



DEER MANAGEMENT PRESENTATION

BACKGROUND

- A suspected increase in deer population raised concerns of deer/vehicle crashes, property destruction, and personal and pet health safety
- April 2015 Meeting with Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- City of Farmington Hills Staff began collecting data

DATA COLLECTION

1. Farmington Hills Residents Deer Information Log
2. Community Deer Management Survey
3. Research & Resources
4. Deer/Vehicle Crash Data Collection
5. Annual Aerial Deer Survey
6. Communicate with Neighboring Communities

FARMINGTON HILLS RESIDENTS DEER INFORMATION LOG

- We have logged nearly 200 phone calls from residents with a variety of deer concerns
- Received dozens of emails from residents with a variety of deer concerns
- What are the concerns?

DEER CONCERNS

- Too many deer
- Landscape destruction and blight
- Ticks/Lyme disease
- Personal and pet safety

COMMUNITY DEER MANAGEMENT SURVEY

- Completed in Summer/Fall 2016
- 5,409 Respondents
- Majority of respondents had landscape damaged by deer
- 589 people reported a dead or injured deer was on their property within the last 3 years

COMMUNITY DEER MANAGEMENT SURVEY

When asked the question, who should be responsible for managing the deer population?

- 1,249 – The deer population manages itself and we should not try to artificially manipulate it
- 861 – The City is responsible
- 758 – The County handles animal control in our area, It is their responsibility
- 2,036 – The State of Michigan/DNR should handle on a State-wide basis

RESEARCH & RESOURCES

- Developed deer management section on city website
<https://www.fhgov.com/Resident/Deer-Management.aspx>

*Full 2016 Community Deer Survey results are on website

- Shared resources through conversations
- Reviewed deer impacts on properties
- Gathered research on deer management practices
- In 2017, City Council enacted ordinance prohibiting deer feeding

DEER/VEHICLE CRASH DATA

- Oakland County had the most deer/vehicle crashes in Michigan in 2020
- 1,855 deer/vehicle crashes were reported in Oakland County in 2020
- According to Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning, deer/vehicle insurance claims average \$4,300

DEER/VEHICLE CRASH DATA

Over a period of 7 ½ years, Farmington Hills DPW picked up a total of 605 dead deer in the City of Farmington Hills:

2014 – 53

2015 – 53

2016 – 63

2017 – 83

2018 – 98

2019 – 105

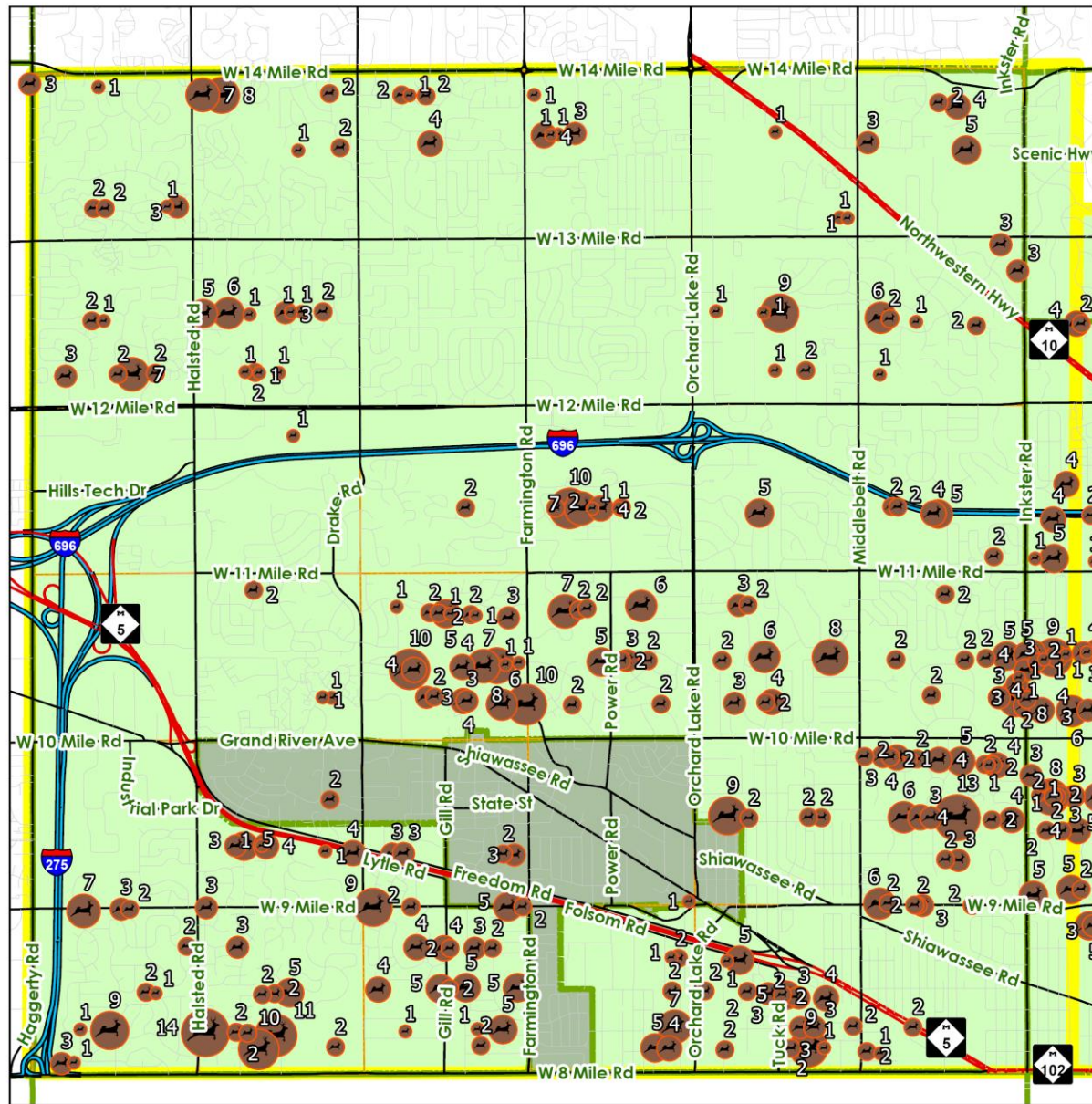
2020 – 98

2021 – 52 (as of 7/21/21)

ANNUAL AERIAL DEER SURVEY

Farmington Hills and Farmington Area:

March 4, 2016:	304 deer
March 15, 2017:	425 deer
February 12, 2018:	602 deer
March 1, 2019:	370 deer
2020:	No Aerial Deer Survey
February 12, 2021:	729 deer



Urban Deer Survey


City of Farmington Hills

Aerial Survey-February 2021



SOURCES: City of Farmington Hills, 2021
 Department of Special Services, 2021
 Deer Survey Conducted: 2/12/2021

Deer count* **133**



- Survey area
- Sections
- Interstates
- State
- Major roads
- Municipal boundaries
- Farmington City

*Symbol sized proportional to number of deer sighted

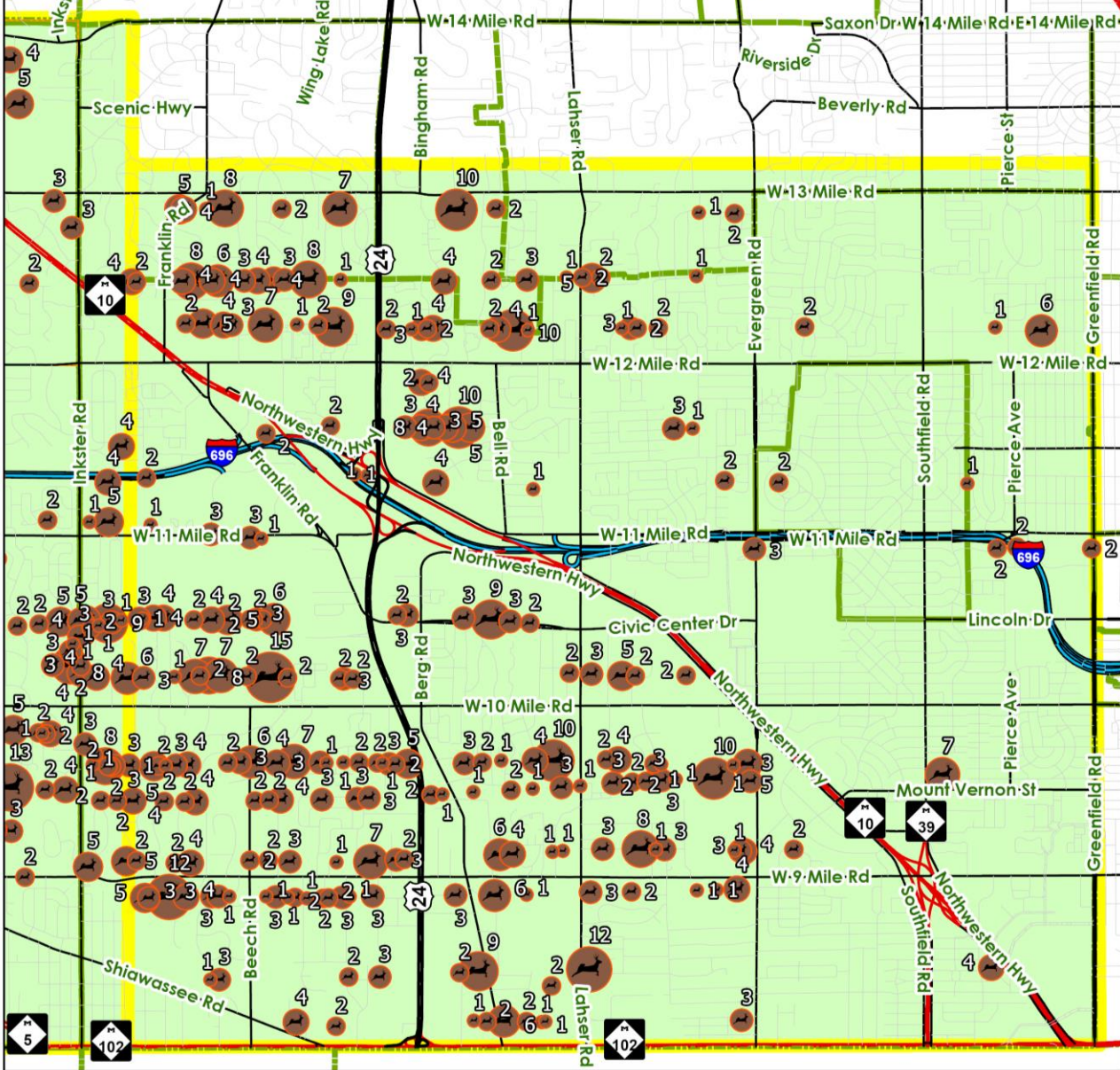



FARMINGTON HILLS
Michigan

COMMUNICATE WITH NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES


- Met with representatives from Michigan DNR, Novi, Southfield, and others in 2017 to discuss the idea of a regional deer management plan
- Communicated with other city leaders on the impacts of deer in their community
- Collaborated with Southfield on performing aerial deer counts in 2018, 2019, 2021








SOUTHFIELD 2021
AERIAL DEER SURVEY
=869 DEER




Urban Deer Survey
City of Southfield
Aerial Survey-February 2021

SOURCES: City of Farmington Hills, 2021
Department of Special Services, 2021
Deer Survey Conducted: 2/12/2021


Deer count*  13

-  Survey area
-  Interstates
-  State
-  Major roads
-  Sections
-  Municipal boundaries
-  Farmington City

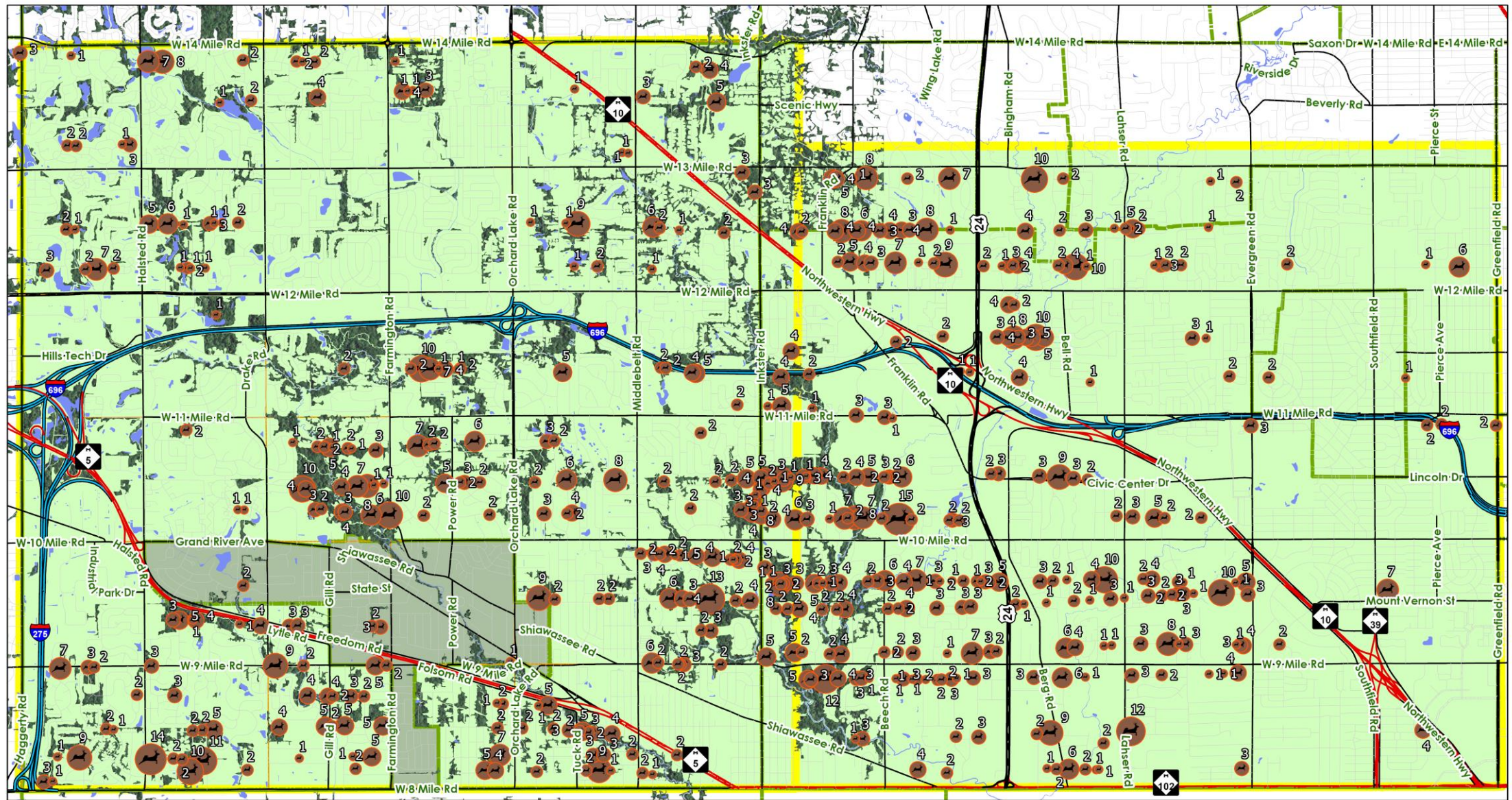
*Symbol sized proportional to number of deer sighted



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**COMBINED 2021 FARMINGTON HILLS AND
SOUTHFIELD AERIAL DEER SURVEY
RESULTS
=1,598 DEER**



Urban Deer Survey

Cities of Farmington Hills & Southfield
Aerial Survey-February 2021



SOURCES: City of Farmington Hills, 2021
Department of Special Services, 2021
Deer Survey Conducted: 2/12/2021

Deer count*	Survey area	Sections
13	Interstates	Municipal boundaries
State	Farmington City	Woodlands
Major roads	Waterbodies and rivers	

*Symbol sized proportional to number of deer sighted



DEER PER SQUARE MILE?

CONCLUSION

- The deer population is growing
- The highest deer population is found in wooded areas and river corridors
- The deer population is a local and regional concern
- Data collection will continue
- What is the plan of action?

ACTION PLAN

The Michigan Deer Management Plan enacted by the MDNR stipulates:

“This plan does not outline operational details of deer management in Michigan. Operational details will be specified at regional levels within an adaptive-management framework in which specific management methods are routinely adjusted and updated as local conditions, technology, regulations, and other aspects of management change.”

ACTION PLAN

1. Adopt a Resolution pursuing a regional approach to urban deer in Oakland County
2. Work with the MDNR, Oakland County and regional communities on an effective regional deer management plan
3. Identify solutions and available funding to implement a successful deer management plan for Oakland County

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF OAKLAND
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS

RESOLUTION SEEKING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
REGIONAL URBAN DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR
OAKLAND COUNTY