

M E M O R A N D U M

November 4, 2009

TO: Public Safety Committee

FROM: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst 

SUBJECT: **Update: FY 2010 Report of the Deer Management Work Group;**

At this session, the Committee will have an opportunity to discuss the FY 2010 Annual Report and Recommendations of the Montgomery County Deer Management Work Group, information provided as follow-up to last February's discussion regarding the need to reduce the deer population in the down-county and more densely populated parts of the county, and follow-up information on the use of four-poster treatment stations which was discussed at a community meeting this past June regarding the prevalence of Lyme Disease in Montgomery County.

Those expected for this session:

- Rob Gibbs, M-NCPPC staff and Chair of the Deer Management Work Group
- Carol Jordan, Director, Communicable Disease and Epidemiology, DHHS
- Jeremy Criss, Agricultural Services Manager, Department of Economic Development

Background on Deer Management Work Group

In 1993, the County Council established a White-tailed Deer Task Force charged with developing a range of ways to deal with this growing problem. The Deer Management Program has been in place since 1995. Since that time, Park and Planning has continued to staff the Deer Management Work Group and has issued annual reports identifying problems and making recommendations for the upcoming year.

The objectives of the Deer Management Program are:

1. Reduce, on a county-wide basis, the number of deer-vehicle collisions.
2. Reduce depredation on agricultural crops and home landscapes to levels acceptable to county residents.
3. Reduce the negative impacts of deer on natural communities to preserve plant and animal diversity.

4. Continue a countywide education program to provide residents with information on deer, deer problems, and how to minimize or prevent deer-human conflicts.

FY 2010 Annual Report

The FY 2009 Annual Report and Recommendations of the Deer Management Work Group is attached at ©1-14. The report notes (©3) that in addition to continuing deer management programs that have been in place:

- The Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste has implemented a deer control program on 800 acres of county-owned land in Dickerson to help reduce impacts on agriculture in the area,
- The Montgomery County Revenue Authority re-implemented a deer management program on the northwest Branch Golf Course; and,
- Seneca Creek State Park re-implemented deer management in the day use section of the park;

Deer Vehicle Collisions

The report contains information about deer vehicle collisions (©4-5). The press release attached at © 15-16 also highlights the information on deer-vehicle collisions reported to the Montgomery County Police. The data continues to show a slight decline in collisions. As previously discussed by the Committee the data does not reflect the total number of collisions, as many are not reported. The map included at ©8 shows that collisions occur throughout the county.

Reported Deer-Vehicle Collisions

| Reported by | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| MC Police Dept | 2,033 | 2,003 | 2,127 | 2,047 | 1,997 | 1,969 | 1,951 | 1,876 | 1,841 |

Deer Donation Program

The Department of Economic Development continues to assist with the deer management program by providing cold boxes so that hunters may donate deer to be processed and given to area food banks, shelters, or other non-profit organizations. The following table provides data on the number of deer donated.

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------|----------|--------------|
| 2004-2005 Season | 39 deer | 1,560 pounds |
| 2005-2006 Season | 51 deer | 2,040 pounds |
| 2006-2007 Season | 85 deer | 3,400 pounds |
| 2007-2008 Season (through January 7, 2008) | 197 deer | 7,880 pounds |
| 2008-2009 Season (through February 4, 2009) | 150 deer | 6,000 pounds |
| 2009-2010 Season (through mid-October) | 50 deer | 2,000 pounds |

DED believes that the number of donated deer in the 2008-2009 season was down because the weather last November impacted the firearms season and because more families are retaining meet in light of the downturn in the economy. As can be seen, there are already donations for this season even though the firearms season has not started. Hunters who are harvesting deer under permits are also active in donating deer under this program.

Next Steps in Deer Control in the Parks System

At last February's update on deer management efforts, the Committee heard from Mr. Fred Winkler of Chevy Chase who shared his concerns about the rapid growth in the deer population and the damage it is causing to vegetation both in the parks and on private land. As follow-up, Councilmember Andrews and Knapp asked Park and Planning and Council staff to walk the area with Mr. Winkler and for Park and Planning to provide information on five areas Park and Planning has assessed as being the highest priority for deer management. The memo from Councilmembers Andrews and Knapp is attached at © 19-20 and the response is attached at © 20-21.

As can be seen on the top of © 20 the top six prioritized areas (six were included because the Rock Creek area noted by Mr. Winkler fell just after the top five) are complex because of the population near the area and the use of the parks. Sharp shooting or bow hunting would be required and the areas must be secured so that persons cannot come into the area while the hunting is occurring. The estimated cost for a bow hunting effort at Muddy Branch Stream Valley Park is \$14,000 and the range for sharp shooting efforts is between \$22,000 and \$35,000. The criteria used for selecting these sites were deer-vehicle collisions, agricultural damage, significance of habitat, and landscape damage.

As the memo notes, and the Committee is aware from past discussion, Park and Planning has not been provided with additional funds to expand its efforts.

Lyme Disease – Four-Poster Feed and Treatment Stations

Information on the trends in Lyme Disease are included in the Annual Report at ©8-9. The Committee was provided with a detailed presentation last February from the Department of Health and Human Services and this past July there was a community meeting held in Potomac about the prevalence of Lyme Disease in Montgomery County. The Department of Health and Human Services continues to emphasize that prevention is the best way to address this problem, including wearing appropriate clothing and doing "tick checks."

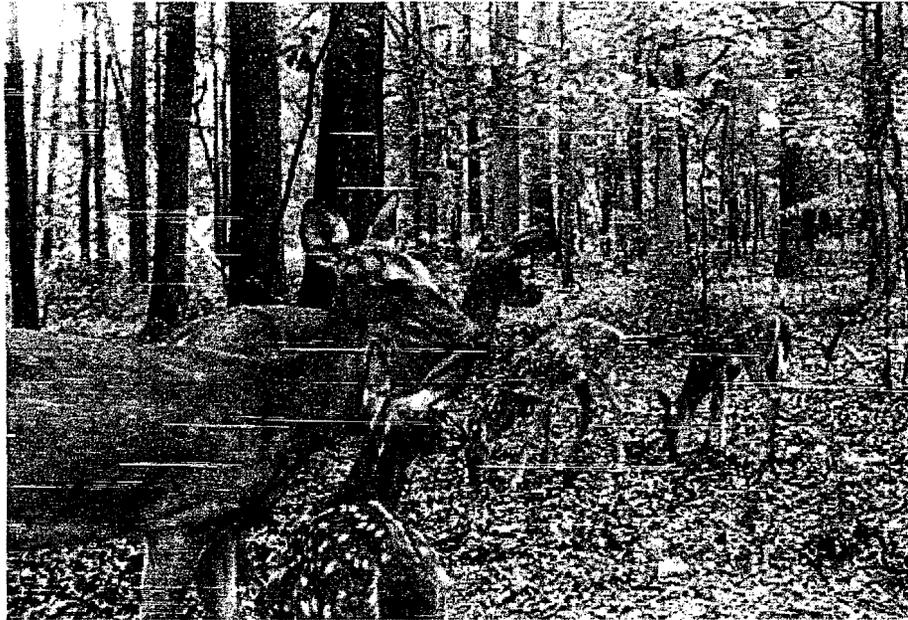
As follow-up to the community meeting, the Council received a letter and petition from the Luxmanor Citizens Association which is willing to allocate up to \$3,000 to implement four-poster treatment stations in and near its neighborhoods. The Committee has previously discussed the use of these stations, which use a regular supply of corn or feed to draw deer into them. The stations treat the deer's head with a tick-killing solution. The Committee has also discussed the use of damminix tubes which contain treated cotton or other material that mice, which carry the deer tick, then use for nesting.

In response to this letter, Councilmember Andrews ask Park and Planning for feedback on the Luxmanor proposal. Councilmember Andrews shared the following information with the Luxmanor Citizens Association in a letter this past July.

- The Public Safety Committee has previously discussed the use of these stations but has been advised that while the 4-poster treatment stations and damminix tubes are helpful, the county (this includes Park and Planning) would not be able to maintain them and that this could cause problems rather than finding a solution.
- The distributor of the 4-poster stations recommends that they be used in open areas, rather than wooded areas, because the tubes are susceptible to squirrel damage. Also, in order to be effective they must have a regular supply of corn. The constant availability of corn can result in deer concentrating in the area around the station and can also attract raccoons, mice, squirrels, and crows. Each station costs about \$425 dollars and about an additional \$510 per year to stock with food, insecticide, and rollers. These costs do not include any labor costs if county staff were responsible for maintaining the stations.
- Health and Human Services is continuing to provide outreach and education through non-classroom communications such as PTAs and list serves.

The Committee may want to discuss these issues with Park and Planning. Again, moving forward with a pilot program regarding four-poster treatment stations would require additional resources for Park and Planning or whatever organization would be responsible for regularly maintaining the stations. Neighborhood associations are clearly willing to share in this cost but for the program to be successful a sufficient number of stations must be established and they must be regularly maintained if they are to be effective and not become a nuisance.

Montgomery County Deer Management Program



Annual Report and Recommendations FY 2010

Prepared by
Montgomery County Deer Management Work Group
Rob Gibbs, Chair
July 2009

The Montgomery County Deer Management Work Group

Maryland Department of Natural Resources Wildlife and Heritage Service,
M-NCPPC, Montgomery County Department of Parks
Montgomery County Cooperative Extension
Montgomery County Police Department
USGS, Biological Services Division, Patuxent Wildlife Research Station
U. S. National Park Service
Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

Montgomery County Deer Management Program Annual Report and Recommendations FY 2010

Introduction

The Comprehensive Management Plan For White-tailed Deer in Montgomery County, MD, (Montgomery County Deer Management Work Group, 1995) calls for the Montgomery County Deer Management Work Group (DMWG), on an annual basis, to review deer-impact data and present a list of recommendations for the upcoming year. Recommendations are submitted to and implemented by County and State agencies and private landowners as appropriate.

This report briefly reviews the current status of the County's Deer Management Program, makes recommendations for FY 2010 (July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010) and describes the rationale upon which these recommendations are based.

Information on all aspects of the County's Deer Management Program is available on the Internet at www.parksdeermanagement.org. The website includes data from the past 14 years on deer-vehicle collisions, impacts to natural ecosystems, damage to agricultural crops, local deer populations and other pertinent information about the program including locations and application procedures for managed hunts on County Parkland. Comments and specific questions regarding this report can be addressed to Rob Gibbs at rob.gibbs@montgomeryparks.org or 301-949-2909.

Citizen Notification and Comment Periods for Proposed Managed Hunts on County Parkland

A new method of notifying citizens about M-NCPPC managed hunts and receiving public comments was initiated 2005 and will be continued. Instead of holding public meetings, which had very low attendance in previous years, M-NCPPC will publicize this information through press releases to local newspapers, planning board agendas, and the Internet. Following these public announcements there will be a comment period during which citizens can submit comments through the mail, e-mail, or by telephone. It is felt that this will provide greater and more convenient opportunities for citizens to learn about and comment on deer population management actions that are proposed on parkland throughout the county. Information will be provided at www.parksdeermanagement.org.

Goal and Objectives

The goal of Montgomery County's deer management program is to reduce deer-human conflicts to a level that is compatible with human priorities and land uses. The deer management plan lists four objectives for attaining this goal.

1. Reduce, on a countywide basis, the number of deer-vehicle collisions (DVCs).
2. Reduce depredation on agricultural crops and home landscapes to levels acceptable to county residents.
3. Reduce negative impacts of deer on natural communities to preserve native plant and animal diversity.
4. Continue a countywide education program to provide residents with information on deer, deer problems and how to minimize or prevent deer-human conflicts.

Overview of Deer Management Program

The Deer Management Program has been in operation since 1995. During the past 14 years many deer management actions have been implemented in the county and progress has been made in addressing many of the negative impacts associated with high deer populations. The following sections outline the actions and accomplishments of the program to date and the current status of the various deer impacts including the progress we have made and problems that still need attention. For those interested in additional data related to the program visit www.parksdeermanagement.org and click on "Deer Data 1996-2007", under quick links.

Deer Program Accomplishments

FY2009

- In response to recommendations from last year's report, the Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste Services (DSWS) began the process of implementing deer population management on the approximately 800 acres of County owned property that they manage in the Dickerson area between Martinsburg and Wasche Roads. The goal of this effort is to help reduce impacts to agriculture in the area.
- In response to recommendations from last year's report The Montgomery County Revenue Authority (MCRA) began the process to re-implement deer population management on the Northwest Branch Golf Course in cooperation with M-NCPPC's deer management program.
- The M-NCPPC continued its deer population management program in 19 parks covering over 15,000 acres.
- Significant efforts were made to publicize the changes to the County Weapons Law that were completed in 2007 (see section below for more information) to insure better public awareness of the current regulations related to hunting; especially in the urban zone.
- Seneca Creek State Park re-implemented management in the day-use area of the park.
- The website and brochure titled, "Living with White-tailed Deer in Montgomery County Maryland" were reviewed and updated.

Other Deer Management Actions Implemented to Date

- A comprehensive educational program on deer, their impacts and remedial methods including: informational brochures and publications, library materials, phone numbers for help, the seasonal use of Public Service Announcements about deer-vehicle collisions, local Cable TV Programs on deer management in the county, programs on deer through County nature centers.
- The DMWG working with other local government agencies through the Council of Governments (COG) completed and released an educational video on preventing Deer-vehicle collisions. This program began being aired on Montgomery Cable TV during the peak seasons for deer vehicle collisions and is available for use in local government and private driver education programs.
- County deer information Internet web page (www.parksdeermanagement.org) with educational information, phone numbers for reporting deer damage and receiving helpful information (301-949-2909/4149 or 1-877-463-6497).
- An extremely successful program of workshops for homeowners on protecting their property from deer damage. Well over 1600 county residents and landscape professionals have attended. Community groups can schedule a program by calling 301-590-2809 or 301-949-2909.
- Wildlife reflector systems and experimental warning signs were tested at eight locations along County roads identified as having high numbers of deer-vehicle collisions. These signs have proven to have no effect in reducing DVCs and are no longer being employed.
- Improved data collection for deer-vehicle collisions and other impacts using GIS system mapping.
- Program to identify and monitor impacts to natural vegetation on County Parkland.
- Cooperative effort with County and State road agencies to better address deer-vehicle collisions (DVCs) through roadway design.
- Cooperative effort with M-NCPPC Transportation Planning Office to review projects that include

bridges that cross wildlife corridors in order to allow for safe passage of wildlife under roadways.

- Cooperative effort with Washington area Council of Governments (COG) to reduce DVCs regionally.
- Cooperative effort with County and State park officials to initiate deer population management in parks where high deer populations were contributing to high numbers of DVCs, and other impacts.
- Cooperative effort with MD Department of Natural Resources to adjust hunting regulations to help increase antlerless deer harvest in order to reduce deer populations in areas open to hunting.
- Changes were made to County Code in early 2003 to allow for use of 8-foot deer fencing in residential side and backyards and all types of fencing on agricultural properties.
- The Department of Economic Development (DED), working closely with the DMWG, conducted a successful workshop for Agricultural growers in 2004 on implementing effective deer population management program. DED continues to work with farmers to reduce deer damage to crops
- The DED, working closely with area farmers, has established two refrigerated storage facilities – one in Poolesville and the other near Laytonsville - to facilitate the ability of farmers to better manage deer on their property and donate the meat to charity. Several local farmers coordinate the program.
- M-NCPPC initiated a workshop in 2007 of local and regional government agencies and wildlife experts, who are currently conducting deer population management in this and other regions, to assess the state of the art of this work and develop new strategies for addressing non-traditional deer population management in suburban settings.
- In late 2007 changes were made to County Code firearms regulations related to hunting to better match state regulations and facilitate deer management on private land.
- A Lyme Disease Awareness Task Force in 2008 developed a citizen awareness program to promote better understand of the disease, its causes and prevention. The effort included new educational materials, a website, and educational signage in park areas.

Deer-vehicle Collisions

Deer-vehicle Collisions (DVCs) countywide (see table 1 and figure 1) have leveled off to a slight downward trend since 2000 after rising much more steeply through the mid-1990s. Last year’s count of 1,841 DVCs was slightly lower than the previous year (1867). This is the sixth year in a row for such a decline. This is a positive sign especially given that population has increased by over 10%, since 2000 and total vehicle miles traveled in the County increased by approximately 11% between 2000 and 2006.

Table 1. Deer-vehicle Collision Data 1994 - 2008

| Source | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| MCPD ^a | 1,343 | 1,244 | 1,776 | 1,705 | 1,774 | 1,891 | 2,033 | 2,003 | 2,127 | 2,047 | 1,997 | 1,969 | 1,951 | 1,867 | 1,841 |
| Animal Control ^b | 447 | 509 | 521 | 547 | 631 | 1,059 | 1,112 | 1,123 | 1,194 | 1,180 | 1,086 | 1,340 | 1,347 | 1,407 | 1,169 |
| SHA ^c | 211 | 192 | 200 | 390 | 608 | 572 | 675 | 713 | NA | 341 | NA | 756 ^c | 780 | 311 | NA |

a - Montgomery County Police Department – This is the most comprehensive and systematically collected data set and the one used as the “official” number for deer-vehicle collisions in the County.

b – Montgomery Police Animal Control. This data set provides the best location data for mapping,.

c - State Highway Administration (new methodology begun in 2005 may have resulted in increased reporting)

NA = Data Not Available

Several approaches have been taken to reduce DVCs countywide including education, use of signage, structural design (e.g. designing bridges and fencing where possible to keep deer off roadways; see “Deer

Program Accomplishments” above) and Deer Population Management (see that section below).

Between 1996 and 2002, Montgomery County Police analyzed DVC data on roads surrounding several parks where management was conducted. In each case, data showed a significant and sometimes dramatic decline in DVCs as deer populations were reduced. More recent DVC data strongly suggest that this is the case at most deer population management sites.

While accidents have declined around parks where population management has been employed, other areas have seen an increase. These are mostly more urban/suburban areas where conducting deer population management is more problematic and limited. See the sections below titled “Deer Population Management” and “Education” for more discussion on how these efforts impact DVCs.

Agricultural Damage

In 2004 the County’s agricultural community declared that deer overpopulation was the number-one threat to farming in the County. Consequently, agricultural damage has been a particular focus of the DMWG’s recommendations for the past several years and continues to be an important concern. The nationally acclaimed Agricultural Preserve is an important component of the County’s General Plan. It helps maintain open space and contributes significantly to the county’s character and quality of life. The existence of the Agricultural Preserve depends on the continued viability of agriculture.

A 2004 survey of County farmers indicated significant losses to agricultural crops due to deer browse. Thirty-six (36) farmers reported losses on corn, soybeans, wheat and hay. Thirty-four (34) producers reported losses on tree fruit, small fruit or vegetables. Twenty-seven (27) producers suffered losses on nursery, Christmas trees, grapes and other agricultural crops. In all, over 2000 acres of agricultural land has been removed from production due to deer crop damage and 2/3 of survey respondents believe crop damage from deer is on the increase.

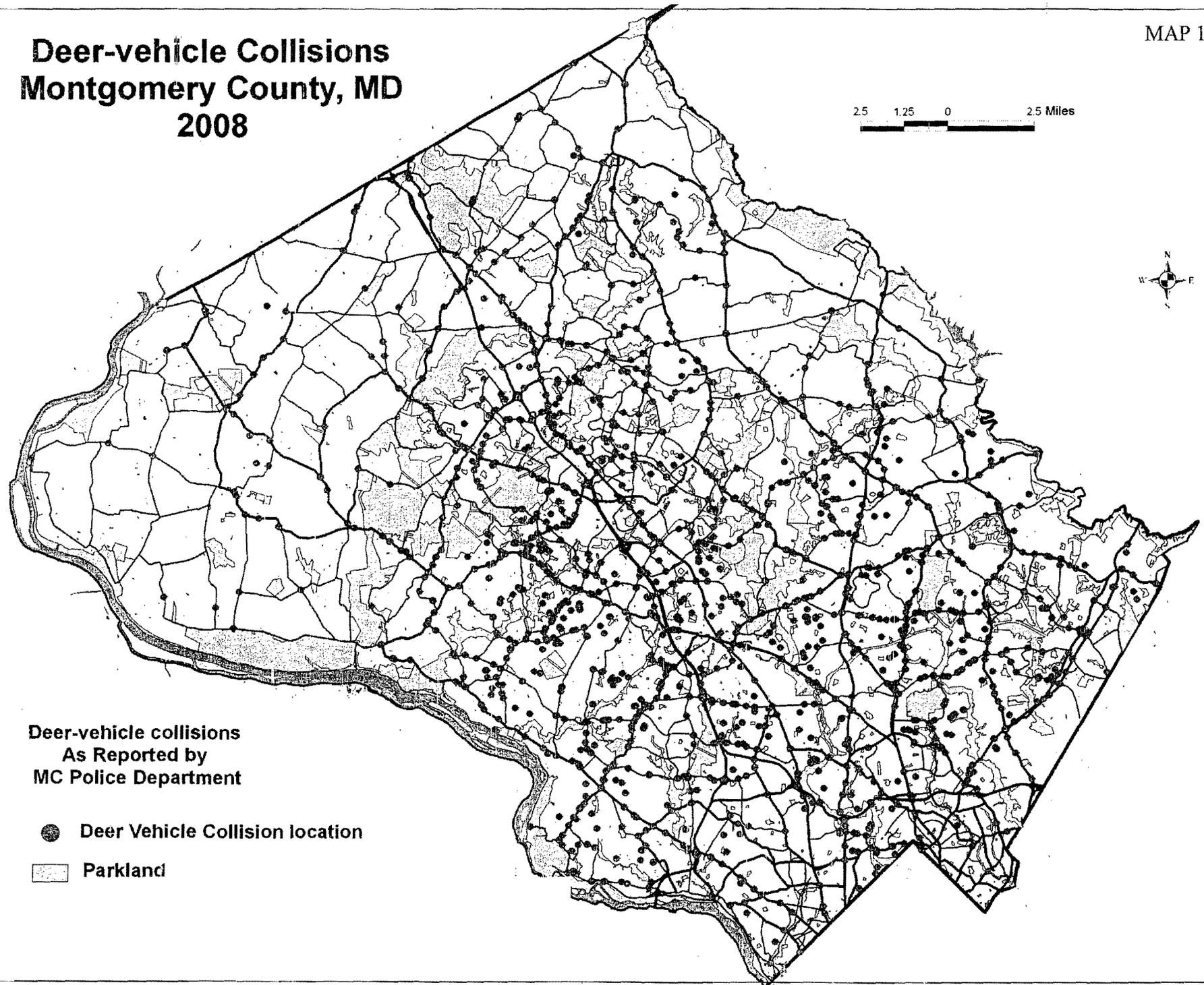
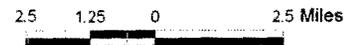
Farmers are using a variety of strategies to attempt to minimize damage to their crops. Thirty-seven (37) have used fencing and/or cages around tree trunks to prevent rubbing damage. The farmers generally report that fencing as being effective in limiting damage to crops but at a significant cost to the individual farmer. Thirty-two (32) reported using deer repellents with very limited success. Nine (9) farmers were using scare tactics other than having dogs (i.e. noisemaking devises, motion activated lights, etc.). Forty-seven (47) have used dogs as deterrent with most indicating some success with this method. Deer control methods that rely on live dogs or noise making devices can be bothersome to neighbors. Possible effects on neighboring properties must be considered when considering options for deer management.

Over 100 landowners allowed hunting and/or used crop damage permits in an effort to control deer populations. Many feel higher deer harvest will help limit crop damage.

The 2007 Wildlife Damage Survey conducted by Maryland Agricultural Statistics indicated central Maryland farmers had sustained losses of over \$2.6 million due to deer browse. The central Maryland area includes Montgomery, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard and Washington Counties. Damage in the central Maryland region is reported to be much higher than in other areas. Higher crop prices in 2007, 2008 and 2009 have contributed to increased economic losses. Crop damage losses on corn and soybeans will exceed \$800,000 in 2009 with just a 5% crop loss across the entire crop. Field losses can range as high as 50 % in some areas. Some deer damage occurs in almost every field and on almost every crop. Overall, deer damage does not appear to have declined significantly despite more aggressive population control measures on both public and private land.

Many changes have been made to State and local regulations and educational programs in recent years aimed at helping the agricultural community reduce deer damage to their products. These efforts have made an impact but crop damage by deer remains a problem for local farmers.

Deer-vehicle Collisions Montgomery County, MD 2008



Deer-vehicle collisions
As Reported by
MC Police Department

- Deer Vehicle Collision location
- ▨ Parkland

9

Impacts to Home Gardens and Landscaping

Many residents are still experiencing impacts to home gardens and landscaping. Though much work remains to be done, many citizens are taking advantage of the educational materials, workshops, and regulation changes that have been made to help them reduce impacts to their home landscapes.

Complaint calls have increased in the past year coming mostly from more urban areas in the County including: lower Rock Creek Stream Valley, Sligo Creek Stream Valley, the Paint Branch - Colesville area, Potomac, Rockville and Olney. Most come from fairly densely populated areas surrounding narrow strips of parkland or in some cases areas with few parks but where well forested housing lots provide habitat for deer herds. As mentioned elsewhere in this report, these areas pose a real challenge to safe deer population management. Various options are being explored.

Homeowners experiencing deer damage can call for information and register their complaint at 301-949-2909/4149. Homeowner or Community Associations that would like a free workshop on controlling deer damage around the home can call 301-590-9650 or 301-949-2909. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources webpage at www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/ddmtintro.asp lists various deer management options available to homeowners and communities.

Impacts to Natural Communities

An overabundance of deer can have a profound impact on native vegetation and habitat for other wildlife. Park studies and observations have shown that where deer populations are high forest trees are not reproducing, the park understory of shrubs and wildflowers is being destroyed and rare plants are declining and in many parks have disappeared due to deer feeding habits. The only way to reduce damage to natural communities is to reduce deer populations within park areas. The Department has undertaken an aggressive program of deer population management – see section below titled “Deer population Management” for more details on this effort.

Even after deer populations have been reduced, recovery of vegetation may occur slowly over many years. Current staffing and funding has not permitted detailed studies to quantify the extent of vegetative recovery in parks where management is taking place. However, general observation by long-time naturalists and other qualitative information strongly suggest that understory vegetation and tree survival is increasing where deer populations have been reduced. A number of species, especially orchids and lilies that had not been seen for years are now blooming again as well, though in limited numbers. As discussed below under “Deer Population Management,” deer reductions are fairly local and new management techniques will be required to address impacts to the smaller, more urban park areas in the County.

Educational Program

Education is a cornerstone of the Countywide Deer Management Program. In order to achieve the deer plan’s goal of reducing deer impacts to acceptable levels, two things must happen, 1) Deer populations must be managed – see more on this throughout this report and 2) just as importantly, County residents must become educated in how to live with deer and how to minimize their negative impacts. A long list of educational efforts is described under “Deer Program Accomplishments” and includes: homeowner workshops, brochures, educational programs at Nature Centers and on County Cable Television, a new DVD on avoiding deer-vehicle collisions, regular public service announcements and talks for local citizen groups. As citizens become more educated on ways to reduce deer impacts and begin to put this education into practice (e.g. adopt driving habits that help avoid deer-vehicle collisions, or use different methods to protect their home landscaping or farm crops) they will lower deer impacts and raise their tolerance for deer in the landscape.

Lyme Disease

Lyme Disease is a bacterial illness transmitted through the bite of the Black-legged Tick. Early symptoms range from flu-like headache, fever, and general fatigue to joint and muscle pain. A circular rash may occur in 70-90% of individuals. If left untreated, the disease can become chronic and debilitating. Lyme Disease continues to be a growing concern in the county.

Over the winter of 2007/2008, the County Executive established a Task Force on Lyme Disease Awareness, chaired by The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and declared May 2008 to be Lyme Disease Awareness Month. The County has developed a new brochure and website with the latest information on Lyme Disease and its prevention. Warning signs have also been posted in park areas and on trails to remind users of the problem. The Task Force continues to meet periodically.

While Lyme Disease is often linked to deer management in the mind of the public because it is transferred through the bite of the so-called deer tick (the new accepted name is the black-legged tick), it is widely accepted that reducing deer numbers cannot effectively control the spread of the disease. Black-legged ticks feed on many species of mammals and birds and most often pick up the disease by feeding on infected mice and chipmunks, not deer. For these reasons, Lyme Disease is best viewed as a public health issue.

The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) tracks cases of Lyme Disease and provides education for the public and health professionals. Increased surveillance by HHS beginning in 2005 resulted in a dramatic increase in cases from 39 in 2004 to 216. Cases in 2006 and 2007 were 228 and 238 respectively. In 2008, the CDC changed the case definition for a Lyme disease case. The number of cases was expected to drop based on the new case definition. In 2008, the number of cases of Lyme disease reported to Montgomery County was 247 (confirmed and probable), with an additional 210 "suspect" cases. Whether the increase over the past few years is actual or reflects continued improvement and fine tuning of data collection efforts is unclear. Several more years of data are needed at this new effort to fully evaluate any trends. It should be noted however, that even with the jump in reported cases resulting from better surveillance, case rates per 100,000 residents in Montgomery County (46.1) are lower than most other counties and about average for the State (see chart 1).

Part of the increased effort to track Lyme Disease is resulting in increased feedback and education to the medical community. Each doctor who has a patient with a positive test for Lyme Disease receives surveillance materials including information on detection and treatment. This is important for a number of reasons. When caught early Lyme Disease is usually easily treated with antibiotics. The disease, however, can be difficult to diagnose because many tests are unreliable and the symptoms resemble those of other ailments including the flu and arthritis. Left untreated Lyme Disease can become chronic resulting in long-lasting and debilitating health problems. This most often results when it is not diagnosed and treatment is delayed for an extended period of time. The increased education efforts directed at the public and doctors should help ensure that the disease is detected and treated more quickly. Over 1600 letters were sent to providers in 2008.

Additional efforts by the Department of Health and Human Services to address Lyme Disease include:

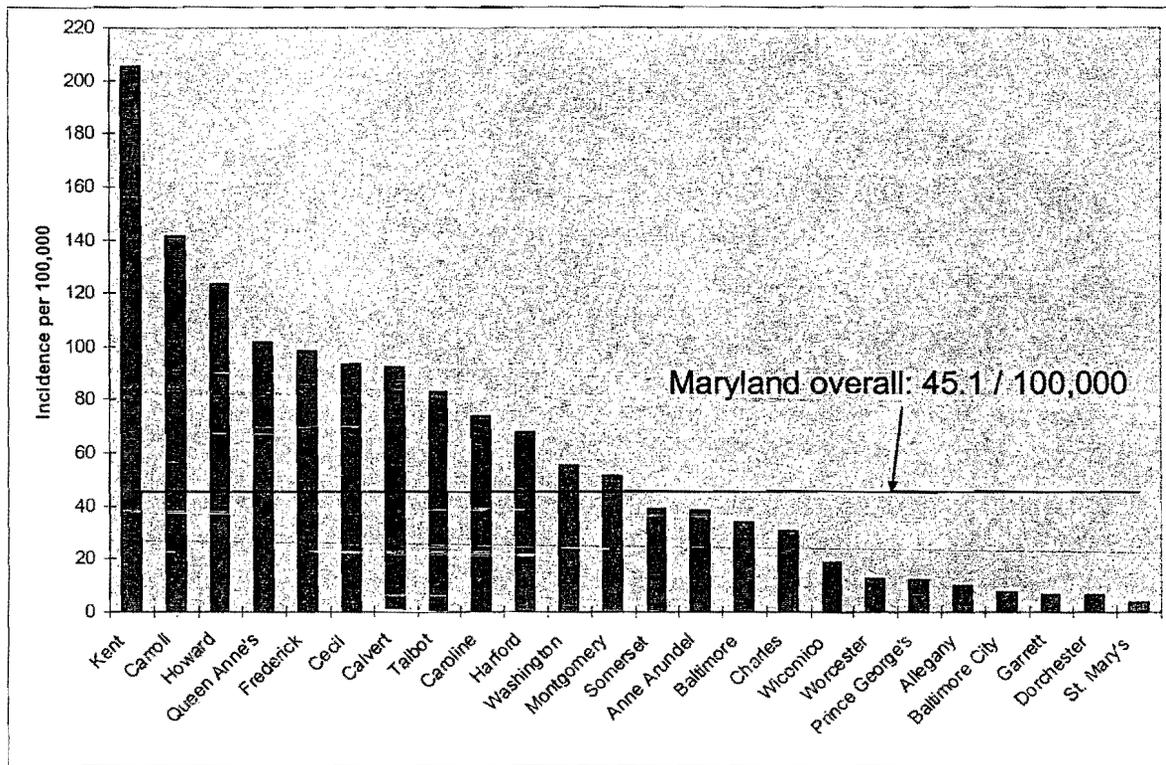
- Presentations in the community
- Distribution of literature on Lyme Disease prevention
- Counseling of individual patients on prevention
- Surveillance on +lab slips to identify true cases
- Referrals to physicians for diagnosis and treatment
- Education of community physicians on Lyme Disease diagnosis and treatment

Montgomery County promotes personal protection from ticks and awareness of the symptoms of the illness as the best defense against Lyme Disease. General information is available at:

- The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services - www.montgomerycountymd.gov/lymedisease or 240-777-1755
- The Centers for Disease Control – www.cdc.gov.
- The Lyme Disease Foundation - www.lyme.org; 24 hour information line at 800-886-5963.
- The National Capital Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease Association has information and offers local support groups - www.natcaplyme.org or (703) 821-8833.
- The American Lyme Disease Foundation, www.aldf.com/fourPoster.shtml - has information on a product to help reduce the number of ticks in an area called the four poster feeder.

Chart 1 Lyme Disease Case Rates by Select Jurisdictions, Calendar Year 2007

Lyme Disease Incidence, Maryland, 2007



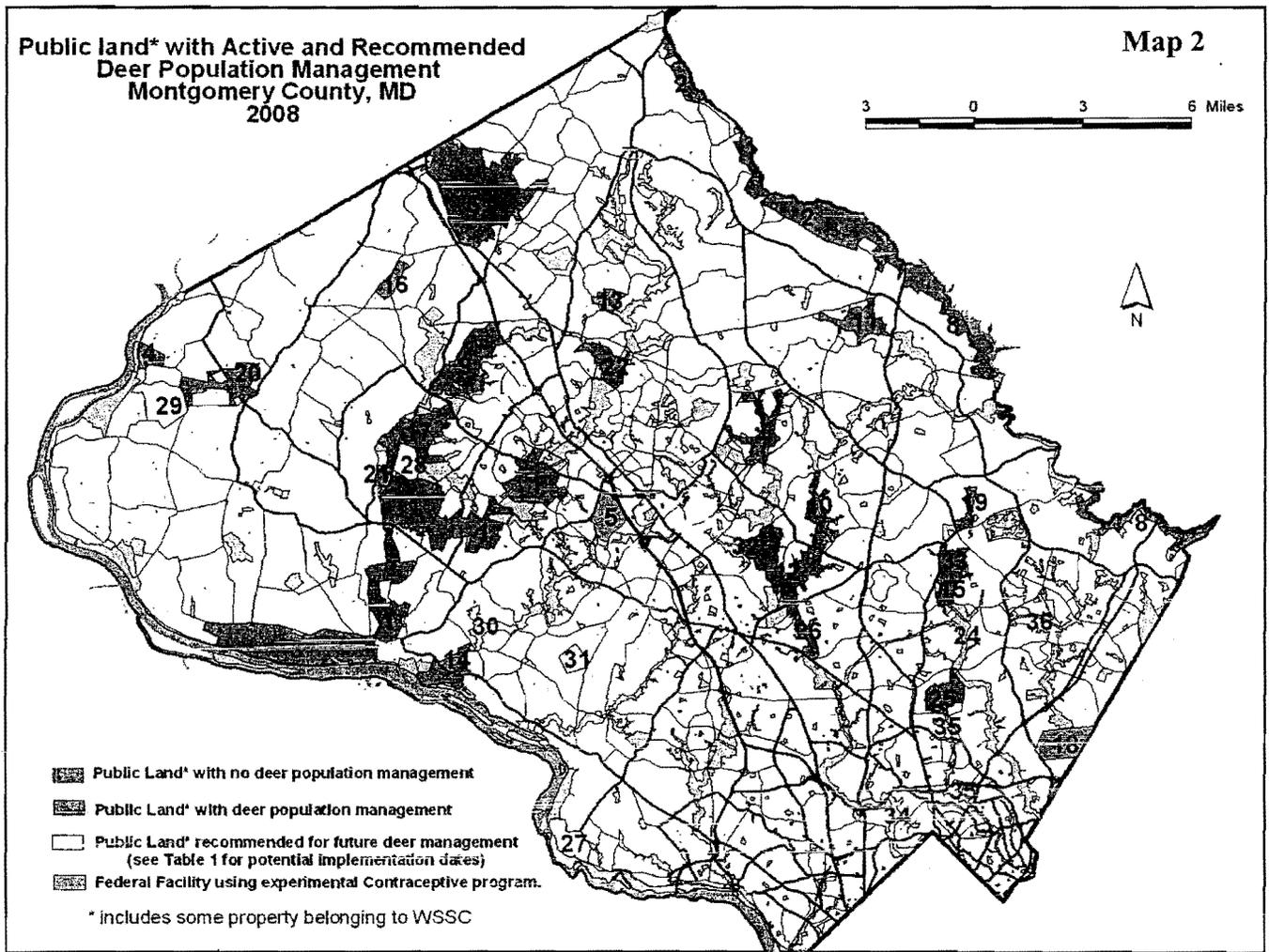
Deer Population Management

Based on trends in deer hunting harvest data for the county, DNR believes that deer populations are stable or declining within areas of the county where hunting occurs. DNR has significantly liberalized antlerless bag limits during the past decade that promote the harvest of female deer which effectively limits population growth. However, as urbanization of the county continues, regulating the deer population will become even more difficult, as lethal management via hunting often is not an option in urban and suburban settings.

Several strategies have been taken over the past 14 years to help reduce deer populations in areas where

traditional hunting is limited including parkland and suburban/urban areas. These include managed hunts on State and County parkland and property managed by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC). Sharpshooting (shooting of deer at night by specially trained marksman under very safe conditions) is being employed in some county parks where hunting is not an option. Regulation changes to facilitate population management on private properties include, changes to County weapons laws as well as State hunting regulations.

Deer population management was conducted on 25 parcels of public land in FY09 totaling over 27,000 acres. These included 19 County parks, 3 state park/wildlife management areas, 2 federal facilities, and WSSC property. Population management efforts are now in place on most large parcels of public parkland in the county (see figure 2 and table 1). Populations are being reduced and associated deer impacts are declining. However, due to the small home range of deer, the effects of these efforts remain localized. Outside of these areas deer populations remain high or are increasing due to lack of population controls and as a result of continued development forcing deer into smaller and smaller areas.



Many acres of parkland in narrow stream valleys, small local parks, and in highly populated areas are not currently being managed. Effective deer population management in these smaller urban areas can be very difficult, costly, and in some cases not feasible at all. Efforts are underway to explore new methods to address these locations. Contraception, while favored by many as a potential method to reduce deer numbers, is still very much in the experimental stages and not available for use in free ranging deer at

this time.

Due to budget shortfalls associated with the current recession, no additional funding for deer population management has been appropriated for fiscal year 2010 (July 1, 2009 to June 31, 2010). Therefore, it is expected that no additional County parklands will be identified for implementation of deer management this year. All currently running programs (areas in red on Map 2) will be continued.

Deer population management on private properties continues to be an important part of countywide management efforts. However, despite liberalized bag limits and regulations that have increased the hunting of antlerless deer, many parcels of privately owned land are not being hunted efficiently enough to significantly reduce deer numbers. Educational efforts targeting both landowners and hunters in more effective management techniques will be continued and expanded. As already mentioned, population management becomes more difficult as you move from rural to more suburban and urban parts of the county. Nevertheless, there are opportunities for some communities to manage deer populations within their neighborhoods where the community can reach agreement on the methods. For assistance in developing community deer management plans contact the DMWG at 301-949-2909/4149 or Maryland Department of Natural Resources at 301-432-4307.

Table 1 Public Land with current and proposed deer population management programs – See Map 2

| | Park Area | FY initiated | Recommended Action |
|----|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Seneca Creek State Park | 1997 | Continue population mgt |
| 2 | Patuxent River State Park | Prior to 1994 | Continue population mgt |
| 3 | McKee-beshers Wildlife Mgt Area | Prior to 1994 | Continue population mgt |
| 4 | Dickerson Conservation Park | Prior to 1994 | Continue population mgt |
| 5 | Nat Institute of Standards and Tech. | 1994 | Continue population mgt |
| 6 | Little Bennett Reg. Park | 1997 | Continue population mgt |
| 7 | Ag/History Farm Park | 1997 | Continue population mgt |
| 8 | WSSC Reservoirs | 1999 | Continue population mgt |
| 9 | Black Hill Regional Park | 2001 | Continue population mgt |
| 10 | Northbranch SVP | 2001 | Continue population mgt |
| 11 | Rachel Carson Cons. Park | 2002 | Continue population mgt |
| 12 | Rock Creek Regional Park | 2002 | Continue population mgt |
| 13 | Goshen Recreational Park | 2002 | Continue population mgt |
| 14 | Blockhouse Point Cons. Park | 2003 | Continue population mgt |
| 15 | NW Branch Recreation Park | 2004 | Continue population mgt |
| 16 | Bucklodge Forest Cons Park | 2004 | Continue population mgt |
| 17 | Hoyles Mill Cons. Park | 2004 | Continue population mgt |
| 18 | White Oak Federal Facility | 2004 | Continue population mgt |
| 19 | Woodiawn Special Park | 2004 | Continue population mgt |
| 20 | Woodstock Special Park | 2005 | Continue population mgt |
| 21 | Little Seneca SVP unit 1 | 2005 | Continue population mgt |
| 22 | Germantown Greenway Park | 2006 | Continue population mgt |
| 23 | Great Seneca Stream Valley Unit 2 | 2006 | Continue population mgt |
| 25 | Wheaton Regional Park | 2006 | Continue population mgt |
| 26 | Rock Creek Stream Valley Unit 7 | 2008 | Continue population mgt |
| 27 | C&O Canal National Historical Park Goldmine Tract | Future | Investigate future mgt |
| 28 | SHA purchase future Hoyles Mill CP | Future | Investigate mgt for FY09 |
| 29 | DPWT Property in Dickerson | Future | Investigate future mgt |
| 30 | Muddy Branch Stream Valley Park | Future | Investigate mgt for FY09 |
| 31 | Serpentine Barrens Conservation Park | Future | Investigate mgt for FY09 |
| 32 | Rock Creek Golf Course | 2002 | Continue mgt begun in 2002 |
| 33 | Northwest Branch Golf Course | 2004 | Continue mgt begun in 2004 |
| 34 | Rock Creek Stream Valley Unit 2 | Future | Investigate future mgt |
| 35 | Sligo Creek Stream Valley Unit 4,5 | Future | Investigate mgt for FY09 |
| 36 | Upper Paint Branch Stream Valley Pk | Future | Investigate mgt of Countryside area for FY09 |

Deer Management Recommendations for FY 2010

In accordance with the Comprehensive Management Plan for White-tailed deer in Montgomery County, Maryland, the DMWG recommends the following actions for FY 2010. Agencies that should take lead responsibility for each recommendation are listed in parenthesis after that action. The final decision to proceed with any recommendation is up to the lead agency or agencies and it is expected that appropriate public input will be considered.

Many recommendations are on-going or require multiple-years to be fully implemented thus there is considerable overlap in recommendations from year to year. It is expected that all actions will be done in cooperation with the DMWG.

1. **Continue public education efforts.** This includes educating the public about deer issues, particularly on available non-lethal methods to reduce deer damage to personal property.
 - a. Continue the very successful Homeowner Workshop Program. Update program and publicize better to increase number of programs. Coordinate workshops with DNR education efforts. (MNCPPC, Montgomery County Cooperative Extension [MCE])
 - b. Continue efforts to expand educational efforts via the Internet, Educational DVDs the County Fair and County Cable TV. (MCE, County Cable Montgomery [CCM], M-NCPPC)
 - c. The County Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) should continue their increased efforts to enhance surveillance, educate the public and doctors on the prevention, early detection and treatment of Lyme Disease. A concerted effort to get educational materials to all doctors should be a priority. (HHS)

2. **Continue efforts to improve road fencing, signage and design to reduce deer-vehicle collisions.**
 - a. DPWT and SHA, in coordination with the DMWG, should continue to evaluate roadway hotspots and examine accident mitigation methods. (DMWG, Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT), Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA))
 - b. SHA should implement a program to inspect and repair the wildlife fencing along the entire length of 270, 495 and other fenced roads, at least once per year. Fences with holes can create a situation where deer that happen to wander through the hole become trapped on the road. (SHA)
 - c. DPWT should install wildlife fencing along Shady Grove Road in the vicinity of where the Inter County Connector (ICC) will cross it to reduce the potential for Deer Vehicle Collisions. (DPWT, DMWG)
 - d. Keep current and, where possible, cooperate with other studies that investigate methods of reducing deer-vehicle collisions. (DPWT, M-NCPPC, SHA, DNR,)
 - e. Continue to work with appropriate agencies on new and retrofit road projects to better design roadways and bridges for wildlife passage (DPWT, SHA, M-NCPPC)

3. **Continue to monitor progress in the use of contraception to regulate deer populations.**
 - a. Continue to monitor on-going efforts at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) being conducted by The Humane Society of the U.S. as well as other study sites around the country; review the final report for the deer reduction and contraception project completed in 2007 at the White Oak Federal Center by the United States Department of Agriculture/Animal Plant Health Inspection Service. (USDA) (DNR, DMWG, USDA)

- b. Continue to monitor progress in approval process of drugs by FDA. (DNR, DMWG, USDA)

4. Continue to encourage more community involvement in deer management efforts.

In many cases it is incumbent upon a community to work together and address community concerns regarding deer. Several approaches to reducing deer damage to home landscaping and gardens may have a greater effect when applied on a community level. Neighbors or communities can work together in their use of fencing, vegetation management, and repellents. Adjustments to community covenants that reduce fencing restrictions or enactment of “no deer feeding” policies are examples of cooperative efforts. Communities, in many cases, may be better able than the county or state to fund and/or implement other local management efforts such as installation of fencing, localized efforts to reduce tick populations to prevent Lyme disease or even a community based managed hunting program on private lands. Any of these efforts will involve a high level of cooperation, organization and communication within the community as well as coordination with appropriate county or state agencies.

- a. The County and State should continue to provide information and assistance to communities that express a desire to address local deer impacts. These might include local public meetings, educational workshops, literature and recommendations on specific management efforts that could be undertaken by the community. MD-DNR provides technical advice for communities on deer management issues. (M-NCPPC, DNR, MCE)
- b. Continue to promote the MD-DNR website for available community-based deer management options at - www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/ddmtintro.asp (MCE, M-NCPPC, DNR)

5. Continue to encourage effective deer population management on private properties.

The vast majority of land in the County is private and any effort to manage deer populations on these lands can only be undertaken by the landowners. Managing deer impacts countywide requires the cooperation of county agencies and private landowners. Parcels of land that are forested, in agriculture or slated for development all need to be managed.

Many landowners that do allow hunting on their property are not doing it effectively and would benefit greatly from reviewing the DNR publication, “Deer Hunting - a Valuable Deer Management Tool for Private Landowners”.

- a. The Department of Economic Development (DED) should continue and improve as needed their cooperative cooler box program to assist farmers in storing, transporting, processing and donating to charity, deer harvested from agricultural lands. (DED)
- b. Promote Quality Deer Management (QDM) as a philosophy and information source to encourage landowners and hunters to better manage deer herds on private property. More information is available at www.qdma.com and www.marylandqdma.com.
- c. DED, the DMWG, and the Firearms Safety Committee (FSC) should continue to work with appropriate staff to publicize the changes to the County Weapons Law that were completed in 2007. (DED, DMWG, FSC)
- d. M-NCPPC should continue to offer to work with landowners growing crops on private land adjacent to parkland where deer management is being conducted, to coordinate their management efforts. Landowners should contact M-NCPPC at 301-949-4149 for this program. (M-NCPPC)

6. Continue and expand population reduction programs on select State and County lands.

Table 1 lists public land on which deer population management is currently being conducted and land on which the DMWG recommends deer management in the future. Decisions as to the type of population management implemented, the duration of the operation, and annual harvest goals should be decided by the appropriate agencies and DNR. The timing of implementation is subject to the resources and budget of the agency managing the property. Tight budgets for FY10 will most likely limit which of the following recommendations can be implemented in the upcoming year.

- a. The National Park Service should consider addressing deer management needs in the Goldmine Tract of the C&O Canal Historic Park in Potomac. (NPS)
- b. The Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste Services (DSWS) should continue with efforts begun last year to implement deer population management on the approximately 800 acres of County owned property that they manage in the Dickerson area to help reduce impacts to agriculture in the area. Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Deer Management Work Group will continue to provide assistance in developing a program. (DSWS)
- c. The Montgomery County Revenue Authority (MCRA) should continue to pursue the re-implement deer population management on the Golf Courses that they operate in the County that was begun by M-NCPPC prior to transfer of the courses to MCRA. This would most easily be done in cooperation with M-NCPPC's deer management program. (Map 2 and Table 1, #32 & 33) (MCRA, M-NCPPC)
- d. M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks should continue ongoing deer population management programs adjusting methods and harvest goals as needed and continue to expand these efforts, as budgets and staffing allow, into new areas in order to reduce deer impacts to park resources and adjacent property. (M-NCPPC)
- e. The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) should continue current deer population management programs on their lands and continue to expand these efforts, as required to protect WSSC resources and adjacent property. (WSSC)
- f. Continue to investigate methods that are appropriate for managing deer populations in smaller more urban parks that provide the level of control and safety required. (DMWG, M-NCPPC)

Media Center

MontgomeryParks.org | MontgomeryPlanning.org

August 24, 2009

New County Deer Report Shows Continued, Slow Decline in Deer-Vehicle Collisions as Community Complaints Increase in Urbanized Areas

SILVER SPRING, MD—The Montgomery County Deer Management Work Group released its new annual report today on the impact of deer in the county with recommendations on managing deer impacts for the upcoming year. This new report shows a continued slow decline in deer-vehicle collisions in the county for the seventh year in a row, but also calls attention to an increase in resident complaints about deer damage, particularly in Montgomery County's more urbanized areas.

"Despite effective deer management strategies reducing deer-human conflicts countywide, residents especially in some down-county areas are increasingly reporting deer-related damage," said Montgomery County Department of Parks Natural Resources Manager and Chair of the Montgomery County Deer Management Work Group Rob Gibbs. "In these more urbanized areas, deer management is more involved and difficult to implement safely due to the smaller, narrower parks, high density of adjacent houses and high level of public activity in these park areas."

This new report points out that resident calls have increased this past year with complaints about deer-damage around lower Rock Creek Stream Valley, Sligo Creek Stream Valley, the Paint Branch-Colesville area, Potomac, Rockville and Olney.

"These areas pose a real challenge for safe deer population management and Montgomery County is not alone in investigating how to control deer numbers in more urbanized areas," added Gibbs. "This is an issue challenging suburban areas across the nation."

The good news is, according to Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) data outlined in the report, Montgomery County has seen a slight decrease in deer-vehicle collisions (DVCs) for the seventh year in a row despite the steady increase in numbers of county residents, automobiles, miles of roads and vehicle miles traveled. The MCPD data shows the following:

| Year | DVCs reported by MCPD |
|------|-----------------------|
| 2002 | 2,127 |
| 2003 | 2,047 |
| 2004 | 1,997 |
| 2005 | 1,969 |
| 2006 | 1,951 |
| 2007 | 1,867 |
| 2008 | 1,841 |

MCPD keeps the most comprehensive and systematically collected data set on the number of deer-vehicle collisions in the county.

"Other indications that we're seeing measurable success in managing deer in the county include significantly lower deer numbers in county and state parks in which population management has been conducted in recent years," said Gibbs. "This has resulted in significantly fewer deer-vehicle collisions around these parks along with less damage to farm crops, natural vegetation and home landscapes."

Due to budget constraints associated with the recession, no new parklands are expected to be added for deer management this fiscal year (July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010). However, all existing programs are planned to be continued. The Department of Parks will announce county park locations for deer management shortly after Labor Day.

The goal of the Montgomery County deer management program is to reduce deer-human conflicts in the county by: reducing the number of deer-vehicle collisions; reducing damage by deer to agricultural crops and home landscapes; reducing damage by deer on natural communities to preserve native plant and animal diversity; and providing county residents with information. The county's Deer Management Work Group includes representatives from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Montgomery County Department of Parks, part of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Montgomery County Cooperative Extension, Montgomery County Police Department, US Geological Survey (USGS), National Park Service and Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

Annually, this work group produces a report on the status of the county's deer management program, in which it includes recommendations for managing deer in the upcoming year. For a copy of this year's report and recommendations or to comment see www.ParksDeerManagement.org, email MCP-DeerManagement@MontgomeryParks.org or call (301) 949-2909.

#

Contact:

Kelli Holsendolph
Media Relations Manager
Montgomery County Department of Parks
301-650-2866

Posted at 09:13 AM in [Parks](#) | [Permalink](#)



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

MEMORANDUM

July 20, 2009

TO: Mary Bradford, Director, M-NCPPC Parks Department

FROM: Phil Andrews, Chair, Public Safety Committee 
Mike Knapp, Chair, Planning, Housing, and Economic Development Committee 

SUBJECT: Deer Control in Montgomery County Parks

In February, the Public Safety Committee held its annual session on the findings and recommendations of the Deer Management Work Group. Mr. Fred Winkler of Susanna Lane in Chevy Chase, who is a long-time county resident, shared his concern about the over-population of deer in Rock Creek Park and the damage they are doing to vegetation in the area. Mr. Winkler believes that sharp-shooting would be appropriate for the area. We understand that Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Gibbs have discussed this issue with Mr. Winkler in the past. Based on the information Mr. Winkler forwarded after the February meeting and his description of the situation, Linda McMillan of Council staff asked Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Gibbs to walk the area with Mr. Winkler and his son, which they did on the evening of June 15th. We understand that deer were out that evening and that Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Gibbs discussed with the Winklers the precautions that would have to be taken if sharp shooting was used to reduce the number of deer. They also explained that no additional funding has been provided to allow Parks to expand their efforts beyond the parks included in the 2008-09 hunting season.

At the February Public Safety Committee meeting Park and Planning said that they have identified other areas where deer management efforts should be implemented given the over population of deer.

We are requesting information from Park and Planning on the five areas Parks has assessed as being the next highest priority for deer management. As a part of this request, we would like to understand the criteria used in setting priorities, whether Parks could use a managed hunt (bow or firearms) or would need to use sharpshooters, and what the estimated cost for each of the five areas would be. We would also like to understand where the section of Rock Creek that is near the Winkler property would fall in terms of priority for deer reduction.

We recognize that the Council did not specifically add new resources for deer management in the FY10 budget and do not know, given ongoing budget constraints, whether any additional money can be found. However, we continue to hear more and more from residents whose property is damaged and who have evidence of Lyme Disease in their neighborhoods that more deer control efforts are needed. We would like to understand the incremental cost of trying to expand this program and see whether anything can be done in time for the 2009-2010 hunting season.

We would appreciate having a response by August 26 so that we can determine if a worksession should be scheduled in September.

We would also like to thank Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Gibbs for taking the time to tour the Rock Creek area with the Winklers and Ms. McMillan and for engaging in what we understand was a very frank, thoughtful, and thorough discussion.

C: Councilmembers
Royce Hanson, Planning Board Chair
Bill Hamilton, Parks Department
Rob Gibbs, Parks Department

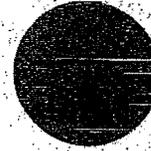
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MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

August 18, 2009

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RECEIVED
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

TO: Phil Andrews, Chair, Public Safety Committee, Montgomery County Council
Mike Knapp, Chair, Planning, Housing, and Economic Development Committee,
Montgomery County Council

FROM: Mary Bradford, Director, M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks

SUBJECT: Deer Control in Montgomery County Parks

The following information is provided in response to your memo on Deer Control in Montgomery County Parks dated July 20, 2009 (Attached) in which you requested the following:

- Information on the five areas that Parks has assessed as being the next highest priorities for deer management
- The criteria used in setting priorities
- The method of deer management proposed for use – managed hunt with firearms or bow, or sharpshooters
- Estimated costs for implementing deer management in each of these locations
- Where the section of Rock Creek Park that is near the Winkler property falls in these priorities.

Below, in table 1, you will find the next highest priorities for deer management as assessed by Montgomery Parks and the Montgomery County Deer Management Work Group. I have chosen to include the top six parks because the park specifically mentioned in your request, Rock Creek Stream Valley Unit 2, ranked just outside of the top five. The parks are identified through community complaint of deer impacts, and have been ranked, using a process developed by the Montgomery County Deer Management Work Group, through a matrix (tables 2&3) consisting of indices pertaining to public safety, i.e., deer-vehicle collisions, agricultural damage, natural resources impacts, and private landscape damage. When necessary and available, information pertaining to known deer densities is included in this evaluation as well.

Please note that while the costs associated with these new locations are not insurmountable, these efforts are logistically complex and require a broad spectrum of staff and resources across four park Divisions, (Park Planning and Stewardship, Park Police, Northern and Southern Regions) and other involved parties.

Cost projections assigned for each park and method used, and the minimal initial harvest recommended, have been derived from an analysis of current program costs and associated data sets.

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Table 1. Prioritized parkland, for future deer management, as assessed by Montgomery Parks and the Montgomery County Deer Management Work Group.

| Rank | Park | Methodology | Initial Harvest* | Estimated Cost |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1 | North Branch Stream Valley Park, Unit 4 Olney | Sharpshooting | 75 | \$33,229.20 |
| 2 | Paint Branch Stream Valley Park, Unit 5&6 White Oak/Colesville | Sharpshooting | 50 | \$22,154.20 |
| 3 | Serpentine Barrens Conservation Park Travillah | Sharpshooting | 50 | \$22,154.20 |
| 4 | Muddy Branch Stream Valley Park, Unit 1 Darnestown | Archery Hunting | 50 | \$14,304.00 |
| 5 | Sligo Creek Stream Valley Park, Units 3, 4 & 5 Silver Spring | Sharpshooting | 80 | \$35,504.20 |
| 6 | Rock Creek Stream Valley Unit 2 Chevy Chase | Sharpshooting | 50 | \$22,154.20 |

*Based on estimated deer population on parkland only. Annual, and likely ongoing, treatments will be necessary to maintain densities that may exhibit an increase from both population growth and immigration. This initial harvest will allow for staff to learn more about population dynamics, landscape use, and true population density.

Table 2. Criteria for Setting Deer Management Priorities

| Hotspot | Deer Vehicle Collision's (weight x2) | Agriculture Damage (weight x 2) | Browse | Significant Habitat (weight x2) | Landscape Damage | Weighted totals |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| North Branch SVP4 | 4 | 6 | N/A* | 4 | 3 | 17 |
| Paint Branch SVP | 6 | 2 | N/A* | 6 | 2 | 16 |
| Serpentine Barrens CP | 2 | 2 | N/A* | 8 | 1 | 13 |
| Muddy Branch SVP1 | 2 | 2 | N/A* | 6 | 3 | 13 |
| Sligo Creek SVP's 4&5 | 4 | 2 | N/A* | 4 | 2 | 12 |
| Rock Creek SVP 2 | 4 | 2 | N/A* | 4 | 2 | 12 |

*Work program allocations do not allow for browse data to be collected any longer. This practice was abandoned in Fiscal Year 2005 due to budget constraints.

Table 3. Numeric Values Assigned to Deer Management Criteria.

| Impacts Index Value | Deer Vehicle Collisions w/in one-half mile of area | Deer Population Density (#/sq.mi) | Agricultural Damage in area | Natural Vegetation Impacts; Browse | Significance of Natural Community | Landscape Damage |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 0-14 | <61 | No Agriculture in area | No Natural Areas | Low Quality; No significant concerns | No complaint calls or reports |
| 2 | 15-29 | 61-95 | Light damage 10-20% losses | Browse 1-9% | Good Quality; No rare or uncommon plant species | Few complaint calls; minimum local measures taken |
| 3 | 30-44 | 96-130 | Medium damage 21-33% losses | Browse 10-49% | Moderate to High Quality w/ rare or uncommon species | Moderate # of complaint calls and moderate local measures taken |
| 4 | >44 | >130 | Heavy Damage >33% losses | Browse >49% | Very High Quality; of significant countywide significance | High number of calls and measures taken |

The Department of Parks' deer management program has expanded significantly over the past 14 years with only two incremental increases in budget for professional services and supplies and equipment. More importantly, there have been no increases in staffing during these 14 years. What started out as a minor effort managing deer in two parks has grown to a major program managing deer in twenty-seven parks covering approximately fifteen thousand acres- 44% of total park acreage. Staff now utilizes four separate methods of deer management – each with its own set of program requirements. Four methods include Lottery Based Managed Shotgun Hunting, Park Police-based Sharpshooting, Cooperative Deer Hunting, and Lease Tenant Deer Hunting.

Additionally, the county's economic difficulties have resulted in a struggle to maintain such services. As you are aware, the county's approved budget for Montgomery Parks does not maintain the same services as Fiscal Year 2009. Approximately \$121,000.00 was available for deer management in Fiscal Year 2009, whereas approximately \$91,000.00 is available in Fiscal Year 2010.

The cost of further expansion to address the six sites listed in Table 1 is estimated at \$149,500.00 in FY10.

| Budget Category- | FY10 | FY11 | FY12 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Personnel | \$93,500.00 (1.48WY's) | \$100,000.00 (1.48WY's) | \$107,000.00 (1.48WY's) |
| ISF | \$27,500.00 | N/A | N/A |
| Professional Services | \$25,500.00 | \$26,100.00 | \$26,700.00 |
| Supplies & Materials | \$3,000.00 | \$3,100.00 | \$4,200.00 |
| Total Allocation: | \$149,500.00 | \$129,200.00 | \$137,900.00 |
| Annual increase based on 7% compensation adjustment and annualization for personnel and 2.5% CPI for Professional Services and Supplies and Materials. It is anticipated that a continuous need for deer management will be required at each site beyond FY12. | | | |

- cc. Royce Hanson, Planning Board Chair, M-NCPPC Montgomery County
- Mike Riley, Deputy Director- Administration, M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks
- John Hench, Chief, Park Planning and Stewardship Division, M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks
- Rob Gibbs, Natural Resources Manager, M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks
- Bill Hamilton, Principal Natural Resources Specialist, M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks

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