



Frequently Asked Questions

What Syracuse residents should know about Deer Damage Management

In response to public health and safety concerns, the City of Syracuse, with funding provided by Onondaga County, is continuing a deer damage management program in certain parts of the City this winter. The purpose of the program is to reduce the overpopulation of deer.

Where will deer damage management take place?

Locations meeting strict New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) criteria have been selected on the City's east, west and south sides:

- The locations are on private and publicly-owned properties and are closed to public access when work is conducted.
- Only sites where explicit written permission from the property owners has been provided will be used.
- The specific sites must meet DEC requirements for proximity to any occupied dwelling.

Syracuse Police are aware of the specific sites and activities. Willful interference in the deer management operation is prohibited.

How is deer damage management conducted?

The work, referred to as "targeted removal," is done by qualified United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) wildlife managers. The program is being conducted in coordination with the Syracuse Police Department.

When will this work take place?

Wildlife managers work at night, between the hours of dusk to dawn. They use thermal imaging and spotlights to ensure a safe process. Work will be conducted during the months of December, January, February and March.

Are there any steps or precautions that residents need to take?

As always, residents should abide by hours of operation at all private or public properties. All sites are closed to public access when work is conducted. Trespassing is a violation of the law.

No wildlife management officer should be conducting management efforts on private property without permission. *Please call 911 if you see suspicious activity on public or private property.*

Where can I get more information?

This program is part of a comprehensive Tick and Deer Management Plan developed by a Citizens Advisory and approved by the NYSDEC, Syracuse Common Council and Onondaga County.

A copy of the plan is available at <https://goto.syr.gov/tickanddeermanagement> or by calling the Syracuse Department of Parks and Recreation at 315-473-4330.