# Deer Management Project

Update on status and next steps

County Board Recessed Meeting 9.17.2024

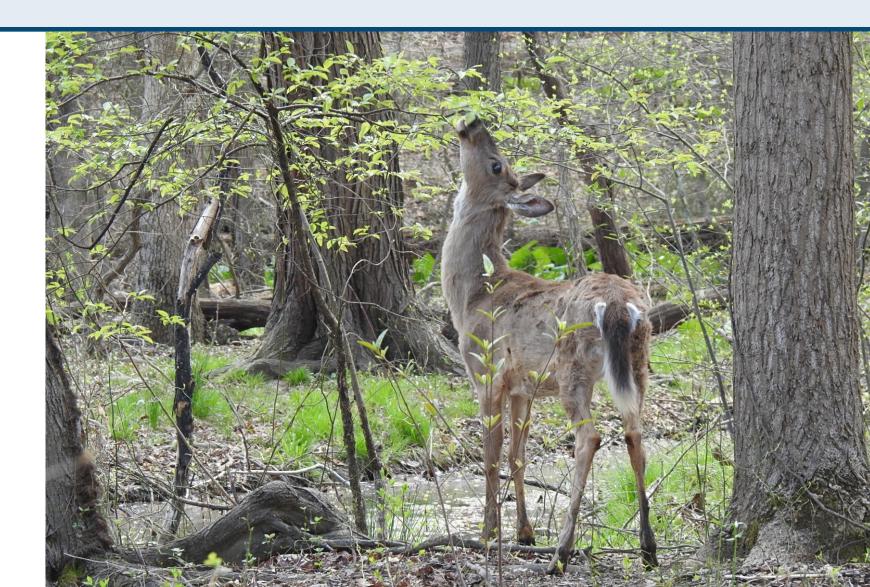
John Marlin Department of Parks and Recreation



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## Contents

- Project Scope
- Engagement #2 Summary
- Final County Recommendations
- Next Steps



# Deer Management Assessment Project Scope

#### Phase 1: (Q2 2022 – Q1 2023)

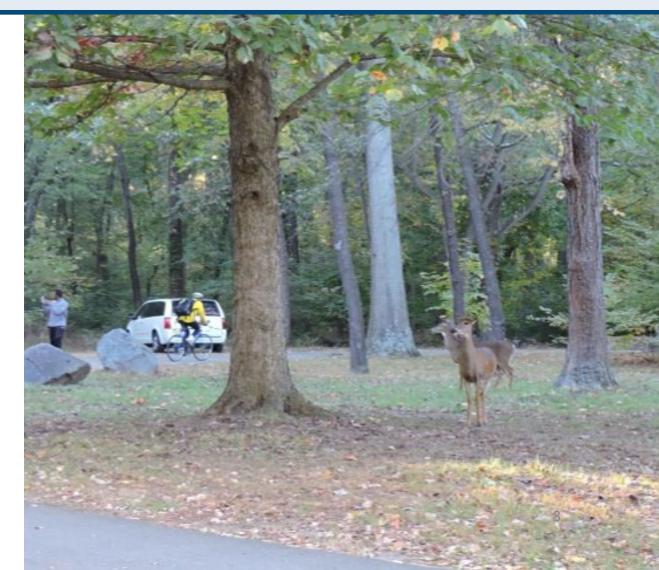
- Data collection and analysis
- Delivery of assessment results

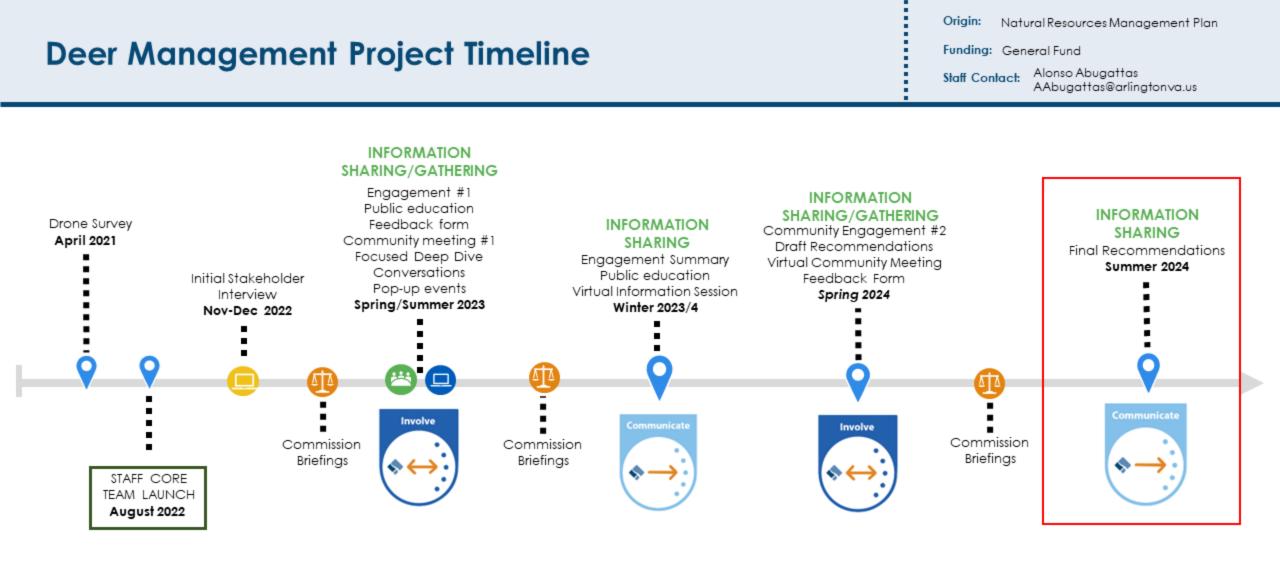
#### Phase 2: (Q1 2023 – Q1 2024)

- Share assessment results and management options
- Community engagement #1
- Community education

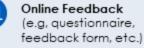
#### Phase 3: (Q2 – Q3 2024)

- Draft recommendations
- Community engagement #2
- Final recommendations









In-Person Engagement and Pop-Ups (e.g, community meeting, roundtable, tabling, walking/bus tour, deliberative dialogue, etc.)



Virtual Meetina (e.g., TEAMS, TEAMS live, Zoom, etc.)



**County Board Engagement** (e.g, public hearing, Board work session, open door Monday, commission meeting, etc.)

Kev Milestone

#### A Tale of Two Forests



#### Lacey Woods The forest is mostly untouched by deer

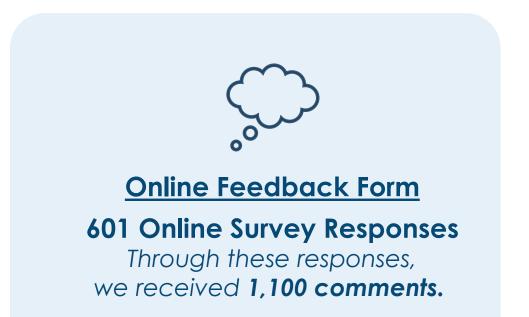
#### **Barcroft Park** The forest is mostly eaten by, deer

# Engagement #2

- Open June 17 July 19, 2024
- Solicited feedback on draft recommendations
- Online form
- Virtual community meeting July 11, 2024
- Commission briefings



#### Who Participated?





#### Virtual Community Meeting

#### **158 Attendees**

Offered an opportunity for participants to ask questions to the project staff and learn more about the recommendations.



#### 85% in Support of Deer Management

# Which option best characterizes your opinion on a County program to manage the deer population?

Very Supportive	Supportive	Neutral	Unsupportive	Very Unsupportive	Unsure
73%	12%	3%	5%	6%	1%
Very Supportive	Supportive	Neutral	Unsupportive	Very Unsupportive	Unsure



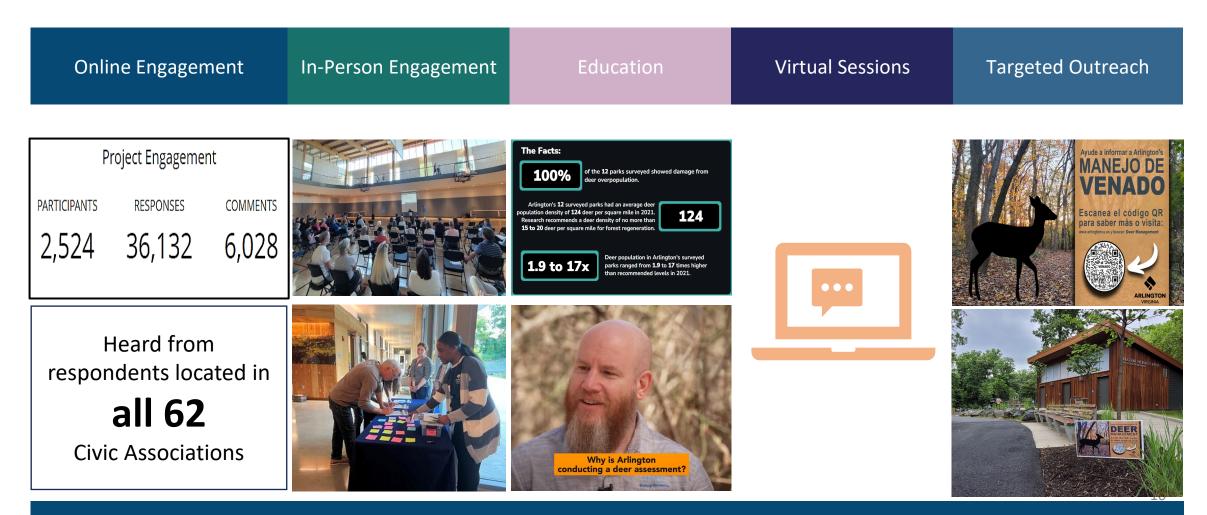
## 80% in Support of Professional Sharpshooting

The County recommends professional sharpshooting to manage the deer population in County-owned natural land parks. Which option best describes your opinion on an Arlington County professional sharpshooting program?

Very Supportive	Supportive	Neutral	Unsupportive	Very Unsupportive	Unsure
70%	10%	3%	4%	12%	1%
Very Supportive	Supportive	Neutral	Unsupportive	Very Unsupportive	Unsure



## **Project Engagement - Overview**



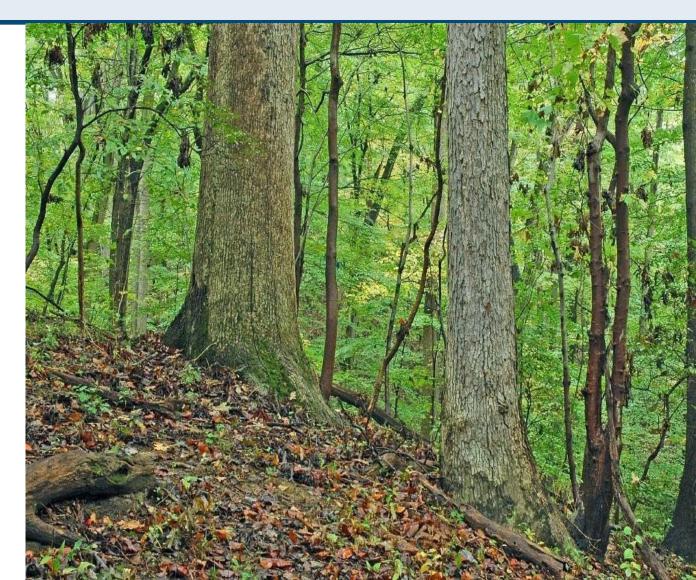
Committee and Commission Briefings (NRJAG, FNRC, PRC)

## **Final County Recommendations**

- **Professional Sharpshooting**: Primary method to immediately reduce deer populations in County-owned natural land parks. Offers immediate impact and cost savings compared to surgical sterilization. Requires amendment to County Code.
- **Fencing/Repellants:** Recommended for small areas to protect priority plant species. Can only complement, not replace professional sharpshooting.
- **Continued Monitoring:** Conduct periodic deer population surveys using drones. Implement two different herbivory impact assessments annually based on established methods.
- Review Deer Vehicle Collision Data and Intake Collection Methods: Review ACPD, AWLA, and VDOT tracking methods.
- Monitor Tick-Borne Disease: Incorporate CDC annual Lyme disease numbers into monitoring program. Explore options for monitoring other relevant diseases such as alphagal.

## **Next Steps**

- Fall 2024: County Board to consider amending County Code to permit professional sharpshooting in natural land parks.
- Winter 2025: Staff will develop a deer management plan.
- Winter 2026: Contracted professional sharpshooting will commence in natural land parks.



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