

City of Rochester Hills

**DEER MANAGEMENT
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS
for 2012**



October 2011

2012 RECOMMENDATION #1 FEEDING BAN ORDINANCE

The Rochester Hills City Council passed an ordinance in September 2008 preventing the feeding of wild animals other than birds. This feeding ban is intended to reduce the current travel patterns of deer from their natural habitat into subdivisions where feeding stations and bait piles were provided.

The supplemental feeding of wildlife is disruptive to their natural feeding habits. While some residents enjoy recreational viewing of deer; this action is detrimental to the animals, attracts predators and nuisance species (raccoons, coyotes, rats, etc.); and can draw deer seeking food to cross heavy traffic areas, causing deer/vehicle accidents. While the statewide feeding ban has been lifted for 2011, the committee recommends this local ban should continue for 2012.

Note

The city should continue to educate residents of the need and purpose of the new ordinance through various sources: cable TV, Hills Herald publication, notes on water bills, etc.; publicly defend the feeding ban as a means of reducing deer/vehicle accidents, property damage, and to ensure awareness of the ordinance; and strongly enforce the ban to ensure compliance.

2012 Action Plan Recommendations

An article should be placed in the Fall Edition of the Hills Herald, information on the ban should be shown on Cable Channels 10, 20 and 99 and placed on the city's website, and a note should continue to be put on water bills to remind residents of the city's deer feeding ban. Any reports of deer feeding within the city should be investigated and enforced by Ordinance Enforcement and Oakland County Sheriff Department.

2012 RECOMMENDATION #2 EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT

The city should continue the information and programs available to residents on the deer problems in our city and provide additional information on fencing, plants rarely damaged by deer, deer repellents, as well as offer other suggestions, references, and guidelines to homeowner associations and individual residents on effective means to limit the nuisance deer and damage to their property and on avoiding deer/vehicle accidents.

- The city should target their educational focus on the peak deer activity months of September through December and the hours of dawn and dusk.
- The city should designate October as "Deer Awareness Month."

- The city should encourage more homeowner tactics and programs on dealing with the city's deer population.
- The Parks & Forestry Department should continue to report to the Mayor and City Council on the status of the educational components, aerial flyover results, and SEMCOG deer/vehicle crash (DVC) data.
- The city should disseminate deer information on its website and cable station and provide a range of deer resources for residents. The website should provide a link to SEMCOG's "*Don't Veer for Deer*" program.
- The city should continue to seek developing information on deer/vehicle crashes and conduct an annual deer count survey.
- The city staff should continue to keep a log of deer calls/complaints and include that information in future reports.

2012 Action Plan Recommendations

The Mayor and City Council should designate October as "Deer Awareness Month." The Ranger/Naturalist has compiled a master list of volunteers that could assist him in talking with homeowners that call with deer complaints. After appropriate city training, these volunteers can provide information, suggestions, and samples of repellents to those residents who are having problems with deer in their yards. All resident calls on deer (nuisance deer and dead deer) should be documented on the City's Lucity System. Dead deer on county roadways should be forwarded to the Oakland County Road Commission for resolution. Dead deer on private property remain the responsibility of the property owner, while dead deer on city roadways should be forwarded to and handled by the Department of Public Service.

2012 RECOMMENDATION #3

IMPROVED SIGNAGE AND ROADSIDE DETERRENTS

Improving the signage on city and county roads warning motorists of deer crossing areas has potentially reduced deer/vehicle collisions. The city should continue to examine current signage and countermeasures to identify any needed modifications and could test new cutting-edge innovations or deterrents. The change to higher visibility signs in hot spot areas was completed by mid-October 2009 and should be monitored to ensure current locations reflect actual crossing areas.

In addition,

- The city should identify areas alongside major roads where high growth brush clearing would be helpful to increase visibility and notify the property owners with recommendations on how they could improve the sites and reduce DVC's.

- The city should identify high deer/vehicle crash areas and increase public awareness of these areas.
- The city should continue the use of changeable message boards with deer warnings during the peak deer/vehicle crash times of mid-October through mid-November and should consider using the portable speed flashers (similar to school crossing signs) at high deer/vehicle crash areas.
- The city should continue to encourage Oakland University to consider brush removal along the high deer/vehicle crash areas adjacent to their property.

2012 Action Plan Recommendations

Engineering Division should cooperate with the Oakland County Road Commission to bring in portable signs and determine the best locations for placement based on the most recent deer/vehicle crash data. These movable signs will warn motorists during the fall rut to be on the lookout for increased deer activity and to remind them to be cautious and to drive with care. The city should continue to work with Oakland University and other landowners to identify and modify areas of excessive brush along major roads to increase visibility and reduce deer/vehicle crashes.

2012 RECOMMENDATION #4

RECREATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL HUNTING BAN

The city should continue to ban recreational hunting in Rochester Hills. In addition, the city should not permit qualified bow-hunting businesses on public or private property in 2012.

2012 RECOMMENDATION #5

AERIAL DEER COUNT SURVEYS

In an effort to monitor the deer population in the city, an annual aerial deer count survey should be continued. These surveys aid in evaluating the effectiveness of the city's Deer Management program as well as contribute valuable data for future decision-making regarding this program.

2012 Action Plan Recommendations

The Ranger/Naturalist should continue to work with Oakland County to coordinate an aerial deer count survey of the same parcels as last year for comparison. The information should be given to the Deer Management Advisory Committee for review and to note any trends.

**2012 RECOMMENDATION #6
MONITORING DEER/VEHICLE COLLISIONS**

Monitoring the number, locations, and time of deer/vehicle collisions is an important step in obtaining qualitative information needed to evaluate the effectiveness of the various components of the Deer Management program. Tracking this information can be used for comparison purposes with previous years to determine which components were most effective. The city should continue monitoring the deer/vehicle collisions as provided by SEMCOG and encourage more timely reports. The final audited (by Michigan State Police) report should be included in the Parks report to City Council when available.

2012 Action Plan Recommendations

The Ranger/Naturalist should work with SEMCOG to obtain information on deer/vehicle collisions in Rochester Hills. This information should be given to the Deer Management Advisory Committee to note any trends and should be shared with Engineering to assist with determining which roads should have portable signs placed.

**2012 RECOMMENDATION #7
DEER HERD CONTROL**

No lethal methods of culling should be used in Rochester Hills in 2012 to decrease the deer herd. This option should be reviewed after the deer/vehicle collision numbers and aerial count surveys are received. This option should be reconsidered for 2013 if deer/vehicle collisions exceed 200 and if the aerial deer count survey trends up by 20% or more.

**2012 RECOMMENDATION #8
DEER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

If Rochester Hills City Council expresses interest in continuing the Deer Management Advisory Committee (DMAC) in 2012 then the DMAC should meet prior to the City Council Annual Report to review the numbers of deer/vehicle crashes and aerial counts and make any recommendation to City Council for future modifications to the Deer Management Plan. The purpose and charge of this committee for 2012 should be to review all current data and make recommendations for 2013 Deer Management Plan action items.

Summary

- We the DMAC committee are pleased to see a 25% decrease in deer/vehicle collisions in Rochester Hills for the year 2010. This decrease was realized despite an increase in the deer population in the city of approximately 34%. Between 2009 and 2010, the decline in such collisions surpasses those of Oakland County (-5.7%) and the SEMCOG region (-7.6%) as a whole.
- We strongly urge Council to continue the aerial flyover campaign to monitor trends in the deer population within the city.
- We strongly urge Council to continue the use of movable signs between mid-October and mid-November. We believe that the use of these movable message signs is instrumental in reducing deer/vehicle collisions.
- We appreciate the use of the added radar speed signs in school zones. Their use possibly has also reduced deer accidents since some of the high deer population also occur in school zones. We would still like to see the use of two such signs placed in high deer/vehicle collision areas. We realize that this might not be economically feasible at this time. We the committee would like to explore the possibility whether sign sponsorship could be solicited within the community. Perhaps some insurance companies would like to participate in such a program?
- We are concerned about the return of brush along Oakland University property on Adams and Avon Roads. In 2010 Oakland University did a remarkable job clearing much of the brush and growth along these roads. We believe their efforts greatly improved the sight lines along this area which has had a lot of deer/vehicle collisions in the past. It appears that the same clearing of brush has not occurred this year.
- We believe that through education and reduced speeds the deer/vehicle collisions have been reduced to such a point that we again recommend that City Council does not consider taking lethal action.
- We encourage the Administration to continue to log citizen complaints regarding deer. To date the number of citizen complaints has been greatly reduced per Parks Director Hartner.

City of Rochester Hills

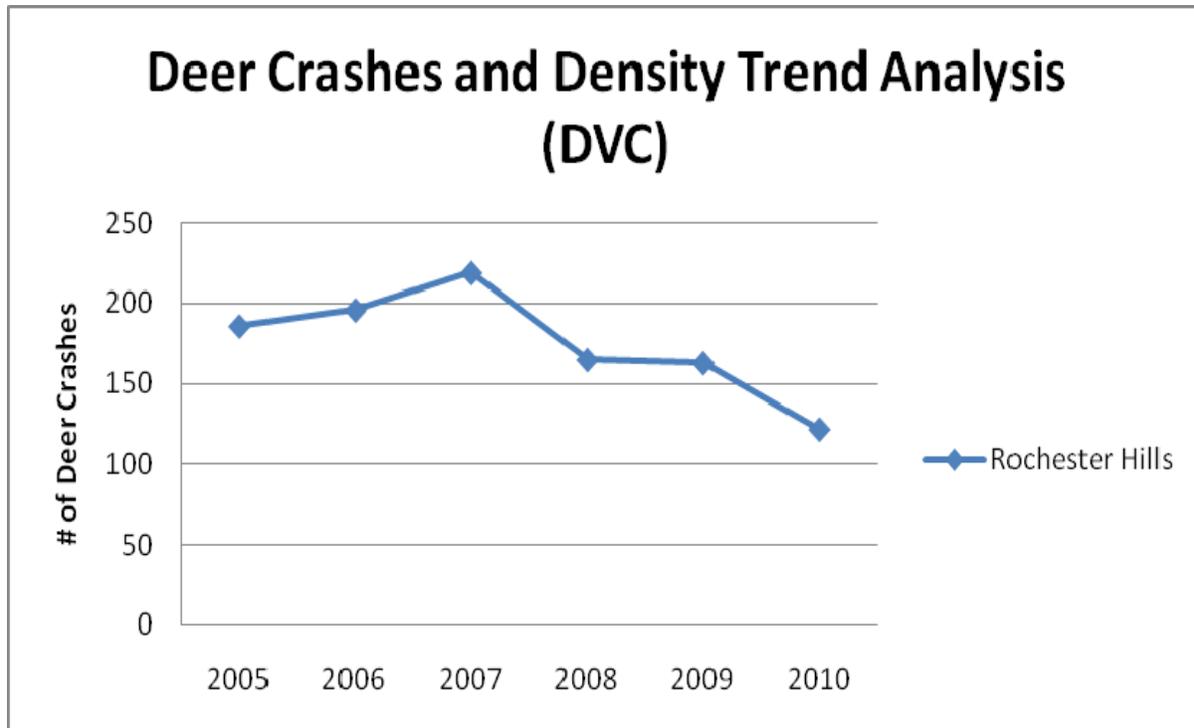
Deer Crashes and Density Trend Analysis (DVC)

Agency	1999	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Rochester Hills	NA	186	196	219	165	163	122	NA
Oakland County	NA	1,704	1,866	1,876	1,859	1,947	1,836	NA
SEMCOG Region	NA	6,097	6,358	6,280	6,278	6,560	6,062	NA
R.H. Deer Density	229	220	NA	NA	184	134	180	217

Percent (%) Change from Previous to Current Year

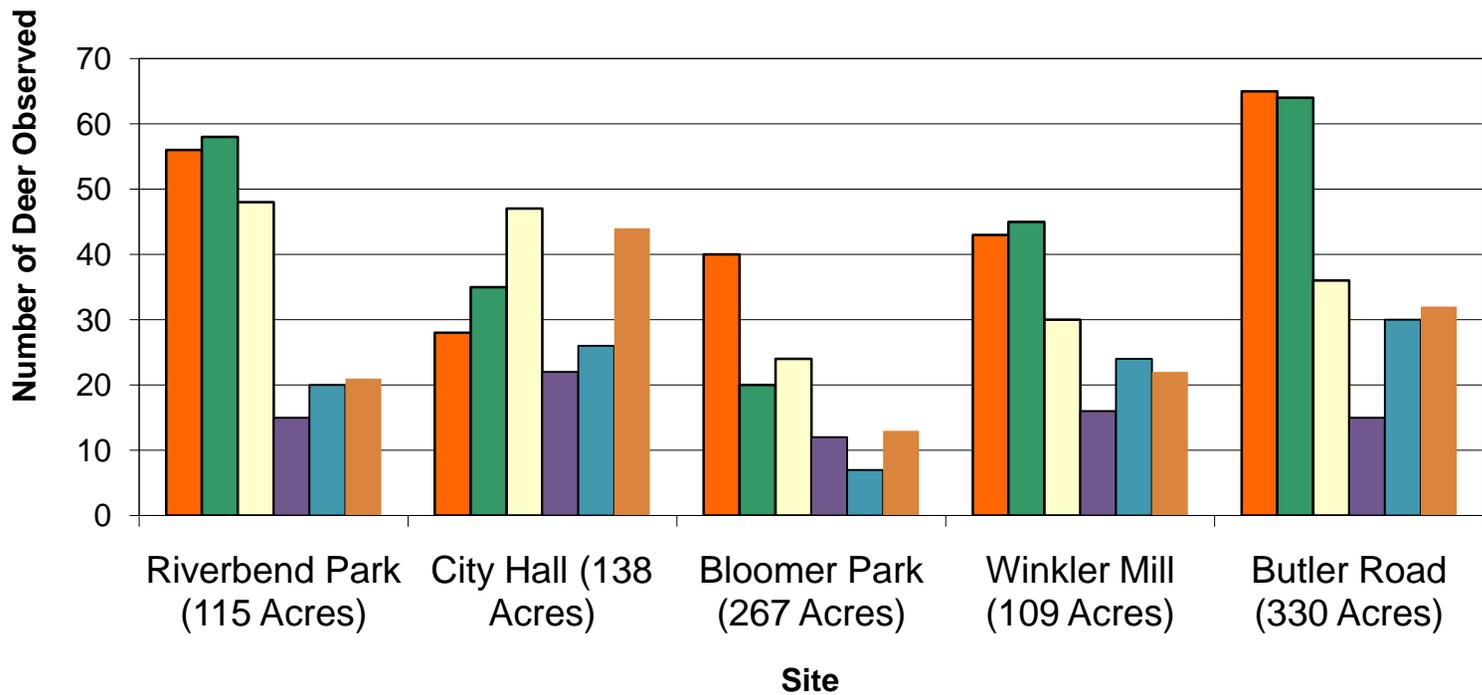
Agency	1999	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Rochester Hills	NA	NA	5.4%	11.7%	-24.7%	-1.2%	-25.2%	NA
Oakland County	NA	NA	9.5%	0.5%	-0.9%	4.7%	-5.7%	NA
SEMCOG Region	NA	NA	4.3%	-1.2%	0.0%	4.5%	-7.6%	NA
R.H. Deer Density	NA	-3.9%	NA	NA	-16.4%	-27.2%	34.3%	NA

Note: Percent change in 2005 is change from 1999 to 2005. Percent change in 2008 is change from 2005 to 2008



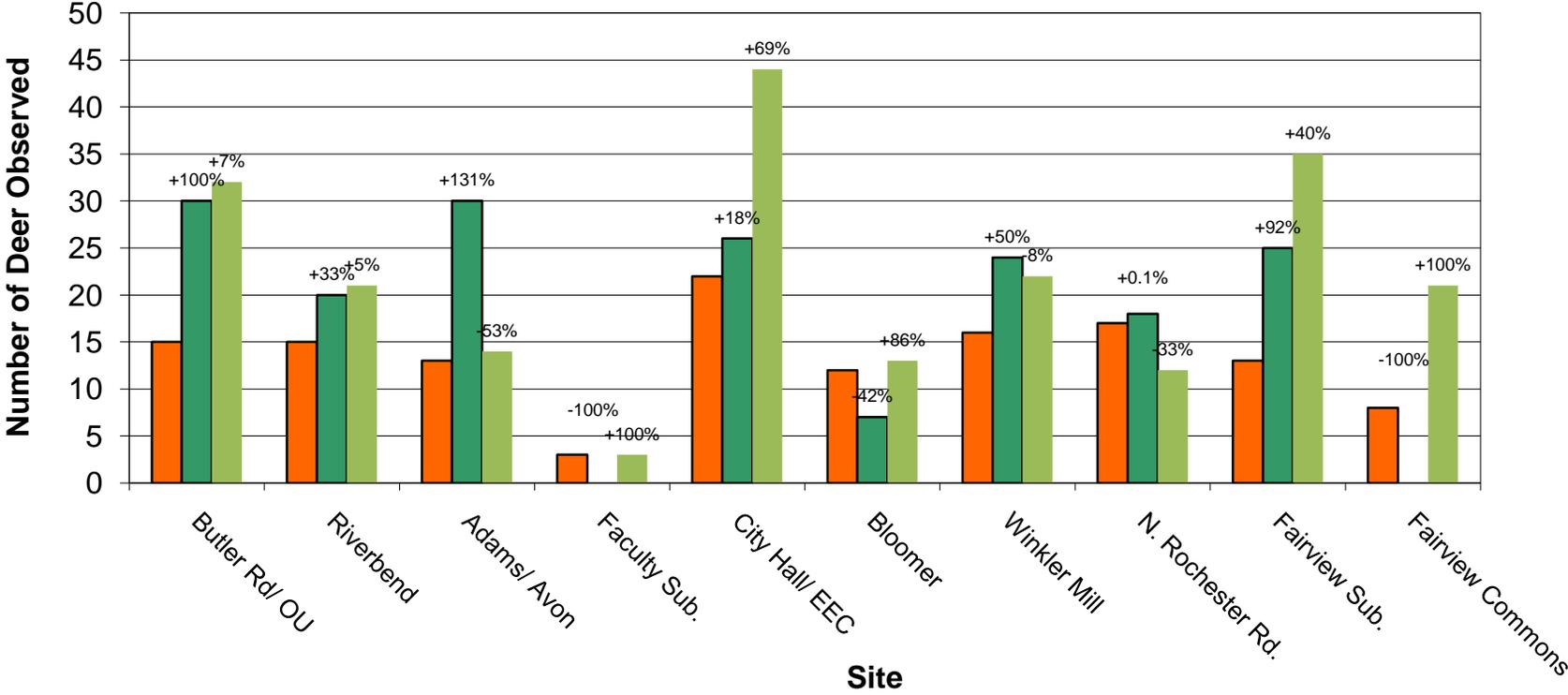
Rochester Hills Deer Density Aerial Flyover Surveys 1999, 2005, 2008, 2009, 2010 & 2011

- 1999=229 Total Deer
- 2005=220 Total Deer
- 2008=184 Total Deer
- 2009=80 Total Deer
- 2010=107 Total Deer
- 2011=132 Total Deer

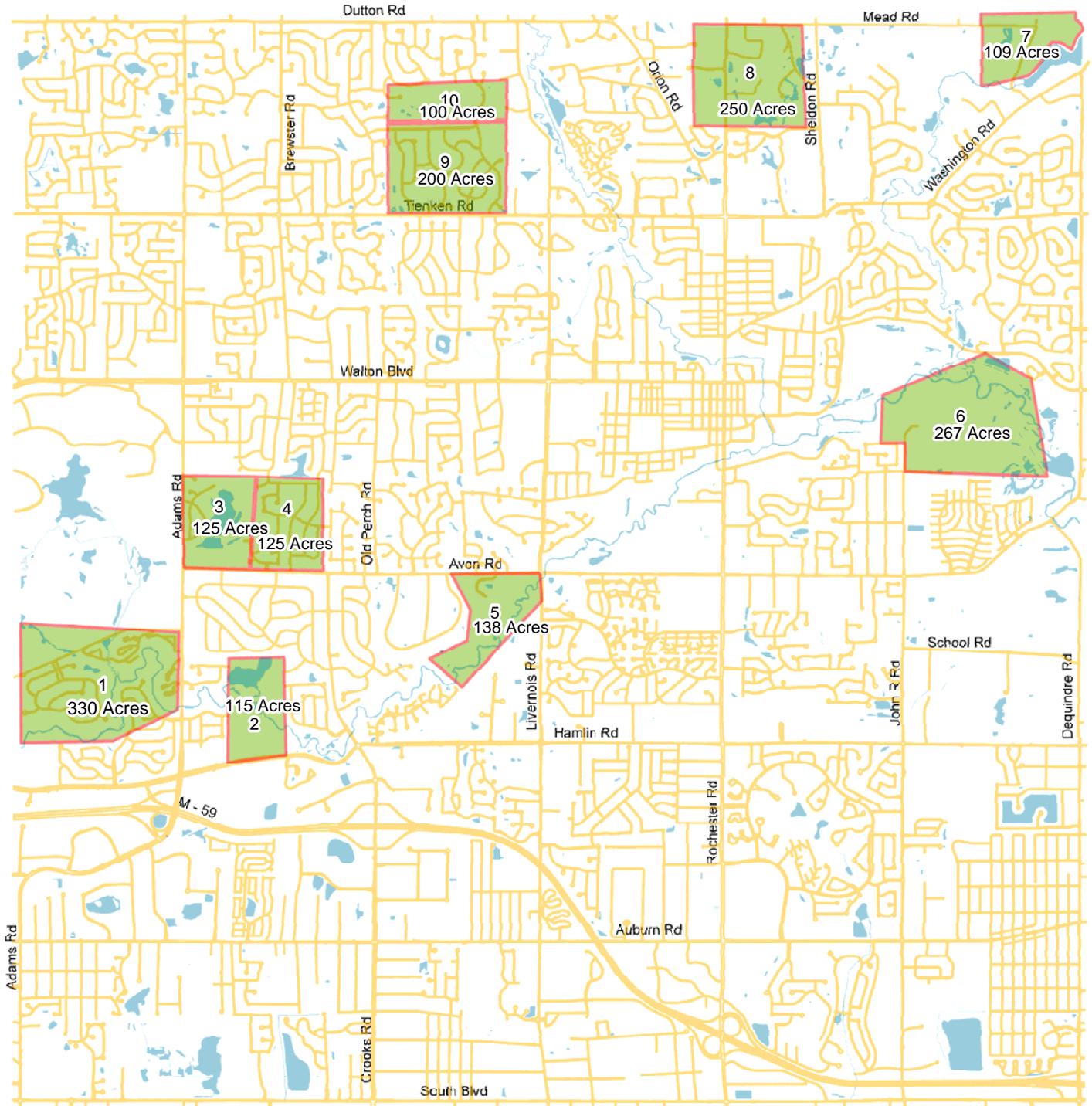


Rochester Hills Deer Density Aerial Flyover Surveys 2009, 2010 & 2011

■ 2009=134 Total Deer
■ 2010=180 Total Deer
■ 2011=217 Total Deer



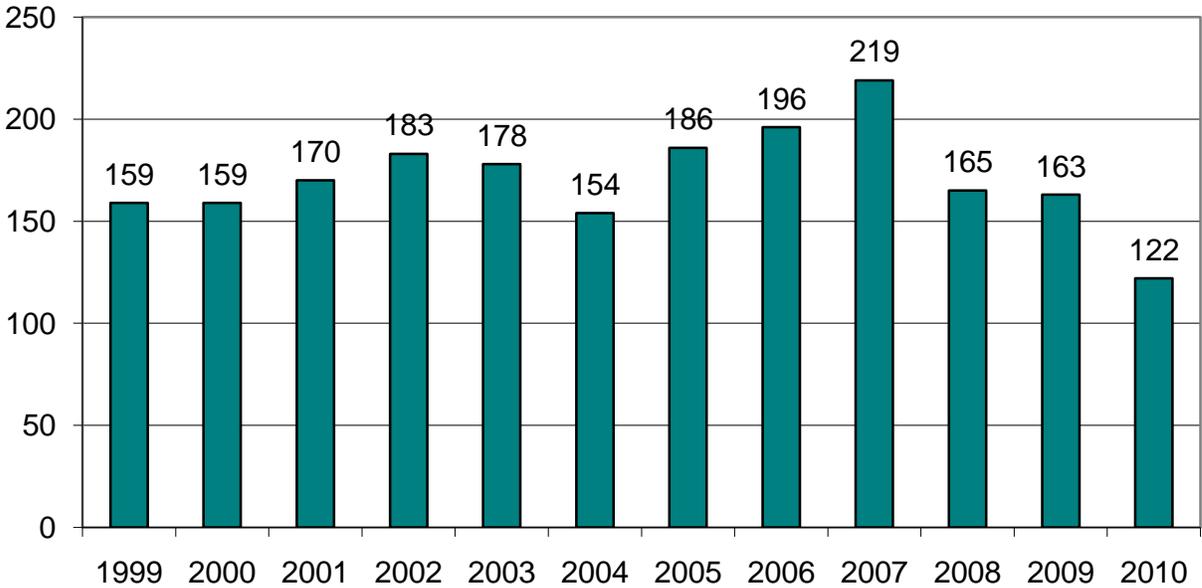
Deer Count Survey Areas



- 1 Butler Road / Oakland University
- 2 Riverbend Park
- 3 Adams / Avon Rd.
- 4 Meadowbrook Valley
- 5 City Hall / EEC
- 6 Bloomer Park
- 7 Winkler Mill
- 8 N. Rochester Rd.
- 9 Fairview Sub.
- 10 Fairview Commons



**Number of Deer/Vehicle Collisions*
Rochester Hills 1999 - 2010**

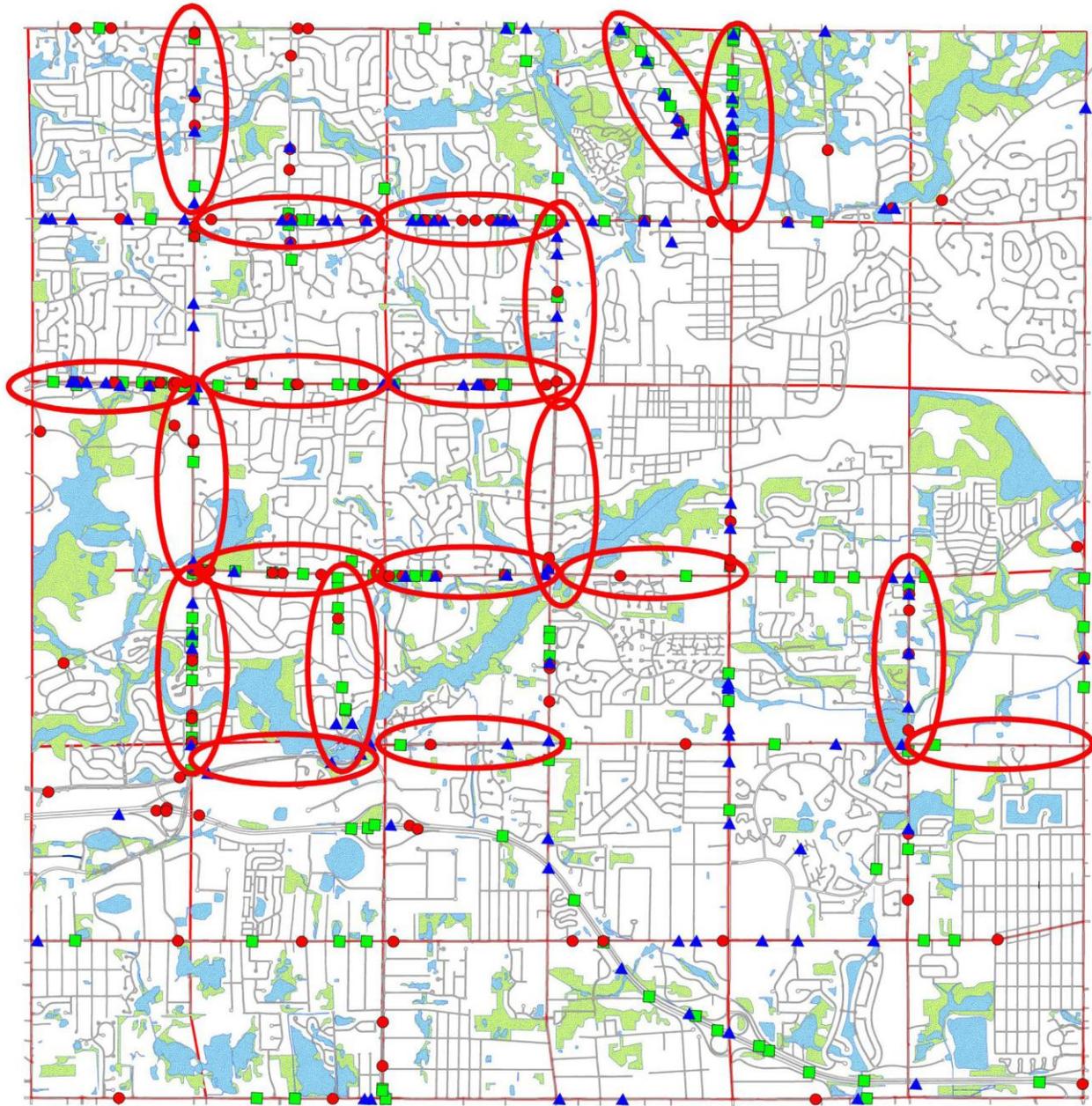


**Data provided by SEMCOG
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments*

City of Rochester Hills DPS Engineering-Traffic Division



3 Year (2009-11) Deer Vehicle Crash (DVC) Map



Legend	
SPCL_DEER	
▲	Deer Crashes 2011 (139)
●	Deer Crashes 2010 (122)
■	Deer Crashes 2009 (163)
GISData.RHC.RoadEdge	
—	<all other values>
SUBTYPE	
—	Access Drive
—	Road Edge
—	RH Trail Lines
—	RoadEdge
□	RH Municipal District
■	SDEPROD.RHC.Wetland
■	SDEPROD.RHC.Woodland
□	Sections

Legend



Deer X-ing Signs Installed 2009 For One Mile Road Segments W/High DVC's



Drawn By: M.Matich
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