

Forest Preserve District of Will County

Deer Management Program 2017-2018 Report

**Summary Report for IDNR Deer Population Control Permit Numbers:
TSP013-17, TSP014-17, TSP015-17, TSP016-17,
TSP017-17, TSP018-17, TSP019-17**

The Forest Preserve District Will County removed a total of 162 white-tailed deer from 8 forest preserve areas between December 03, 2017 and February 17, 2018. A brief analysis of the data indicates that of the deer removed, 57% were female and 43% were male, 28% of all deer removed this season were fawns, and 53% of all females were visibly pregnant. This percentage is up from 49% in 2016-2017. The 93 total females taken from the preserves averaged 112 lbs. and the 69 total males taken from the preserves averaged 126 lbs.

A breakdown of the number of deer taken for each of the 8 forest preserve areas is provided here:

Lockport Prairie_LPN			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Female			
Adult	1	149	149
Yearling	1	120	120
Fawn	3	228.4	76.13333
total	5	497.4	99.48

	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Male			
Adult	3	478.4	159.4667
Yearling	0	0	0
Fawn	0	0	0
total	3	478.4	159.4667

Romeoville Prairie_RPN			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Female			
Adult	1	133	133
Yearling	2	218.4	109.2
Fawn	0	0	0
total	3	351.4	117.1333

	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Male			
Adult	4	676.8	169.2
Yearling	0	0	0
Fawn	1	83.5	83.5
total	5	760.3	152.06

McKinley Woods Complex_MWP			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Female			
Adult	9	1242.6	138.0667
Yearling	1	115.6	115.6
Fawn	6	501.8	83.63333
total	16	1860	116.25

	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Male			
Adult	2	290	145
Yearling	8	839.4	104.925
Fawn	4	327.5	81.875
total	14	1456.9	104

Thorn Creek Nature Preserve			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Female			
Adult	6	911.8	151.9667
Yearling	1	124.1	124.1
Fawn	3	273.4	91.13333
total	10	1309.3	130.93

	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Male			
Adult	5	769.4	153.88
Yearling	3	345	115
Fawn	1	93	93
total	9	1207.4	134.16

Kankakee Sands Geologic Area_KGA			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
Female	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Adult	10	1398.4	139.84
Yearling	5	574.8	114.96
Fawn	5	369.1	73.82
total	20	2342.3	117.115

Male	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Adult	4	596.2	149.05
Yearling	1	127	127
Fawn	5	397.4	79.48
total	10	1120.6	112.06

Hickory Creek Preserve_HCP			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
Female	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Adult	13	1927	148.2308
Yearling	3	353.2	117.7333
Fawn	6	464	77.33333
total	22	2744.2	124.7364

Male	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Adult	5	802	160.4
Yearling	2	233	116.5
Fawn	6	489.4	81.56667
total	13	1524.4	117.2615

Raccoon Grove Nature Preserve_HCP			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Female			
Adult	3	441.2	147.0667
Yearling	2	227.8	113.9
Fawn	3	243.2	81.06667
total	8	912.2	114.025

	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Male			
Adult	10	1550	155
Yearling	1	104.2	104.2
Fawn	0	0	0
total	11	1654.2	150.38

Prairie Bluff Preserve			
Average Deer Weights by Age and Sex			
	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Female			
Adult	4	571.6	142.9
Yearling	3	335	111.6667
Fawn	2	146.2	73.1
total	9	1052.8	116.9778

	# of Deer	total wt	ave wt
Male			
Adult	3	452.2	150.7333
Yearling	0	0	0
Fawn	1	92.8	92.8
total	4	545	136.25

As directed by the IDNR, multiple samples were taken for Chronic Wasting Disease from the deer before they were processed. The samples obtained were shipped to the University of Illinois Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Urbana, IL. The District shipped a total of 94 samples for CWD testing. No sample was positive for CWD.

Freedom Sausage, Earlville, IL processed 161 deer, processing 7,245 lbs. of ground venison. Internal organs and waste materials were collected for rendering by Kuluzny Brothers, Joliet.

Northern Illinois Food Bank, St. Charles, IL received the balance of the ground venison (7,245 lbs.) for distribution to needy families in northeastern Illinois. One deer carcass was not processed because coyotes had gotten to it before it could be collected.

In the 2017-2018 culling season, 162 of 162 tags were used:

Permit # TSP013-17	Romeoville Prairie Nature Preserve -8 of 8 tags used
Permit # TSP014-17	Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve-8 of 8 tags used
Permit # TSP015-17	McKinley Woods Preserve-30 of 30 tags used
Permit # TSP016-17	Hickory Creek Preserve-35 of 35 tags used
Permit # TSP017-17	Raccoon Grove Nature Preserve-19 of 19 tags used
Permit # TSP018-17	Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve-19 of 19 tags used
Permit # TSP018-17	Prairie Bluff Preserve-13 of 13 tags used
Permit # TSP019-17	Kankakee Sands Geologic Area-30 of 30 tags used

We are presenting to the IDNR the antlers from those deer having them at the time of culling: There are 32 racks.

The upcoming season is the eighth season of culling, the District is still working under a flexible management plan, and we are hoping to move forward with fewer self-imposed restrictions. We will again be following with the IDNR recommended metrics of browse percentage and damage to be used as evidence for 2018-2019 culling. We hope to expand the program to other preserves, while managing numbers of deer at the sites we have previously been given permits to cull based on these elements of the plan.