



Tick and Deer Management Update

Report to Syracuse Common Council
on 2019-20 Deer Management

May 28, 2020

Background

- The City of Syracuse and other municipalities have experienced the growing overpopulation of deer.
- Mayor Walsh appointed a Tick and Deer Management Advisory Group in 2019 to make recommendations to the City.
- In response to public health and safety concerns, the City began a deer damage management program in certain parts of the City last winter.



Purpose

- The purpose of the program is to address the impact of the overpopulation of white-tailed deer:
 - deer-vehicle accidents
 - parks, gardens, and the ecosystem
 - public health risks, such as Lyme Disease
- Part of an integrated program that also includes public education



Description

- Sites meeting strict New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) criteria were identified on the east, west and south sides of the City.
 - large private and city-owned properties and are closed to public access when work is conducted
 - explicit written permission from the property owners has been provided will be used
 - at least 500 feet from any occupied dwelling.
- The program is funded by Onondaga County and approved by New York State DEC.



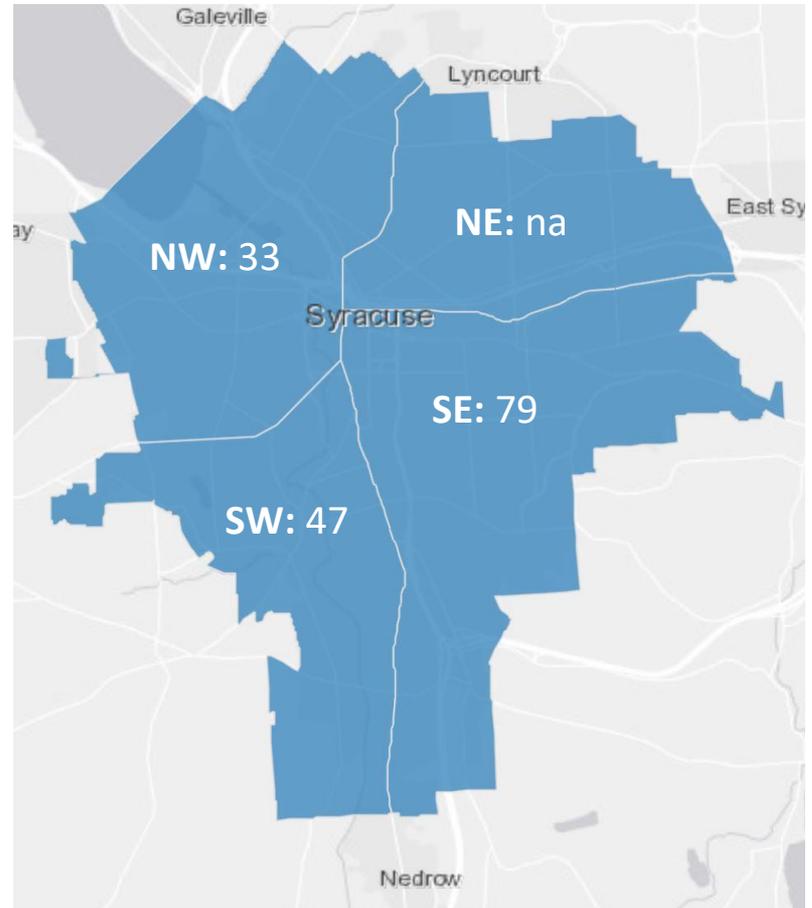
Description (cont.)

- The work was done by qualified United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) wildlife managers.
- The program was conducted in coordination with the Syracuse Police Department.
- City issued public notice of program.
- Wildlife managers worked at night.



Results

- During the months of December, January, February and March, over a 20 night period:
 - 159 white-tailed deer were removed (average of 8 deer/night)
 - After processing, 4,062 pounds of venison were delivered for donation
 - Provided 16,248 meals to the local community



Results (cont.)

- Some intentional and unintentional interference with baiting activities at several locations.
- Project completed within authorized budget
- Eight tick borne illness prevention public education meetings; 308 participants



USDA Recommendations

- Identify additional properties be added to the program to increase the overall coverage
- In areas where deer densities are high and shooting is not a feasible option, consider live trapping or other options to increase effectiveness
- Track deer damage data



Next Steps

- Reconvene Tick and Deer Management Advisory Group
- Conduct additional public outreach
 - Public input
 - Tick borne illness prevention
- Implement tracking steps (tick density, deer damage, public education)
- Update Tick and Deer Management Action Plan to ensure continued safety and effectiveness
 - Review with Council in late summer/early fall
 - Maintain program in 2020-21



Results

- During the months of December, January, February and March, over a 20 night period:
 - 159 white-tailed deer were removed (average of 8 deer/night)
 - After processing, 4,062 pounds of venison were delivered for donation
 - Provided 16,248 meals to the local community

