

Forest Preserve District of Will County

Deer Management Program 2020-2021 Report

**Summary Report for IDNR Deer Population Control Permit Numbers:
TSP013-20, TSP014-20, TSP015-20, TSP016-20, TSP017-20, TSP018-20,
TSP018-20B**

The Forest Preserve District of Will County removed a total of 230 white-tailed deer from six preserve areas permitted for deer management (Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve, McKinley Woods Preserve, Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve, Hickory Creek Preserve, Thorn Creek Preserve, and the Kankakee Sands Geologic Area) between December 07, 2020 and March 14, 2021.

Freedom Sausage, of Earlville, Illinois, processed 227 deer producing 8,022 pounds of ground venison. Northern Illinois Food Bank, in St. Charles, Illinois received the ground venison for distribution to needy families in northeastern Illinois. One deer was deemed unfit for human consumption due to poor health and disposed of properly. Internal organs and waste materials were collected for rendering by Kaluzny Brothers of Joliet, Illinois.

As directed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), samples were taken from certain deer to test for Chronic Wasting Disease before they were processed. The 121 samples collected were shipped to the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Two samples tested positive for CWD, and those deer were collected by IDNR for proper disposal.

Brief analysis of the data indicates that, of the deer removed, 60% were female and 40% were male; 49% of all deer removed this season were adults, and 48% of all females were visibly pregnant. Across all preserves in 2020-2021, the 137 females taken averaged 117 lbs., and the 93 males taken averaged 131 lbs.

Table 1. Total deer removed per site by sex and age

PRESERVE	MALE	FEMALE	ADULT	YEARLING	FAWN	TOTAL
Lockport Prairie	4	6	3	4	3	10
Hickory Creek	31	49	38	11	31	80
Goodenow Grove	22	28	30	9	11	50
Thorn Creek Woods	6	19	13	3	9	25
McKinley Woods	13	14	13	5	9	27
Kankakee Sands Area	17	21	15	14	9	38
TOTAL	93	137	112	46	72	230
PERCENT	40%	60%	49%	20%	31%	

Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve (LPN) take consisted of 6 females with an average weight of 112 lbs. and 4 males with an average weight of 135 lbs.

Table 2. Average deer weights (lbs.) by sex and age at Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve

Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve								
Females	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight		Males	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight
Adult	2	301	151		Adult	1	235	235
Yearling	2	221	110		Yearling	2	215	107
Fawn	2	149	75		Fawn	1	92	92
Total	6	671	112		Total	4	541	135

McKinley Woods Preserve (MWP) produced 14 females with an average weight of 111 lbs. and 13 males with an average weight of 125 lbs.

Table 4. Average deer weights (lbs.) by sex and age at McKinley Woods Preserve

McKinley Woods Preserve								
Females	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight		Males	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight
Adult	5	724	145		Adult	8	1152	144
Yearling	3	333	111		Yearling	2	246	123
Fawn	6	493	82		Fawn	3	221	74
Total	14	1549	111		Total	13	1619	125

Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve (GGN) produced 28 females with an average weight of 126 lbs. and 22 males with an average weight of 145 lbs.

Table 5. Average deer weights (lbs.) by sex and age at Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve

Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve								
Females	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight		Males	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight
Adult	17	2531	149		Adult	13	2330	179
Yearling	3	326	109		Yearling	6	614	102
Fawn	8	672	84		Fawn	3	253	84
Total	28	3529	126		Total	22	3196	145

Hickory Creek Preserve (HCP) produced a take of 49 females with an average weight of 112 lbs. and 31 males with an average weight of 129 lbs.

Table 6. Average deer weights (lbs.) by sex and age at Hickory Creek Preserve

Hickory Creek Preserve								
Females	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight		Males	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight
Adult	22	3141	143		Adult	16	2744	172
Yearling	9	1021	113		Yearling	2	225	113
Fawn	18	1307	73		Fawn	13	1034	80
Total	49	5468	112		Total	31	4003	129

The Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve (TCN) produced 19 females with an average weight of 120 lbs. and 6 males with an average weight of 128 lbs.

Table 7. Average deer weights (lbs.) by sex and age at Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve

Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve								
Females	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight		Males	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight
Adult	10	1463	146		Adult	3	488	163
Yearling	2	235	117		Yearling	1	105	105
Fawn	7	579	83		Fawn	2	178	89
Total	19	2276	120		Total	6	770	128

The Kankakee Sands Geologic Area produced 21 females with an average weight of 119 lbs. and 17 males with an average weight of 121 lbs.

Table 8. Average deer weights (lbs.) by sex and age at Kankakee Sands Geologic Area

Kankakee Sands Geologic Area								
Females	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight		Males	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight
Adult	8	1110	139		Adult	7	1032	147
Yearling	8	956	120		Yearling	6	649	108
Fawn	5	427	85		Fawn	4	369	92
Total	21	2493	119		Total	17	2050	121