



# Tick and Deer Management Update

Presentation to Common Council  
September 2024

# 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 fifth season in March 2024.
- 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 within 250 feet from any occupied dwelling; notification to property owners between 250-500 feet
- Program costs are shared by Onondaga County and approved by New York State DEC.



# Description (cont.)

- Three new sites added at end of season under new Urban Deer Management pilot program.
- 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.



# Description (cont.)

- City issued public notice of program.
- Wildlife managers worked at night.
- Minimal interaction with public/property owners.
- Tick borne illness signage posted at city parks.
- Program information at [syr.gov](http://syr.gov); search “tick and deer management”



# WARNING

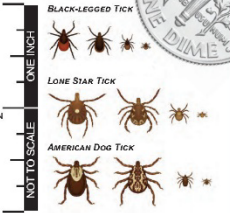


## TICKS MAY BE FOUND IN THIS AREA

### 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
- HEADACHES
- CHILLS
- TIREDSNESS
- MUSCLE PAIN
- SKIN RASH

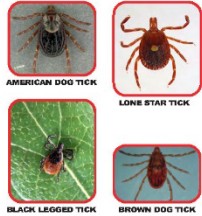
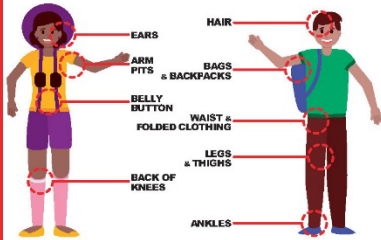


### HOW TO PREVENT TICK BITES!

- 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!

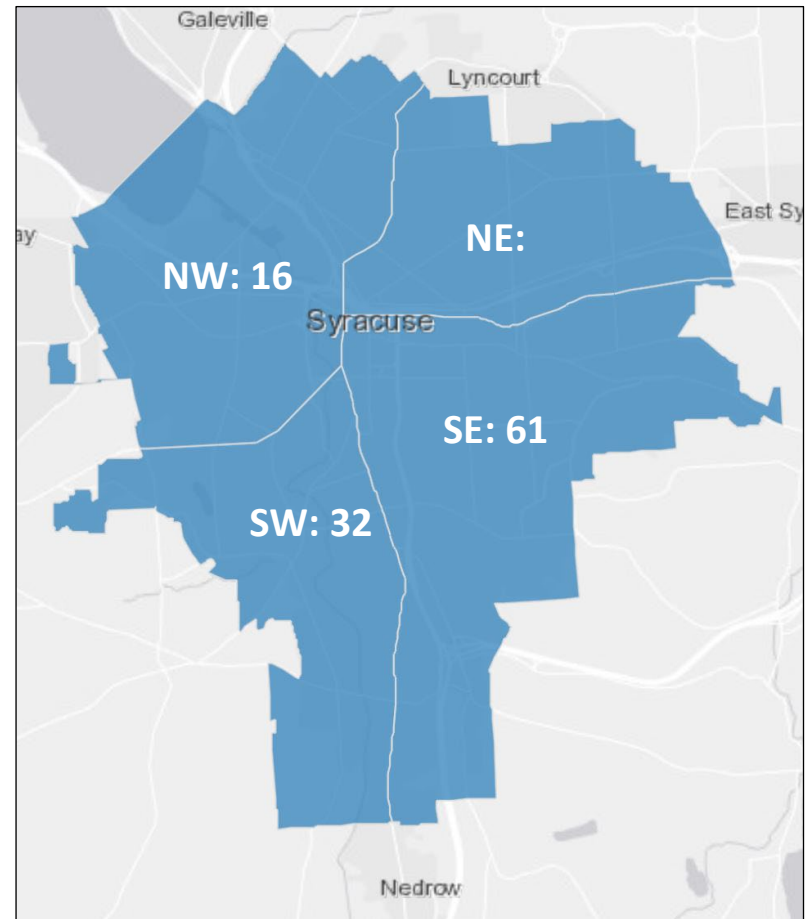


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# 2024 Results

- During the months of December, January, February and March:
  - 109 white-tailed deer were removed from the City of Syracuse
  - After processing, approximately 2,149 pounds of venison were delivered for donation which provided 8,596 meals to the local community





# 2024 Results (cont.)

City of Syracuse – Deer Removal

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
159	65*	92	79	109	504

*\*Limited program due to COVID-19*



# 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	2023
Deer	76	83	99	73	87
MVC	48	34**	38	38	66

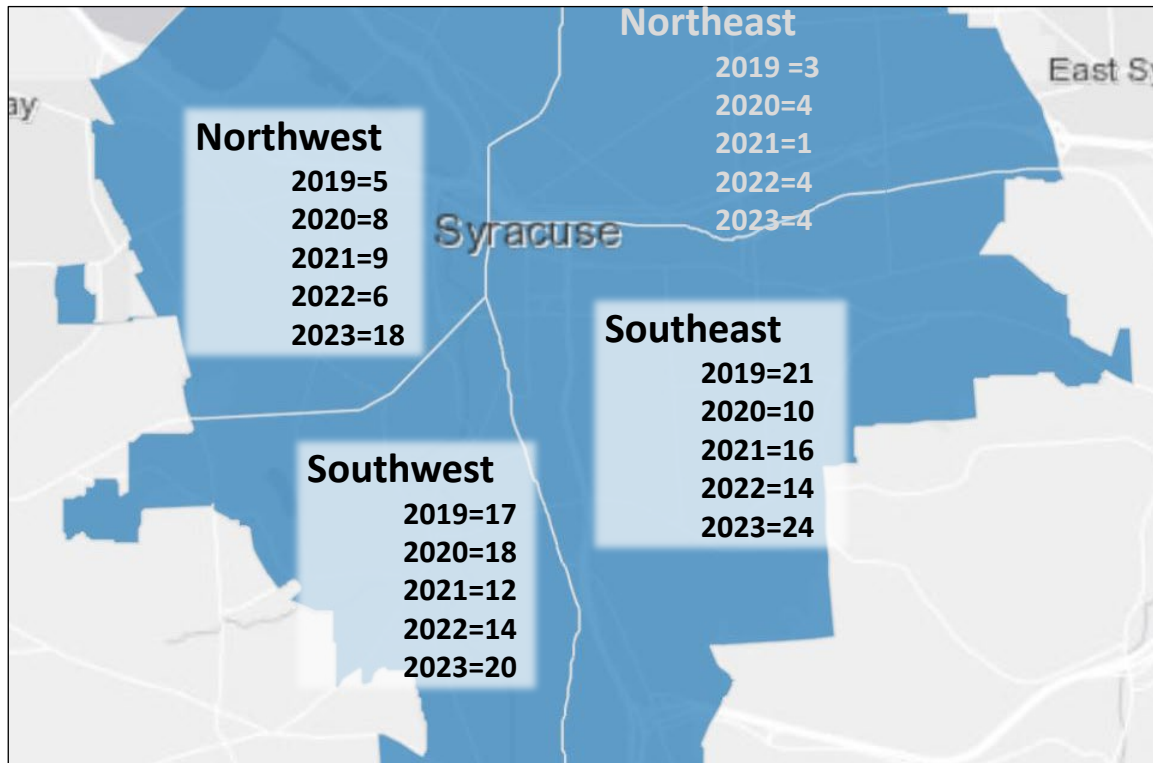
*\*Data is calendar year*

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



# Data Tracking

## Deer-Motor Vehicle Collisions (MVC)



# 2024-25 Program

- Conduct deer removal activities between December and March.
- Continue deer management by firearm.
- Introduce trap/euthanize pilot program at selected sites that continue to experience high deer population.
- Continue meat donation program.



# Trap/Euthanize Method

- Deer attracted to bait in soft-sided “clover” trap.
- USDA wildlife manager receives alert; responds to site.
- Wildlife manager collapses trap manually; deer is euthanized.
- Meat is processed and donated to Food Bank.



# 2023-24 Program Cost

- Program cost: \$64,042
  - County Reimbursement: \$33,212
  - City Share: \$31,830

