

2023
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chief Eric Werner

FROM: Detective Dominic Wareham

DATE: August 3, 2023

RE: 2023 Wildlife Management Plan

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I. 2022 Wildlife Report

In 2023 the police department received many calls for assistance regarding a variety of wild animals. Our deer population continues to maintain or grow even with shrinking resources available for deer to survive on. Many species, including deer, geese, wild turkeys and coyotes have learned to thrive in suburban communities like Maple Grove.

The Fall of 2022/Spring of 2023 was a safe and successful season for hunters in Maple Grove. Organized hunts provided recreational activity for the hunters and the city benefitted from these hunts as they assisted in managing resident wildlife populations.

Our management practice of conducting organized and controlled hunts is helping maintain a level deer population. Without these practices, the herd numbers would likely be substantially higher, causing an increase of problems within the city, including car vs. deer accidents.

CAR VERSUS DEER ACCIDENTS

YEAR	# CAR VS. DEER ACCIDENTS
2009	45
2010	59
2011	61
2012	59
2013	57
2014	42
2015	39
2016	24
2017	27
2018	26
2019	27
2020	19
2021	15
2022	9

The police and parks departments field many complaints of “too many geese” in various areas around the city including residential areas and park areas. Most complaints deal with the droppings left behind by the geese. Many of our neighborhoods provide ideal conditions for geese to thrive. Geese enjoy manicured lawns next to water, especially when they can walk directly from the water to the lawn. Some people enjoy the geese while other residents don’t appreciate the mess the geese leave behind. At times, the adult geese will become very protective, hissing at and chasing after anyone who comes close.

We also receive complaints of “too many deer”. Deer love to eat expensive annuals, perennials, shrubs and young trees. It doesn’t take long for just a few deer to consume thousands of dollars of new landscaping, or eat an entire yard of annual flowers.

Maple Grove issued permits for archery hunting for deer and turkey, and shotgun hunting for geese in select designated locations within the city. Anyone wishing to hunt in Maple Grove must obtain permission from a land owner to hunt on land designated open to hunting by the City of Maple Grove. Hunters must also attend a hunter orientation course through the Maple Grove Police Department.

The City of Maple Grove provides Capable Partners a location to archery hunt in Maple Grove. Capable Partners is an organization that provides hunting, fishing and related opportunities for the physically challenged.

In 2022, archery hunters harvested 12 deer in the City of Maple Grove hunt. 14 deer were harvested in 2022, 21 deer in 2020, 12 deer in 2019, 18 deer in 2018, 20 in 2017, 12 in 2016, 22 in 2015, 28 in 2014, 27 in 2013, 41 in 2012, 25 in 2011, 19 in 2010, 23 in 2009, 20 in 2008.

It is important to note that these deer harvest numbers do not include the deer harvested in hunts that are administered by and take place in the Three Rivers parks in the city.

Goose hunters reported harvesting 184 geese in 2022. 228 geese were harvested in 2021 in 2021, 290 geese in 2020, 180 geese in 2019, 272 geese in 2018, and 239 geese in 2017.

5 turkeys were harvested by archery in the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 seasons. 2 turkeys were harvested in the Fall 2021/Spring 2022 seasons.

II. DEER POPULATION STATUS REPORT

Approximately 21 deer were eliminated from the deer population in Maple Grove in 2022 through hunting (12) and reported vehicle versus deer accidents (9). This total number is toward the lower end of the spectrum when compared with 29 deer eliminated in 2021, 40 deer in 2020, 39 deer in 2019, 44 deer in 2018, 47 in 2017, 36 in 2016, 61 in 2015, 70 in 2014, 84 in 2013, 100 in 2012, 86 in 2011, 78 in 2010, 68 in 2009; 75 in 2008, and 66 in 2007.

In previous winters, we performed our own annual aerial deer survey whereby a member of the Maple Grove Police Department spent time in a helicopter counting deer over portions of the city including the gravel pit area, Eagle Lake area, Fish Lake area, northwest, west-central and southwest. Starting in late winter of 2014, we began a cooperative effort with Three Rivers Park District and had them perform the survey for us. Three Rivers Park District is already counting much of Three Rivers controlled park land in Maple Grove. This cooperative effort saves us time and finances, yet gives us the information we need to assess our deer population. This aerial count only takes place in years when the late-winter snow cover is ideal for counting animals. An aerial count was completed in early 2023, during which 154 deer were counted in the likely habitat areas. In 2022, 95 deer were counted, 104 deer in 2019, 106 in 2018, 95 in 2016, 145 in 2014, and 50 in 2013.

A post-fawn population estimate can be obtained by adding 20% to the aerial count (to accommodate for deer in the area that were not seen), and then adding 70% to that number to account for fawns born and surviving. Using the aerial count of 154, the 2023 post-fawn population was estimated to be approximately 314 deer in those areas of Maple Grove. The post-fawn population estimate was 194 deer in 2022, 212 in 2019, 216 in 2018, 194 in 2016, 295 in 2014, 102 in 2013, 231 in 2011, 289 in 2010 and 236 in 2009. The Minnesota DNR recommends a healthy population to be 12-15 deer per square mile of quality habitat, meaning we should have 48-60 deer in the areas surveyed.

III. 2023 MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

Geese

We can safely continue to harvest geese in select areas in the northwest portion of the city. We recommend a goose hunt by shotgun:

- During the early, regular, and late goose seasons.
- Due to recent and ongoing development along the Highway 610 corridor, no goose hunting by shotgun shall take place within 750 feet of Highway 610.
- (see attached maps for specific parcels where hunting is allowed)

Deer

The best way to keep deer from overpopulating the city is to continue our practice of reducing the number of deer, predominantly females. In addition to a regular season archery hunt in designated areas, the Wildlife Management Committee recommends, for the herein-designated areas, these reduction methods:

- Archery hunting season for Capable Partners in city owned forest of Svitak's Woods
- Police supervised removal
- Any deer control measure(s) Three Rivers Park District would recommend for Elm Creek Park Reserve, Fish Lake Regional Park, Eagle Lake Regional Park and other park property

Wild Turkey

Our recommendation is to continue with a fall and spring turkey hunt in designated areas. The committee recommends:

- Follow Minnesota Department of Natural Resources hunt seasons and regulations
- Allow in designated portions of Maple Grove, similar to designated archery deer hunt areas (see attached maps for specific parcels where hunting is allowed)

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The following administrative items are to be noted in this plan:

- We continue to monitor land development and adjust the areas open to hunting
- No significant changes from 2022 plan, other than an increase in hunting permit fees to \$25 (previously \$10/\$15) in response to increased program costs (aerial surveying and administration).
- We will monitor Highway 610 corridor construction and close areas open to hunting if needed.

V. HUNTING SEASONS (follow MN DNR regulations)

GOOSE HUNTING:

Early Canada Goose season: 9/2 – 9/17/2023

Waterfowl season opener: 9/23/2023

ARCHERY DEER HUNTING

09/16 - 12/31/2023

ARCHERY TURKEY HUNTING

Fall 2023: 9/30 – 10/29/2023

2024 spring turkey: Dates to be approved by DNR

VI. HUNTING ZONES

GOOSE ZONE:

Areas shaded in red on hunt area maps:

Boundaries:

- North of Territorial Rd to city border
- West of Fernbrook Lane to Ranchview Lane

- North of 101st to 104th Avenue
- East of I-94 to Ranchview Lane
- Excluding city owned parcel on 101st Avenue

- North of I94 to city border
- West of Holly

- North of 101st to city border
- West of Interstate 94 to Co. Rd. 101
- Excludes southwest quarter or northeast quarter of Section 6

- South of 101st Avenue to 97 Avenue
- Between 16200 block 101st Avenue and Ranier Lane
- Excluding city owned parcel southwest corner of 101st Ave and I94.

- Property owners on Goose Lake (Maple Grove/Corcoran border): 8221, 8241, 8261, 8261 Yellowstone Lane, and 19040, 19060, 19100, 19120, 19160, 19200, 19220, 19240 81st Place

ARCHERY FOR DEER AND TURKEY

Areas shaded in red on hunt area maps:

NORTH ZONE

- North of County Road 81 to city border
- West of Fernbrook Lane

- North of County Road 81 to Territorial Road

- North of 101st Avenue to Co. Rd 81 and city border
- Ranchview Lane west to Co. Rd. 101
- Excludes city property north of 101st Avenue
- Excludes southwest quarter or northeast quarter of Section 6
- East of Ranchview Lane to 15000 block, south of Co. Rd. 81 to 103rd Avenue

- East of I-94 to 16200 block 101st Avenue, between 101st Avenue and 97th Avenue

- West of I-94 to 18000 block 101st Avenue
- South of 101st Avenue to 97th Avenue
- Excludes city property at southwest corner of 101 Ave at I94

- South of 101st Avenue to 100th Avenue
- East of Co. Rd. 101 to Xanthus Lane.

- 9595, 9625, 9675 Lawndale; and 17650 Co. Rd. 30

SOUTH ZONES

- West of Co. 101 to city border, south of 81st Avenue (excluding Lord of Life Church property).
- 7070 Wedgewood Lane (Kvarnlov property)
- East ½ of Southeast ¼ of southeast ¼ of Section 20
- Property along power line south of 69 Avenue to 68 Avenue between Nottingham Parkway and Blackoaks Lane
- 16600, 16634, 16655, 68th Avenue North
- South of Elm Road to city border, Vicksburg Lane west to Elm Creek
- Lawndale Lane east to Elm Creek between city border and 63 Avenue
- Excludes area east of Lawndale Lane to Holly Lane, south of 63 Avenue and north of 6250 Lawndale Lane
- North of Elm Road to 65th Avenue between Garland Lane and Vicksburg Lane, excluding city owned land (Svitak's Woods).

- 15646 76 Place; 7601, 7605 W. Fish Lake Road
- 7800, 7900 Lawndale Lane N
CAPABLE PARTNERS
- Designated portion of city owned forest Svitak's Woods (see attached map)

MAPLE GROVE/THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT

- Three Rivers Park District may host a deer hunt in Elm Creek Park and/or Fish Lake Park.

POLICE SUPERVISED REMOVAL (as required)

- Completed by various means
- In areas determined by the police department

VII. ADMINISTRATION AND SAFETY

- Hunt permit application: Hunters can submit all permit applications on or after August 22, 2023.
- Permit Fees: Our permit fees for 2023 will be \$25 for goose, \$25 for turkey, and \$25 for deer. Any combination of permits to a single hunter will also be \$25.
- Hunters must show proof of possessing a Firearms Safety Certificate, Apprentice Hunter validation, a previous hunting license with a valid firearms safety indicator, or other evidence of successfully completing a hunter safety course to obtain a permit to hunt in Maple Grove.

Goose Lake: Hunters shall:

- Hunt over water adjacent to the property they have permission to hunt (hunters may not hunt elsewhere on the lake).
- Shoot only in direction pointed over open water.

Landowner cap: Landowners will be allowed a certain number of permits based on the amount of land they own. Landowners control who may hunt on their property. The caps are as follows:

120 + Acres	12 deer/16 goose
80-120 Acres	8 deer/12 goose

40-80 Acres	6 deer/12 goose
20-39 Acres	4 deer/8 goose
10-19 Acres	3 deer/5 goose
>10 Acres	2 deer/4 goose

VIII. ORIENTATION/SAFETY CLASS

Hunters who did not attend a Maple Grove hunter orientation class in 2022 must attend the online hunter orientation class linked on the police department website in order to obtain a hunting permit. During this class hunters are educated about Maple Grove city ordinances, state laws pertaining to hunting, general safety and ethical guidelines, and regulation changes.

Hunters will be required to attest of their viewing of the orientation.

IX. ENFORCEMENT

DNR and patrol officers will enforce complaints of trespassing, hunting out of approved areas, or other complaints. Any hunter in violation of city ordinance or state law will have their hunting permit revoked for the remainder of the season and may face other penalties. Our department has received few hunting related complaints during the past several years.

X. HUNT AREA MAPS AND AERIAL SURVEYS

(See attachments)

XI. CONCLUSIONS

Our goal is to manage our deer population so it does not exceed an acceptable carrying capacity for the habitats used, while ensuring the safety of our motorists. The herein stated recommendations are the best management tools we can utilize. Considering the city's proposed land use plans, the current goose-hunting format will continue until the areas presently hunted are fully developed.

Respectfully,

Wildlife Management Committee:

Detective Dominic Wareham
Officer Jesse Mathwig
Officer Jeffrey Dorr