



United States Department of Agriculture

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Programs

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53963

March 31, 2026

Mike Jentsch, Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director
City of West Bend
1115 S. Main Street
West Bend, WI 53095

Re: City of West Bend Deer Management Activities – 2025/26

Mr. Jentsch:

Included is a summary of our white-tailed deer management activities from seven properties in the City of West Bend from November 2025 through March 2026. White-tailed deer have browsed understory habitat, damaged private property trees and plants, and been involved in multiple car/deer collisions. The City of West Bend wanted to reduce these damages through a deer population reduction program. The goal was to reduce the deer population within the City limits on properties managed by the City (and County) based on deer surveys conducted in the fall of 2025.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) surveys of 11 properties within the City of West Bend were conducted on November 19 and 20 2025 (Table 1). Surveys started at dusk and continued into the night with use of an infrared camera mounted to the UAV. Deer were easily observed in areas with little overhead cover and where deciduous trees were present; however, larger concentrations of evergreens made detection difficult. The number of deer observed during UAV surveys is an estimate and not the exact number of deer present within each park. Deer observed should be considered a minimum count and the actual estimate is likely slightly larger. It is not believed that deer were double counted at a particular park because surveys at each site were fairly short and in most situations the UAV did not cause deer to flee. It should also be noted that the number of deer counted in any location may vary each day and seasonally. A total of 276-283 deer were observed from all locations (Table 1, Figure 1). There were 25 deer observed in the Green Tree Elementary School marsh (shown in Figure 1 but not Table 1). Kenny Park did not have any deer observed.

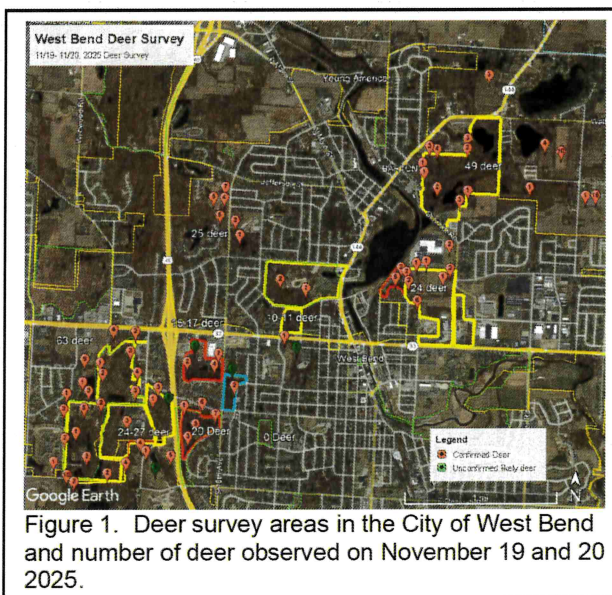


Figure 1. Deer survey areas in the City of West Bend and number of deer observed on November 19 and 20 2025.

Table 1. Number of deer surveyed by USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services in West Bend, WI on November 19 and 20, 2025.

Lac Lawrann Conservancy	County Land	Regner Park and Private Property S of Regner	City Property	Bicentennial Park	Silverbrook Park	Ridge Run	West Bend Mutual	Total
49	24	10-11	24-27	20	15-17	63	46-47	276-283

Removal activities were conducted under the authority of a State Nuisance Permit (No. 1609248) issued by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to the City of West Bend. Removal efforts occurred on January 7, 15, 21, 29, February 3, 11, 25, March 2, 12, and 19. WS removed a total of 86 deer from the City of West Bend as follows: Lac Lawrann Conservancy (7), Regner Park (10), Bicentennial Park (5), Ridge Run Park (13), County property (17), City property east of University Drive (13), and West Bend Mutual Insurance (21) (Table 2). Of the 86 removed, 45 (52%) were does and 41 were bucks (48%) (Table 2).

Table 2. Number of deer removed by USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services in West Bend, WI from January 2025 – March 2025.

Age/sex	Lac Lawrann Conservancy	Regner Park	Bicentennial Park	Ridge Run	County Land	City Property	West Bend Mutual	Total
Adult Male	3	1	0	5	3	3	6	21
Adult Female	2	2	2	2	10	2	6	26
Juvenile Male	2	2	2	3	1	5	5	20
Juvenile Female	0	5	1	3	3	3	4	19
Total	7	10	5	13	17	13	21	86

All deer (n=86) were taken to Leroy Meats in Fox Lake, WI where they were processed into ground venison burger for donation. All adult deer (47) were sampled for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and confirmed CWD-free. Deer meat was donated to Full Shelf Food Pantry in West Bend, WI.

During deer removal activities, it was not uncommon to encounter the public using the parks (primarily hikers) without incident. No negative incidents with the public were recorded on cameras or observed in person.

From 2018 – 2026, WS has removed 539 deer from the City of West Bend (Table 3).

Survey results and a breakdown between deer removed from all city properties combined and West Bend Mutual Insurance property are included in Table 3 from 2018 – 2026. Surveys were conducted in the fall prior to shooting efforts, which started in January with the exception of the first year (2018/19) when no survey was conducted and shooting began in December 2018 and continued through March 2019.

Table 3. Number of deer surveyed and removed by USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services in West Bend, WI from 2018 – 2025.

Year	Surveyed	Removed		Total
		City	WBM	
2018-2019	-	56	-	56
2020	151	58	-	58
2021	119	60	-	60
2022*	171-197	63	15	78
2023	169-175	57	18	75
2024	171-195	38	5	43
2025	239-251	72	11	83
2026	276-283	65	21	86
Total		469	70	539

* – West Bend Mutual was added in 2022.

WS recommends to the City of West Bend to conduct another UAV survey in fall of 2026 to estimate the deer population within each park and determine if another deer depopulation is warranted in all locations, at some locations, or not at all. WS also recommends the City of West Bend pursue an Urban Wildlife Damage Abatement Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for any deer or goose management in 2027. Grant applications are due December 1 each year.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have or if you are interested in having WS provide additional assistance.

Sincerely,

CHARLES LOVELL

Digitally signed by CHARLES LOVELL
Date: 2026.04.01 14:05:20 -05'00'

Charles D. Lovell

District Supervisor/Certified Wildlife Biologist

Attachment: West Bend Deer Mgt Summary 2026 (Deer Removal Recap 2026 - 2027)

DEER ABATEMENT PROGRAM RECAP

UAV Survey (conducted in December)

Property	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Additional
Bicentennial Park	9	21	24	12	6	7	20	
Green Tree School Marsh					9	8	25	
Lac Lawrann & adjacent lands	28	18	12	26	37	54	49	
Regner Park		15	12	7	22	11	9	
Ridge Run Park	71	24	36	27	30	57	63	
Silverbrook Park		13	16	13	24	42	2	13-14 private land
UWWC/WB Park	12	13	24	14	10	18	25	
Washington Co, Schmidt Rd	31	15	35	26	24	36	24	
Private Property, south of Regner		6	17	14	16	5	2	
West Bend City Properties	151	125	176	139	178	238	219	
Private Property, south of WB (WBI)			32	24	17	24	47	20 North of Paradise
TOTAL	151	125	208	163	195	262	266	

Harvest - Removal (January-February)

LOCATION	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2019-2026
Bicentennial Park		2	9	14	5	9	10	5	54
Lac Lawrann Conservancy	23	14	9	6	11	10	18	7	98
Regner Park			14	16	10	10	8	10	68
Ridge Run Park	23	29	12	11	21	9	12	13	130
UWWC/WB Park		8		11	6			13	38
Washington Co, Schmidt Rd	10	5	6	5	4		24	17	71
Private Property, south of Regner			10						10
West Bend City Properties	56	58	60	63	57	38	72	65	469
Private Property, south of WB (WBI)				15	18	5	11	21	70
TOTAL	56	58	60	78	75	43	83	86	539

¹ 2024 - warm weather - program cut short

Deer Density & Carrying Capacity

Property	Acres	Density
Bicentennial Park	30	0.67
Lac Lawrann Conservancy	142	0.35
Regner Park	90	0.10
Ridge Run Park	140	0.45
Silverbrook Park	14	0.14
UWWC/WB Park	56	0.45
Washington Co, Schmidt Rd	48	0.50
Private Property, south of Regner	7.8	0.26
Private Property, south of WB (WBI)	160	0.29

Car vs Deer crashes

Year	Crashes	Year	Crashes
2014	38	2021	41
2015	48	2022	44
2016	36	2023	39
2017	41	2024	33
2018	35	2025	54
2019	39	2026	10*
2020	41		

* currently

Deer Density (carrying capacity is approximately half the deer density, in a non-urban setting).

Average deer density in WI is 20 deer/sq. mile in a natural setting, no density estimates for urban populations.