

## *Deer Management in Local Communities*

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## *Public Act 451 of 1994*

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The Wildlife and their habitats of the state are valuable public natural resources held in trust by the state, and the state has a duty as trustee to manage its wildlife and their habitats effectively for the use and enjoyment of present and future residents and for the protection of the environment.



## Deer Management in Local Communities

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- Various interests of individual citizens, government officials, managers, interest groups:
  - Public safety
  - Property damage
  - Deer impacts on plant communities
  - Deer health
  - Humane treatment of deer
- Definitions and risk tolerance will vary
- Commitment for ongoing management required
- Common interest: reducing conflict



## Objectives

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Common community concerns...

- Deer-vehicle collisions
- Disease exposure
- Browsing natural vegetation
- Damage to landscaping

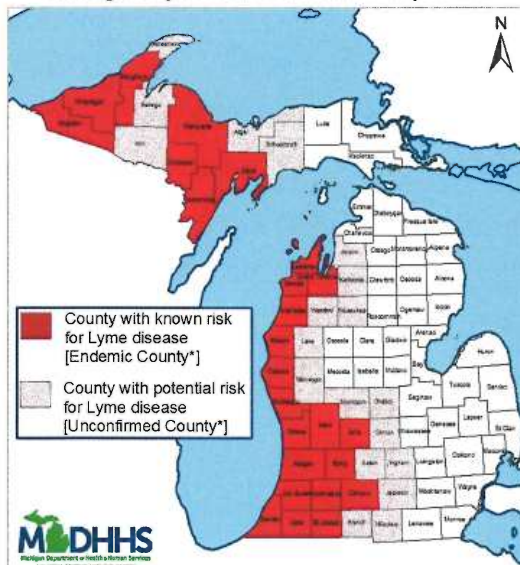


## Lyme Disease

- Most often a mild illness mimicking the flu
- Serious problems involving the heart, joints and nervous system may develop in some individuals
- Lowering deer densities may reduce tick abundance, however, this may not decrease the prevalence of Lyme disease or the likelihood of infection



Michigan Lyme Disease Risk Map: 2015



\* Lyme disease risk in this map is based on known, field confirmed populations of infected blacklegged ticks, or laboratory confirmed human cases.  
a) Counties labeled "endemic" are counties where infected tick populations have been confirmed - and/or -  
Two or more laboratory confirmed human cases have been identified with local exposure.  
b) Counties labeled "unconfirmed" are counties bordering endemic counties, but which do not meet the above criteria for "endemic" counties.

MDHHS Emerging & Zoonotic Infectious Diseases Section. Revised April, 2015



## Trapping Deer

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### Feasibility, Affordability, and Acceptability

- Wildlife Division will not allow removal of live deer
  - Deer may not be converted to private ownership
  - Disease concerns preclude moving and releasing deer
- Deer may be trapped and euthanized
  - Affordability depends upon source of labor, extent of local involvement and regulation
  - Constraints: acceptability to local public as a barrier to initiation and access; susceptibility of deer



## Hunting or Culling

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### Feasibility, Affordability, and Acceptability

- Local ordinance modification may be needed
- Safety zones for hunting (not culling) require written permission
- Verbal permission required to retrieve game
- Affordability depends upon source of labor, extent of local involvement and regulation
- Greatest constraint is acceptability to local public as a barrier to initiation and access





## Questions or Comments?

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