

# F.A.Q's

(Frequently Asked Questions)

## Is there a policy in place for deer management?

Deer management policies vary from community to community. Ramsey County Parks holds special (by permit) archery hunts in selected parks (9 different parks) in order to manage the urban deer population. Several cities hold special permit hunts on public and private property. Participants need to sign an ethics pledge, take a safety class, and take an accuracy test. **Hunting without permission in Ramsey County is prohibited.** For more information, contact the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department or your city offices.

## How do we know how many deer are in Ramsey County?

The Ramsey County Parks Department usually performs an annual aerial survey of communities within the county (depending upon weather conditions). Communities can opt in this survey if they wish.

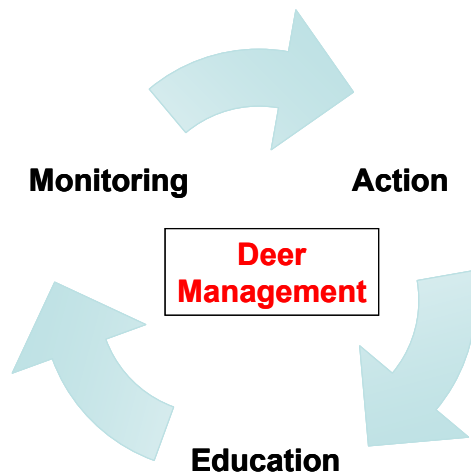
As of the 2011 deer survey there a minimum of 1,115 deer in Ramsey County. The surveys only cover selected portions of the county, so not all deer are surveyed!

## What are the most common complaints about deer in Ramsey County?

While one of the major concerns with deer in Ramsey County involves the potential for auto collisions, the most common concerns involve vegetative destruction on public and/or private property. This is especially exacerbated during the spring planting season, when deer can be quite common in gardens, wooded areas, and even in backyards! Many residents have also voiced concern about the large presence of deer on their property during the warmer seasons.

## Is it safe to approach deer?

Never corner a deer - they are wild animals and are unpredictable.



## Resources:

[dnr.state.mn.us/mammals/whitetaileddeer.html](http://dnr.state.mn.us/mammals/whitetaileddeer.html)

Minnesota DNR website with information on white-tailed deer

[mbrb.org](http://mbrb.org)

Metro Bowhunters Resource Base

[whitebuffaloinc.org](http://whitebuffaloinc.org)

White Buffalo, Inc.

[co.ramsey.mn.us](http://co.ramsey.mn.us)

Ramsey County

[dps.mn.gov/divisions/ots/educational-materials/Documents/deer-fs.pdf](http://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ots/educational-materials/Documents/deer-fs.pdf)

Minnesota Dept. of Public Safety data on deer and motor vehicle traffic

[aphis.usda.gov/wildlife\\_damage/nwrc/publications/living/deer.pdf](http://aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/nwrc/publications/living/deer.pdf)

USDA APHIS publication on deer

[bloomington.in.gov/deertaskforce](http://bloomington.in.gov/deertaskforce)

Bloomington-Monroe County, IN Deer Task Force website



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# Deer Management: Strategies for Overabundant Herds

- ▶ **Problems of Deer Overpopulation**
- ▶ **How to Control Deer**
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- ▶ **Deer Resources**



RAMSEY COUNTY  
*Parks &*  
**Recreation**

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**2012 Edition**

# Deer are overpopulated in Ramsey County, MN.

## Why are there so many deer?

- Urban and suburban development has created convenient, year-round sources of food and shelter for deer
- Development has also eliminated many of the natural predators of deer, such as wolves, bobcats, and mountain lions

## Problems with too many deer:

- Deer and car collisions become more common
- In Ramsey County alone, car accidents with deer cost approximately \$500,000 to \$875,000 in 2010
- Bark rubbings from bucks injure trees
- Deer reduce the diversity of plants in the forest, which can eliminate food and shelter for other animals
- Cedar, white pine, aspen, and dogwoods are being eaten so much by deer that they struggle to reach maturity
- Deer eat or damage desirable landscape plants
- Deer destroy plants on cropland and gardens
- Deer carry the ticks that can spread Lyme disease

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Minnesota is in the top 10 states in the nation for the number of traffic collisions of deer and cars!

**M**anaged hunts of deer is the most **effective** and **inexpensive** way to control herd populations.



### **Bow Hunts**

Through the Metro Bowhunters Resource Base, individuals can receive special training in urban bow hunting. During these hunts, hunters emphasize shooting antlerless deer in the hopes of reducing the number of does in the deer population.

### **Sharp Shooting**

Specially trained deer sharp shooters are hired to come into a community. Their training allows them to quickly kill deer and keep the herd scattering as much as possible.

### **What's wrong with other deer control measures?**

Relocation is expensive, can spread disease, and often unfeasible.

Contraceptives would have to be applied annually to every doe in the herd, making this option a very difficult and expensive task.

Reintroducing natural predators of deer causes concern for public safety, and suitable habitat is often not available.

*The above measures are not permitted by the MNDNR.*



## What can I do?

- Do not feed deer!
- Support efforts in Ramsey County to monitor deer via aerial surveys
- Support managed hunts in Ramsey County to control deer populations
- Be aware of deer when driving: don't rely on deer whistles

## How to repel deer from your property:

- Organic repellents are marketed across the country, with anecdotal evidence to their efficacy
- Compounds using garlic, rotten eggs, bloodmeal, and capsaicin (the heat in hot peppers) appear to be the most effective
- Fences of adequate height around property or vegetation.
- Presence of "predatory" animals: i.e. dogs.

