

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: JORDAN MCCARRON, WESTON CONSERVATION ADMINISTRATOR
SUBJECT: 2021 DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM SUMMARY
DATE: MAY 16, 2022 (APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION 5-10-22)

Weston Conservation Commission has completed the tenth 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. A total of ten deer exclosures are being monitored to study the long-term impacts of deer over-browse.

Below, please find the summary from the 2021 hunting season, and our recommendations for 2022.

Results based on Hunter Log Database

- The following properties were open to regulated hunting: Blaney Aquifer, Case Estates/Chestnut Street Conservation Area, Coburn Meadows, College Pond Conservation Area, Dickson Fields, Doublet Hill, Highland Forest, Jericho Town Forest, MWRA's Norumbega Reservoir, Ogilvie Town Forest, , Old Road, Trailside Conservation Land, , Sears Land, and Wellington Farm.
- A total of 30 deer were harvested from 45 hunters – 19 does and 11 bucks.
- Lower than typical deer observations and harvests- lack of acorns and other hard mast in 2021 probable cause.
- Hunters donated a total of 67 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, bobcat, and squirrels.
- Hunter/resident interaction – Hunters reported numerous positive interactions with residents.

Other 2021 Deer Population Impacts

- 24 deer-car collisions were reported to the Weston Police Dept.
- According to the MA Div. of Fisheries and Wildlife, 16 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	2021
Deer/car collisions ⁱ	26	24	23	34	28	22	20	17	21	22	24
Deer harvested on conservation land	N/A	18	20	25	26	32	29	35	40	45	30
Deer harvested on private land	12	18	22	19	14	19	22	18	8	11	14
Total	38	60	65	78	68	73	71	70	69	78	70

Conservation Land	Huntible acres	# hunters	# deer harvested in 2021
Blaney Aquifer	23	2	0
Case Estates/Chestnut Street	15	2	0
Coburn Meadows	5	1	0
College Pond Conservation Area	70	2	1
Dickson Fields	23	3	2
Doublet Hill	24	2	0
Highland Forest	203	5	1
Jericho Town Forest	572	14	14
Norumbega Reservoir (MWRA)	50	2	4
Ogilvie Town Forest	197	6	6
Old Road	5	1	0
Sears Land	87	2	1
Trailside	13	2	1
Wellington Farm	4	1	0
Total	1,291	45	30

Conservation Commission Recommendation

The Commission deems that the program, including preparation, implementation, and follow-up, continues to be successful. Over the course of 10 years, 300 deer have been harvested on town conservation land (and an additional 179 on private land).

ⁱ 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.