



Tick and Deer Management Update

**Report to Syracuse Common Council
Parks & Recreation Committee**

September 24, 2026

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 7th season in March 2026.
- Programs also operate in neighboring municipalities.



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



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 within 250 feet from any occupied dwelling; notification to property owners between 250-500 feet



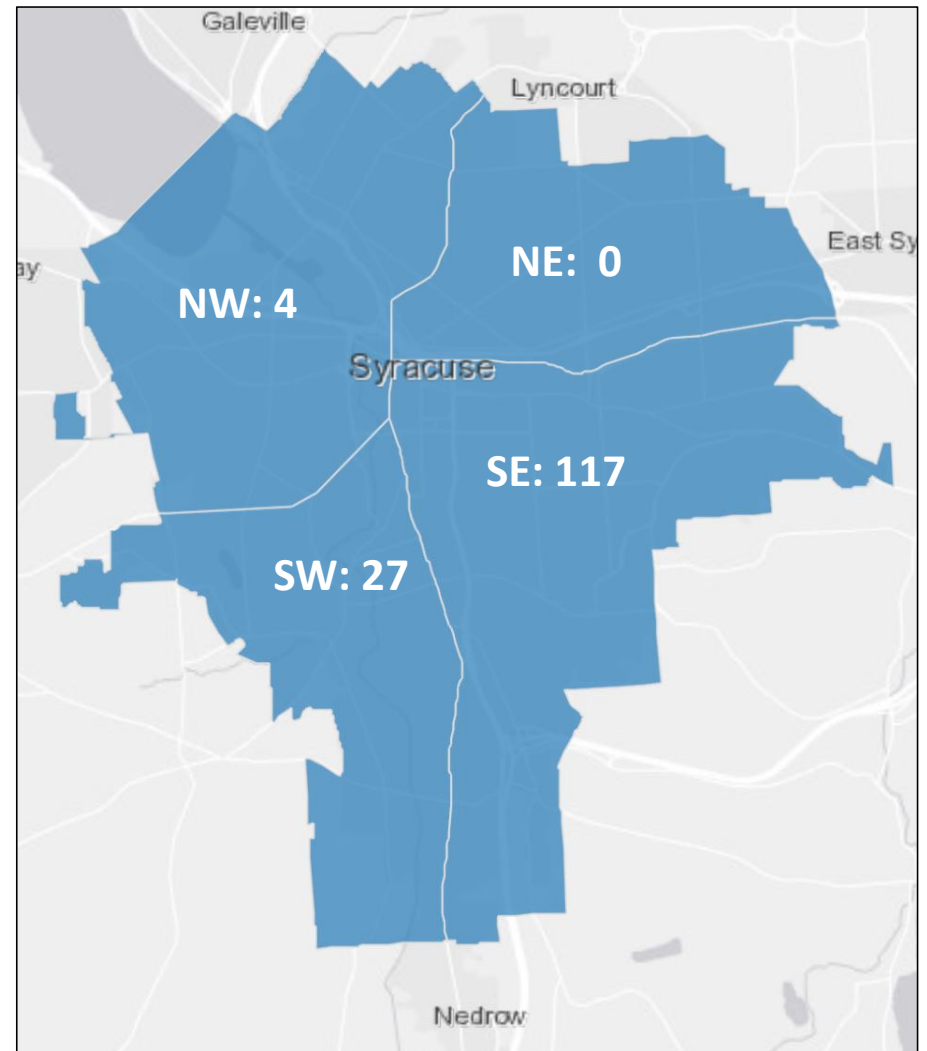
Description (cont.)

- A “trap and euthanize” method pilot program was conducted.
- The work is done by qualified United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) wildlife managers.
- The program is conducted in coordination with the Syracuse Police Department.
- City issues public notice of program.
- Wildlife managers work at night.



2026 Results

- During the months of December, January, February and March:
 - 147 white-tailed deer were removed from the City of Syracuse (4.6 per night)
 - After processing, approximately 3,972 pounds of venison were delivered for donation which provided 15,888 meals to the local community



2026 Results

- Second highest year on record with 147 deer removed
 - Firearms: 93
 - Trapping: 54
- Eastside (Quad 3) includes 17 sites and continues to see the highest numbers

	2025/2026		
Quad #	# sites used	# deer removed	
1	0	0	NE
2	1	4	NW
3	17	116	SE
4	3	27	SW



Trap and Euthanize Pilot



- Pilot conducted in areas of the eastside where:
 - Deer population remains high
 - Suitable sites for firearm not available
- Soft-sided clover traps placed at seven private residential properties
- 54 deer euthanized

Results (cont.)

City of Syracuse – Deer Removal

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
159	65*	92	79	109	137	147	788

**Limited program due to COVID-19*



Results (cont.)

- Minimal interaction with public/property owners.
- City and County Cost-Share for Program
- Tick borne illness prevention signage posted city parks.
- Extension of Pilot authorized by NYS Legislature. Awaiting Governor signature





WARNING!

BE AWARE OF TICKS

WHAT ARE TICKS?

TICKS ARE SMALL PARASITIC INSECTS THAT BITE HUMANS AND ANIMALS

MOST ACTIVE FROM MARCH THROUGH OCTOBER

CAN TRANSMIT LYME DISEASE AND OTHER ILLNESSES



SYMPTOMS OF TICK-BORNE ILLNESSES



HEAD-ACHES



FEVER



MUSCLE PAIN



CHILLS



TIREDSNESS



SKIN RASH

IF BITTEN, CONTACT A MEDICAL PROVIDER

PREVENT TICK BITES



USE INSECT REPELLENT



TUCK PANTS INTO SOCKS



WEAR LONG CLOTHING



AVOID LONG GRASS



WEAR LONG SOCKS



CHECK YOUR PETS



USDA Recommendations

- Identify additional properties be added to the program to increase the overall coverage
- Continue use of trap/euthanize method
- Track deer damage data



Data Tracking

- Collecting “**Deer Diaries**” submitted by city residents monthly
- Tracking **deer-motor vehicle collision** data



Data Tracking

Deer-Motor Vehicle Collisions (MVC)*

Deer-Motor Vehicle Collisions – City of Syracuse

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
MVC	48	34	38	38	66	23	15	7**

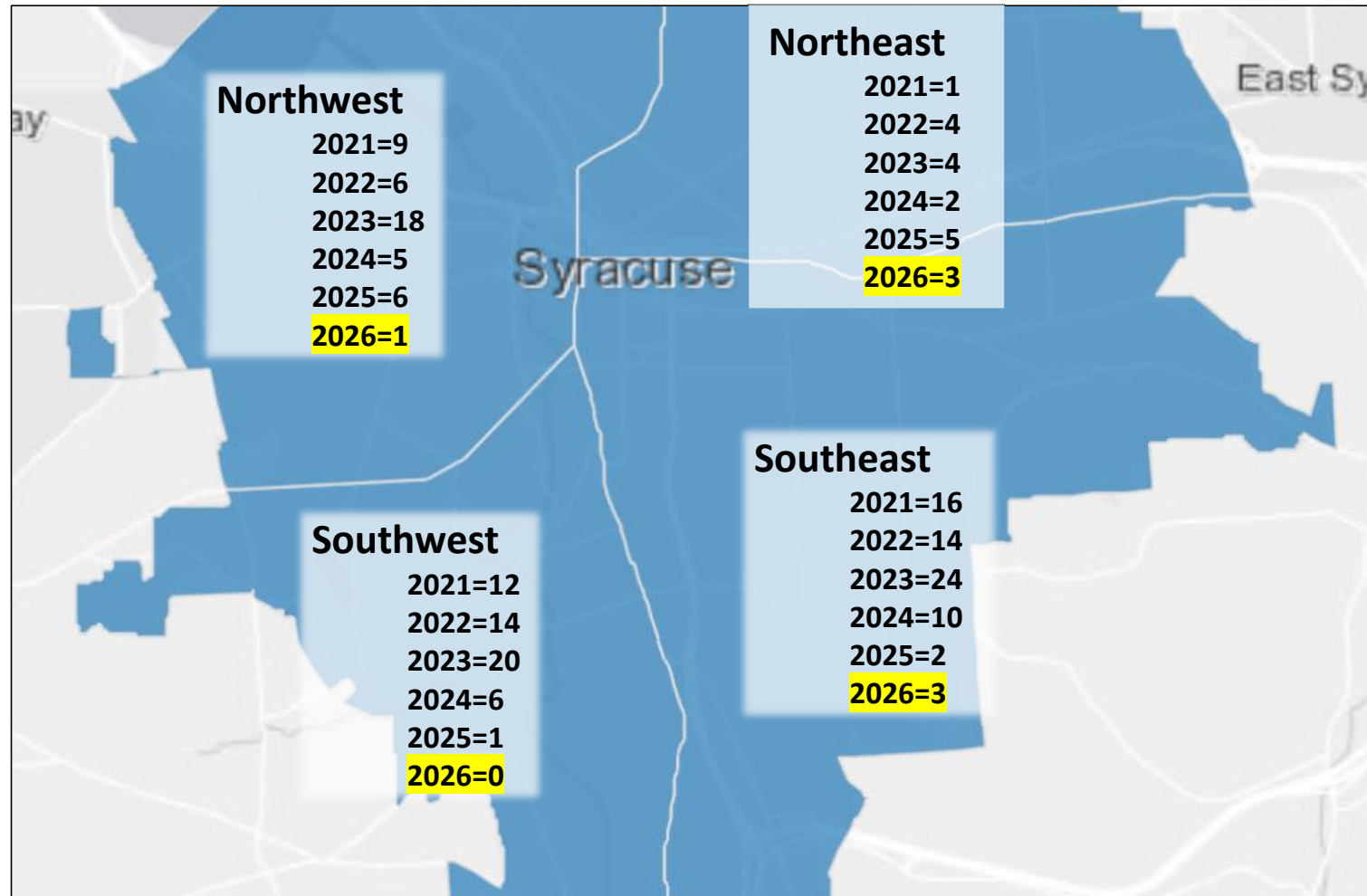
**Data is calendar year*

***Data through Sept. 1, 2026*



Data Tracking

Deer-Motor Vehicle Collisions (MVC)



Recommendations and Next Steps

- Continue Tick and Deer Management Advisory Board; launch new season in December
- Coordinate and secure permissions from property owners
- Identify areas continuing to experience health and safety concerns related to deer population; consider potential additional sites
- Continue trap and euthanize pilot

