

2022 Westchester County Adaptive Deer Management Program (ADMP) Annual Report

The 2022 deer management season proved to be a difficult and challenging season for ADMP hunters. With almost no oak mast (acorns), a primary autumn and winter food resource for deer, deer were found to not be feeding within or occupying the forested areas where hunters were permitted to hunt. Instead deer were found to be feeding on private lawns and in fields that hunters did not have access to. Deer sightings were the lowest ever recorded within 14 years of the program, with a cumulative total of only 297 deer observed by hunters between October 1 and December 31, 2022. In contrast, there were 414 sightings in 2021.

A total of approximately 397 hunts and approximately 1,360 hours of 'in stand' time were invested by 47 hunters. 'In stand time' refers to actual hunting effort, where a hunter has settled into their stand and are actively observing and hunting deer, during legal shooting hours. It does not include driving to or from sites, walking in or walking out, climbing in or out of trees, setting up gear etc. Of the 47 hunters who hunted in 2022, 13 harvested one or more deer. A resulting harvest of 21 deer were harvested within the 5 ADMP managed facilities of Hilltop Hanover Farm, Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Mountain Lakes Park, Muscoot Farm and Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, the lowest harvest recorded to date within the program. Respectively, Hilltop Hanover had a total harvest of 5 deer, Lasdon Park and Arboretum a total harvest of 1 deer, Mountain Lakes Park a total harvest of 3 deer, Muscoot Farm a total harvest of 7 deer and Ward Pound Ridge Reservation a total harvest of 5 deer.