

# WESTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 378  
WESTON, MA 02493  
TELEPHONE: 781-786-5068  
CONSERVATION@WESTONMA.GOV  
FAX: 781-786-5069

---

---

## MEMORANDUM

---

---

**TO:** WESTON SELECT BOARD  
**FROM:** MICHELE GRZENDA, CONSERVATION ADMINISTRATOR  
**SUBJECT:** 2020 DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM SUMMARY  
**DATE:** FEBRUARY 25, 2021

---

The Conservation Commission has completed the eighth year of its Deer Management Program. This multifaceted program includes studying the effects of deer on Weston's forests, educating residents on Lyme disease and deer tick prevention, and reducing the deer population to ecologically appropriate levels.

The Conservation Commission has established several vegetation monitoring programs to assess the long-term effects of deer browse on Weston's forests. With help from the Weston Garden Club, lady slipper abundance was assessed at several conservation lands. A total of ten deer exclosures are being monitored by Brandeis University students and Harvard Forest.

Below, please find the summary from the 2020 hunting season, and our recommendations for 2021.

### **Results based on Hunter Log Database**

- The following twelve properties were open to regulated hunting: Blaney Aquifer, Coburn Meadows, College Pond Conservation Area, Dickson Fields, Doublet Hill, Highland Forest, Ogilvie Town Forest, Jericho Town Forest, Old Road, Trailside, Norumbega Reservoir, and the Sears Land.
- A total of 45 deer were harvested from 41 hunters – 21 does and 24 bucks.
- Hunters donated a total of 150 hours of land management work clearing trails, installing and removing temporary hunting signage, looking for illegal deer stands, picking up trash and litter, and, weed-whacking invasive plants in fields and parking areas, and removing debris from the Hobbs Pond Dam.
- Hunters observed dogs running in the woods unattended.
- Other wildlife observed by hunters included red-tailed hawk, fisher, owl, coyotes, red fox, turkey, chipmunks, and squirrels.
- Hunter/resident interaction – Hunters reported numerous positive interactions with residents.

### **Other 2020 Deer Population Impacts**

- 22 deer-car collisions were reported to the Weston Police Dept.
  - According to the MA Div. of Fisheries and Wildlife, 11 additional deer were harvested on private land in Weston.
-

Cause of Deer Mortality in Weston	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Deer/car collisions <sup>i</sup>	26	24	23	34	28	22	20	17	21	22
Deer harvested on conservation land	N/A	18	20	25	26	32	29	35	40	45
Deer harvested on private land	12	18	22	19	14	19	22	18	8	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>78</b>

Conservation Land	Huntable acres	# hunters	# deer harvested in 2020
Blaney Aquifer	23	2	1
Coburn Meadows	5	1	1
College Pond Conservation Area	70	2	0
Dickson Fields	23	3	2
Doublet Hill	24	2	1
Highland Forest	203	5	6
Jericho Town Forest	572	13	16
Norumbega Reservoir (MWRA)	50	3	4
Ogilvie Town Forest	197	6	8
Old Road	5	1	1
Sears Land	87	2	2
Trailside	13	2	2
Wellington Farm	4	2	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,224</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>45</b>

### **Conservation Commission Recommendation**

The Commission deems that the program, including preparation, implementation, and follow-up, continues to be successful. Over the course of nine years, 270 deer have been harvested on town conservation land (and an additional 151 on private land).

In addition to continuing the regulated deer hunting at the nine properties discussed above, on February 23, 2021, the Commission unanimously voted to expand and modify the program as follows:

- Create a new Weston Deer Hunter Subcommittee to assist with the administration of the deer management program. The group will consist of 3 hunters (at least one who is a resident), a commission member, a conservation staff person, and Weston's volunteer deer hunter coordinator.
- Open the westerly portion of Case Estates and the adjoining Chestnut Street Conservation Land to hunting.

---

<sup>i</sup> Only collisions reported to the Weston Police Dept. are noted here. In general, car insurance companies don't require a police report to be filed and therefore, many deer-car collisions are not reported to the Police Dept.