



2020/2021 RESULTS

Village of North Haven DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN



Table of Contents

Introduction

Measures of Successful Deer Management

North Haven Deer Management Plan & Tools

North Haven vs Villages Without Deer Management

Current Conditions

Summary of Hunt Results 2020-2021

Goals for Continued Success

Program Maps

Introduction

Wildlife Manager, John Rocchetta

- North Haven Program Manager for past 6 years
- 34 years' experience archery hunting on Long Island
- Owner and Operator of Woods And Waves Management, Inc.
- Developer of multiple Long Island Hunting Programs
- Founder of Rational Naturalists - suburban hunting group
- Currently Managing private/commercial properties in Riverhead, Southampton, East Hampton and Head of the Harbor
- Corresponds with controlled hunt specialists and NYSDEC
- Collects and provides supporting data to track deer populations year over year
- Manages database, hunt tracking and reporting for 192 volunteer hunters

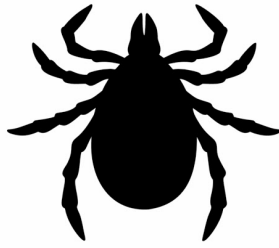
Measures of Successful Management

- Reduction in deer Sightings Per Hour (SPH) by hunters.
- Tick borne disease - reduction of infections in humans and pets.
- Native vegetation re-growth, browse line reduction.
- Reduction in public dissatisfaction.
- Reduction in damage to ornamental bushes, trees and gardens.
- Increased hunting hours required to reach deer harvest goal.
- Decrease in car accidents due to deer.
- Creation of mapping, tables, charts for comparison and reference.
- Continued Growth of program until a natural balance between deer and residents is achieved.

Deer Management Plan & Tools

- All program volunteer hunters are documented, interviewed and archery skill tested. They are required to sign Hold Harmless Agreements and carry a North Haven Identification Card. They have provided pictures of; Drivers License, Hunting License, Arrows with specification, Vehicle Make/Model and Plate Number.
- All program hunters are required to submit daily hunt reservations and report hunt results electronically (As per NHV - This will include all private properties for 2020/21). Every hour hunted, deer sighted and harvested is logged. Photos are collected of all harvested deer with completed carcass tags. Tracking hunt and harvest results allows for real-time field decisions and changes to the plan as needed.
- Access to new properties and preventing deer sanctuaries is key to population control. This includes small residential lots, village properties, woodlands and fields.

-
- All paperwork required by the NYSDEC is submitted **on time** and **accurately**. Open and clear communication between NHV, WAW and the NYSDEC have increased the length of hunting season and deer harvest. NHV is now entitled to unlimited antlerless deer tags during the regular season (October- January) and has an ongoing Deer Damage Permit (DDP) for the off season (February -September). DDP are village-wide and can be used on all properties that sign up (DDP is a nuisance permit that allows extended hunting hours/ season and the use of bait as an attractant). The village has decided that the NHV season ends on April 30th, but our permits allow us to harvest deer year round in the case of excessive damage to property.
 - Hunters have full access to experienced WAW management to answer all hunting questions.
 - Deer movement is tracked in realtime by gathering data from our cell game cameras, deer surveillance and reporting of 192 program volunteers.



- “On Deer Tick Count” is conducted quarterly and counts the actual number of ticks a deer is carrying. This number is cross referenced with tick counts from other areas where 4- Posters applicators are not being used. The first quarter NHV “On Deer Tick Count” resulted in <10 ticks. An East Hampton “On Deer Tick Count” resulted in >50 ticks during the same time period.

North Haven Program Vs. Villages Without Deer Management

- Building a Deer Management program takes three years to establish and continued years to maintain. North Haven has reached the recommended minimum time to realize the program's full effect. This includes but is not limited to; building a certified hunt force, developing trusted relationships with homeowners, logistical harvesting and removal of deer (at no cost for butchering, refrigeration or disposal). Providing, setting, maintaining and storing equipment is all the responsibility of WAW. The program also includes same day response to all deer related issues on private properties (fence trapped deer, removal of injured, car strike or death from natural causes).
- Communities, Villages and Towns without a Deer Management Program are faced with considerable problems that North Haven is no longer experiencing:

-
- *Head of The Harbor* - multiple disputing hunt groups, residents for and against hunting, and scientific study interruptions due to non management. North Haven's comprehensive program has hosted hundreds of on site meetings resulting in a calm atmosphere.
 - Springs (East Hampton)* - Grossly overpopulated deer in herds of 20+ roam unchecked through residential neighborhoods. These herds are inaccessible to standard hunting. North Haven has remedied this problem by hunting small lots at the request of residents. Daily texts, phone calls and emails keep residents informed and with the power to use the program as they need. Requests to "Please come hunt my property" are received all season. WAW responds the following day. Representatives of *Shoreham Village, Oyster Shores, Port Jefferson, Shelter Island, Southold* and many unnamed others have all reached out to WAW struggling with "WHAT TO DO NEXT" with the deer and tick question.

The answers can be costly and complicated (These are estimated numbers from recent Long Island deer/tick control events. Actual numbers may vary):
4-Poster Application - \$50,000-100,000 annually (no deer reduction, data collection, concentrated tick reduction). When combined with controlled hunting yields best results.

Immunocontraception - **\$1,000/deer** (no initial deer reduction, no data, no tick reduction)

Sterilize deer herd - \$240,000 for 600 deer (only 90 darted in two years), **\$400-\$2,000/deer** (no initial deer reduction, some data collection, no tick reduction).

Federal Government Cull - \$100,000 per event or **\$478/deer** (209 deer removed, no data, limited tick reduction). Highpower Rifles, resident unrest, controversy, lawsuits.

North Haven Program - 762 deer removed over 6 years for \$126,680.

Silently harvested with archery equipment at **\$166/deer**. (All 762 deer were removed with no additional cost, full data tracking, tick removal with deer, no lawsuits, fully insured, little to no complaints). Cost per deer is expected to continually decrease over time.

Current Conditions

- Population of White-Tailed Deer is showing a decline over the past 6 years. During the past six years over 762 deer have been removed by our program including 593 female deer. The reduction of 593 (91 does this year) female deer has prevented the birth of approximately 1,186+ fawns to the area (assuming 2 fawns per doe. We have documented multiple does with triplets). This is an estimated reduction of **1,948+** deer (1,186 fawns not introduced +762 deer removed) not occupying North Haven. This is over 6 years and does not consider natural deer deaths. It also assumes giving birth one time from the 593 does over 6 years. Does give birth every year.
- The Program Properties were significantly reduced from the previous season due to Covid-19 with many residents being home. NH Point and West Banks saw a reduction in hunting by 50%. This reduced the deer harvest significantly by 20+ deer.
- 28% of NHV properties are part of the hunt program (2020).

-
- Native vegetation, ornamental plant/tree and browse line damage are seeing less damage. The areas with greater hunting pressure are likely to see less damage.
 - Public dissatisfaction - resident complaints for and against hunting increased during the 2020/2021 season. Both are directly related to Covid and a dramatic increase of full time residents. Complaints were limited to the NH Point and West Banks area and hunting was restricted as a result. Other areas requested more hunting but people walking the trails slowed hunting and harvest numbers. The village to comment more on this topic.

-
- The exact number of deer occupying the area is unknown. Based on the observations of hunters, night viewings and field herd counts, the estimated number was 150-175 in October 2020. Cumulative year over year data will continue to create the most accurate number.
 - Recorded **Sightings Per Hour (SPH)** (by hunters) baseline data was established during the 2015/16 season at **0.68** deer/hour. A downward trend in the SPH has been recorded since then. The 2020/2021 season SPH was calculated at **0.56** deer/hour. This is our metric for measuring progress. Future data will be compared to the baseline to track harvest progress vs. population.

Summary of Hunt Results 2020-2021

Sector	Doe Harvest	Buck Harvest	Total Deer Harvest	Hours Hunted	Deer Sightings	SPH
212 Ferry	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Cedar/NHM	12	3	15	77	24	0.31
Cemetery	8	1	9	207	78	0.37
Feori	7	2	9	66	33	0.59
Fresh Pond	12	6	18	634	403	0.63
Greene	4	1	5	87	69	0.79
Merrell	0	0	0	4	6	0
Payne	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Dos	4	2	6	62	34	0.55
Robertson	7	2	9	118	81	0.68
Stock Farm	2	0	2	95	53	0.56
VHOB	8	4	12	207	124	0.59
VHTC	7	1	8	159	67	0.42
West Banks/NHP	20	2	22	416	231	0.55
Total 2020-21	91	24	115	2132	1203	0.56
Total 2019-20	103	20	123	2039	968	0.47
Total 2018-19	88	35	123	2648	1313	0.49
Total 2017-18	116	24	140	2133	1243	0.58
Total 2016-17	96	27	127	1858	931	0.50
Total 2015-16	99	35	134	959	661	0.69

-
- 2,132 Hunt Hours were logged by volunteer hunters during the 2020-21 season
 - 1203 Deer were sighted by hunters while on stand. Deer sighted while walking or driving are not counted to avoid counting the same deer multiple times.
 - 91 female and 24 male deer were removed by volunteer hunters.
 - Deer Sightings Per Hour (SPH) are up slightly in 2020-21 season 0.56/SPH. Future SPH calculations will be compared to this baseline and will indicate an increase/decrease of deer population.

-
- DEER Sanctuaries - There six areas that have been identified as “Deer Sanctuaries” within NHV (Indicated by RED on map below). These are non-hunted areas/properties that the deer have learned to stay on during hunting hours. A significant population of deer will thrive by living and breeding on these parcels. It has been documented by the crews servicing 4-Poster feeders that more deer frequent the Actors Colony feeder (non hunt area) than the Greene feeder located 500’ away (hunted area). Tagged deer aged 11+ years are living on non-hunted properties. These tagged deer along with 40-50 other deer continue to be out of the program’s reach. NH Point and West Banks were also documented to hold a significant number of deer after hunting was stopped in December 2020. We plan to resume standard hunting in October 2021.

Goals And Recommendations For Continued Success

- Reduce deer population to manageable level. Determined by NHV resident satisfaction, ornamental/natural plant damage and above mentioned measures of success .
- NHV is a peninsula and is only slightly subject to deer hunting pressure from adjacent properties outside NHV. Observations of deer swimming from Shelter Island and Noyac are common. Lack of hunting pressure in “No Hunt Zones” within NHV is the biggest challenge in controlling NHV deer population.
- Maintain the database from results collected by hunters. Track downward trends in deer “Sightings Per Hour” (SPH) data.
- Review results on a biannual basis with Board/HOA.
- Acquire previously non-hunted properties. The goal is to have 40% of the properties available for hunting. This will allow for a maximum number of hunters per day. Wind direction, resident/NHV requests, deer frequency on camera all determine which properties to hunt.



North Haven Hunt Area

28% Currently Available for Hunting







Village Hall

Pin Location - Lat: 41.031, Long: -72.315

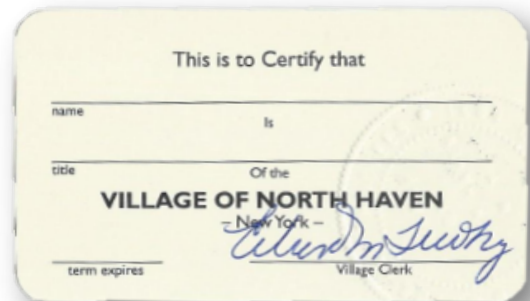
Notes: *Flip up hunting in progress sign



Hunter Registration



Drivers License



ID Card



Vehicle Side



NYS HL



Arrows



Plate #