



# Tick and Deer Management Update

Report to Syracuse Common Council  
on 2022 Deer Management

June 8, 2022

# Background

- The City of Syracuse and other municipalities experience overpopulation of deer.
- In response to public health and safety concerns, the City began a deer damage management program in certain parts of the City in the winter of 2019-20
- The program completed its third season in March 2022
- Programs also operate in Camillus, Solvay, DeWitt, Fayetteville and Manlius



# Purpose

- The purpose of the program is to address the impact of the overpopulation of white-tailed deer:
  - deer-vehicle accidents
  - parks, gardens, and the ecosystem
  - public health risks, such as Lyme Disease
- Part of an integrated program that also includes public education



# Description

- Sites meeting strict New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) criteria were identified on the east, west and south sides of the City.
  - large private and city-owned properties which are closed to public access when work is conducted
  - written permission from the property owners required
  - at least 500 feet from any occupied dwelling.
- Program costs are shared by Onondaga County and approved by New York State DEC.



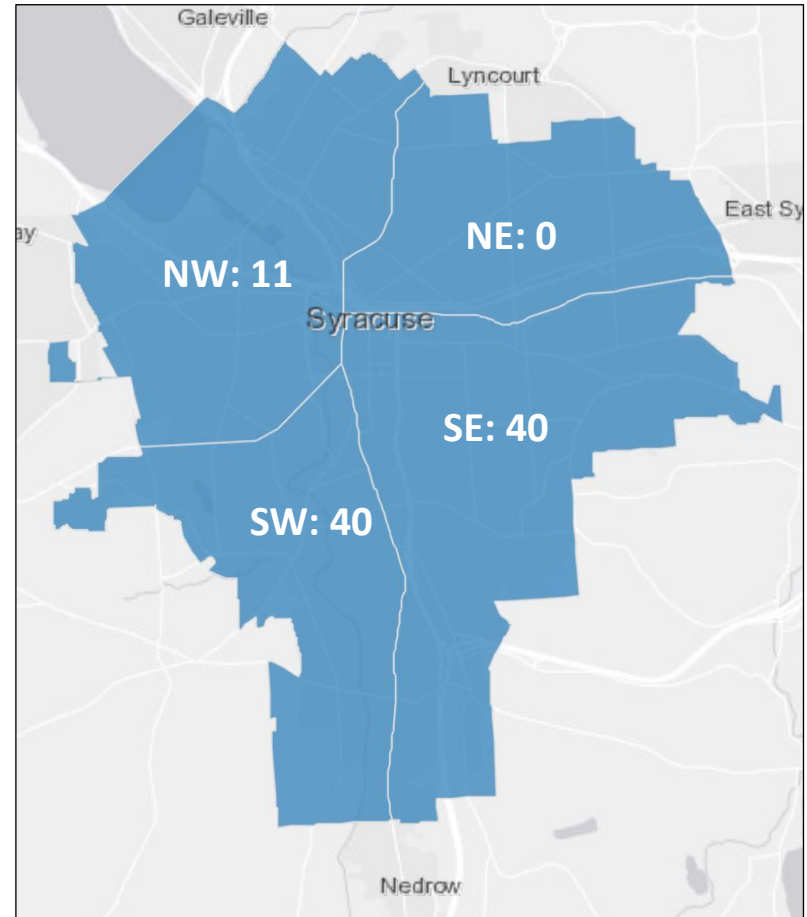
# Description (cont.)

- The work was done by qualified United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) wildlife managers.
- The program was conducted in coordination with the Syracuse Police Department.
- City issued public notice of program.
- Wildlife managers worked at night.



# 2022 Results

- During the months of December, January, February and March:
  - 92 white-tailed deer were removed from the City of Syracuse
  - After processing, approximately 2,373 pounds of venison were delivered for donation which provided 9,492 meals to the local community



# Results (cont.)

City of Syracuse – Deer Removal

| 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | Total |
|------|------|------|-------|
| 159  | 65*  | 92   | 316   |

*\*Limited program due to COVID-19*



# Results (cont.)

- Return to four-month season following COVID-19 impact
- Minimal interaction with public/property owners
- Program cost: \$30,995
  - County Reimbursement: \$23,299
  - City Share: \$7,697
- Tick borne illness public information meetings continued in 2021-22





# USDA Recommendations

- Identify additional properties be added to the program to increase the overall coverage
- Consider use of trapping methods
- Track deer damage data



# Additional Properties

- Assemblymember Hunter and Senator May proposed legislation to help address areas with high deer encounters that are hard to reach:
  - Require notification by certified mail to all property owners within 500 feet
  - Require written authorization within 250 feet
- Not acted on during 2022 state legislative session; expect to reintroduce in 2023



# Public Education

- Promoted winter, spring and fall Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease webinars with Cornell Cooperative Extension in 2021
- Conducted four Tree ID and Tick Walks in 2021-22
- Scheduling Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease Training sessions for city workers this summer



# Data Tracking

- Collecting “**Deer Diaries**” submitted by city residents monthly
- Coordinating with Onondaga County and CCE on **data sharing agreement** with Upstate Medical University Thangamani Lab for tick and mosquito borne diseases
- Exploring AVID site in city park to evaluate **vegetation impact**
- Assessing **deer-motor vehicle collision** data



# Data Tracking

## Deer-Motor Vehicle Collisions (MVC)\*

*Deer Removal and Deer-Motor Vehicle Collisions – City of Syracuse*

|      | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|------|------|------|------|
| Deer | 76   | 83   | 99   |
| MVC  | 48   | 34** | 38   |

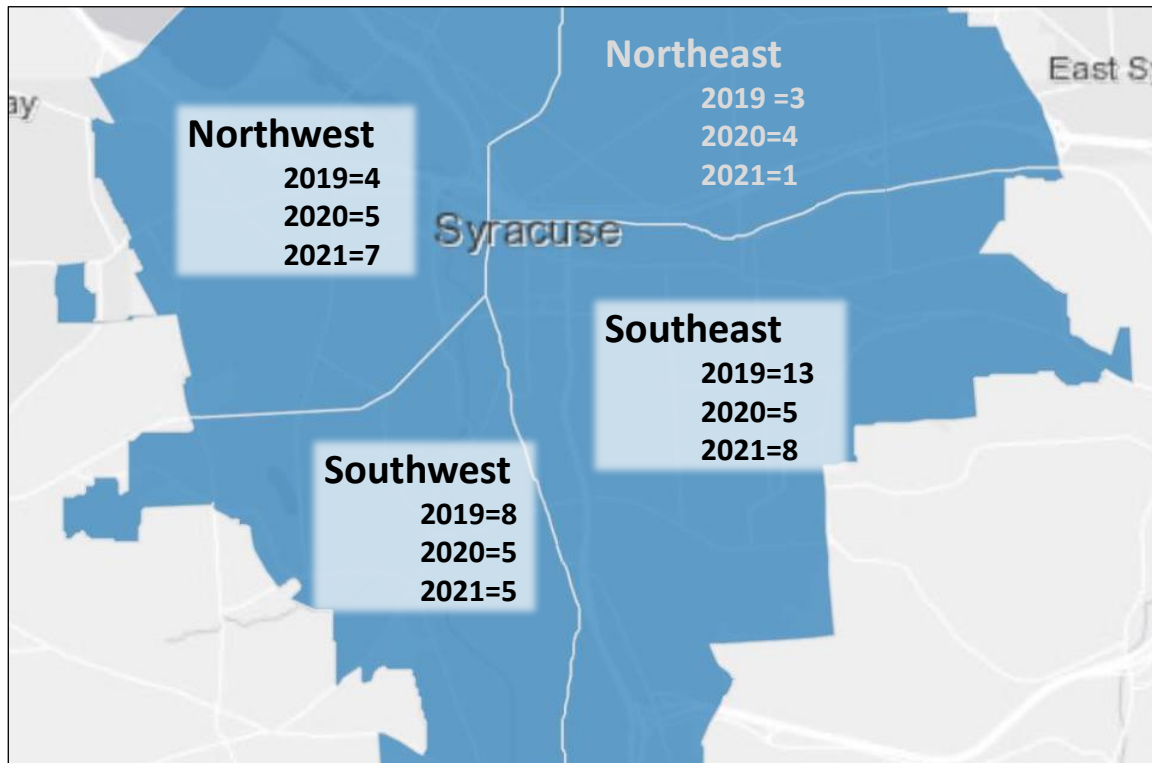
*\*Data is calendar year*

*\*\*Travel volumes may be reduced by COVID-19*



# Data Tracking

## Deer-Motor Vehicle Collisions (MVC)



# Next Steps

- Reconvene Tick and Deer Management Advisory Group
- Conduct additional public outreach
  - Tick borne illness prevention
  - Employee education
- Implement tracking steps (tick density, deer damage, public education)
- Update Tick and Deer Management Action Plan to ensure continued safety and effectiveness
  - Review with Council in late summer/early fall
  - Maintain program in 2022-23

