2026

Deer Management Final Report

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks – Forestry Division

Deer Management Program

Prepared by: Shane Boehne
Wildlife Conservation Analyst
Deer.Program@baltimorecity.gov

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Acknowledgements

The Baltimore City Deer Management Program thanks the 88 individuals who closed park entrances during deer management operations including 12 volunteers, 17 Maryland Zoo staff, and 59 Baltimore City employees from the Recreation and Parks, Public Works, and Transportation departments. We also thank members of the Baltimore City Police Department's ground and aerial crews for their assistance clearing the parks before operations began. The program thanks the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for their guidance, review, and approval of operational details. We thank the U.S. Department of Agriculture's wildlife biologists who provided professional, safe, and effective deer management operations through the duration of the project. The program thanks the Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Department's Community Engagement team and Marketing and Communications team for their assistance in planning operational details, developing communication materials, distributing information to the public, and coordinating media relations. We thank Baltimore City Mayor, Brandon M. Scott, and Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Department Director, Reginald R. Moore, PhD, for their leadership and support of the program. Additionally, we thank the several City Council representatives who met with the program to discuss deer management in their respective districts. We thank Chesapeake Bay Outward Bound School and Millicent A. for their cooperation with project operations, and we thank staff with the Carrie Murray Nature Center and Maryland Zoo for their collaboration with our program. Last but not least, we thank the numerous residents, park "friends-of" groups, and community improvement associations for expressing interest in the program's efforts and helping to spread the word about management efforts.

Executive Summary

Baltimore City's Deer Management Program was established in January 2025 to address issues related to its growing deer populations. Over the course of 2025, the program collected data from residents to understand their views toward deer and deer management. Some of this data was used in a structured decision-making framework to help the program identify which management options were acceptable to residents, ultimately helping the city calculate the best management strategy to use in specific parks. In Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park, Herring Run Park, and Druid Hill Park in particular, professional sharpshooting was identified as the best management option to help the city meet its main goal: Balance the needs of residents, deer, and the environment in Baltimore City. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) was selected to perform the work under an intergovernmental cooperative service agreement based on their expertise, long-standing reputation of safety, and overall effectiveness.

Before operations began the program notified the public of its planned operations via social media, local television and newspaper outlets, mail-based post cards, community association meetings, and public information sessions. The program conducted its deer management operations from March 9–April 8, 2026, with public safety as its number one priority. Parks were closed at 4 PM each evening and park closure personnel were posted at park entrances to stop visitors from entering the park. Several personnel also helped to clear the park interior each evening and conducted patrol sweeps to scan for patrons. Signs were posted at park entrances and in several commonly visited locations inside the parks to inform the public of the operations. The program used a mixture of signs including electric road signs, yard signs, A-frame signs, and banner signs. Barriers were also placed at key park entrances and included a mixture of reflective equipment (i.e., traffic cones, road-closed signs, construction barrels, etc.). Gates were also closed at applicable locations to further prevent the public from entering the park at night.

The USDA maintained a safe distance from occupied buildings and only discharged their suppressed firearms in areas with a sufficient backstop (e.g., hillside) which would absorb munition if the target was missed. The USDA continuously scanned their surroundings for pedestrians to ensure the safety of the public. Together, the program's safety protocols, park closure personnel, public communications, barriers, and signage helped the program achieve zero public safety incidents throughout the operations.

The USDA harvested a total of 227 deer and fulfilled harvest goals in Herring Run Park and Druid Hill Park. The program collected several metrics from each deer including sex, weight, age, body condition score, whether they had antlers, and supplemental data where appropriate. Twenty-two deer were donated to the Maryland Zoo and 205 were sent to a local meat processing facility to then be distributed to the Maryland Food Bank (*Appendix A*). In total, the Maryland Food Bank received an estimated 6,947 pounds of venison yielding approximately 26,052 servings to be used by Baltimore-area residents in need.

Introduction

Image 1. Excessive deer browsing leads to forest understory degradation as pictured here in Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park on July 13, 2025; photo taken by Shane Boehne.

Baltimore City has had growing deer populations which have led to many ongoing deer-related issues including forest damage and habitat loss, deer-vehicle collisions, and garden or ornamental plant damage. In January 2025, Baltimore City's first-ever Deer Management Program (hereinafter, program) was established to address its growing deer-related issues. Throughout 2024 and 2025, the Natural Areas Unit garnered support from City leadership to establish the program. Following the hiring of the agency's Wildlife Conservation Analyst, community outreach was conducted to identify the city's primary deer-related concerns, gauge residents' perceptions of deer and deer management, and collect data to inform the program's decision-making framework. This framework, developed by the University of Georgia (Boehne et al., 2024, 2025), helped identify the best deer management strategies to employ across several park spaces. Parks were selected based on management feasibility, as well as their alignment with federal Justice40 priorities of delivering environmental and community benefits in historically underserved areas. The focus was on improving local ecological conditions, reducing environmental burdens, and increasing access to restored natural spaces in disadvantaged communities that have experienced disproportionate impacts.

In Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park, Herring Run Park, and Druid Hill Park in particular, professional sharpshooting was identified as the most optimal deer management strategy to use in helping the city meet its deer management goals and objectives:

Goal: Balance the needs of residents, deer, and the environment in Baltimore City

Objective 1: Maximize environmental health conditions in Baltimore City

Objective 2: Minimize conflicts between deer and humans in Baltimore City

Objective 3: Minimize costs associated with deer in Baltimore City

Objective 4: Minimize social issues related to deer in Baltimore City

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is one of the nation's most reputable sources for professional sharpshooting and was selected by the program to conduct the work. The program utilized internal agency resources to conduct deer counts in March and December 2025 which helped them calculate the following harvest goals:

1. Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park: 103 deer
2. Herring Run Park: 36 deer
3. Druid Hill Park: 132 deer

To reach these goals, the program established the following date ranges to conduct the operations (*Note: State regulations limit sharpshooting to January 15 – April 15*):

1. Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park: March 9–March 19
2. Herring Run Park: March 16–March 26
3. Druid Hill Park: March 30–April 9

Park Closure Details

Public Notifications

The program conducted a series of public communications to notify residents about upcoming deer management operations. These communications include:

1. Public Information Sessions
    a. 3/3: Cahill Recreation Center, 6–8 pm
    b. 3/4: Druid Hill Park Administration Building, 6–8 pm
    c. 3/5: Rita R. Church Community Center, 6:30–8:30 pm
2. Emails to community associations surrounding the respective parks
3. Media interviews:
    a. WJZ-TV
    b. WBAL-TV
    c. WMAR-TV
    d. Baltimore Banner
    e. Baltimore Sun
4. Emails to friends-of groups
5. Mailed postcards to homes approximately 2 blocks from security perimeters
6. City council presentations
7. TreeBaltimore Winter Gathering

Park Closures

During the operation periods, parks were closed from 4 pm to 2 am (*Note: All parks are closed from sunset to sunrise; Baltimore City Recreation and Parks, 2026).*

Below are details about operational dates:

- **Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park:**
    - **Proposed Dates**: March 9 – March 19
    - **Actual Dates**: March 9 – March 15, March 17 – March 19
        - The program could not operate on March 16 due to severe weather
- **Herring Run Park:**
    - **Proposed Dates**: March 16 – March 26
    - **Actual Dates**: March 17 – March 24
        - The program could not operate on March 16 due to severe weather
        - The program did not operate on March 25 and 26 because the harvest goal was met on March 24
- **Druid Hill Park:**
    - **Proposed Dates:** March 30 – April 9
    - **Actual Dates:** March 30 – March 2, April 6 – April 8
        - The program did not operate on April 3–5 due to the observation of Good Friday and Easter
        - The program did not operate on April 9 because the harvest goal was met on April 8

Signage

Across all three parks, the program placed a variety of banner signs, electric road signs, yard signs, and/or A-frame signs to inform the public about the deer management operations (*see Appendix C*). Most signage messages were displayed in English, but all yard signs had one side in English and the other in Spanish. Electric road signs displayed the following 3 messages: "Park Closed Evenings," "[date range]", and "from 4pm – 2 am." Below are details regarding the number of different signs used in each park:

Park	Yard Signs	A-Frame Signs	Banner Signs	Electric Road Signs
Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park	17	6	2	3
Herring Run Park	27	12	3	0
Druid Hill Park	43	11	9	2

Several signs were damaged, stolen, vandalized, or simply disappeared. One electric road sign was tipped over, 5 yard signs disappeared, 1 A-frame sign was stolen, 2 yard signs were vandalized with feces and sharpie marker, and several signs were damaged by wind, lawn mowers, or pedestrians.

Safety

In addition to signage, the program also placed barriers at park entrances which were supplied by the Department of Transportation (DOT). These barriers included traffic cones, reflective barriers, traffic barrels, road closed signs, and horizontal reflective bars. Barriers were placed across the park entrances at the beginning of park closures and were placed to the side each night following the operations to allow entry into the park. The program also closed and locked gates at key entrances across all three parks. Gates were reopened after the completion of operations each night.

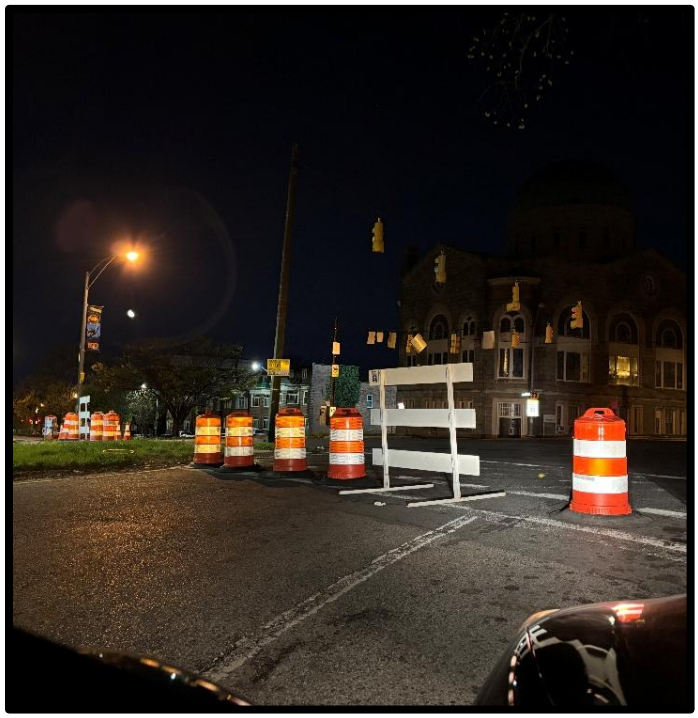

Image 2. Park closure barriers at the intersection of Greenspring Avenue and Auchentoroly Terrace at Druid Hill Park on April 7, 2026; photo taken by April Bennett-Burman.

Park closure personnel were stationed at key park entrances to intercept pedestrians attempting to enter the park. Park closure personnel also cleared park interior areas before operations began and performed patrol sweeps to scan for pedestrians breaching the security perimeter. The program had a total of 88 individuals involved with park closure operations, but nightly staffing varied across parks:

1. Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park: Nightly staffing ranged from 15–25 individuals
2. Herring Run Park: Nightly staffing ranged from 8–28 individuals
3. Druid Hill Park: Nightly staffing ranged from 14–31 individuals

Park closure personnel worked the following number of hours:

Personnel Type	Hours
Public volunteers:	137
Maryland Zoo volunteers:	311
General city employees:	1,607
Park rangers:	637
Deer Program managers:	269
Total:	2,961

The Baltimore City Police Department (BPD) helped the park ranger team clear the park before harvest operations began. Total hours listed above do not include BPD hours.

Local law enforcement agencies and 911 were notified about operational dates and times. When harvest operations began, the USDA was required by state law to remain 150 yards away from homes, businesses, schools, churches, and other buildings that were occupied by people (*except with their written consent).* All deer were harvested in areas with a sufficient backstop (e.g., hillside) which provided essential safety for the operations as they would absorb munition if the USDA were to miss their target. Most deer were harvested at baited locations, but others were harvested opportunistically in areas with a sufficient backstop. The USDA conducted their operations in teams ranging from 1–3 individuals. The USDA continuously monitored their surroundings using night-vision-like equipment, scanning for pedestrians who breached the security perimeter. If a pedestrian was spotted operations were halted until the individual(s) left or were escorted from the area.

Each safety protocol, staff member, public communication, barrier, and sign helped the program achieve zero public safety incidents throughout the operations.

Public Feedback

As stated previously, the program held three public information sessions following initial outreach surveys, education sessions, and focus groups. During the first information session held at Cahill Recreation Center, sentiments toward the program were mixed. Three individuals expressed concerns about the number of deer set to be harvested. They also expressed concern that program resources should be focused elsewhere (e.g., tree maintenance, road improvements, social issues). Those in support of the program asked limited questions during the Q&A session but expressed positive feelings about the efforts before the session and at the end of the event. Attendees at the second information session, held in Druid Hill Park, questioned the long-term viability of the program's planned efforts and the use of funding. One vocal individual expressed their dismay toward the program's efforts and asserted that removing deer was unnecessary and would cause undue trauma to local residents. At the third information session, held at the Rita R. Church Community Center, attendees asked limited questions which mostly pertained to the safety of operations, the quality of meat being donated, and disease testing. However, attendees did not express outright negative sentiments toward the program's efforts.

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks' Marketing and Communications team monitored online activity related to the program's efforts. Media coverage was largely informative for the public and received mixed feedback from residents. Those in favor expressed that these activities were long overdue, would help reduce property damage and improve forest regeneration, would reduce tick loads, and would reduce vehicle accidents. Those in opposition expressed mutualistic views, were concerned about the safety of shooting within the city, were frustrated that non-lethal measures like fertility control and relocation were not being used, and were frustrated with the use of city funds for the project (though the vast majority of funds were taken from external grant funding and dollars from the Forest Mitigation Fund). The program also received a handful of emails in opposition to the efforts expressing that fertility control or relocation measures

should be employed to manage the deer. Some emails simply expressed opposition. The public also started two petitions against the project.

As park closure personnel were at their stations, they interacted with numerous residents. Park closure personnel were not asked to record each of the situations they encountered, but they did record some (*see Appendix B*). Park closure personnel noted that most interactions were positive, but negative interactions did occur periodically. Following the deer management operations, personnel were asked about their most positive and negative interactions with the public and *Appendix B* details their direct responses.

Although some opposition to the operations existed, the program received far more positive support throughout the data collection period, during community meetings, during the July 2025 information sessions, in emails, during the management operations, and following the management efforts.

Potential Future Improvements

In addition to the program's internal improvements of the operations and personnel training, the program also identified other potential future improvements:

- Increase the number of signs per park
- Increase the size of signage where possible
- Place signage at cross walks across the street from the park boundary so pedestrians do not have to cross the road
- Provide additional information about deer management operations to surrounding communities

If you have ideas on how the program can improve or have general feedback, please scan the QR-code above, or use the following link: https://forms.office.com/g/ys6raKADbA.

Next Steps

The program will continue to provide and conduct community outreach to educate the public and gather additional data to incorporate in the decision-making framework. In late 2026, the program will conduct the next annual deer count to assess how the operation impacted the city's deer populations which will inform future harvest goals. Additionally, the program will distribute annual resident surveys and monitor changes along forest vegetation plots to assess the program's progress toward achieving its goals and objectives. Federal passthrough funding from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources in 2024 served as the catalyst for launching this program. Protecting this investment will require maintaining program continuity, institutional knowledge, stable funding, and permanent staffing support.

Harvest Information

The USDA began harvesting deer once a respective park was cleared of pedestrians. Across all three parks, several harvested deer were scavenged by other wildlife like coyotes and foxes. Scavengers were able to locate the harvested deer more quickly than anticipated. For instance, one red fox found a deer within 4 minutes of being harvested. In another example, one red fox found a deer immediately after it was harvested due to the individuals being in close proximity. In nearly all cases, scavengers began consuming the tail-end of the deer, eating both the entrails and major muscle groups. Although some deer were scavenged, they were still sent to the local meat processing facility. Staff at the meat processing facility would then discard scavenged areas and process salvageable meat to be donated for human consumption as deemed safe and appropriate. A sample of deer were tested by the Maryland Zoo for disease and parasites, and initial results found no cases of chronic wasting disease, but some internal parasites were found in feces and nasal cavities; these findings are not unusual in free-ranging wildlife populations and are commonly observed in wild deer populations (Maryland Department of Natural Resources, 2026). Venison is a widely consumed wild game meat and may be distributed through regulated food systems when properly processed under applicable food safety requirements (U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service, 2026; U.S. Food and Drug Administration, 2023). Venison donated for human consumption was distributed through the Maryland Food Bank (*see Appendix A for more information*).

As the program collected each deer, team members noted the following abnormalities and notable characteristics on a handful of deer:

1. Hooves with abnormal characteristics (e.g., curved, long, short)
2. One male with a facial abscess
3. Limbs with visible new and old injuries (e.g., bone breaks)
4. Coloration differences (e.g., white creeping up the legs)
5. Nasal bots (*Cephenemyia* spp.) located in nasal and mouth cavities
6. Tick loads highest among deer harvested in Druid Hill Park
7. One female with an abnormal, curved dewclaw
8. Buildup of fecal material on rump hair
9. One buck with severe swelling lateral to the testes
10. Cavitation in molars
11. Oldest female with signs of cataracts

Deer management operations were successful in helping the program reach the harvest goals of 36 and 132 deer in Herring Run Park and Druid Hill Park respectively. In Druid Hill Park, 24 deer were harvested within the Maryland Zoo grounds and 108 were harvested outside of the zoo's boundaries. In Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park, the program was only able to harvest 59 deer, 44 short of the 103 goal and there are several likely reasons why. First, operational areas were

limited. The program limited its operations to areas south of Windsor Mill Rd. to limit road/path closures and to reduce the number of personnel needed to sufficiently close the park. This likely limited the USDA's ability to reach deer using other areas of the park. The second reason why the program likely fell short of its goal in Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park was because it was difficult to draw deer to interior valleys away from park edges. Park edges offer desirable habitat to deer, and they are close to residential spaces where deer can readily find human-provided food resources (e.g., corn, bird seed, garden plants). As operations were underway, many deer were spotted using these park edge areas by park closure personnel. However, many of those areas are off limits due to their proximity to residential structures.

As deer were collected, the program recorded several metrics including sex, weight, age, body condition score, whether they were antlered, and qualitative data. Age data was evaluated based on the number molars, wear on the lingual crests of molars, and dentine-enamel width comparisons as detailed by (Cain & Wallace, 2003). Body condition scores were evaluated based on the physical palpation of fat deposits and musculature on the rump area (Audige et al., 1998). These data have been broken down in the tables and figures on the following pages:

Table 1. Summary statistics of Baltimore City's deer management efforts held between March 9 – April 8, 2026, across Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park, Herring Run Park, and Druid Hill Park.

Item	Overall	Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park	Herring Run Park	Druid Hill Park
Deer harvested:	227	59	36	132
Males harvested:	91	34	14	43
Females harvested:	136	25	22	89
Heaviest deer:	177.4	150.4	177.4	159.8
Heaviest male:	177.4	150.4	177.4	159.8
Heaviest female:	136.4	130.2	136.4	132.4
Average weight:	97.0*	98.0*	109.3*	92.7*
Average male weight:	102.5*	104.5*	112.6*	96.5*
Average female weight:	93.4*	87.9*	107.4*	90.9*
Best body score:	5	4.5	5	5
Worst body score:	1	2	3	1
Average body score:	3.4	3.4	4.1	3.2
Average male body score:	3.3	3.4	3.8	3.1
Average female body score:	3.4	3.6	4.3	3.2
Harvested, antlered deer:	3	3	0	0
Scavenged after harvest:	37	6	3	28
Oldest deer:	8.5	6.5	7.5	8.5
Oldest male:	6.5	4.5	5.5	6.5
Oldest female:	8.5	6.5	7.5	8.5
Average age:	2.6	2.3	3.0	2.7
Average male age:	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.2
Average female age:	2.9	2.4	3.6	2.9
Shots fired:	268	70	42	156
Missed shots:	16	5	3	8
Recovery rate:	100%	100%	100%	100%
Donated for human consumption:	205	52	30	123
Donated to zoo:	22	7	6	9

*Excludes deer that were scavenged

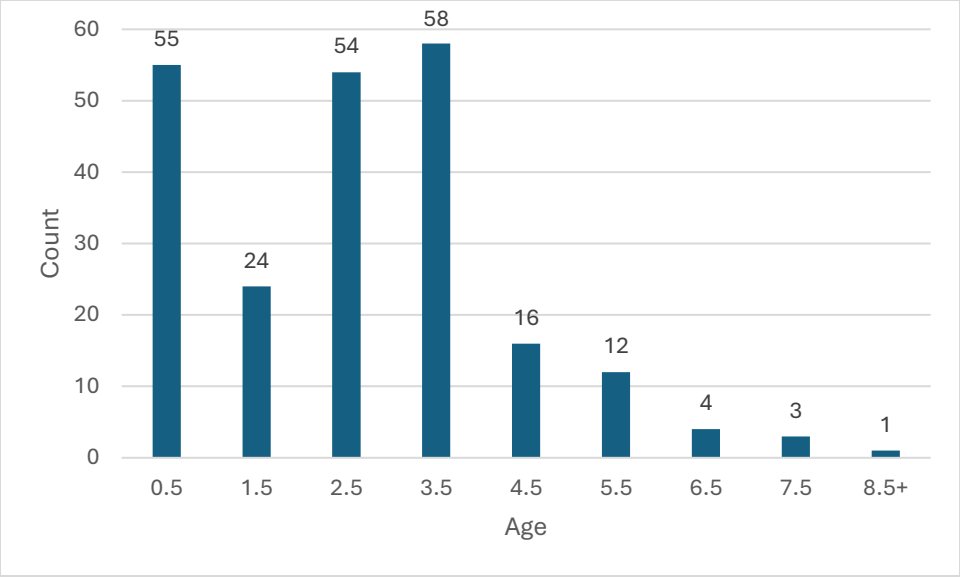

Figure 1. Ages of deer harvested during Baltimore City's deer management efforts from March 9 – April 8, 2026.

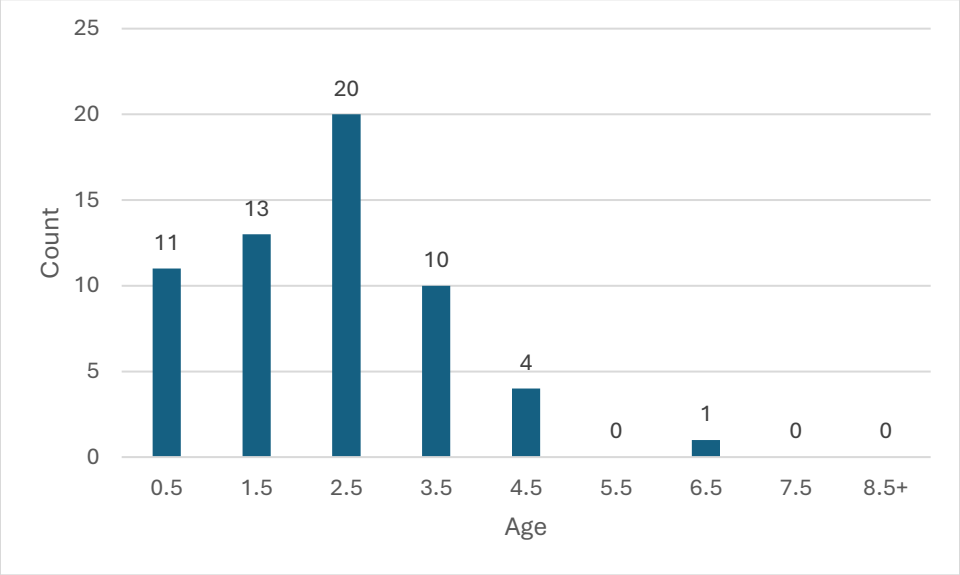

Figure 2. Ages of deer harvested during Baltimore City's deer management efforts in Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park from March 9 – March 19, 2026.

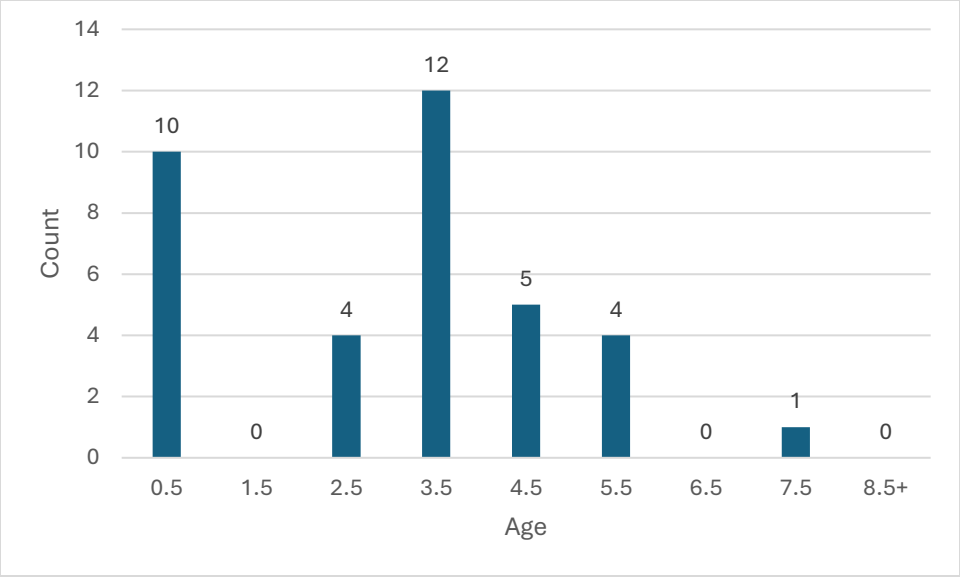

Figure 3. Ages of deer harvested during Baltimore City's deer management efforts in Herring Run Park from March 16 – March 24, 2026.

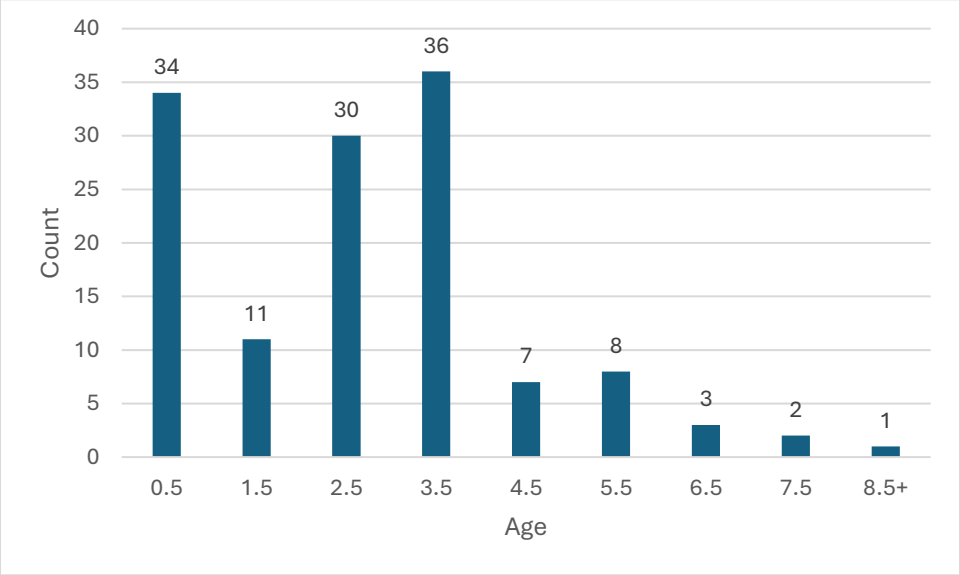

Figure 4. Ages of deer harvested during Baltimore City's deer management efforts in Druid Hill Park from March 30 – April 8, 2026.

Note: In the following figures regarding body condition scores and/or weight, data may exclude individual deer that were scavenged after harvest.

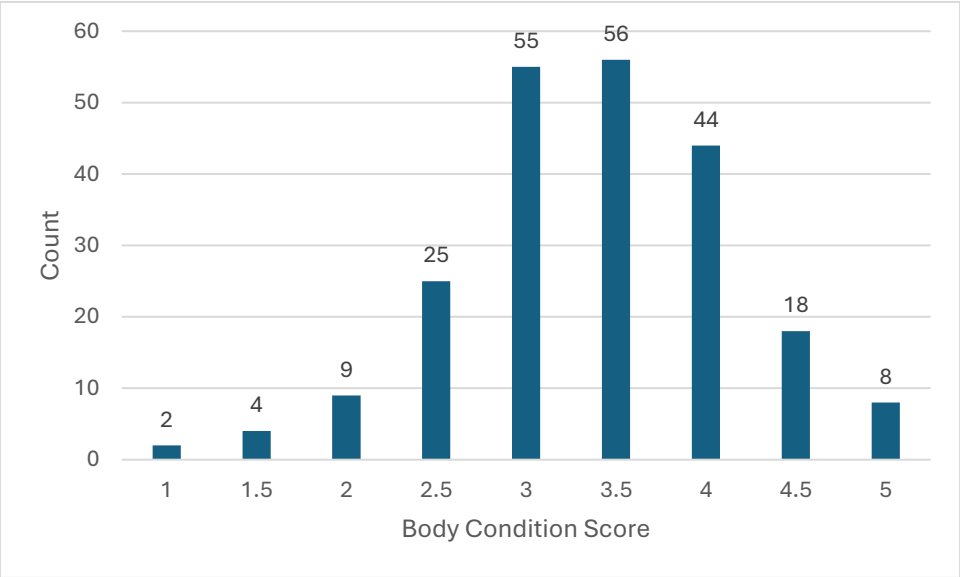

Figure 5. Body condition scores of deer harvested during Baltimore City's deer management efforts between March 9 – April 8, 2026.

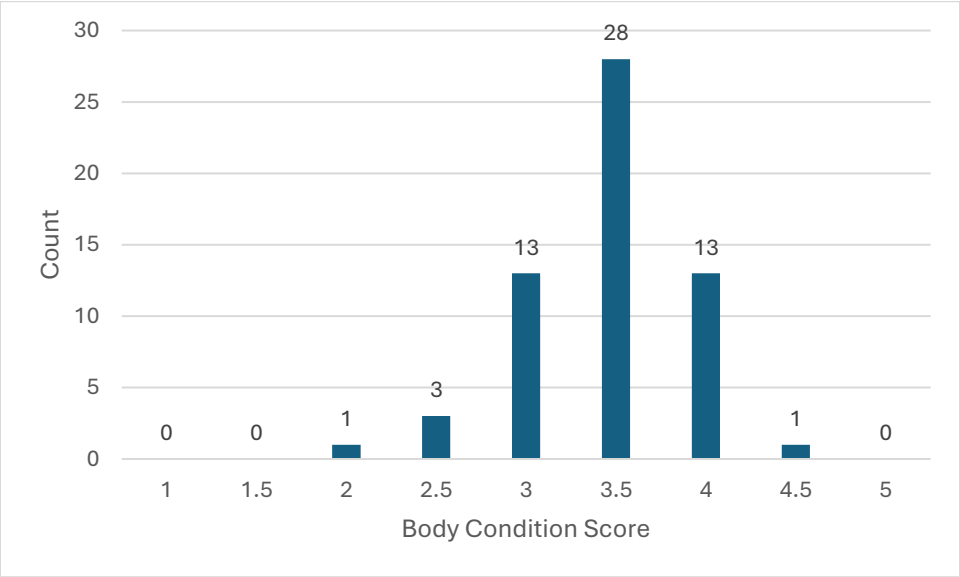

Figure 6. Body condition scores of deer harvested during Baltimore City's deer management efforts in Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park between March 9 – March 19, 2026.

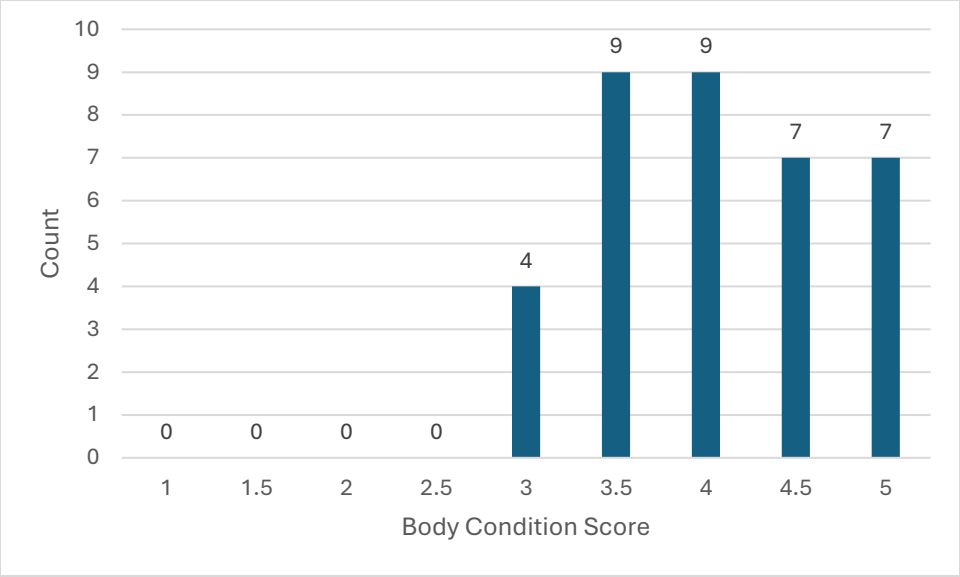

Figure 7. Body condition scores of deer harvested during Baltimore City's deer management efforts in Herring Run Park between March 16 – March 24, 2026.

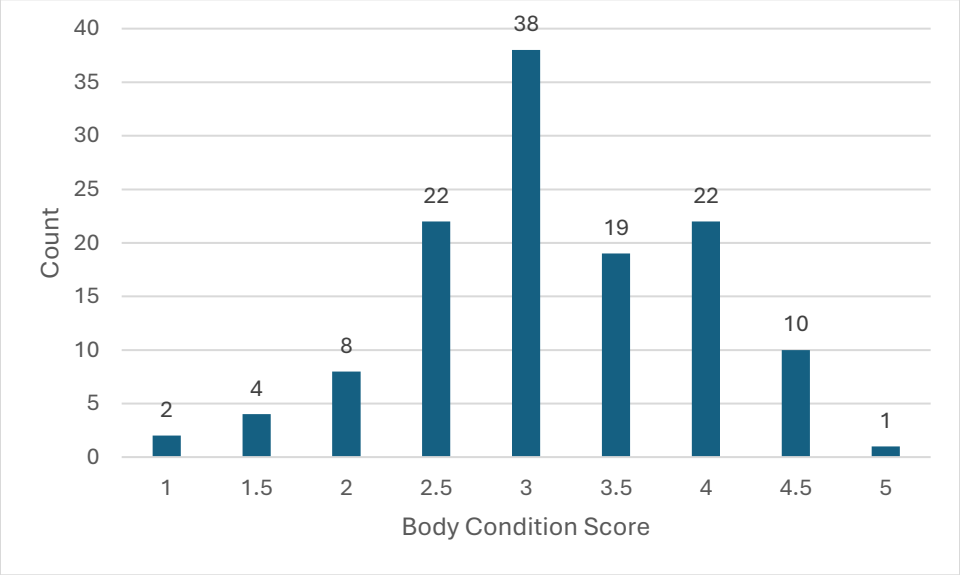

Figure 8. Body condition scores of deer harvested during Baltimore City's deer management efforts in Druid Hill Park between March 30 – April 8, 2026.

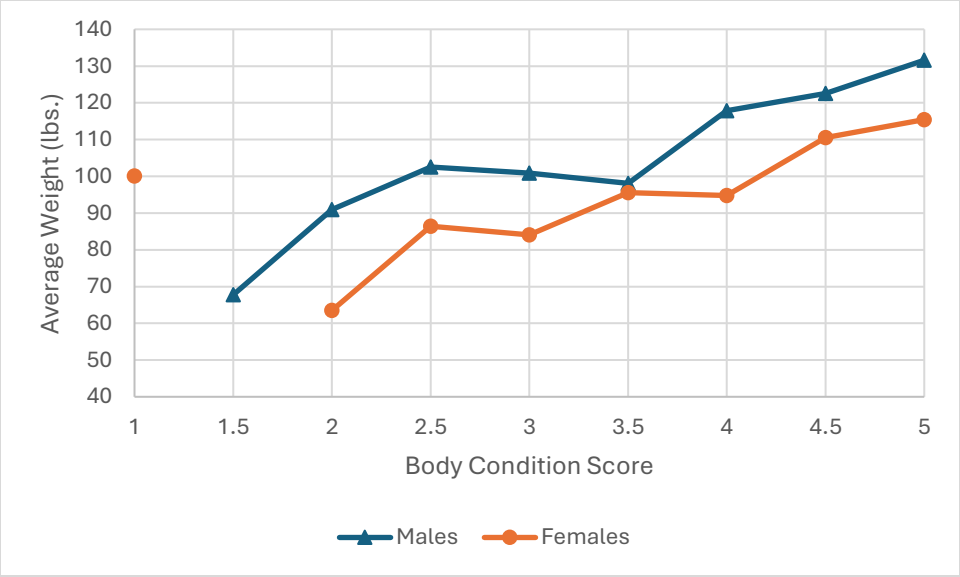

Figure 9. Comparing average weight to body condition scores in male and female deer harvested in Baltimore City's deer management efforts from March 9 – Aril 8, 2026.

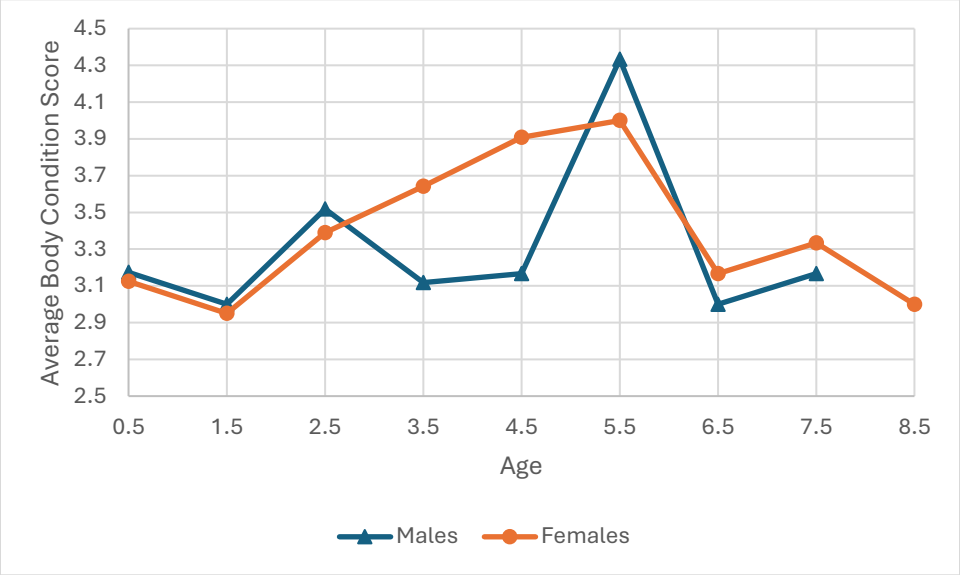

Figure 10. Average body condition scores across age classes for male and female deer harvested in Baltimore City's deer management efforts from March 9 – April 8, 2026.

Note: The trend lines displayed in Figures 11-14, were calculated using a multiple linear regression that includes polynomial terms (Age^2) and interactions (Sex × Age).

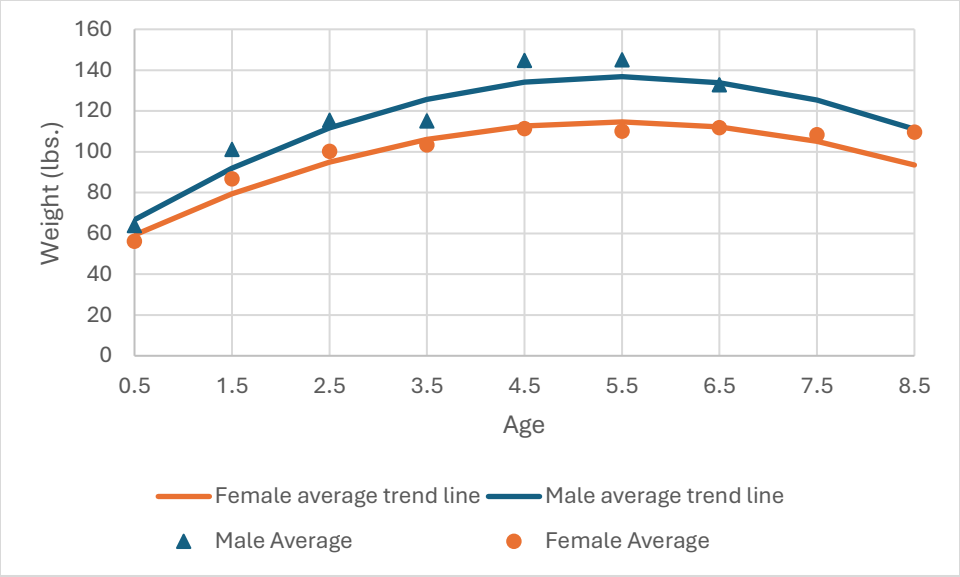

Figure 11. Average weight of deer across age classes for male and female deer harvested in Baltimore City's deer management efforts from March 9 – April 8, 2026.

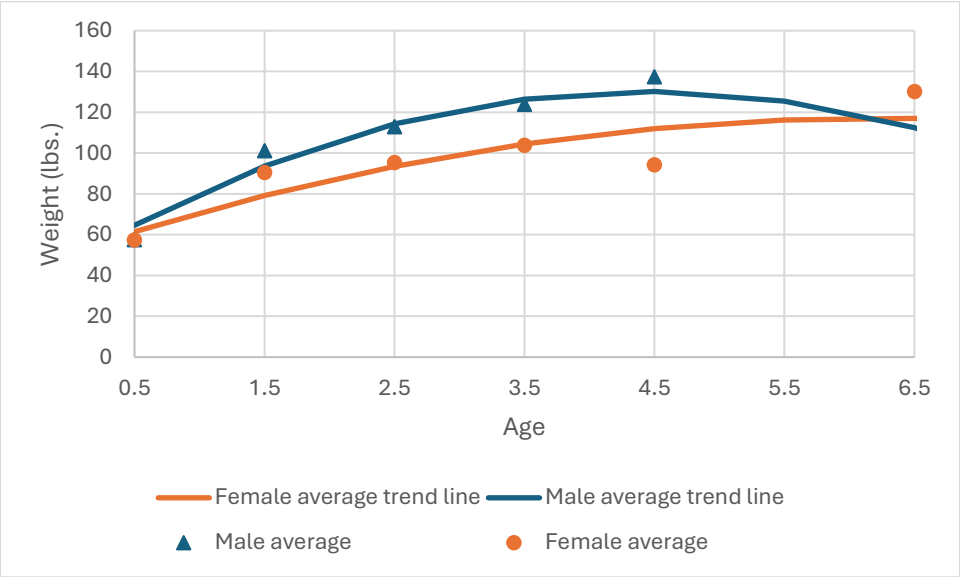

Figure 12. Average weight of deer across age classes for male and female deer harvested in Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park from March 9 – March 19, 2026, during Baltimore City's deer management efforts.

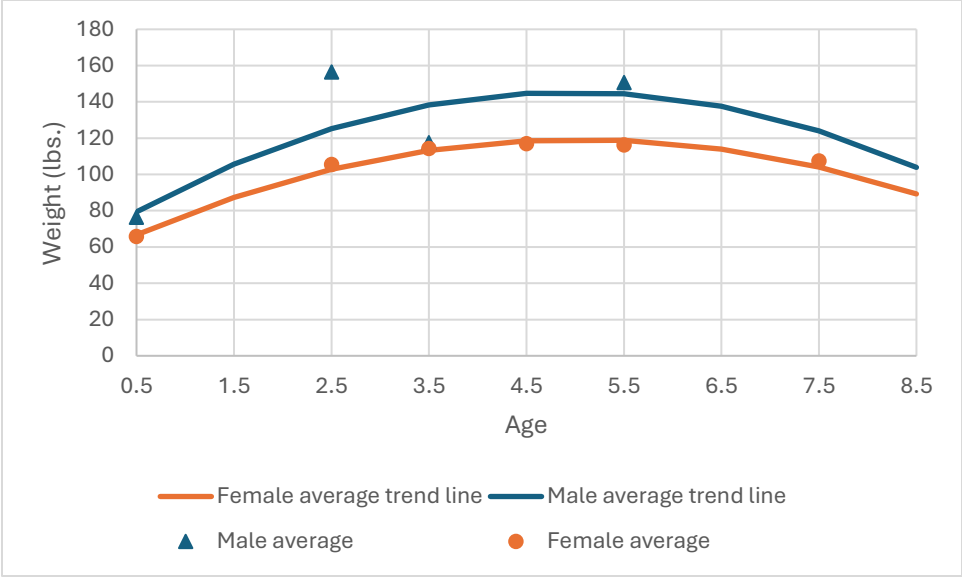

Figure 13. Average weight of deer across age classes for male and female deer harvested in Herring Run Park from March 16 – March 24, 2026, during Baltimore City's deer management efforts.

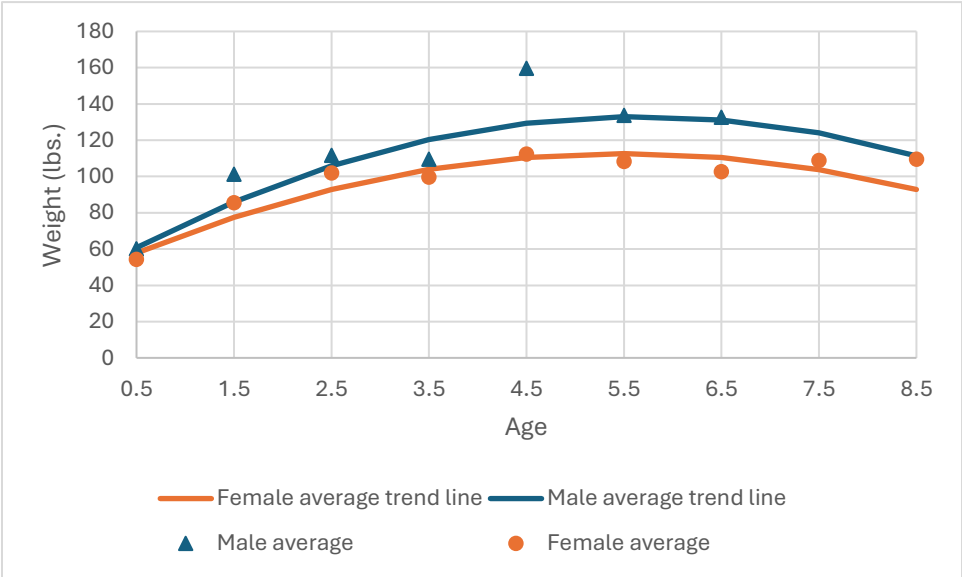

Figure 14. Average weight of deer across age classes for male and female deer harvested in Druid Hill Park from March 30 – April 8, 2026, during Baltimore City's deer management efforts.

Management Implications

The City of Baltimore aims to have 40% tree canopy coverage by 2037. The Deer Program is one piece of the puzzle in helping the city reach that goal by safeguarding trees from excessive deer browsing and other damage. As the program reduces the number of deer in our parks and the forests subsequently begin to recover, Baltimore City can expect to see the following environmental improvements:

1. Improved plant and animal species diversity in our forests
2. Increased food resource availability for wildlife
3. Reduced soil erosion due to increased root biomass and leaf litter
4. Improved storm water retention due to increased plant uptake of rainwater
5. Cooler temperatures surrounding the forests due to increased shade and evapotranspiration
6. Improved wildlife habitat for reproductive success
7. Improved wildlife habitat for predator avoidance
8. Reduced disease transmission potentials between deer
9. Improved body conditions of remaining deer

As deer populations are reduced and forests recover, Baltimore City can also expect to see the following economic improvements:

1. Reduced spending on trees lost due to deer damage
2. Reduced spending related to deer-vehicle collisions
3. Reduced spending on personal property damage
4. Reduced spending on deer conflict mitigation measures (e.g., deer sprays, fencing)

As deer populations are reduced and forests recover, Baltimore City can also expect to see the following social improvements:

1. Reduced resident exposure to Lyme disease and other zoonotic diseases
2. Improved air quality due to increased forest filtration of pollutants
3. Improved access to quality green spaces
4. Improved interactions with deer

Although large-scale forest recovery will take years to achieve, the program has already received feedback from residents and local organizations that plants in their area are beginning to recover due to deer management operations. The program will continue to monitor environmental, economic, and social improvements in the coming years.

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Appendix A: Maryland Food Bank Materials

Unfortunately, the Maryland Food Bank and the facilities that processed the venison did not track the number of pounds of venison that were donated. Additionally, the USDA brought deer to processing facilities from one or more projects on certain evenings, which would have ultimately impacted the calculated number of pounds donated from Baltimore's program. Nevertheless, the program estimates that 6,947.185 pounds of venison were donated (*assuming 35% yield of usable venison; weights taken from harvested deer*) which would yield approximately 26,051.94 servings (*assuming l lb. = 3.75 servings*). The table below lists the locations that received orders of venison:

Date	Agency	Sales Order
4/3/2026	EP-00417 MidShore Meals til Monday-Vienna	SO73002
4/6/2026	101451 End Hunger Anne Arundel Co	SO74067
4/6/2026	100179 End Hunger Calvert County	SO74015
4/7/2026	101701 Spirit of Faith	SO75008
4/7/2026	100586 Mason Dixon Community Services	SO73838
4/8/2026	101805 Iglesia de Dios de Owings Mills	SO75304
4/5/2026	101304 Annapolis High School	SO74950
4/8/2026	101289 Brooklyn Park Healthy Food Pantry	SO74666
4/9/2026	101647 St. Gabriel Aid Food Pantry	SO75524
4/9/2026	101701 Spirit of Faith	SO75485
4/9/2026	101805 Iglesia de Dios de Owings Mills	SO75306
4/9/2026	101050 The Transformation Center	SO74634
4/9/2026	100172 Community Services Foundation	SO74240
4/9/2026	101762 North Point Village Recreation Council	SO73897
4/10/2026	1729 Fishes & Loaves	SO75779
4/10/2026	101656 University of MD- Baltimore County	SO75770
4/10/2026	1973 Macedonia Helping Hand	SO75618
4/10/2026	101701 Spirit of Faith	SO75525
4/10/2026	100495 Commodore John Rodgers Elementary	SO75275
4/10/2026	1897 40 West	SO74066
4/13/2026	100043 Forest Park Senior High School	SO76071
4/13/2026	100179 End Hunger Calvert County	SO75902
4/13/2026	101058 Catholic Charities- St. Edwards	SO75309
4/14/2026	100496 Robert W Coleman Elementary	SO76259
4/14/2026	100870 Renaissance Academy	SO76253
4/14/2026	1623 River of Life Worship Center	SO76082
4/14/2026	100246 Augusta Fells Savage Institute	SO76080
4/14/2026	101701 Spirit of Faith	SO75810
4/14/2026	1041 Second Shiloh	SO75795
4/14/2026	101816 The Mr. Mack Lewis Foundation	SO75068
4/14/2026	101729 Neighbor Support -Parkville	SO74756
4/14/2026	101728 Love Thy Neighbor	SO74669

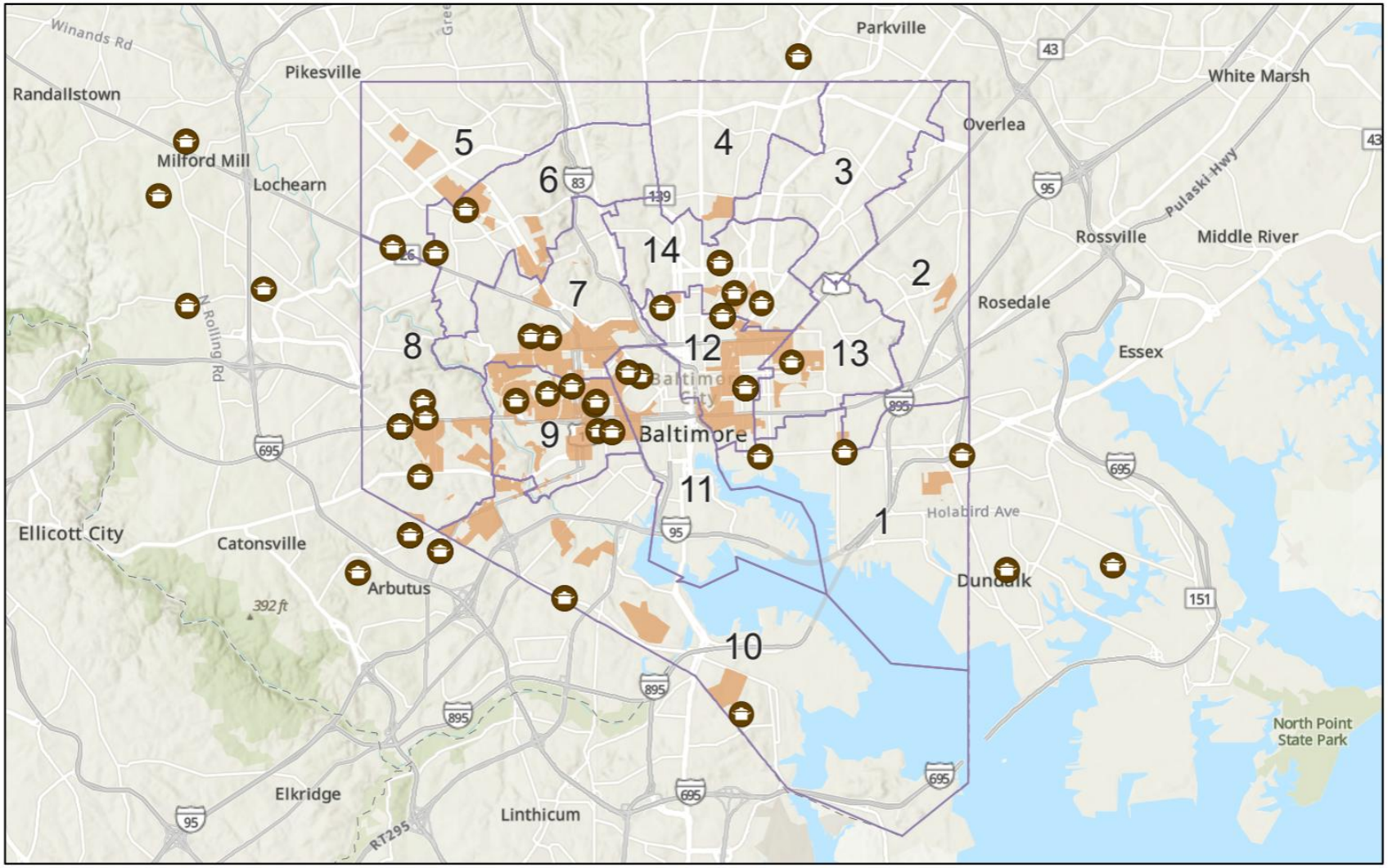
4/15/2026	101805 Iglesia de Dios de Owings Mills	SO76310
4/15/2026	101658 The Y in Pasadena	SO76075
4/15/2026	100717 Winters Mill High School	SO76067
4/15/2026	1985 St. Clement Food Pantry	SO75918
4/15/2026	101564 Open Hands Inc	SO75868
4/15/2026	101595 Love Wins	SO75790
4/15/2026	100893 Westminster High School	SO75713
4/15/2026	100529 Scotts Branch Elementary	SO74943
4/15/2026	101815 Enoch Pratt Free Library	SO74759
4/16/2026	100160 Baldwin UMC	SO76874
4/16/2026	100914 Sandy Plains Elementary	SO76606
4/16/2026	100914 Sandy Plains Elementary	SO76605
4/16/2026	101249 Langston Hughes	SO76604
4/16/2026	101623 Rosedale Baptist	SO76602
4/16/2026	100999 Dundalk Middle	SO76304
4/16/2026	101050 The Transformation Center	SO75767
4/16/2026	1897 40 West	SO75522
4/16/2026	101555 Brush Arbor Gospel Ministries	SO75484
4/16/2026	100172 Community Services Foundation	SO75281
4/17/2026	101326 Angels Helping Angels	SO76923
4/17/2026	101556 RCCG Christ Villa	SO76816
4/17/2026	100194 Jesus House Baltimore	SO76264
4/17/2026	100501 Waverly Elementary/Middle School	SO76083
4/17/2026	1733 Life Empowerment Community Outreach	SO75873
4/20/2026	101286 Loch Raven UMC	SO77006
4/20/2026	1235 Concord Baptist	SO76308
4/20/2026	1682 Franklin Square Elementary	SO75914
4/20/2026	100179 End Hunger Calvert County	SO75760
4/21/2026	101154 Deaf Shalom Zone	SO77164
4/21/2026	1729 Fishes & Loaves	SO77018
4/21/2026	1650 Bay Brook Elementary	SO76919
4/21/2026	101728 Love Thy Neighbor	SO76826
4/21/2026	1602 Benjamin Franklin High School	SO76826
4/21/2026	101816 The Mr. Mack Lewis Foundation	SO76311
4/21/2026	101542 The Y in Druid Hill	SO76293
4/21/2026	101528 Baltimore International Academy West	SO76270
4/21/2026	1604 Beechfield Elementary School	SO76084
4/22/2026	70001 Carroll County Food Sunday	SO77169
4/23/2026	101647 St. Gabriel Aid Food Pantry	SO77173
4/23/2026	101050 The Transformation Center	SO76880
4/23/2026	101237 Edgemere Church of God	SO76818
4/23/2026	1897 40 West	SO76087
4/24/2026	101728 Love Thy Neighbor	SO77172

4/27/2026	1196 Billie Holiday Elementary School	SO76865
4/27/2026	101779 Pathway Forward	SO76450
4/28/2026	101154 Deaf Shalom Zone	SO78317
4/28/2026	1584 Harlem Park Elementary	SO76929
4/29/2026	1575 Deeds of Faith	SO78307
4/29/2026	101805 Iglesia de Dios de Owings Mills	SO78264
4/29/2026	7060 Westminster Rescue Mission	SO78087
4/29/2026	101153 Our Lady of Victory	SO78006
4/30/2026	101623 Rosedale Baptist	SO79004
4/30/2026	101647 St. Gabriel Aid Food Pantry	SO78858
4/30/2026	101787 N8 House, Inc	SO78857
4/30/2026	1985 St. Clement Food Pantry	SO78855
4/30/2026	101140 Victory Villa	SO78751
4/30/2026	101050 The Transformation Center	SO78061
4/30/2026	100172 Community Services Foundation	SO77594
4/30/2026	1897 40 West	SO77193
5/5/2026	101595 Love Wins	SO79427
5/5/2026	101781 T.I.M.E. Organization	SO79425
5/5/2026	101154 Deaf Shalom Zone	SO79421
5/5/2026	101816 The Mr. Mack Lewis Foundation	SO79325
5/5/2026	101728 Love Thy Neighbor	SO79283
5/5/2026	101805 Iglesia de Dios de Owings Mills	SO79242
5/5/2026	101286 Loch Raven UMC	SO79146
5/5/2026	101556 RCCG Christ Villa	SO79009
5/5/2026	101542 The Y in Druid Hill	SO78856
5/5/2026	1014 Church of the Guardian Angel	SO78658
5/5/2026	101825 Neighbor Support-Forest Hill	SO78546
5/5/2026	100586 Mason Dixon Community Services	SO78508
5/5/2026	101625 Living Faith Ministries	SO78079
5/6/2026	1575 Deeds of Faith	SO79723
5/6/2026	101153 Our Lady of Victory	SO79152
5/6/2026	101573 RCCG House of Prayer	SO79147
5/6/2026	100374 Taneytown Elementary School	SO79134
5/6/2026	101701 Spirit of Faith	SO79128
5/6/2026	100265 Dogwood Elementary	SO78653
5/6/2026	101658 The Y in Pasadena	SO78533
5/6/2026	101564 Open Hands Inc	SO78522
5/7/2026	101805 Iglesia de Dios de Owings Mills	SO79728
5/7/2026	1125 True Way Church of God	SO79324
5/7/2026	101805 Iglesia de Dios de Owings Mills	SO79316
5/7/2026	101609 Sandalwood Elementary School	SO79292
5/7/2026	101050 The Transformation Center	SO79247
5/7/2026	101643 Our Right Our Life Youth Empowerment Initiative	SO79137

5/7/2026	100367 Dundalk Elementary School	SO78749
5/7/2026	1897 40 West	SO78305
5/7/2026	101555 Brush Arbor Gospel Ministries	SO78286
5/8/2026	1897 40 West	SO78550
5/11/2026	101779 Pathway Forward	SO79458
5/11/2026	100501 Waverly Elementary/Middle School	SO78654
5/11/2026	100179 End Hunger Calvert County	SO78516
5/12/2026	101816 The Mr. Mack Lewis Foundation	SO79484
5/13/2026	70001 Carroll County Food Sunday	SO79688
5/13/2026	101153 Our Lady of Victory	SO79681
5/14/2026	101623 Rosedale Baptist	SO81407
5/14/2026	101556 RCCG Christ Villa	SO80340
5/14/2026	1897 40 West	SO79722
5/14/2026	101787 N8 House, Inc	SO79482
5/14/2026	101762 North Point Village Recreation Council	SO79428
5/14/2026	101815 Enoch Pratt Free Library	SO79691

Image 3 & 4. Donated venison from the 2026 Baltimore City Deer Management Program operations; photos taken by the Maryland Food Bank.

Venison Distribution Locations 2026



6/5/2026

Deer Meat Distribution Locations 2026 Harvest - Sheet1

Council_Districts_2021

Healthy Food Priority Areas (HFPA) 2024

1:180,379

0 1 2 4 mi

0 1.75 3.5 7 km

Contact MOIT Enterprise Geographic Information Services for access constraints. 443-741-3213, Data sources: City of Baltimore; United States

Appendix B: Situations and Interactions

Park closure personnel noted that most interactions were positive, but some were negative. Following the deer management operations, personnel were asked about their most positive and negative interactions with the public and below are their direct responses:

Positive Interactions:

- People who were polite and thanked me for explaining what was happening
- Talking with people about the details of the program.
- One man asked if I was hunting, I told him I was keeping people out of the park so the hunters would not be disturbed. He said, "Right on man!", I think he was happy that we were keeping people safe.
- Overall, the interactions were positive. One person just talked about how they loved Baltimore, and I shared how I do too. He was happy to see people volunteering to help out.
- A lot of people understood it was a necessary action to take and even if they didn't like it, supported it.
- I had one member of the public VERY frustrated that he could not take his afternoon walk in the park and dismissed my direction that the park was closed. He simply walked past my post and proceeded on his walk. I texted a description of the person and his direction. I believe within two to three minutes, he was spoken to by Park Rangers. He kind of hovered in that same area after they left. Within 5 minutes he made his way back toward me and where he entered the park. Not knowing what to expect, I was amazed that he stopped and apologized and we had a very engaging conversation about the program and about the park in general and future development plans. Turned out, he recently moved to Baltimore. It was a very reassuring conversation that when you simply speak with someone and give them the facts and treat them a resident and parks customer, they respond with understanding.
- There was a man who was not thrilled about the hunt, but we had a decently long conversation, and I was able to explain the bigger picture of forest health and the health of the deer themselves. I enjoyed the chance at changing a person's mind about the program.
- A couple that I turned away from the park were respectful
- I never encountered anyone from the public during my two shifts, just wildlife!
- Talking with the people to explain why the park was closed
- Most people were aware it was happening and were understanding and turned away no questions asked
- People were really supportive of the meat going to the food bank.
- One was unaware of the program and had set up a grill without a permit. When told at the park about the closure, he immediately left.
- Explaining the purpose of the Deer Management
- Had to explain to a couple what the closure was for and what the end goal was

- I was able to share information about the effort with neighbors who lived next to the park entrance that was closed. This was a positive interaction and allowed me to share more about the effort than a sign could convey and the neighbor felt better informed.
- Informing them as to why this measure was taking place and providing educational resources.
- Often people approached us after they saw the signs and asked questions. Most people were polite and interested in what was going on.
- Many people being nice and understanding, after you informed them that the park was closed for deer management.
- Every interaction was generally positive. Many expressed positive views and saw how this program could help them in their own property gardens.
- Mines was awesome I was already familiar with the area And people were happy to see me again
- Conversations with folks who hadn't heard about the cull and sharing the reasons for it and the potential ecological changes they could see in the park.

Negative Interactions:

- The people who ignored me and drove into the park anyway - but these were in the minority by far
- I learned how closures disrupted people suited up for exercise and biking; I felt their disappointment. I learned instead to suggest alternate parks.
- A driver stopped at Tyndale and Parkside and was upset about a lack of communication with the public. She said there was only one meeting which she couldn't make. She was upset about the "slaughter". And wanted to know what happens next year when the deer come back.
- Just one person was a little sad about the deer being killed, but even that wasn't too bad.
- I came across some people who didn't like to be told what to do and where to do it.
- I did not have a single negative response. I had a few people that were disappointed that they couldn't have their afternoon or evening walk. In general, the bicyclists seemed the least likely to care or want to listen.
- I don't think I had a fully negative interaction. Some people were annoyed, but their annoyance was understandable and not directed towards me. I found it a positive sign that so many people were upset that they could not use the park, because it indicated how many people wanted to use the park!
- I was called a few names, derogatory to my perceived gender and sexuality. Rude hand gestures were also made.
- A lone man who just ghosted me when I asked him to leave the park. [*anonymized park closure personne*l] was stationed behind me and he handled it better.
- None

- There was a snarky rugby mom commenting on how our numbers were low, but she was just mad that she didn’t read her email to see that rugby was cancelled
- I was called a few things including Animal Killer but overall not anything traumatic.
- When asked 'Please, do not enter the park', he assaulted me (Fortunately, I was in my vehicle) verbally and by spitting on my vehicle.
- People running the barriers.
- Had none
- I did have one gentlemen who insisted on entering in the park even after I shared with him it was closed and what was happening. He wanted to enter into the park to take a quick photo a few yards away and said he would only take a minute. He was insistent on entering so I called it in to the team so they would be aware. He only went in a few yards, took a photo and returned after a few minutes.
- People disregarding commands from field staff and questioning why the City would authorize the killing of non-predatory animals.
- I did not have any significant negative interactions. One man gave me a minor issue because he had not known about the closure and he wanted to go into the park to see what was going on. He left after I explained that they were going to shoot deer in the park.
- Crazy person repeatedly yelling at me "I hate you man, die!" after I informed him that the park was closed for deer management, and then continued to walk into Gwynns Falls Park, while the sharp shooters were actively shooting deer.
- Almost got hit by a car from an older guy trying to drive through the barricade.
- There was one who did not approve of killing the deer, however, they did not object to the overall program.
- A few people did not want to follow orders However the park Rangers handle that part very well
- I scared an older woman after dark even though I approached slowly, introduced myself, and had my hands out of my pockets.
- I had none

Appendix C: Signage

Image 5. General language used on A-frame, yard, and banner signs which were installed at park entrances.

Image 6. Electric road sign and road barriers at the intersection of N. Franklintown Rd. and N. Forest Park Ave. at Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park in early March 2026; photo taken by April Bennett-Burman.

Image 7. Banner sign installed at the intersection of N. Franklintown Rd. and Morris Rd. at Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park on March 9, 2026; photo taken by Shane Boehne.

Image 8. Yard sign installed at the Ben Cardin Pavilion parking lot in Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park on March 9, 2026; photo taken by Shane Boehne.

Image 9. A-frame sign at the intersection of Harford Rd. and Walther Ave. at Herring Run Park on March 20, 2026; photo taken by April Bennett-Burman.