

# Suburban Deer Management in Missouri



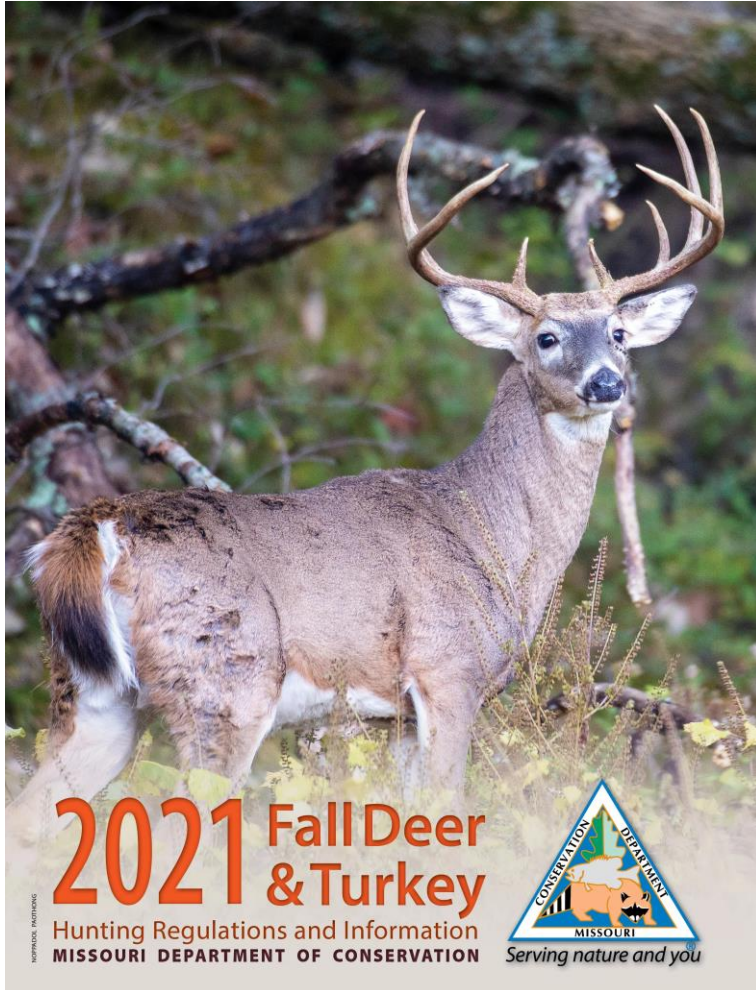
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# Role of MDC in deer management

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- Set and enforce statewide harvest regulations,
- Administer Managed Deer Hunts on public properties,
- Monitor and manage disease,
- Issue special permits,
- Administer Hunter Education Program, and
- Act as technical advisor to communities on deer management.

# Missouri Whitetails

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- Fawns born in late spring (late May- June)
- Yearlings chased off at time of fawning
- Fawn near doe through next year
- Home ranges are about  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mi<sup>2</sup>
- Rut peaks in mid-November



# Suburban Deer Densities

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Ecological carrying capacity =  
20 deer/mi<sup>2</sup>

Goal population for suburban areas is somewhere  
in between these two capacities.



Social carrying  
capacity =  
~40 deer/mi<sup>2</sup>

Biological carrying  
capacity = ???



# Suburban whitetails: Problems

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- Landscape damage from browse & antler rub
- Deer-vehicle collisions
- Concern over tick-borne disease
- Bold and aggressive behavior
- Overbrowse of natural communities

# Non-lethal solutions: Damage control

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- ✓ Fencing
- ✓ Repellants
- ✓ Scare tactics
- ✓ Deer “resistant” plants
- ✓ Road warning devices
- ✓ Prohibit supplemental feeding (Frontenac has already done this)



# Lethal solutions: Population control

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Lethal solutions focus on long term population management. Does must be harvested for greatest reduction.

*Options:*

- ✓ Archery hunting
- ✓ Managed hunts
- ✓ Sharpshooting
- ✓ Trap & euthanasia



# Suburban whitetails are a shared, abundant, renewable natural resource

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# Deer Management in St. Louis Metro Area

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- ✓ Wildwood, unincorporated St. Louis County: Archery & firearms hunting with various restrictions
- ✓ Ballwin, Chesterfield, Clarkson Valley, Creve Coeur, Ladue, Hazelwood, Manchester, Maryland Heights, Sunset Hills: Archery &/or crossbow hunting with various restrictions
- ✓ Kirkwood, Sunset Hills, Ellisville, Wildwood, St. Louis County Parks, and unincorporated areas: Managed deer hunts on certain state owned properties
- ✓ Ellisville and Town & Country: Sharpshooting



# Municipal ordinances permitting archery

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Municipalities can require or restrict the use of archery equipment to craft a program which works for the community:

- ✓ Require hunting to occur from elevated stands.
- ✓ Restrict hunting to properties (or combined properties), of a certain acreage or larger.
- ✓ Require completion of an MDC approved bowhunter education course.





Questions?