



2021/2022 RESULTS

# Village of North Haven DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN



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# Table of Contents

Introduction

Measures of Successful Deer Management

North Haven Deer Management Plan & Tools

Current Conditions

Summary of Hunt Results 2021-2022

Goals for Continued Success

Program Maps

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# Introduction

Wildlife Manager, John Rocchetta

- North Haven Program Manager for past 7 years
- 35 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

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# 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.

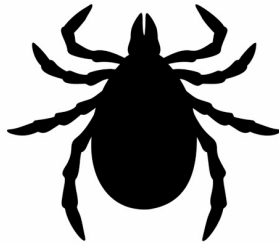
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# Deer Management Plan & Tools

- **Building a Deer Management program** - A successful DMP takes three years to establish and recurring years to maintain. North Haven's Program is completely established and has been implemented. We are continuing to build trusted relationships with homeowners while harvesting deer. Providing, setting, maintaining and storing equipment is the responsibility of WAW and included in the overall cost. The program also includes same day response to all deer related issues on private properties (trapped, injured, car strike or death from natural causes).
- **Certified Hunters** - All program volunteer hunters are documented, interviewed and archery skill tested. They are required to sign Hold Harmless Agreements and carry a North Haven Village Identification Card. They have provided pictures of; Drivers License, Hunting License, Arrows with specification, Vehicle Make/Model and Plate Number.

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- **Scheduled Hunts** - All program hunters are required to submit daily hunt reservations and report hunt results electronically. Every hour hunted, deer sighted and deer 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.
  - **Hunting Season & Extended Permits** - All paperwork required by the NYSDEC is submitted on time and accurately. Open and clear communication between NHV, WAW and NYSDEC has increased the length of hunting season and the deer harvest. NHV is now a distributor of deer tags and is entitled to unlimited antlerless deer tags. Additionally, a Deer Damage Permit (DDP) Program has been established for the off season (February -September). DDP are community wide and can be used on all properties that sign up (DDP is a nuisance permit that allows extended hunting hours/ season and 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 a crop or property.

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- **Property Access** - Access to new properties and preventing deer havens is key to population control. This includes small residential lots, NHV properties, woodlands and fields.
  - **Experience Shared** - Hunters have full access to experienced WAW management to answer all hunting questions. When and where to hunt advice available daily.
  - **Deer Movement Tracking** - Deer are tracked in realtime by gathering data from cellular game cameras, deer monitoring and reporting of 192 program volunteer hunters.
  - **Program costs** - 854 deer removed over 7 years for \$151,680. Silently harvested with archery equipment at **\$177/deer**. The cost per deer is expected to decrease over time. Refrigeration, venison processing and shipping to donation centers is included in total cost. 1,446 Hunt hours are not billed to the village.



- “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-Poster applicators are not being used. We have put this initiative on hold due to the significant decrease in 4-Poster applicators. We expect to begin again in the Third quarter of 2022.

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# Current Conditions

- Population of White-Tailed Deer is showing a decline over the past 7 years with 854 deer having been removed by our program including 661 female deer. The reduction of 661 female deer has prevented the birth of approximately 1,322 fawns to the area (assuming 2 fawns per doe). We have documented North Haven does with triplets. This is an estimated reduction of **2,176** deer (1,322 fawns not introduced + 854 deer removed) not occupying North Haven. This is over 7 years and does not consider natural deer deaths. It also assumes giving birth one time from the 661 does over 7 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 deer harvest by 82% from pre covid harvest numbers.
- 20% of NHV properties are part of the hunt program (2021/22).

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- 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 decreased during the 2021/2022 season. Covid has slowed down and seasonal residents are beginning to return to the city resulting in fewer people walking trails.
  - The exact number of deer occupying the area is unknown. Based on the observations of hunters and night viewings, the estimated number was 150-175 in October 2021. 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 2021/2022 season SPH was calculated at **0.41** 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 2021-2022

| Sector               | Doe Harvest | Buck Harvest | Total Deer Harvest | Hours Hunted | Deer Sightings | SPH         |
|----------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|
| 212 Ferry            | 0           | 0            | 0                  | 0            | 0              | 0.0         |
| Cedar/NHM            | 9           | 3            | 12                 | 92           | 32             | 0.35        |
| Cemetery             | 6           | 3            | 9                  | 93           | 30             | 0.32        |
| Feori                | 2           | 1            | 3                  | 50           | 15             | 0.3         |
| Fresh Pond           | 12          | 3            | 15                 | 442          | 213            | 0.48        |
| Greene               | 9           | 0            | 9                  | 42           | 36             | 0.85        |
| Merrell              | 0           | 0            | 0                  | 16           | 2              | 0.12        |
| Payne                | 0           | 0            | 0                  | 0            | 0              | 0.0         |
| Dos                  | 4           | 3            | 7                  | 64           | 27             | 0.42        |
| Robertson            | 10          | 4            | 14                 | 110          | 67             | 0.60        |
| Stock Farm           | 0           | 0            | 0                  | 36           | 18             | 0.50        |
| VHOB                 | 5           | 4            | 9                  | 140          | 50             | 0.35        |
| VHTC                 | 6           | 1            | 7                  | 157          | 43             | 0.27        |
| West Banks/NHP       | 5           | 2            | 7                  | 154          | 64             | 0.41        |
| <b>Total 2021-22</b> | <b>68</b>   | <b>24</b>    | <b>92</b>          | <b>1446</b>  | <b>589</b>     | <b>0.41</b> |
| <b>Total 2020-21</b> | <b>91</b>   | <b>24</b>    | <b>115</b>         | <b>2132</b>  | <b>1203</b>    | <b>0.56</b> |
| <b>Total 2019-20</b> | <b>103</b>  | <b>20</b>    | <b>123</b>         | <b>2039</b>  | <b>968</b>     | <b>0.47</b> |
| <b>Total 2018-19</b> | <b>88</b>   | <b>35</b>    | <b>123</b>         | <b>2648</b>  | <b>1313</b>    | <b>0.49</b> |
| <b>Total 2017-18</b> | <b>116</b>  | <b>24</b>    | <b>140</b>         | <b>2133</b>  | <b>1243</b>    | <b>0.58</b> |
| <b>Total 2016-17</b> | <b>96</b>   | <b>27</b>    | <b>127</b>         | <b>1858</b>  | <b>931</b>     | <b>0.50</b> |
| <b>Total 2015-16</b> | <b>99</b>   | <b>35</b>    | <b>134</b>         | <b>959</b>   | <b>661</b>     | <b>0.69</b> |

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- DEER Sanctuaries - Eight areas 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). Deer are living on non-hunted properties. These 40-50 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 resumed very limited hunting access to the West Banks in October 2021.
  - At the recommendation of WAW, North Haven Village took on an active role in educating the residents and assisted in gaining “Land Owners Endorsements”. This initiative yielded more than 40 new properties to be added to the program throughout NHV, many in the Sanctuary areas. WAW is currently in the process of evaluating the properties for deer activity and if they can be safely hunted. These new properties will be added to the program for the 2022/2023 season.

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# 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 Deer Sanctuaries





# Village Hall

Pin Location - Lat: 41.031, Long: -72.315

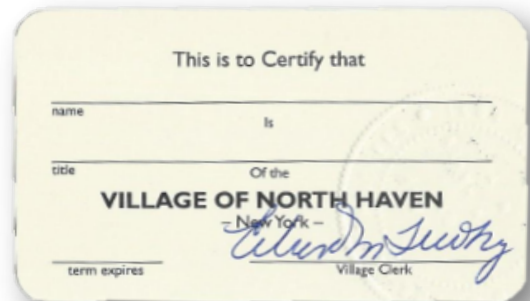
Notes: \*Flip up hunting in progress sign



# Hunter Registration



Drivers License



ID Card



Vehicle Side



NYS HL



Arrows



Plate #