



Tick and Deer Management Update

Report to Syracuse Common Council
on 2023 Deer Management

November 8, 2023

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 fourth season in March 2023
- 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



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.



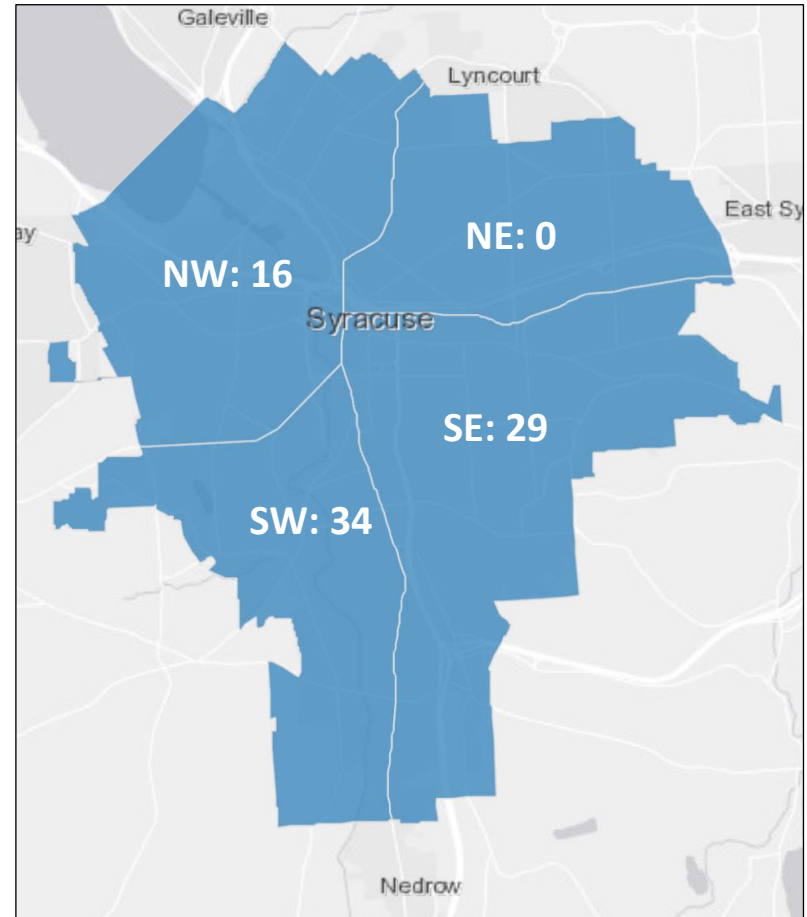
Description (cont.)

- 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.



2023 Results

- During the months of December, January, February and March:
 - 79 white-tailed deer were removed from the City of Syracuse
 - After processing, approximately 1,913 pounds of venison were delivered for donation which provided 7,652 meals to the local community



Results (cont.)

City of Syracuse – Deer Removal

2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
159	65*	92	79	395

**Limited program due to COVID-19*



Results (cont.)

- Minimal interaction with public/property owners
- Program cost: \$41,506
 - County Reimbursement: \$26,452
 - City Share: \$15,054
- Tick borne illness prevention signage posted in



WARNING



TICKS MAY BE FOUND IN THIS AREA

WHAT ARE TICKS?

- TICKS ARE VERY SMALL PARASITIC INSECTS THAT CAN BITE BOTH HUMANS AND ANIMALS.
- TICKS ARE MOSTLY ACTIVE BETWEEN MARCH & OCTOBER
- DEPENDENT ON THE SEASONAL CONDITIONS.
- THEY CAN TRANSMIT LYME DISEASE AND OTHER BACTERIAS AND VIRUSES.
- SOMETIMES YOU CAN REMOVE THE TICK BEFORE IT CAN PASS ON ANY GERMS.
- A TICK BITE ITSELF MAY NOT CAUSE SYMPTOMS EXCEPT FOR SOME TYPE OF SKIN REACTION, LIKE A RASH OR A SMALL HARD LUMP.
- CONDITIONS CAUSED BY TICKS WITH COMMON SYMPTOMS:

- FEVER
- CHILLS
- MUSCLE PAIN
- HEADACHES
- TIREDNESS
- SKIN RASH



BLACK-LEGGED TICK



LOVE STAR TICK



AMERICAN DOG TICK

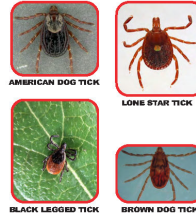
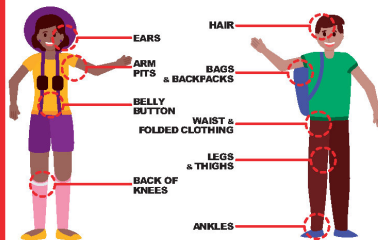


HOW TO PREVENT TICK BITES!

- USE INSECT REPELLENT ON EXPOSED SKIN
- WEAR LIGHT COLOURED APPROPRIATE CLOTHING SUCH AS LONG-SLEEVED SHIRTS
- KEEP TO WIDE FOOT PATHS AND AVOID LONG GRASS WHEN OUTSIDE WALKING
- WEAR LONG SOCKS
- MAKE SURE TO TUCK YOUR PANTS INTO YOUR SOCKS
- CHECK YOUR PETS SO THEY DO NOT BRING TICKS INTO YOUR HOME IN THEIR FUR
- MAKE SURE TICKS ARE NOT BROUGHT HOME ON YOUR CLOTHES



AREAS ON YOUR BODY TO CHECK FOR TICKS!



AMERICAN DOG TICK, LONE STAR TICK, BLACK LEGGED TICK, BROWN DOG TICK

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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 passed legislation to help address areas with high deer encounters that are hard to reach:
 - Reduce setback requiring written authorization to 250 feet
 - Require notification by certified mail to all property owners within 500 feet
- Awaiting signature by Governor Hochul



Data Tracking

- Collecting “**Deer Diaries**” submitted by city residents monthly
- Tracking **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	2022
Deer	76	83	99	?
MVC	48	34**	38	38

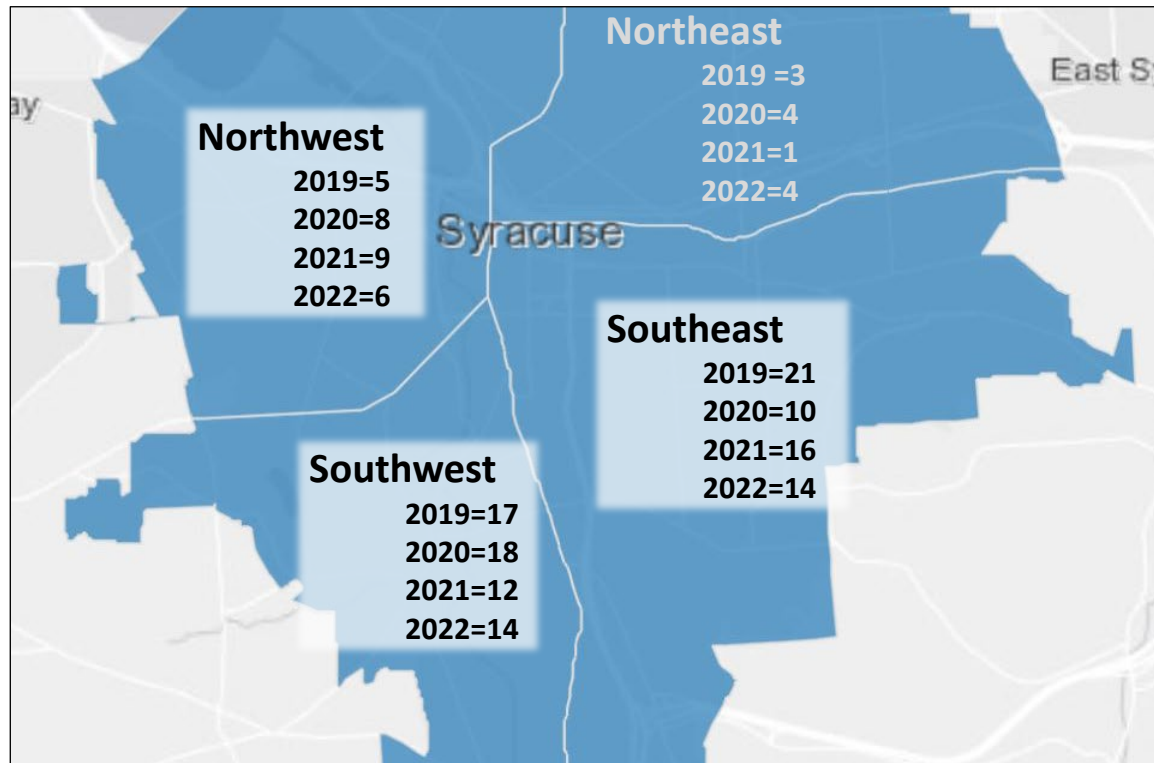
**Data is calendar year*

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



Data Tracking

Deer-Motor Vehicle Collisions (MVC)



Next Steps

- Prepare for additional sites under new State legislation for Syracuse

