression devices, also known as suppressors. Suppressors quiet the muzzle blast of a rifle shot by slowing and redirecting the gases produced when the ammunition is discharged. A suppressor does not silence the sonic signature (sonic crack) of the projectile (bullet) in flight. In accordance with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) guidelines for euthanasia, shots were placed with the goal of penetration and destruction of brain tissue, causing an instant loss of consciousness.

Wildlife Services used forward looking infrared (FLIR) technology aided by night vision devices and/or firearm mounted spotlights when conducting sharpshooting activities. Wildlife Services utilized a handheld FLIR unit to locate and observe deer in complete darkness. These capabilities also further enhanced WS ability to ensure the safety of humans and pets during operations.

Data Collection and Processing

All harvested deer were tagged using temporary tags created by WS per DOW permit instructions. Each tag contained a unique identification number. Harvested deer were transported to a central processing station within the park. Biological data (gender, age, live weight) was collected for every deer. Deer were aged by assessing the tooth replacement and wear of the lower jaw (Severinghaus 1949). Deer were classified into the following age (years old) categories; 0.5, 1.5, 2.5, 3.5, and 4.5+. The DOW places all deer older than 4.5 years of age into the 4.5+ category.

Deer were processed for human consumption by a Litchfield, Ohio based processor. A total of 2,198.9 pounds of processed meat from deer harvested on this project was donated by the park to the Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio.

RESULTS

Effort

Wildlife Services conducted targeted removals on four different nights (Table 1). A total of 16-person hours were utilized to remove 50 deer from the established management area within Mill Creek Park. This yielded a ratio of 0.32-person hours per deer harvested (total number of person hours spent shooting/total number of deer removed) (Table 2).

Table 1. WS targeted removals in Mill Creek Park, Ohio, 21 October- 20 November 2025.

Date	Deer Removed
10/21/2025	25
10/28/2025	7
11/13/2025	11
11/20/2025	6

Table 2. Effort required by WS to harvest 50 deer in Mill Creek Park, 21 October- 20 November 2025.

Number of Days	Number of Man Hours	Number of Deer Removed	Average Number of Deer Removed per Day	Number of Man Hours per Deer Removed
4	16	50	12.5	.32

Age and Sex Distribution

Fifty-eight percent (58%) of the total harvest was comprised of female deer.

Table 3. Age and sex distribution of deer harvested by WS in Mill Creek Park, 21 October- 20 November 2025.

Age Class	Male	Percent of Total Harvest	Female	Percent of Total Harvest	Total for Age Class	Percent of Total Harvest
0.5	8	16%	8	16%	16	32%
1.5	6	12%	3	6%	9	18%
2.5	3	6%	11	22%	14	28%
3.5	3	6%	6	12%	9	18%
4.5+	1	2%	1	2%	2	4%
Total	21	42%	29	58%	50	100%

Harvest Locations



Figure 1. A map depicting the harvest locations of deer removed by WS during the targeted removals in Mill Creek Park, 21 October- 20 November 2025.

Live Weight

Figure 2 depicts the mean live weights (lbs.) for deer harvested during management activities in Mill Creek Park. Mean weights (lbs.) have been calculated by age class for both males and females.

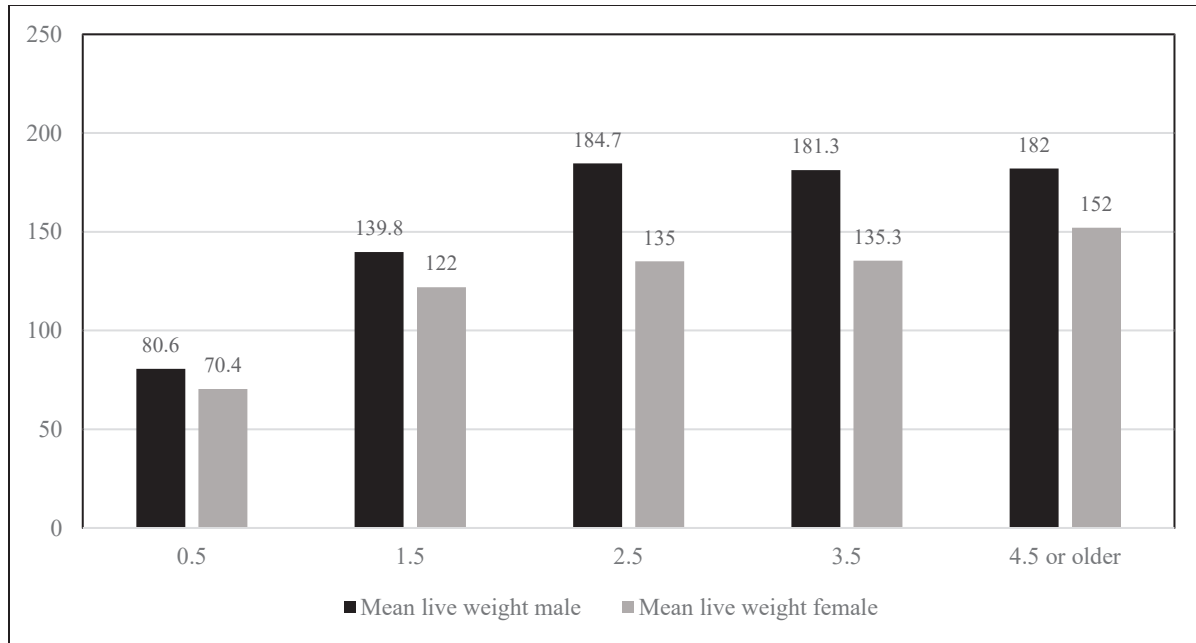


Figure 2. Mean live weights calculated by age class for male and female deer harvested WS in Mill Creek Park, 21 October- 20 November 2025.

FUTURE MANAGEMENT

In 2025, MCMP reviewed and updated the Deer Management Plan based on the results of the program in the 2025-2026 season (MCMP 2025). The Deer Management Plan should continue to be reviewed on an annual basis and updated periodically to reflect changing trends in science and culture. Wildlife Services will continue to support MCMP in evaluating and refining their Deer Management Plan and monitoring techniques to ensure that the most appropriate, effective, and current management practices are being utilized.

Management techniques considered in the Deer Management Plan included the use of hunting through controlled public hunts and targeted removals (MCMP 2025). Some combination of the two techniques will likely be the most efficient and cost-effective means for MCMP to reduce deer conflicts on properties where they have management authority. When possible, lethal management should be supported with non-lethal measures for an Integrated Wildlife Damage Management (IWDM) approach. The most effective approach to resolving wildlife damage is to integrate the use of several methods simultaneously. Management alternatives should be reviewed and updated annually. Goals should be evaluated and updated to reflect changes in deer populations, damage to natural resources, and overall public perception to deer within the MCMP. As the deer management program continues there may be a need to refine or change techniques to have continued success (MCMP 2025).

LITERATURE CITED

Mill Creek MetroParks (MCMP). 2025 White-tailed Deer Management Plan. 10 September 2025. 30 pp.

APPENDIX 1. 2025-2026 Biological Data for Deer Removed by WS

Date	ID Number	Sex	Age	Live Weight
10/21/2025	FY26MC001	Male	1.5	161
10/21/2025	FY26MC002	Female	2.5	130
10/21/2025	FY26MC003	Female	0.5	68
10/21/2025	FY26MC004	Female	3.5	143
10/21/2025	FY26MC005	Female	0.5	77
10/21/2025	FY26MC006	Male	1.5	139
10/21/2025	FY26MC007	Male	0.5	50
10/21/2025	FY26MC008	Female	1.5	119
10/21/2025	FY26MC009	Male	0.5	85
10/21/2025	FY26MC010	Female	1.5	117
10/21/2025	FY26MC011	Female	3.5	147
10/21/2025	FY26MC012	Female	2.5	133
10/21/2025	FY26MC013	Female	0.5	75
10/21/2025	FY26MC014	Male	0.5	87
10/21/2025	FY26MC015	Female	0.5	80
10/21/2025	FY26MC016	Female	2.5	147
10/21/2025	FY26MC017	Female	3.5	150
10/21/2025	FY26MC018	Male	0.5	84
10/21/2025	FY26MC019	Female	0.5	83
10/21/2025	FY26MC020	Female	2.5	137
10/21/2025	FY26MC021	Male	2.5	183
10/21/2025	FY26MC022	Male	0.5	85
10/21/2025	FY26MC023	Female	2.5	150
10/21/2025	FY26MC024	Female	1.5	130
10/21/2025	FY26MC025	Female	4.5+	152
10/28/2025	FY26MC026	Male	2.5	189
10/28/2025	FY26MC027	Female	0.5	76
10/28/2025	FY26MC028	Female	2.5	120
10/28/2025	FY26MC029	Male	0.5	83
10/28/2025	FY26MC030	Male	1.5	168
10/28/2025	FY26MC031	Female	0.5	56
10/28/2025	FY26MC032	Female	3.5	119
11/13/2025	FY26MC033	Male	2.5	182
11/13/2025	FY26MC034	Female	2.5	135
11/13/2025	FY26MC035	Male	3.5	195
11/13/2025	FY26MC036	Female	2.5	133
11/13/2025	FY26MC037	Male	3.5	164
11/13/2025	FY26MC038	Female	2.5	116
11/13/2025	FY26MC039	Male	3.5	185
11/13/2025	FY26MC040	Female	2.5	152
11/13/2025	FY26MC041	Male	1.5	132
11/13/2025	FY26MC042	Male	1.5	111

11/13/2025	FY26MC043	Female	2.5	132
11/13/2025	FY26MC044	Male	0.5	73
11/20/2025	FY26MC045	Male	0.5	98
11/20/2025	FY26MC046	Male	4.5+	182
11/20/2025	FY26MC047	Female	3.5	125
11/20/2025	FY26MC048	Female	0.5	48
11/20/2025	FY26MC049	Female	3.5	128
11/20/2025	FY26MC050	Male	1.5	128

APPENDIX 2. 2025-2026 Mill Creek MetroParks Ohio Division of Wildlife Deer Damage Control Permit

Control Permit Number: 32980 Key: 98837319154	Division of Wildlife Ohio Department of Natural Resources Deer Population Control Permit	DNR 9004
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The following permit is issued to:

Rachel Sobnosky	(330) 702-3000
(Name of Landowner, Lessee, or Agent)	(Phone No. w/Area Code)
7574 Columbiana Canfield Rd	Canfield 44408
(Mailing Address)	(City) (Zip Code)

This permit may be utilized on the following properties in Mahoning County:

Address (closest road intersection if no address)
1. <input type="checkbox"/> Mailing Address (if checked)
2. Various Mill Creek Metroparks Lands
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

Only the below listed shooters may be present while pursuing deer utilizing this Deer Damage Control Permit:
 • All shooters (except for Ohio resident landowners, their spouses, and children OR someone holding a Commercial Nuisance Wild Animal Control License) must have a current Ohio hunting license to take deer under this permit.
 • All shooters are subject to a background check and may be denied as a shooter if they have been convicted of a prior wildlife or weapons offense.

Shooter's Legal Name	Date of Birth
1. USDA Wildlife Services	1/1/2000
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____

This permit shall be in effect from October 01, 2025 to March 31, 2026
 This permit authorizes the killing of a total of 50 deer on properties listed on this permit.
 The following types of deer may be killed: Antlerless deer Antlered deer
 The following must be notified: (not required to notify if "N/A" is written).
 before shooting each day: N/A at () _____
 after shooting each day with the number of deer shot: N/A at () _____
 Special conditions of this permit: None

RS (Initials) I acknowledge that if I am not the landowner, I must have written permission from the landowner prior to utilizing this permit to conduct control activities on the listed properties.
RS (Initials) I certify that I have read and understood all of the rules and conditions for the use of this permit listed on the front and back of this permit. Further, I understand that any failure to comply with all of the provisions of this permit will result in its immediate revocation and that any misuse of this permit will result in prosecution. I also understand that this permit does not supersede, and I must adhere to, any local laws, rules, or ordinances that pertain to the properties where this permit will be utilized.
RS (Initials) I certify that all statements made by me in this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief and that I understand that knowingly and willfully providing false information and applying for this permit/license is a violation of Section 2921.13 of the Ohio Revised Code for which I am subject to arrest.

Rachel Sobnosky 10/2/2025
 _____ (Signature of Landowner, Lessee, or Agent) (Date)

