

2024 Deer Program Report to Town Board – May 14, 2025

Results

- Began 1/1/25, completed 4/1/25
- 53 deer removed (down from avg. 75 prev. three years, suggesting healthier herd/habitat balance) 25 removed from Village of Fayetteville properties, 28 removed from Town properties.
- Successful w/ minimal conflict w/ property owners or general public
- 1,376 lbs. of venison were donated for distribution, providing approximately 4,128 meals

Immediate Recommendations

- Establish more viable properties within the Town outside Villages to participate in the program
- Survey resident satisfaction with the program via Town website, developed w/ DEC input - referencing the period of Town involvement with program (2020 – 2024) trends
- Track vehicle/deer damage via TMPD
- Begin 2025 program run-up earlier, with viable property petitions in September/October (Mill St., Stickley, Obrien & Gere, Green Lake, Alladin Dr., Perry Springs, Morley Dr., etc.)

Future Considerations

- Pursue waiver of 500' setback for Village/Town properties from new Region 7 DEC Director to allow more sites to be deemed viable – (SEE Urban Pilot Program below)
- Include “antlered” deer in 2024 program (or eliminate the exclusion thereof) to allow greater removal numbers – DONE in 2024
- Advocate for passage of Assembly Member Hunter’s (23-A00783) and Senator May’s (23-S02630) bill to facilitate more efficient and effective culling programs through uniform, streamlined State guidance --- PASSED and an Urban Pilot was run in Syracuse ONLY in 2024
- Engage in general public education effort on herd balance, management principles and desired outcomes (ticks, foliage, intrusion, etc.)

Deer Committee

Name	Title	Term	Term Length
Dave Cassell	Member	April 2024 - December 2025	1 year
Dave Dunn	Member	April 2024 - December 2025	1 year
Jim Crow	Member	April 2024 - December 2025	1 year
Kadie Leonard	Member	April 2024 - December 2025	1 year
Pat Charboneau	Member	April 2024 - December 2025	1 year
William Nicholson	Member	April 2024 - December 2025	1 year
Tom Hayes	Member	April 2024 - December 2025	1 year

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Following recommendations from the inter-municipal deer committee members and our DEC and USDA partners, a community-wide survey was conducted for a period of three months (September through November). The purpose of this community input survey was to evaluate the perceived efficacy of the annual deer culling program, through anecdotes from residents, related to specific observable factors that indicate deer presence and activity.

Additionally, data from the Town of Manlius Police and Highway Departments vehicle incident reports were collected with specific attention to deer-involved collisions.

This data referenced a five-year period including the most recent culling period. Trend factors illustrate that the culling program does have impact and yields observable outcomes in certain residential areas of the Town and its Villages.

Several homeowners have made inquiries throughout the Town's involvement with the Deer Management program, seeking remediation activities within their specific neighborhoods. In order to evaluate realistic options for expanding the program by including more parcels in more areas of the Town, the survey sought property owners to share their interest, and location for USDA consideration.

Survey Results:

Number of respondents = 50

Number of respondents interested in property inclusion = 17

Number of respondents wanting more information about property inclusion = 14

TMPD Data:

2020 deer-involved vehicle collisions = 87

2021 deer-involved vehicle collisions = 70

2022 deer involved vehicle collisions = 100 - *16% of total accidents*

2023 deer-involved vehicle collisions = 38 - *12% of total accidents*

2024 deer-involved vehicle collisions = 40 - *6% of total accidents*

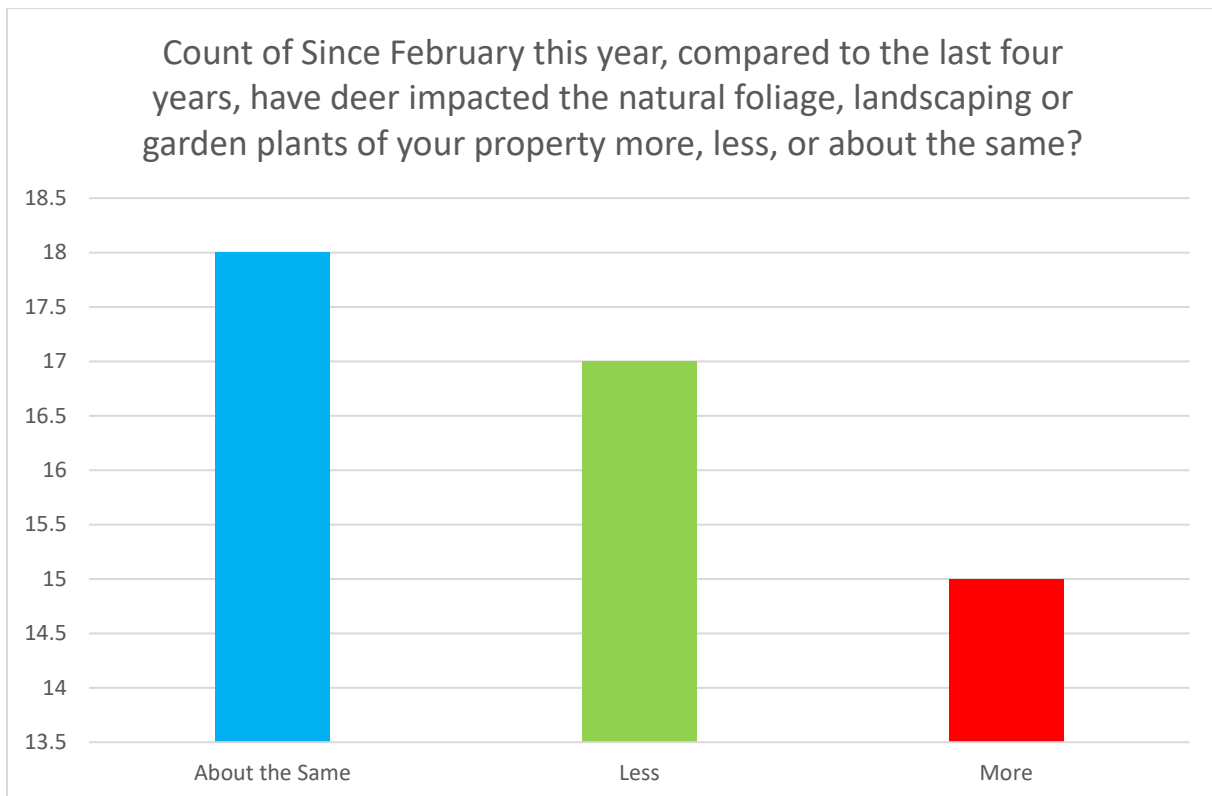
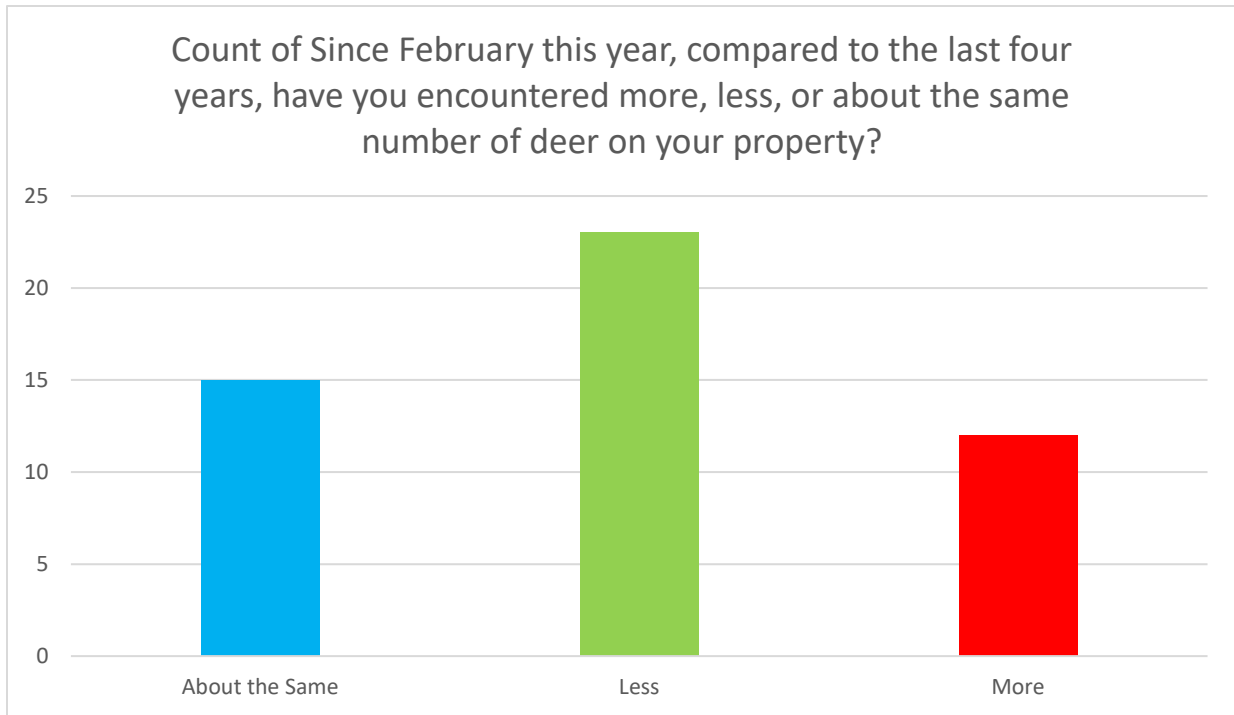
Resident Survey Notes:

Seventeen (17) additional household property owners expressed interest in being considered for inclusion in the next round of the management plan. These properties are now under the consideration of the USDA experts for viability.

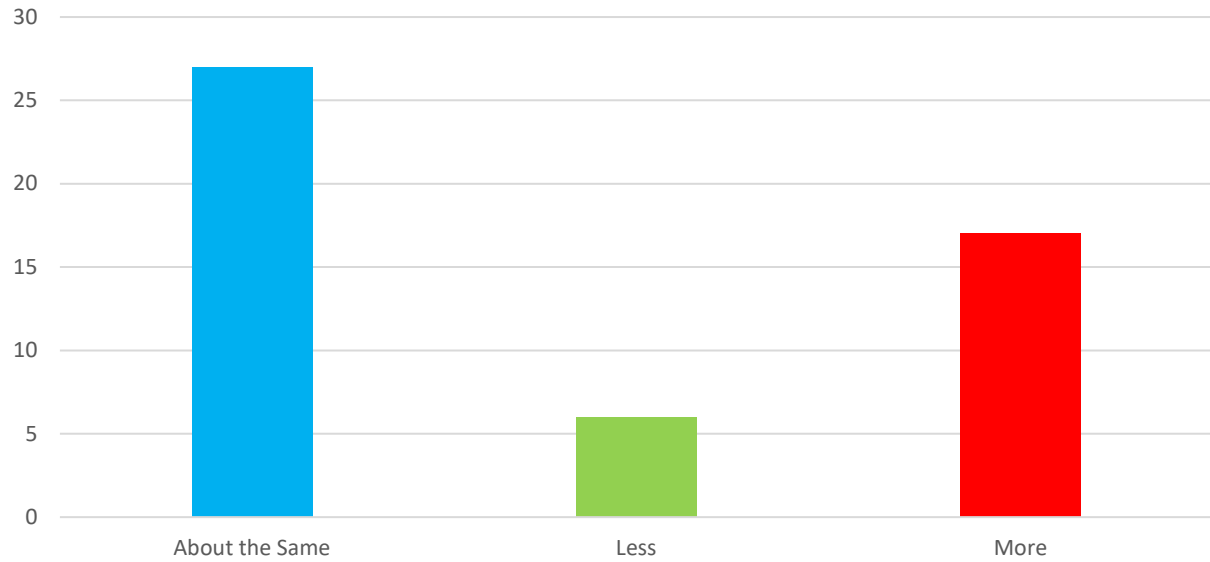
Fourteen (14) additional households expressed an interest in finding out more information about the potential for inclusion of their property in another year's program. These residents will be contacted for further interaction with the Town's liaison to the committee, for information sharing.

See below for more anecdotal resident input from this survey.

Resident Survey Responses:



Count of Since February this year, compared to the last four years, have you observed more, less, or about the same number of ticks on household members or pets?



Since February this year, compared to the last four years, have you experienced more, less, or about the same number of collisions or near-collisions with deer in the roadway?

