

CITY OF ONEONTA

DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

1. Establish a coordinator to implement City of Oneonta Deer Management Program; City Council will determine whether this is a volunteer or paid position
2. Establish Deer Management Program as follows:

PHASE ONE – June 2023 – May 31st 2024

1. Establish **AVID**^[1] (Assessing Vegetation Impacts from Deer) or similar program
 - A. Establish group to implement
 1. Need to collect and interpret data
 2. Opportunity for collaboration with Hartwick and SUNY (environ/bio) Department heads
 3. AVID committee working under the direction of Hartwick/SUNY departments collecting data and then providing interpretation of data and final recommendation to the Common Council based on that data collected
 4. Data collection should be led by higher ed
 - B. Common Council Identify locations throughout the city for measurement/data collection (reservoir, Wilber Park, 6th ward, city owned property downtown, SUNY property, Hartwick and Job Corps)
 - C. Monitor sites and collect data
2. Create a deer nuisance reporting tool
 - a. Must not be anonymous
 - b. Must be able to identify location (tax ID #, address, etc)
 - c. Drop down menu for ease of collecting and assessing data
3. Discuss possible private property fencing code changes at Council Committee
4. Market Deer hunting during regular season to city owned property around the reservoir
5. Apply for a DMAP (Deer Management Assistance Program) permit for city owned property around the reservoir where hunting is currently allowed.
6. Encourage hunters to apply for Deer Management Permit (DMP)^[2]
7. Education Program ^[3] (simultaneous)
 - a. Fencing (natural and artificial plant barriers)
 - b. Deer “Harassment”
 - c. Deer resistant plants
 - d. Feeding restrictions
 - e. Involve the Environmental Board for review of plan
8. Begin discussions regarding future DMAP permits with Otsego NOW, Job Corps, Hartwick College, Oneonta City School District and SUNY Oneonta.
9. Begin Council discussions for a DMAP permit for additional city parcels for August 1, 2024.
10. Research SUNY Binghamton deer management program.

[1] The **AVID** protocol, developed by Cornell University Department of Natural Resources, the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and the DEC, is a technique for the public and professionals to monitor deer impacts. Data collected through AVID informs community deer management efforts and is used by DEC deer managers to assess trends in deer impacts across the state. AVID can be found online at: <https://aviddeer.com/>. This is how we show we have an issue AND show the impact of the program we implement.

[2] **Deer Management Program** allows every hunter an additional doe tag during hunting season in addition to deer that may be taken with a regular big game tag or Bow/Muzz Antlerless or Bow/Muzz Either Sex tags.

[3] **OFFICIAL, DOCUMENTED PROGRAM**

PHASE TWO: In conjunction with Phase One

1. After an analysis of the Phase One results, apply for a DMAP^[1] permit for specific properties within the City limits for the regular deer hunting season; application deadline is August 1
 - a. Recommended by the DEC
 - b. Opens up an increased number of tags per hunter to hunt and allows hunting on more property
 - d. Need to identify social problems due to deer within the municipal boundary.
 - e. Municipal applicants must maintain a list of all participating properties with written consent of the associated landowners; they must meet DEC criteria to qualify for the permit. More than likely this would include Otsego NOW, Hartwick College, SUNY Oneonta, Oneonta City Schools and Job Corps properties.
 - f. The municipality must ensure a process of tag distribution that provides equal opportunity for licensed hunters
 - g. Tax map ID of each property must be with DMAP application
 - h. Need to be able to provide the problem and methods used in the past for deer management. Must include current status (of past methods/programs) of AVID or similar program.
 - i. Hunters hunting under DMAP are responsible for reporting each harvested deer to both the permit holder and to DEC.
 - j. The permit holder must submit a harvest summary report to DEC each year, postmarked by January 15
2. Re-survey the public about their perception of Deer

PHASE THREE, in conjunction with PHASE ONE AND PHASE TWO

1. Deer Damage Permits (DDP) for properties within the City limits – when regular deer harvesting during hunting season isn't enough
 - a. Can only be used after showing that a DMAP is not effective, therefore, an AVID or similar program will show the effectiveness of DMAP and education programs.
 - b. Municipalities must show how they're going to distribute the venison
 - c. Must include a plan for monitoring (VID)
 - d. Applications are free and there is no deadline

^[1] DMAP permits are only good for 3 years