

Deer Management Advisory Committee Recommendations for 2011

A. DMAC Members

Citizen Members: Tom McDonald, Linda Raschke, Bill Carlson, Joe Podvin, Al Decker, Monique Balaban, and Jim Kubicina, Chairperson.

City Council Members, Martin Brennan and Michael Webber

Youth Council Member, Rachel Schlagel

Parks & Forestry Department Staff Members, Michael Hartner and Lance DeVoe

B. Meetings

1. May 18th
2. June 22nd
3. July 20th
4. August 17th

We took minutes for all these meetings and they were made available on the city's website. Our general course of action is to continue with the plan that we laid out last September with some additional recommendations. That course of action is to continue with non lethal means of control with respect to the deer population. The plan should be re-evaluated every May when the new numbers become available on the deer/vehicle collisions as documented by SEMCOG. This is one of the 2 benchmarks recommended by the DMAC. The second benchmark is the annual aerial survey of the deer population. No further action is recommended as long as the deer/vehicle collisions are less than 200 for the year and the deer population does not go over 20% from the previous year. This year the deer population rose but the deer/vehicle collisions went down. The number of deer/vehicle collisions was 165 for 2009 compared to 168 for 2008. The deer count in the aerial survey rose by 34% from 80 deer sighted in 2009 to 107 sighted in 2010. These sightings occurred in the same 5 areas viewed in previous years. The average number of deer sighted during all the aerial surveys is 164 so this year's sightings although up from 2009 are still considerably below average. We the DMAC believe that the city should continue to monitor these deer population trends with aerial flyover data and SEMCOG car/deer collision data while fully implementing the educational component and the improved signage and roadside deterrents. I will present a summary of our recommendations at the City Council meeting on November 22nd.

C. Aerial Survey of Deer conducted on February 11th of 2010

Aerial Survey Summary for 5 Usual Areas

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Deer Counted</u>
1999	229
2005	220
2008	184
2009	80
2010	107

Average 164

The 5 historical areas included in the aerial survey:

1. Riverbend Park (115 acres)
2. City Hall (138 acres)
3. Bloomer Park (267 acres)
4. Winkler Mill (109 acres)
5. Butler Rod (330 acres)

The aerial surveys have now been expanded to a total of 10 areas. The survey in the appendix shows all 10 areas. The DMAC would like to thank the Administration for providing the information in the appendix which we found to be most helpful. **DMAC recommends that a total of \$1100 be set aside from this year's DMAC budget and reimburse the Parks and Recreation dept for this flyover aerial survey expense.** We focused on the original 5 areas since those are the areas studied in the past for reference purposes.

D.Deer Vehicle Collisions*

1999	159
2000	159
2001	170
2002	183
2003	178
2004	154
2005	186
2006	196
2007	219
2008	168
2009	165

Avg 176

*Data Provided by SEMCOG

E. Feeding Ban Ordinance

1. Continue the ban on feeding wildlife (with exception of birds)
2. Increase the number of public reminders to residents to ensure awareness of the ordinance
3. Strongly enforce the ordinance to ensure compliance.

F. Educational Component

1. Target educational focus during months of September through December and during peak hours of dawn and dusk.
2. Designate October as “Deer Awareness Month”
3. Offer more homeowners tactics, and programs on dealing with the city’s deer population.
4. Have Parks & Forestry Dept. report in May 2011 on the status of the educational components, aerial flyover results, and SEMCOG’s deer /vehicle crash data.
5. Provide updated deer information on the city’s website and cable station and add a link to SEMCOG’s “Don’t Veer for Deer” program.
6. Keep logs of deer calls/complaints for inclusion in future reports

G. Improved Signage

1. Identify major road areas where high growth brush clearing would help increase deer visibility and notify property owners with recommendations.
2. Identify and publicize high deer/vehicle crash areas.
3. Use movable signs during the peak months of September through December to make them more effective and increase awareness. **DMAC recommends buying or renting 3 movable signs to be used during October and November using \$5,000 of the money set aside in this year’s budget.**
4. Encourage Oakland University to continue with their wonderful program of clearing brush along the high deer/vehicle crash areas adjacent to their property along Adams and Avon Roads. We want to thank the Administration for making great inroads in this area.
5. Through a Federal grant speed signs will be soon added to all the school districts to remind motorists of their speeds. We believe this is a great idea that may have a collateral benefit to our program of trying to reduce the number of deer/car collisions. **The DMAC would like to recommend to City Council to allocate the remaining money in the budget for DMAC this year to order 2 of these speed warning signs to be installed in a high deer/vehicle collision area, independent to any school district.**

H. Continue Ban on Bow Hunting

1. Invited the DNR to visit us at our June meeting to explain what bow hunting would look like if Rochester Hills ever lifted its ban on hunting within the city.
2. Officer Ben Shively pointed out the different hunting laws that exist under the DNR's control.
 - a. A hunter cannot trespass onto another's property to claim a killed deer without the homeowner's permission.
 - b. If a homeowner does not give permission, the deer will stay where it lies. Neither the homeowner nor the hunter will be able to move the carcass.
 - c. Hunters as young as 10 will be able to hunt while accompanied by an adult.
 - d. It's a fact that bow hunting will not deliver as sure a kill as a rifle shot, so there will probably be more wounded animals than during rifle season.
3. For the above mentioned reasons and there were others, the committee reached consensus that bow hunting of any variety probably is not viable in a city like Rochester Hills.

I. Immuno-Contraceptives are not recommended at this time.

I verified with the DNR that at present they still have not approved any substance in Michigan to be used as an immune-contraceptive on deer. I received a policy letter from Russ Mason, the Chief of Wildlife division last year stating the DNR's policy regarding this issue and it has not changed at present.

J. DMAC for Next Year?

I believe that our terms on DMAC are expiring at the end of this month. We the committee serves at the pleasure of City Council. We have enjoyed our journey trying to find solutions to reducing deer/vehicle collisions and reducing nuisance complaints. We believe we have made a substantial contribution, but more needs to be done. We currently have 7 citizen members, and I believe that at least 4 of those are interested in returning to the DMAC if Council so desires.

The next 3 pages are part of the **appendix** giving more details on the aerial survey including 5 additional areas, more information on the deer/vehicle collisions, and a summary of citizen complaints for this year. The DMAC would like the Administration, particularly Mike Hartner and Lance DeVoe for collecting this information. The DMAC found it to be extremely helpful.

CITY OF ROCHESTER HILLS

Parks & Forestry

Michael Hartner, Director
248.841.2552

Lance DeVoe, Park Ranger II
248.841.2675

DATE: March 10, 2010

TO: Mayor Bryan Barnett

RE: 2010 Deer Information

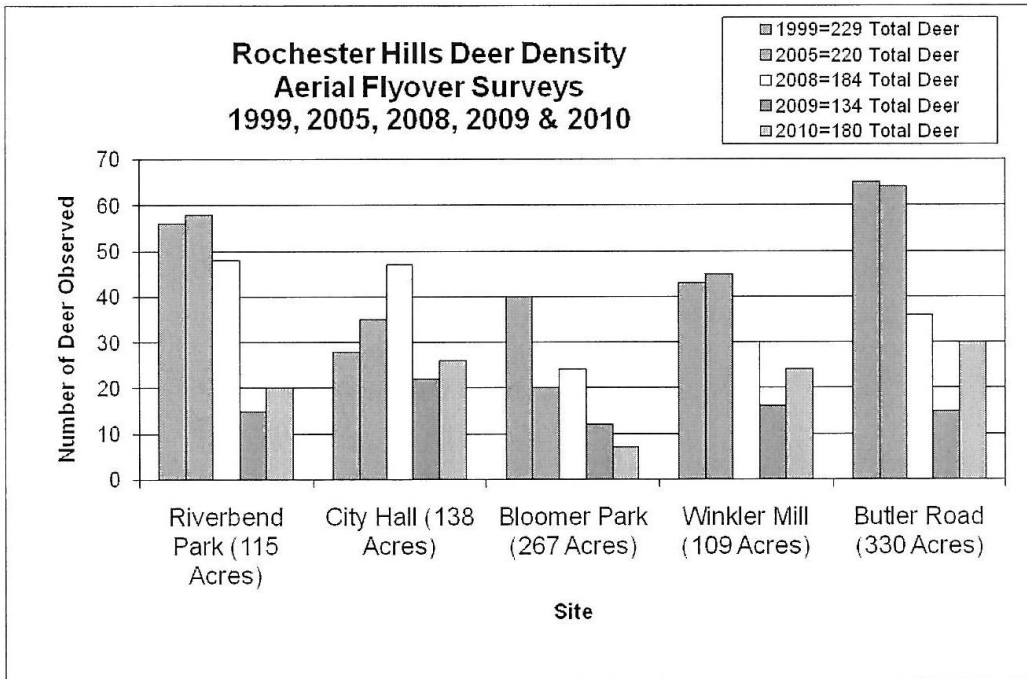
By way of this interim update, I would like to share the latest deer information we have received from the 2010 flyover and the initial unaudited car-deer crash (CDC) data from SEMCOG.

Oakland County conducted their annual aerial deer survey in Rochester Hills on February 11, 2010, using the same flight crew and equipment as in the last three years. The raw numbers for 2009 and 2010 and percent of change are as follows:

2010 FLYOVER DATA

<u>PARCEL</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>% CHANGE</u>
#1 Butler Road/ Oakland University	15	30	↑ 100%
#2 Riverbend Park	15	20	↑ 33%
#3 Adams/ Avon	13	30	↑ 131%
#4 Faculty Sub.	3	0	N/A
#5 City Hall/ EEC	22	26	↑ 18%
#6 Bloomer Park	12	7	↓ 42%
#7 Winkler Mill	16	24	↑ 50%
#8 N. Rochester Road	17	18	↑ 0.06%
#9 Fairview Sub	13	25	↑ 92%
#10 Fairview Commons	8	0	N/A
TOTAL	134	180	↑ 34%

Also, the chart below summarizes the flyover survey results conducted on the five sites that have been continuously monitored since 1999.



CDC's remained almost unchanged from the previous year at 159. The final report is expected in a few weeks. Interestingly, the City of Rochester Hills deer complaints received at City Hall by our phone answerers dropped to 108 calls/complaints from 161 in 2008. That breakdown is as follows:

DEER CALLS / COMPLAINTS

DESCRIPTION	2009
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Mayor Bryan Barnett
March 10, 2010
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Feeding Deer	10
Nuisance – Wild Animal - Deer	9
Roadkill – Deer, City ROW (Local Road)	36
Roadkill – Deer, City ROW (Major Road)	17
Roadkill – Deer, RCOC/MDOT	36
TOTAL CALLS/COMPLAINTS	108