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Forest Preserve District of Will County

Deer Management Program 2022-2023 Report

**Summary Report for IDNR Deer Population Control Permit Numbers:
TSP012-22, TSP013-22, TSP014-22, TSP015-22, TSP016-22, TSP017-22,
TSP018-22, TSP019-22, and TSP020-22**

The Forest Preserve District of Will County removed a total of 255 white-tailed deer from nine preserve areas permitted for deer management (Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve, Romeoville Prairie Nature Preserve, Messenger Woods Complex, Hickory Creek Preserve, Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve, Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve, Raccoon Grove Nature Preserve, McKinley Woods Preserve, and the Kankakee Sands Complex) between December 5, 2022 and February 16, 2023.

Freedom Sausage, of Earlville, Illinois, processed 250 deer producing 9,603 pounds of ground venison. Northern Illinois Food Bank, in St. Charles, Illinois received the ground venison for distribution to needy families in northeastern Illinois. Internal organs and waste materials were collected for rendering by Kaluzny Brothers of Joliet, Illinois. Three deer were deemed unfit for human consumption and disposed of properly.

As directed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, samples were taken from certain deer to test for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) before they were processed. The 166 samples collected were shipped to the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Two samples tested positive for CWD: one from McKinley Woods and one from the Kankakee Sands Complex. The positive result at McKinley Woods prompted IDNR to request an additional 10 deer be removed from the site. The meat from the two positive deer was collected by IDNR for disposition.

Brief analysis of the data indicates that, of the deer removed, 49% were female and 51% were male; 61% of all deer removed this season were adults, and 52% of all females were visibly pregnant. Across all preserves, the 124 females averaged 123 lbs., and the 131 males averaged 141 lbs.

Table 1. Age and sex distributions of all deer removed in the 2022-2023 season per site

PRESERVE	MALE	FEMALE	ADULT	YEARLING	FAWN	TOTAL
Lockport Prairie	9	16	16	5	4	25
Romeoville Prairie	10	5	14	0	1	15
Messenger Woods Complex	17	13	20	6	4	30
Hickory Creek	32	27	38	11	10	59
Goodenow Grove	18	22	19	7	14	40
Thorn Creek Woods	12	8	12	2	6	20
Raccoon Grove	4	6	5	1	4	10
McKinley Woods	15	13	18	5	5	28
Kankakee Sands Area	14	14	14	6	8	28
TOTAL	131	124	156	43	56	255
PERCENT	51%	49%	61%	17%	22%	

The Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve (LPN) take consisted of 16 females with an average weight of 115 lbs. and 9 males with an average weight of 158 lbs.

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

Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve Summary								
Females	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight		Males	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight
Adult	8	1057	132		Adult	8	1339	167
Yearling	5	243	49		Yearling	0	0	0
Fawn	3	542	181		Fawn	1	81	81
Total	16	1842	115		Total	9	1420	158

The Romeoville Prairie Complex (RPN) produced 5 females averaging 141 pounds and 10 males averaging 173 pounds.

Table 3. Average deer weights (lbs.) by sex and age at the Romeoville Prairie Complex

Romeoville Prairie Complex Summary								
Females	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight		Males	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight
Adult	5	705	141		Adult	9	1637	182
Yearling	0	0	0		Yearling	0	0	0
Fawn	0	0	0		Fawn	1	88	88
Total	5	705	141		Total	10	1725	173

The Messenger Woods Complex (MWN) produced 13 females with an average weight of 131 lbs. and 17 males with an average weight of 151 lbs.

Table 4. Average deer weights (lbs.) by sex and age at the Messenger Woods Complex

Messenger Woods Complex Summary								
Females	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight		Males	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight
Adult	8	1262	158		Adult	12	2052	171
Yearling	2	203	102		Yearling	4	421	105
Fawn	3	264	88		Fawn	1	89	89
Total	13	1729	133		Total	17	2562	151

Hickory Creek Preserve (HCP) produced 27 females with an average weight of 129 lbs. and 32 males with an average weight of 139 lbs.

Table 5. Average deer weights (lbs.) by sex and age at Hickory Creek Preserve

Hickory Creek Preserve Summary								
Females	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight		Males	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight
Adult	18	2626	146		Adult	20	3323	166
Yearling	5	540	108		Yearling	6	635	106
Fawn	4	305	76		Fawn	6	500	83
Total	27	3471	129		Total	32	4458	139

Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve (GGN) produced 22 females with an average weight of 115 lbs. and 18 males with an average weight of 125 lbs.

Table 6. Average deer weights (lbs.) by sex and age at Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve

Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve Summary								
Females	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight		Males	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight
Adult	11	1580	144		Adult	8	1318	165
Yearling	4	416	104		Yearling	3	311	104
Fawn	7	534	76		Fawn	7	613	88
Total	22	2530	115		Total	18	2242	125

Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve (TCN) produced 8 females with an average weight of 118 lbs. and 12 males with an average weight of 152 lbs.

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

Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve Summary								
Females	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight		Males	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight
Adult	3	448	149		Adult	9	1575	175
Yearling	2	238	119		Yearling	0	0	0
Fawn	3	257	86		Fawn	3	244	81
Total	8	943	118		Total	12	1819	152

Raccoon Grove Nature Preserve (RGN) produced 6 females with an average weight of 128 lbs. and 4 males with an average weight of 108 lbs.

Table 8. Average deer weights (lbs.) by sex and age Raccoon Grove Nature Preserve

Raccoon Grove Nature Preserve Summary								
Females	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight		Males	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight
Adult	4	601	150		Adult	1	149	149
Yearling	0	0	0		Yearling	1	103	103
Fawn	2	164	82		Fawn	2	181	91
Total	6	765	128		Total	4	433	108

McKinley Woods Preserve (MWP) produced 13 females with an average weight of 122 lbs. and 15 males with an average weight of 132 lbs.

Table 9. Average deer weights (lbs.) by sex and age at McKinley Woods Preserve

McKinley Woods Preserve Summary								
Females	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight		Males	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight
Adult	8	1118	140		Adult	10	1508	151
Yearling	2	244	122		Yearling	3	310	103
Fawn	3	230	77		Fawn	2	164	82
Total	13	1592	122		Total	15	1982	132

The Kankakee Sands Geologic Area produced 14 females with an average weight of 117 lbs. and 14 males with an average weight of 129 lbs.

Table 10. Average deer weights (lbs.) by sex and age at Kankakee Sands Geologic Area

Kankakee Sands Complex Summary								
Females	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight		Males	# Deer	Total Weight	Average Weight
Adult	7	1020	146		Adult	7	1060	151
Yearling	2	231	116		Yearling	4	470	118
Fawn	5	391	78		Fawn	3	277	92
Total	14	1642	117		Total	14	1807	129