



CONTACT INFORMATION:

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
RECREATION AND PARKS
www.aacounty.org/recparks
410 222-7300

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
RESOURCE CONSERVATION & PROTECTION
DEER MANAGEMENT
email: rpdeer00@accounty.org
410 222-6141

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
ANIMAL CONTROL
www.aacounty.org/animalcontrol
• Information on control of nuisance wildlife
• Removal of dead animals from County roadways
410 222-8900

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
www.aahealth.org
• Information on ticks and lyme disease
410 222-7256

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
http://www.mastergardener.umd.edu/
• Information on deer resistant plants for your yard
410 222-6757

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE
www.dnr.maryland.gov
• Report a Poacher Hotline
800 635-6124
• General Information
410 260-8265

Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks
Deer Management
Striving for Sustainability in our Parklands.



WHITE-TAILED DEER AND YOU:
In the Parks and In the Backyard



DEER MANAGEMENT

RESOURCE CONSERVATION & PROTECTION

THE IMPACT OF DEER ON BIODIVERSITY

Over the past 60 years, the natural landscape of Anne Arundel County has undergone significant change.



“The white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) is a large, graceful and attractive member of the vertebrate fauna of eastern North America. The whitetail is appreciated and valued for its beauty, its food value, and as a symbol of the wild and natural in our increasingly tame and synthetic surroundings. People place many values, both positive and negative, on deer.”

- Anne Arundel County
Deer Management Plan

Extensive suburban development has brought about dramatic ecological changes that have affected many species, especially the white-tailed deer. While quite rare in the early 1900's, the whitetail's population has recently reached densities never before seen in many areas. This remarkable recovery is due to effective conservation efforts, the elimination of natural predators, and to the fact that the white-tailed deer is an extremely adaptable animal. There has also been a reduction in the land area open to hunting, and societal changes have led to fewer hunters going afield. The combination of these factors has resulted in a surging deer population in both Anne Arundel County and around the region.

Today, the large population of white-tailed deer in Anne Arundel County increases the risk of serious vehicular collisions, damages agricultural crops and ruins residential and commercial

landscaping. Deer are implicated in the spread of Lyme Disease, and can serve as a vector for other diseases that may affect people, livestock or other wildlife species. County parks contain 1000s of acres of forest and edge habitats. Deer browsing has a negative impact on these forests and other natural areas by greatly reducing populations of many plants, destroying the habitat for a variety of other animals, and by greatly reducing the regenerative capacity of the entire forest ecosystem. The result is that forest ecosystems may not be sustained over time.

This environmental damage to forests often goes unnoticed by the public because it takes place gradually over time. The public has spent millions of dollars to purchase natural lands and forests for recreation and also to protect the Chesapeake Bay. The Recreation and Parks Department as the steward of these county-owned parklands has an obligation to practice habitat stewardship which will protect and preserve these forests for decades to come.

The Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks will monitor deer impacts on County parkland. In cooperation with the Deer Management Work Group, we will evaluate and apply appropriate management options from the range of alternatives presented in the Departments 'Deer Management Plan'. The Department, through its stewardship of over 15,000 acres of parks and dedicated Natural Areas, is a major provider of deer habitat in the County. No effort to reduce these conflicts can succeed without addressing the deer populations within parks and open space.

We are very concerned about the impact that deer have on native plant and animal communities. Dense deer populations negatively impact forest regeneration, natural succession and biological diversity. Deer also impact threatened or endangered species by selective feeding which removes some plants from an ecological community while fostering the spread of other, perhaps undesirable species. Various park agencies (for example, Howard and Montgomery counties) have found it necessary to implement deer management programs which include population regulation when it is determined that natural resources are being negatively impacted by deer overabundance. While research continues into other management alternatives, population reduction is likely to remain the only viable means of preventing or eliminating ecological damage caused by overabundant deer.

The Department of Recreation and Parks views population management as a necessary tool to achieve desired goals. The Department is committed to achieving goals as safely, humanely and efficiently as possible. Whenever the Department proposes to reduce the population of deer in a specific park property, that proposal will include a format for participation by the surrounding community in the final development and implementation of the reduction strategy.

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY RECREATION & PARKS RECOGNIZES THAT A HEALTHY, STABLE DEER POPULATION IS A VALUABLE COMPONENT OF A BALANCED ECOSYSTEM.

The County will strive to:

- Maintain a stable, balanced and healthy deer population.
- Positively impact public health and safety as related to deer overabundance.
- Take measures to reduce the number of deer/auto collisions on County roadways.
- Develop an educational program to provide citizens with information about deer biology, currently available methods to minimize deer/human conflicts on private property, and ongoing public management activities.
- Promote the intrinsic value of deer as a natural resource and provide opportunities for people to enjoy and appreciate this beautiful and important animal.
- Monitor deer populations in both developed parks and natural areas.

THE STRATEGY



TICKS & LYME DISEASE IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Lyme disease is the most common tick-borne disease in Anne Arundel County as well as in Maryland and the United States. Cases of Lyme disease are found throughout the County and are not concentrated in any particular area



HOW IS IT SPREAD?

Lyme disease is spread to people from a tiny tick the size of a pinhead, known as a deer tick. The tick needs to be on a person for at least 24 hours before the person becomes infected. These ticks are most often found from May through October in tall grass, brush and wooded areas. But they can be present and active anytime the weather is above 40°. Pets can bring ticks into the house. Mice also carry ticks.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Symptoms usually start within a month of being infected. Only 50 - 60 % of people get a "bull's eye rash" that has a clear center with a darker outer ring. Other early symptoms may include fever, joint and muscle pains, headache, or feeling tired. Special laboratory tests may be needed to make a diagnosis. If left untreated, the infection can lead to serious illnesses of the heart, joints and nervous system.

HOW CAN IT BE PREVENTED?

- Wear light-colored, long sleeved shirts and pants that you can tuck into your socks when working or walking in areas likely to have ticks.
- Spray arms and legs with an insect repellent containing DEET (up to 30% for adults, 10% for children). For occasional exposure, adults can spray clothing with an insecticide, permethrin, for more protection. Use repellents and insecticides as directed by the manufacturer.
- Conduct a thorough inspection yourself; looking along the hairline, in the hair and ears, and where clothing fits snugly. Because ticks can spread other serious illnesses, a whole body inspection every three to four hours is safest when in grassy or wooded areas.
- After coming indoors, wash and dry clothes as soon as possible preferably at a hot temperature. Wash off insect repellent remaining on the skin.
- Remove leaves, brush and tall grass around houses, pathways and gardens.

WHAT IF I FIND A TICK?

- Remove the tick right away, but do not touch it with your bare hands. Use tweezers to grip the tick behind its head and as close to the skin as you can. Gently pull it off. If tweezers are not available, use your fingers wearing gloves or a tissue. Do not smash or burn the tick.
- After removing the tick, wash your hands with soap and water or waterless alcohol-based hand rub. Clean the tick bite with an antiseptic such as iodine scrub, rubbing alcohol, or soap and water.
- If a rash develops or you experience other symptoms within 3 to 32 days, call your physician immediately.