



# DEER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2021 REPORT

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October 11, 2021  
Deborah Barno; Chair

# DEER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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## Citizen Members

**Deborah Barno, Chair**

**Richard Braun**

**Sean Donovan**

**Scott Hunter**

**Dorothy Kaltz**

**Jim Kubicina**

**James Nachtman**

## City Council Members

**Theresa Mungoli**

**Dale Hetrick**

## Youth Council Member

**Henry Hall**

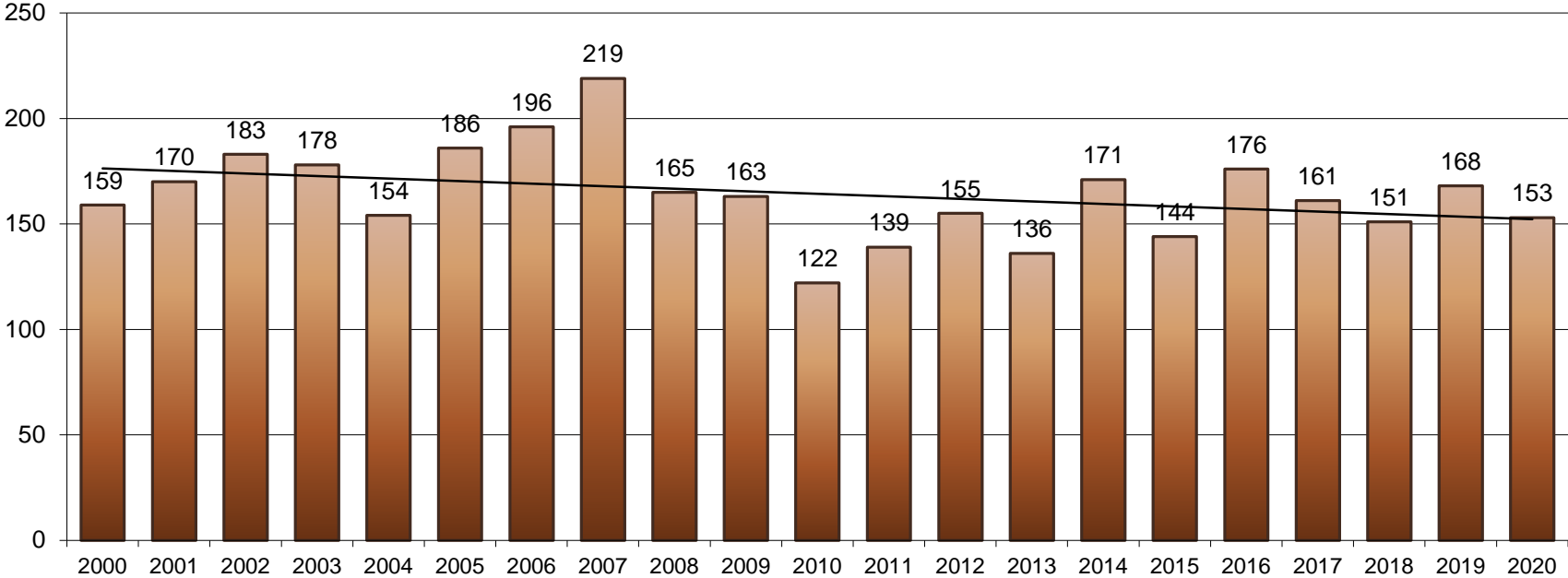
## Parks & Natural Resources Dept Staff

**Ken Elwert, Director**

**Matt Einheuser, Natural Resources Manager**

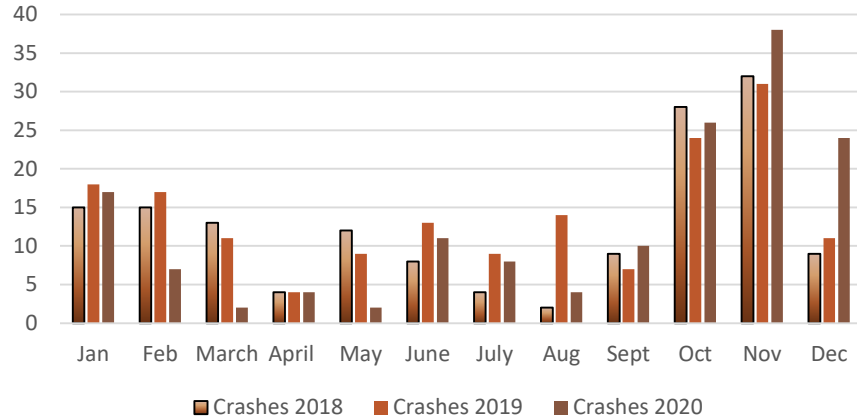
**Lance DeVoe, Naturalist**

# Number of Deer-Vehicle Crashes\* Rochester Hills 2000 - 2020

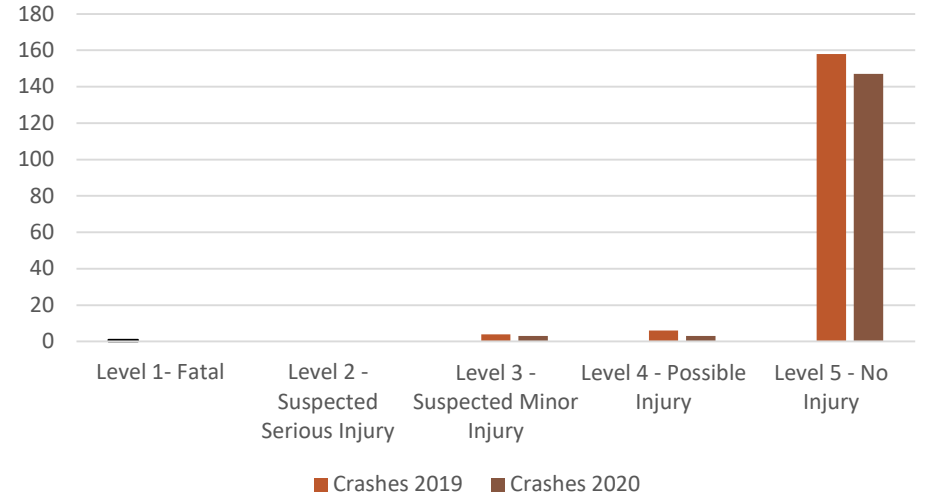


*\*Data provided by SEMCOG and the Transportation Improvement Association*

## Deer Collisions by Month – 2018, 2019, and 2020



## Severity of Collisions



# Deer/Vehicle Crash Locations



2020 Deer/Vehicle Collision Accidents

Based on 2020 TIA data



2017 thru 2020 Deer/Vehicle Collisions (Density)

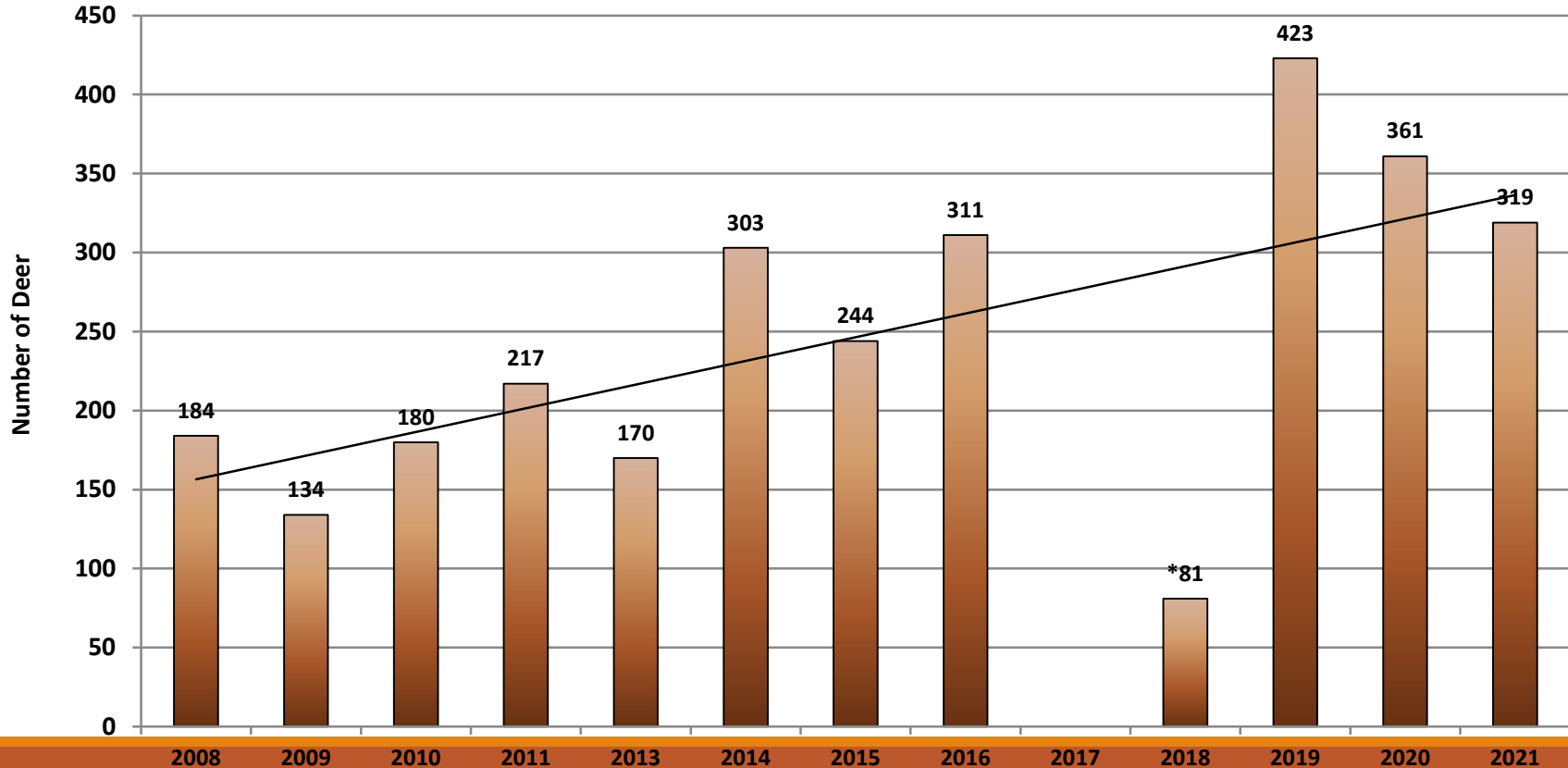
Based on 2020 TIA data



# Aerial Deer Survey Results Rochester Hills



\*(2018 results are not reflective of population/changes due to weather and visibility conditions at the time of the survey)

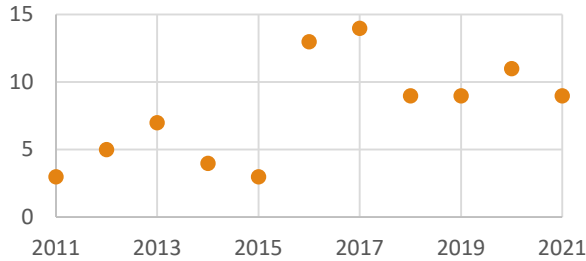


# Deer Complaints 2011-2021

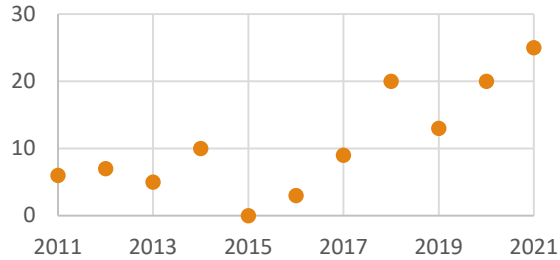


These #'s only include when a resident enters complaint into online reporting system or significant staff follow-up is needed

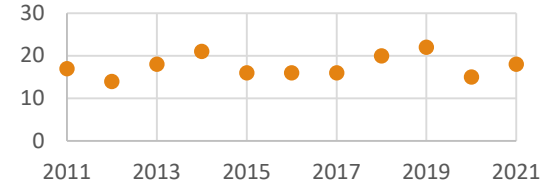
### Feeding Deer



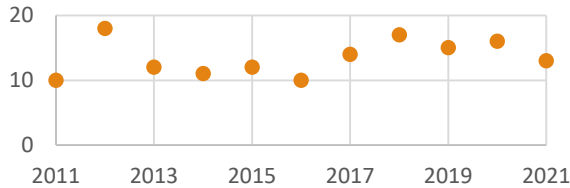
### Nuisance-Wild Animal - Deer



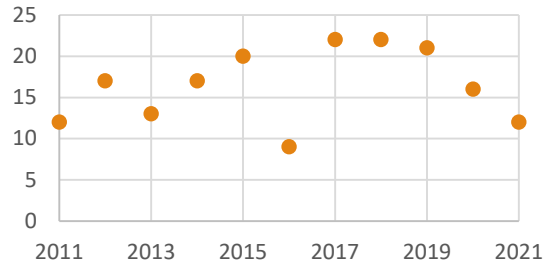
### Roadkill-Deer, City ROW (Local Road)



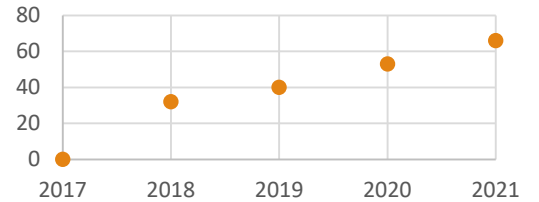
### Roadkill-Deer, City ROW (Major Road)



### Roadkill-Deer, RCOC/MDOT



### RoadKill-Deer-Private Property



# 2021/2022 DMAC Recommendations

- DMAC met four times in 2021
- Continued outreach through spring and fall press releases, articles, etc.  
**October 2021 – Deer Awareness Month**
- 2022 Deer Brochures to be included in the water bills
- 2022 spring “Gardening with Deer” seminar

#### Deer and Vehicles

Please keep in mind that deer are not (even a year) shown deer into reflective orange. Deer are active October through December, when they are in rut and may through deer when prey from the garbage you are not on their own and when there are with them and how close and how high.

#### What you can do

- Deer aware, alert, and always use your safety belt. Reduce your speed, and watch for deer on the edge of the road, especially at dawn and dusk.
- Observe deer crossing signs and posted speed limits. Make a note of where you have seen them before. It is useful when going around curves or when approaching forested deer crossings.
- If you see a deer cross safely at least of your own slow down and report them to rums. Don't assume that a deer that is in the road will run off as you approach. Flushing your headlights or honking will not lose them.

#### If a Crash is Unavoidable

- Don't swerve. Brake slowly, hold on to the steering wheel, stay in your lane and bring your vehicle to a controlled stop.
- Pull off the road, turn on your emergency flashers and be cautious of other traffic.
- Don't attempt to remove a deer from the roadway and report the crash to the nearest police agency.



#### Information and Assistance

For more information and assistance regarding education and involvement deer issues, please contact:

City of Rochester Hills  
 Department of Parks and Natural Resources  
 Natural Resources Division, Wildlife Unit  
 1000 Rochester Hills Drive  
 Rochester Hills, Michigan 48069  
 248-996-4175  
[www.rochesterhills.org/deer](http://www.rochesterhills.org/deer)



#### Coexisting with

## WHITE-TAILED DEER

in Rochester Hills



The white-tailed deer is one of the most recognizable species of wildlife in Michigan. They are an increasingly common animal in and around Rochester Hills, and in surrounding urban and suburban communities leading to certain challenges.



#### White-Tailed Deer in Michigan

White-tailed deer can be found in every county throughout the State of Michigan and they are a variety of habitat types. They prefer highland forests of mixed hardwood, forest and pasture lands, brushy areas, and clear fields. However, they are an opportunistic species, and with our changing landscape in portions of the state, deer are now found feeding in urban and suburban areas in high numbers. Being a larger herbivore, white-tailed deer have very few natural predators, especially those in suburban Michigan.

#### Fawns

White-tailed deer fawns are born in the spring (usually May and June). Deer are very protective of their fawns and can be easily agitated towards humans and pets.

It is important to note that deer fawns reappear in large numbers of time, usually appearing in June and July in some areas. This is a very helpful sign that the fawn is still alive.

If you observe fawns, the number of fawns observed (usually 1-3) can give you a sense of how many deer are in the area.

#### Gardening

There are very few plants that are completely deer resistant. There are some suggestions for selecting plants that are less likely to be eaten:

- Plants with aromatic foliage or thorns (e.g. Blackberry)
- Plants with long leaves (e.g. Lamb's Ear)
- Plants with strong scents to deter (e.g. Rosemary, Chives)

For a complete list, please visit:

[www.rochesterhills.org/deer](http://www.rochesterhills.org/deer)

Along with knowing deer resistance plants, fencing, repellents, and scare tactics can be effective. A well-thought approach using a variety of techniques such as motion activated cameras, repellent sprays, scare devices, and repellents that are applied often, especially after a scare, can be a more effective deterrent plan.

#### Summary

- Deer require care in regular lawn, but can be managed. Start early in the spring, applying before snow. Remove other trees.
- All plants that are deer resistant, many of which have distinctive odors.
- Put up high fences or other barriers to prevent access deer when possible.
- On the roads, "don't see the deer," according to the Michigan Deer Check Coalition. Banning road signs on more than one side. Deer does not stop to leave.

For additional information, please visit: [www.rochesterhills.org/deer](http://www.rochesterhills.org/deer)

#### Celeanance Information

**City Ordinance:** The City of Rochester Hills prohibits the hunting of deer or hunting of any kind within the city.

**Deer's Leg's Deer Feeding Prohibition:** This provision prohibits feeding deer on the ground or within five feet of the ground. Such feeding, open, unattended, or with other wildlife material or which may reasonably be expected to attract or lead deer require such material, are banned or prohibited in a way to prevent deer from feeding on them.

**Deer's Leg's Hunting:** This person shall have no right or privilege to hunt any deer, or any other animal within the city for the purpose of hunting any wild game or food of any kind.





# 2020/2021 DMAC Recommendations (cont.)

- **2021 –6 changeable message boards in high DVC areas from Oct. 1 – Jan. 1**
- **Continue aerial deer count survey in January 2022 and add additional southern survey area.**



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# THANK YOU

