



# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

CIP Memo

2024-2028 CIP Schedule

2024-2028 Debt Forecast



## City of North Mankato, Minnesota

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To: Kevin McCann, City Administrator  
From: Jessica Ryan, Finance Director  
Date: September 18, 2023  
Re: Proposed 2024-2028 CIP Schedule

### **2024-2028 CIP**

Attached is the proposed 2024-2028 CIP Schedule (**Exhibit A**) for the City of North Mankato. This document is the first draft of a multi-year planning instrument identifying the needs and financing sources for vehicles, equipment, public infrastructure, and amenities over the next five years. The CIP also serves as a tool to inform residents, businesses, and other stakeholders how the City plans to address significant capital needs over the next five to ten years. The attached Exhibit A includes additional future needs and potential projects planned for the future as identified but not yet scheduled. These projects have been identified during strategic planning efforts or regular City Council deliberations.

The first years of the CIP (2024-2028) become a capital budget. Items placed in the identified but not yet scheduled category should not be seen as fixed commitments but as future placeholders for projects and equipment/vehicles on the horizon. The City prepares the CIP separately from the operating budgets, but they are closely linked. Expenditures budgeted for 2024 in the operating budgets of the General Fund, Construction Funds, Capital Facilities & Equipment Replacement Fund, and Utility Funds are identified in the CIP with the identified funding source(s). The CIP has been split into two parts: cash expenditures and bonding. The cash expenditures are for equipment and small-scale projects as part of the operating budgets, while the bonding section is for large-scale infrastructure and recreational projects.

### **Five-Year Capital Improvements**

At \$65,164,475, the total value of projects identified in the 2024-2028 CIP is \$22,331,303 more than the 2023-2027 CIP. The budget also includes \$1,326,000 of identified but not scheduled funds. It is important to note that the significant increase comes from 3 main things. First, we moved several items from the general fund to the CIP fund. Second, we added two departments to these schedules so we could be more transparent. Third, Public Works Director Arnold reviewed each item and updated their cost estimates and project year, which has not been done in quite some time. The CIP also includes moving the Caswell Indoor Recreation Project from 2023 to 2025, as well as reducing the amount of City Funds for the Somerset project in 2028. In 2023, no bonds were issued. Additional projects on the CIP include Northridge Forcemain and Lift Station Rehab, Sherman St, Cross St, Page Ave, Quincy St, Wheeler Ave, Garfield Ave, and Haughton Ave.

The \$7.9 million proposed for 2024 is the result of the following:

- \$1,101,475 for equipment replacement (attached Exhibit A)
- \$807,000 for pavement management and park improvements
- \$50,000 for the culture and recreation funds
- \$439,000 for the water fund



- \$420,000 for the sewer fund
- \$160,000 for the stormwater fund
- \$4,900,000 for bonded projects (Northridge force main and lift station rehab, Hoover Dr SRTS, Sherman St, and ravine improvements)

## **2024-2028 Proposed Cash Expenditures**

The 2024 CIP proposes the following cash expenditures:

Project or Activity	2023-2027	2024-2028	Variance	IDENTIFIED BUT NOT SCHEDULED	TOTAL CIP	Notes
Re Roof City Hall		150,000	150,000		150,000	
Server Updates	36,822		(36,822)		-	
Sweeper	557,000	275,000	(282,000)		275,000	
Parks General Equipment - Trucks, Mowers, etc.		831,000	831,000		831,000	
Street General Equipment - Trucks, Skid loaders, etc.	500,000	891,000	391,000		891,000	
Police Cruiser	395,000	510,000	115,000		510,000	\$170,000 coming from Safety Money
Police Radios	135,000	100,000	(35,000)		100,000	
Police Heat in Garage		5,000	5,000		5,000	
Police Evidence Room Heat	3,000		(3,000)		-	
Police Body Cameras		108,475	108,475		108,475	Safety Money to be Used
Police Project TBD			-	143,000	143,000	Safety Money to be Used
Dump Truck		140,000	140,000		140,000	
Used Plow		90,000	90,000		90,000	
Fire Engine	250,000	800,000	550,000		800,000	Some Safety Money to be Used
Replace roof on Station #2		160,000	160,000		160,000	
Overhaul Community Room Kitchen	50,000	100,000	50,000		100,000	
Replace overhead doors at Station #2 (5 Doors: 4 in front and one in back)	30,000	30,000	-		30,000	
Mower Replacement	176,000		(176,000)		-	
Chipper and Truck Replacement	60,000	60,000	-		60,000	
Asphalt Roller Replacement	50,000	50,000	-		50,000	
Leaf Collector Replacement	125,000	125,000	-		125,000	
Single Axle Truck Replacement	225,000	225,000	-		225,000	
City Signs	30,000	-	(30,000)		-	
Sub-Total Cash / Capital Facilities & Equipment Replacement	2,622,822	4,650,475	2,027,653	143,000	4,793,475	Some items moved from General Fund to Capital Fund
Pavement Management Plan	4,164,500	3,271,000	(893,500)		3,271,000	
Park Improvements	1,260,000	1,615,000	355,000		1,615,000	
Sub-Total Cash / Dept Plans	5,424,500	4,886,000	(538,500)	-	4,886,000	
Groomer for Fields		48,000	48,000		48,000	
Shades and Foul Poles		300,000	300,000		300,000	
Repair leak in liner		50,000	50,000		50,000	
PA System for Pool Area		7,000	7,000		7,000	
Update Tables and Chairs		6,000	6,000		6,000	
Sub-Total Cash / Culture & Rec	-	411,000	411,000	-	411,000	Not included in proir years

Project or Activity	2023-2027	2024-2028	Variance	IDENTIFIED BUT NOT SCHEDULED	TOTAL CIP	Notes
Pull & Repair Well Pumps	430,000	694,000	264,000		694,000	Pump repair costs vary by size & location of pump
Pull & Service High Service Pumps	75,000	68,000	(7,000)		68,000	
Wellhead Protection Measures	25,000	28,000	3,000		28,000	
Reroof Water Plant	125,000	125,000	-		125,000	
Water Tower Painting	150,000	50,000	(100,000)		50,000	Reduced to repaint logo only
Rehab Filters	350,000	-	(350,000)		-	
Vehicles	175,000	331,000	156,000		331,000	
Drainage From Splashpad		175,000	175,000		175,000	
Leak Locator		22,000	22,000		22,000	
Lead Water Service Line Inventory		12,000	12,000		12,000	
Lead Service Line Replacement		647,000	647,000		647,000	Result of State Mandate
Pave Tower Blvd Access Road		80,000	80,000		80,000	
Water Fill Station		150,000	150,000		150,000	
SCADA Updates		110,000	110,000		110,000	
Projects TBD			-	583,000	583,000	
Capital Contributions	100,000		(100,000)			
Sub-Total Cash / Water Fund	1,430,000	2,492,000	1,062,000	583,000	3,075,000	
Vehicles	175,000	268,000	93,000		268,000	
North Ridge Lift Station Submersible Pump Conversion		800,000	800,000		800,000	
Maintenance		505,000	505,000		505,000	
Capital Contributions	1,260,000	1,443,000	183,000		1,443,000	
Sub-Total Cash / Sewer Fund	1,435,000	3,016,000	1,581,000	-	3,016,000	
Vehicles		50,000	50,000		50,000	
Capital Contributions		1,045,000	1,045,000		1,045,000	
Sub-Total Cash / Storm Water Fund	-	1,095,000	1,095,000	-	1,095,000	Not included in proir years

## **2024-2028 Bonding**

The 2024-2028 CIP proposes the following debt expenditures:

Project or Activity	2023-2027	2024-2028	Variance	IDENTIFIED BUT NOT SCHEDULED	TOTAL CIP	Notes
Northridge Forcemain and Lift Station Rehab		1,000,000	1,000,000		1,000,000	
Hoover Dr. SRTS	520,000	180,000	(340,000)		180,000	
Sherman St. (Belgrade to Monroe)		1,796,000	1,796,000		1,796,000	
Sherman (South to Belgrade)	800,000	424,000	(376,000)		424,000	
Ravine Improvements	1,500,000	3,000,000	1,500,000		3,000,000	
Caswell Park Phase #2 Fieldhouse Construction (City Portion)	17,000,000	12,750,000	(4,250,000)		12,750,000	
Cross St. (Monroe to Webster)		1,995,000	1,995,000		1,995,000	
Page Ave (Center to Range)		1,470,000	1,470,000		1,470,000	
Quincy St (McKinley to Webster)		578,000	578,000		578,000	
Wheeler Ave (Cross to Range)		903,000	903,000		903,000	
Garfield Ave. (Center to Range)		1,333,000	1,333,000		1,333,000	
PW Building - Build in 2026	6,000,000	18,000,000	12,000,000		18,000,000	
Belgrade Ave. Improvements (Three-lane & Interchange)	1,500,000	241,000	(1,259,000)		241,000	
Haughton Ave (Countryside to Howard)		4,012,000	4,012,000		4,012,000	
Somerset Dr. Improvements	4,316,000	932,000	(3,384,000)		932,000	
Howard Dr./Lor Ray Dr. Roundabout - City Portion	284,850		(284,850)		-	
Street Reconstruction Project (TBD)			-	600,000	600,000	
Sub-Total Bonds	31,920,850	48,614,000	16,693,150	600,000	49,214,000	

## **Sales Tax Project**

As proposed, the 2024-2028 CIP includes the \$25.5 million Caswell Indoor Recreation Facility construction. As currently proposed, \$10.75 million has been allocated from the Sales Tax Bonds, with another bonding request from the State for \$12.75 million and the balance from a future abatement bond. This project was moved from 2023 to 2025 due to the State Legislature.

## **Parks Plan**

The 2024 budget includes \$162,000 in capital funds. Of that amount, \$65,000 is allocated for the Wheeler Park parking lots. The budget also includes \$70,000 for work at Spring Lake Park. For the years 2024-2028, Parks funding has been allocated annually according to the Park Capital Improvement Plan. Staff has identified the following projects in Exhibit B as the 2024-2028 Parks Capital Improvement Plan. Minor revisions may be needed to stay within the budgeted amounts.

### **Streets Plan**

The 2024 budget includes \$645,000 in street mill and overlay projects. This includes pavement management for Green Acres Dr, Castle Dr, La Mar, and more. The budget also includes \$520,000 for the Hoover Safe Routes to School project. Exhibit C identifies the street maintenance projects for 2024-2028. Minor revisions may be needed to stay within the budgeted amounts.

### **Water Fund Plan**

The 2024 budget includes \$289,000 in water capital funding. Of that amount, \$175,000 is allocated for new drainage from the splashpad. The water plan also includes \$150,000 in annual maintenance. Exhibit D identifies the water fund capital projects for 2024-2028.

### **Sewer Fund Plan**

The 2024 budget includes \$290,000 in sewer capital funding. \$230,000 of that budget is allocated for the Northridge force main replacement. The sewer plan also includes \$130,000 in annual maintenance. Exhibit E identifies the sewer fund capital projects for 2024-2028.

### **Storm Water Fund Plan**

The 2024 budget includes \$160,000 in stormwater capital funding. Of that amount, \$100,000 is for the lift station repairs and upgrades. Exhibit F identifies the stormwater fund capital projects for 2024-2028.

Exhibit A

Five-Year Capital Improvement Schedule - Bonded portions  
For Years 2024-2028

Project or Activity	Dept.	Strategic Program Area	2024 FORECAST	2025 FORECAST	2026 FORECAST	2027 FORECAST	2028 FORECAST	Estimated 5 year costs	IDENTIFIED BUT NOT SCHEDULED	TOTAL CIP	Notes
Re Roof City Hall	Gen Gov	Admin/Leg.			150,000			150,000		150,000	
Police Cruiser	Police	Public Safety	170,000	85,000	85,000	85,000	85,000	510,000		510,000	2024: Public Safety Money to be used
Body Cameras	Police	Public Safety	108,475					108,475		108,475	2024: Public Safety Money to be used
Police Radios	Police	Public Safety	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	100,000		100,000	
Heat in Police Garage	Police	Public Safety			5,000			5,000		5,000	
Project TBD - Public Safety Money	Police	Public Safety	143,000					143,000		143,000	2024: Public Safety Money to be used
Fire Engine/Pump Truck	Fire	Public Safety		800,000				800,000		800,000	Will be receiving some public safety money to be used towards this truck
Station 2 Roof Replacement	Fire	Public Safety	160,000					160,000		160,000	
Overhead Doors at Station 2	Fire	Public Safety		30,000				30,000		30,000	
Overhaul Community Room Kitchen	Fire	Public Safety		100,000				100,000		100,000	
General Equipment - Mowers, Etc	Parks	Equipment	130,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	370,000		370,000	2024: Mower (90), 2 UTV's (40)
General Equipment - Mowers, Etc	Parks	Equipment		130,000				130,000		130,000	2025: Chipper (90), 2 UTV's (40)
Motor Vehicles	Parks	Equipment	60,000	63,000	66,000	69,000	73,000	331,000		331,000	
Used Plow from Nicollet County	Streets	Equipment	90,000					90,000		90,000	
Streets Trucks	Streets	Motor Vehicles	120,000	63,000	66,000	69,000	73,000	391,000		391,000	2024: 2 trucks
General Equipment - Skid loaders, etc	Streets	Equipment	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	500,000		500,000	
Sweeper	Streets	Equipment		275,000				275,000		275,000	
Dump Truck	Streets	Equipment				140,000		140,000		140,000	
Chipper and Truck Replacement	Streets	Equipment		60,000				60,000		60,000	
Asphalt Roller Replacement	Streets	Equipment		50,000				50,000		50,000	
Leaf Collector Replacement	Streets	Equipment		125,000				125,000		125,000	
Single Axle Truck Replacement	Streets	Motor Vehicles			225,000			225,000		225,000	
Sub-Total Cash / Capital Facilities & Equipment Replacement			1,101,475	1,961,000	777,000	543,000	411,000	4,793,475	-	4,793,475	
Street Mill and Overlay Projects	Streets	Infrastructure	645,000	583,000	701,000	669,000	673,000	3,271,000		3,271,000	2024: Green Acres, La Mar, Castle, Caswell Lot, 2 Aliys
Park Improvements	Parks	Recreation	162,000	284,000	269,000	350,000	550,000	1,615,000		1,615,000	
Sub-Total Cash / Dept Plans			807,000	867,000	970,000	1,019,000	1,223,000	4,886,000	-	4,886,000	
Groomer for Fields	Caswell	Recreation		48,000				48,000		48,000	
Shades and Foul Poles	Caswell	Recreation		300,000				300,000		300,000	
Repair leak in liner	Swim Facility	Recreation	50,000					50,000		50,000	
PA System for Pool Area	Swim Facility	Recreation		7,000				7,000		7,000	
Update Tables and Chairs	Library	Recreation		6,000				6,000		6,000	
Sub-Total Cash / Culture & Rec			50,000	361,000	-	-	-	411,000	-	411,000	
Pull & Repair Well Pumps	Water	Infrastructure	125,000	126,000	132,000	152,000	159,000	694,000		694,000	Pump repair costs vary by size & location of pump
Pull & Service High Service Pumps	Water	Infrastructure	20,000		23,000	25,000		68,000		68,000	
Wellhead Protection Measures	Water	Infrastructure	5,000	5,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	28,000		28,000	
Drainage From Splashpad	Water	Infrastructure	175,000					175,000		175,000	
Leak Locator	Water	Capital	22,000					22,000		22,000	
Lead Water Service Line Inventory	Water	Capital	12,000					12,000		12,000	
Lead Service Line Replacement	Water	Capital		150,000	158,000	165,000	174,000	647,000		647,000	
Reroof Water Plant	Water	Infrastructure		125,000				125,000		125,000	
Water Tower Painting (Logo)	Water	Infrastructure		50,000				50,000		50,000	
Pave Tower Blvd Access Road	Water	Infrastructure		80,000				80,000		80,000	
Water Fill Station	Water	Capital			150,000			150,000		150,000	
Rehab Filters	Water	Infrastructure						-		-	
Vehicles	Water	Capital	60,000	63,000	66,000	69,000	73,000	331,000		331,000	
SCADA Updates	Water	Infrastructure	20,000	21,000	22,000	23,000	24,000	110,000		110,000	
Project TBD	Water	Capital			82,000	245,000	256,000	583,000		583,000	
Sub-Total Cash / Water Fund			439,000	620,000	639,000	685,000	692,000	3,075,000	-	3,075,000	
Vehicles	Sewer	Capital	60,000		66,000	69,000	73,000	268,000		268,000	
North Ridge Lift Station Submersible Pump Conversion	Sewer	Capital		800,000				800,000		800,000	
Maintenance	Sewer	Maintenance	130,000	45,000	100,000	110,000	120,000	505,000		505,000	
Capital Improvements	Sewer	Capital	230,000	88,000	375,000	375,000	375,000	1,443,000		1,443,000	
Sub-Total Cash / Sewer Fund			420,000	933,000	541,000	554,000	568,000	3,016,000	-	3,016,000	
Maintenance	Storm Water	Maintenance		50,000				50,000		50,000	
Capital Improvements	Storm Water	Infrastructure	160,000	200,000	210,000	225,000	250,000	1,045,000		1,045,000	
Sub-Total Cash / Storm Water Fund			160,000	250,000	210,000	225,000	250,000	1,095,000	-	1,095,000	

Exhibit A

Five-Year Capital Improvement Schedule - Bonded portions  
For Years 2024-2028

Project or Activity	Dept.	Strategic Program Area	2024 FORECAST	2025 FORECAST	2026 FORECAST	2027 FORECAST	2028 FORECAST	Estimated 5 year costs	IDENTIFIED BUT NOT SCHEDULED	TOTAL CIP	Notes
Project or Activity	Dept.	Strategic Program Area	2024 FORECAST	2025 FORECAST	2026 FORECAST	2027 FORECAST	2028 FORECAST	Estimated 5 year costs	IDENTIFIED BUT NOT SCHEDULED	TOTAL CIP	Notes
Northridge Forcemain and Lift Station Rehab		Infrastructure	1,000,000					1,000,000		1,000,000	Total Project= 1,000,000
Hoover Dr. SRTS		Infrastructure	180,000					180,000		180,000	Total Project = 520,000 0.34 Grants / 0.18 City Funds
Sherman St. (Belgrade to Monroe)		Infrastructure	1,796,000					1,796,000		1,796,000	Total Project= 2,496,000 0.7 State Aid / 1.796 City Funds
Sherman St. (South to Belgrade)		Infrastructure	424,000					424,000		424,000	Total Project= 719,000 0.295 MSA / 0.424 City Funds
Ravine Improvements		Infrastructure	1,500,000			1,500,000		3,000,000		3,000,000	
Caswell Park Phase #2 Fieldhouse Construction		Recreation		12,750,000				12,750,000		12,750,000	Total Project= 25,500,000 State Appropriation 12.75 / Sales Tax Bonds 10.75 / City Abatement Bonds 2.0
Cross St. (Monroe to Webster)		Infrastructure		1,995,000				1,995,000		1,995,000	Total Project= 1,995,000
Page Ave. (Center to Range)		Infrastructure		1,470,000				1,470,000		1,470,000	Total Project= 1,470,000
Quincy St (McKinley to Webster)		Infrastructure		578,000				578,000		578,000	Total Project= 578,000
Wheeler Ave (Cross to Range)		Infrastructure			903,000			903,000		903,000	Total Project= 903,000
Garfield Ave. (Center to Range)		Infrastructure			1,333,000			1,333,000		1,333,000	Total Project= 1,333,000 May be able to get LRIP funds
PW Building - Build in 2026		Infrastructure		1,500,000	16,500,000			18,000,000		18,000,000	Total Project= 18,000,000
Belgrade Ave. Improvements (Three-lane & Interchange)		Infrastructure			241,000			241,000		241,000	Total Project= 1,985,000 1.744 Grants / 0.241 City Funds
Haughton Ave (Countryside to Howard)		Infrastructure				4,012,000		4,012,000		4,012,000	Total Project= 4,012,000
Somerset Ln. Improvements		Infrastructure					932,000	932,000		932,000	Total Project = 5,257,000 4.0M / 0.325M grants / state-aid / 0.932 City Funds
Street Reconstruction Project (TBD)		Infrastructure				600,000		600,000		600,000	
Sub-Total Bonds			4,900,000	18,293,000	18,977,000	6,112,000	932,000	49,214,000	-	49,214,000	
Total 2024 CIP			7,877,475	23,285,000	22,114,000	9,138,000	4,076,000	66,490,475	-	66,490,475	

Exhibit B							
PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND PARK MAINTENANCE UPDATES							
Item	Category		2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Wheeler Park Parking Lot	Capital Improvement	Other Park Improvements	\$ 65,000.00				
Park Sign Replacements	Capital Improvement	Other Park Improvements	\$ 20,000.00				
King Arthur Benches	Capital Improvement	Other Park Improvements	\$ 3,000.00				
Spring Lake Park Shelter 1 Renovation	Capital Improvement	Building & Structure	\$ 30,000.00				
Spring Lake Park Bridge Replacement	Capital Improvement	Building & Structure	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 42,000.00			
Pave Old Belgrade Hill Trail	Capital Improvement	Other Park Improvements		\$ 40,000.00			
North Ridge Park Shelter	Capital Improvement	Building & Structure		\$ 40,000.00			
Benson Park Long Lake Bridge	Capital Improvement	Building & Structure		\$ 140,000.00			
Forest Heights Swinging Bench	Capital Improvement	Other Equipment		\$ 3,000.00			
Levee Trail Seal Coating	Capital Improvement	Other Park Improvements		\$ 15,000.00			
Spring Lake Park Fountain and Pump	Capital Improvement	Other Equipment			\$ 30,000.00		
Walter S Farm Park Walking Path to Countryside Dr	Capital Improvement	Other Park Improvements			\$ 25,000.00		
Spring Lake Park Swing Set Replacement	Capital Improvement	Other Equipment			\$ 25,000.00		
Pleasantview Park Shelter w/ Facilities	Capital Improvement	Building & Structure			\$ 40,000.00		
Lookout Dr Rest Area Stone Wall Renovation	Capital Improvement	Other Park Improvements			\$ 30,000.00		
Wheeler Park Improve Plumbing	Capital Improvement	Other Park Improvements			\$ 25,000.00		
Riverview Park Improve Plumbing	Capital Improvement	Other Park Improvements			\$ 25,000.00		
Spring Lake Park Trails Sealcoating	Capital Improvement	Other Park Improvements			\$ 25,000.00		
Centennial Park Concrete Replacement	Capital Improvement	Other Park Improvements			\$ 40,000.00		
Walter S Farm Park Playground for Older Kids	Capital Improvement	Other Equipment				\$ 100,000.00	
Langness Playground Addition	Capital Improvement	Other Equipment				\$ 50,000.00	
Forest Heights Park Shelter w/ Facilities	Capital Improvement	Building & Structure				\$ 45,000.00	
Benson Park Capital Improvement Project	Capital Improvement	Other Park Improvements				\$ 150,000.00	
Benson Park Natural Playscape	Capital Improvement	Other Equipment					\$ 250,000.00
Reserve Park Ball Field	Capital Improvement	Other Park Improvements					\$ 30,000.00
King Arthur Shelter Addition	Capital Improvement	Building & Structure					\$ 40,000.00
Spring Lake Park Shelter 3 Renovation	Capital Improvement	Building & Structure					\$ 50,000.00
Bluff Park Trails Sealcoating	Capital Improvement	Other Park Improvements					\$ 25,000.00
Wheeler Park Bandshell	Capital Improvement	Building & Structure					\$ 150,000.00
Reserve Park Pond Treatment	Capital Improvement	Other Park Improvements	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Ash Tree Removals Via DNR Grant	Maintenance	General Fund	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 80,000.00
Langness, Walter S Farm and Forest Heights Basketball Courts	Maintenance	General Fund	\$ 20,000.00				
Riverview Park Landscaping Updates	Maintenance	General Fund	\$ 4,000.00				
Northridge Park Basketball Court Mill and Overlay	Maintenance	General Fund		\$ 20,000.00			
Benson Park Crack Sealing	Maintenance	General Fund		\$ 15,000.00			
Tower Park Tennis Courts	Maintenance	General Fund			\$ 20,000.00		
Tower Park Tennis Courts	Maintenance	General Fund			\$ 20,000.00		
Wheeler Park Tennis Courts	Maintenance	General Fund					
King Arthur Tennis Courts	Maintenance	General Fund				\$ 20,000.00	
Forrest Heights Tennis Courts	Maintenance	General Fund					\$ 20,000.00
	Total Capital Improvement		\$ 162,000.00	\$ 284,000.00	\$ 269,000.00	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 550,000.00
	Total Maintenance		\$ 64,000.00	\$ 85,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
	Total		\$ 226,000.00	\$ 369,000.00	\$ 369,000.00	\$ 440,000.00	\$ 650,000.00



Exhibit C							
CITY FUNDED PROJECTS - STREETS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN							
Street Name	Start/Finish	Type	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Hoover SRTS		SRTS	\$ 520,000.00				
Sherman	Belgrade to Monroe	Reconstruct	\$ 2,496,000.00				
Sherman	South to Belgrade	Reconstruct	\$ 719,000.00				
Page	Center to Range	Reconstruct		\$ 1,470,000.00			
Cross	Monroe to Webster	Reconstruct		\$ 1,995,000.00			
Quincy	McKinley to Webster	Reconstruct		\$ 578,000.00			
Garfield	Center to Range	Reconstruct			\$ 1,333,000.00		
Wheeler	Cross to Range	Reconstruct			\$ 903,000.00		
Belgrade Ave	Three Lane & Interchange	Reconstruct			\$ 1,985,000.00		
Haughton Ave	Countryside Dr to Howard Dr	Reconstruct				\$ 4,012,000.00	
Somerset Ln		Reconstruct					\$ 5,257,000.00
TBD		Reconstruct				\$ 600,000.00	
Caswell Park	West Parking Lot	Mill and Overlay	\$ 45,000.00				
Green Acres Dr	Lor Ray Dr to Haughton Ave	Mill and Overlay	\$ 135,000.00				
Castle Dr	Haughton Ave to Lamar Dr	Mill and Overlay	\$ 85,000.00				
La Mar West	Lor Ray Dr to Haughton Ave	Mill and Overlay	\$ 130,000.00				
LaMar East	Haughton Ave to Howard Dr	Mill and Overlay	\$ 190,000.00				
Sharon Dr	James Dr to James Ct	Mill and Overlay		\$ 121,000.00			
Peggy Ln	Candi Ln to Commerce Dr	Mill and Overlay		\$ 40,000.00			
Mary Cir	Candi Ln to Mary Ln	Mill and Overlay		\$ 137,000.00			
Sherman St	Monroe Ave to Webster Ave	Mill and Overlay		\$ 137,000.00			
Candi Ln	Mary Cir to Peggy Ln	Mill and Overlay		\$ 32,000.00			
Linda Ln	Meyer Ln to Peggy Ln	Mill and Overlay		\$ 53,000.00			
Lake St	Belgrade Ave to Spring Lake Park	Mill and Overlay			\$ 165,000.00		
Lake St	Spring Lake Park to Webster Ave	Mill and Overlay			\$ 182,000.00		
James Ct	James Dr	Mill and Overlay			\$ 27,000.00		
Center Ave	Belgrade to Webster	Mill and Overlay			\$ 260,000.00		
Webster Ave	Lake St to 169	Mill and Overlay				\$ 250,000.00	
2 Alleys		Mill and Overlay	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 47,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 52,000.00	\$ 55,000.00
Unidentified Projects		Mill and Overlay				\$ 350,000.00	\$ 600,000.00
Bolton & Menk Bid Package		Mill and Overlay	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 18,000.00
		SRTS Total:	\$ 520,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		Reconstruct Total:	\$ -	\$ 4,043,000.00	\$ 4,221,000.00	\$ 4,612,000.00	\$ 5,257,000.00
		Mill and Overlay Total:	\$ 645,000.00	\$ 583,000.00	\$ 701,000.00	\$ 669,000.00	\$ 673,000.00
		GRAND TOTAL	\$ 1,165,000.00	\$ 4,626,000.00	\$ 4,922,000.00	\$ 5,281,000.00	\$ 5,930,000.00

Exhibit D						
WATER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE PLAN						
Item	Category	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Reroof Plant 2	Capital Improvement		\$125,000.00			
Leak Locator	Capital Improvement	\$22,000.00				
SCADA Updates - Fiber Conversion	Capital Improvement	\$20,000.00	\$21,000.00	\$22,000.00	\$23,000.00	\$24,000.00
Drainage From Splashpad	Capital Improvement	\$175,000.00				
Water Tower Re-Painting Logo (Tower)	Capital Improvement		\$50,000.00			
Lead Water Service Line Inventory	Capital Improvement	\$12,000.00				
Lead Service Line Replacement	Capital Improvement		\$150,000.00	\$158,000.00	\$165,000.00	\$174,000.00
Pave Tower Blvd Access Road	Capital Improvement		\$80,000.00			
Water Fill Station	Capital Improvement			\$150,000.00		
Unknown Future Projects	Capital Improvement			\$82,000.00	\$245,000.00	\$256,000.00
Vehicles	Capital Improvement	\$60,000.00	\$63,000.00	\$66,000.00	\$69,000.00	\$73,000.00
Rehab Filter 1 at Plant 2	Maintenance					
Rehab Filter 2 at Plant 2	Maintenance					
Pull and Repair Well 6	Maintenance				\$152,000.00	
Pull and Repair Well 7	Maintenance					\$159,000.00
Pull and Repair Well 8	Maintenance	\$125,000.00				
Pull and Repair Well 5	Maintenance		\$126,000.00			
Pull and Repair Well 9	Maintenance			\$132,000.00		
Replace Pump #1 and #2 at Water Plant 1	Maintenance					
Pull And Service High Service Pump at Water Plant 1 (Pump 2)	Maintenance					
Pull And Service High Service Pump at Water Plant 2 (Pump 5)	Maintenance	\$20,000.00				
Pull And Service High Service Pump at Water Plant 1 (Pump 3)	Maintenance					
Pull And Service High Service Pump at Water Plant 2 (Pump 6)	Maintenance			\$23,000.00		
Pull And Service High Service Pump at Water Plant 1 (Pump 1)	Maintenance					
Pull And Service High Service Pump at Water Plant 2 (Pump 4)	Maintenance				\$25,000.00	
Wellhead Protection Measures	Maintenance	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00

Exhibit E						
SEWER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENCE PLAN						
Item	Category	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Marvin Lift Station Pump and Control Improvements	Capital Improvement					
Carol Court Pump and Control Replacements	Capital Improvement					
Carol Court Gravity Overflow Replacement	Capital Improvement					
Marvin Lift Station Forcemain Replacement	Capital Improvement					
North Ridge Lift Station Submersible Pump Conversion	Capital Improvement		\$800,000			
North Ridge Force Main Replacement	Capital Improvement	\$230,000				
Marie Lane Forcemain Replacement	Capital Improvement			\$150,000		
Howard Dr Forcemain Replacement	Capital Improvement		\$88,000			
Vehicles	Capital Improvement	\$60,000		\$66,000	\$69,000	\$73,000
TBD	Capital Improvement			\$225,000	\$375,000	\$375,000
VFD at Main Lift Station 2, Pump 6	Maintenance					
Replace Howard Lift Station Pump 1 and 2	Maintenance					
Replace Oak Terrace Pump 1 & 2	Maintenance	\$55,000				
Replace Oak Terrace Controls	Maintenance		\$20,000			
SCADA - Fiber Conversion	Maintenance	\$25,000	\$25,000			
Manhole Lining Projects	Maintenance	\$25,000		\$50,000	\$55,000	\$60,000
Sewer Main Lining Projects	Maintenance	\$25,000		\$50,000	\$55,000	\$60,000
	<b>Total Capital Improvement</b>	<b>\$290,000</b>	<b>\$888,000</b>	<b>\$441,000</b>	<b>\$444,000</b>	<b>\$448,000</b>

STORM WATER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENCE PLAN						
Item	Category	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Wheeler Corp Station - Electrical Upgrades And Generator Backup	Maintenance					
Storm Sewer Lining or Grouting Project	Maintenance		\$ 50,000			
North Ridge Mill and Overlay Underdrain	Capital Improvement					
Lift Station Repairs and Upgrades	Capital Improvement	\$ 100,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 210,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 250,000
Vehicles	Capital Improvement	\$ 60,000				
	<b>Total Maintenance</b>	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	<b>Total Capital Improvement</b>	\$ 160,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 210,000.00	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 250,000.00
	<b>Total</b>	\$ 160,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 210,000.00	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 250,000.00

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council  
**FROM:** Matt Lassonde, City Planner  
**DATE:** September 13, 2023  
**SUBJECT:** North Mankato Deer Population Assessment

### INTRODUCTION

Some North Mankato residents have requested that the City take action to control what is perceived to be an over-population of deer. Residents have witnessed the degradation of vegetation and landscaping on private properties from deer browsing. Vehicle/deer collisions are also occurring near locations where deer herds have been observed. The City has responded to resident concerns in the past but previously concluded that there is not a deer problem in the community.

After new requests for the City to control the deer population, the City is following up on resident concerns and assessing next steps. This memo aims to answer the following questions:

1. What issues are North Mankato residents reporting?
2. What does research say about deer over-abundance?
3. Who is responsible for impacts to private property resulting from deer over-abundance?
4. How has the City responded to resident concerns?
5. Are deer over-abundant in North Mankato?
6. How can cities manage deer populations?
7. What are recommended next steps for the City of North Mankato?

### WHAT ISSUES ARE RESIDENTS REPORTING?

Over-browsing of ravine and hillside vegetation and landscaping vegetation on private property has raised concerns from many North Mankato residents wanting the City to control deer populations. One resident who owns several properties located on and around 927 Lake Street and repeatedly observes deer browsing hillside or ravine vegetation and bedding down on his property and has raised concerns with the City about deer over-browsing his property for many years. **Exhibit A** shows a handout produced by this resident to create awareness of the impact deer over-browsing is having on hillside vegetation and the integrity of the slope. The handout summarizes observations from Stein Innvaer, DNR Area Wildlife Manager, who visited the resident's property in April 2019. Summarized observations in the handout are excerpts from a letter included as **Exhibit B**, furnished to the resident by Mr. Innvaer after he visited the property.

A quote from Mr. Innvaer included in the letter and the handout is, *"I observed a distressing lack of ground and shrub layer plants in the woods...every species I looked at had been fed upon, including some*

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*that are of low palatability for deer...With fewer plants present to hold soil in place against erosion it would take only a few heavy storms to start the process of cutting and expanding ravines."*

A resident on Sherwood Drive, above the Lake Street hillside, who is experiencing deer over-browsing on her property has addressed the City Council in the past. Her request for the City to take action was featured on a frontpage article in the Mankato Free Press in the September 9, 2019 issue. Staff have visited her site and photographed browsed landscaping.

Other residents of Mary Lane and Sherwood Drive, located on top of the ravine above Lake Street, have experienced similar issues with deer. Some residents recount having five to eight deer in their yards eating private landscape vegetation, ornamental wreathes and, oddly enough, licking house windows.

The resident at 927 Lake Street solicited signatures from residents along Mary Lane that continue to experience issues with deer over-browsing. They would also like City action (**Exhibit C**).

The area immediately surrounding Lake Street, Mary Lane, and Sherwood Lane are not the only locations in the community with citizens experiencing impacts from deer over-browsing. Others reaching out to City staff are located on Oak Terrace Court, Roe Crest Drive, Eagle Ridge Drive, and other locations referenced in **Exhibit D** and shown in **Exhibit E**. North Ridge Drive neighborhood residents have also commented on heavy deer populations occupying their neighborhood and adjacent ravines. Photos depicting deer browsing and the damage done to resident properties are included in **Exhibit F**.

## **WHAT DOES THE RESEARCH SAY ABOUT DEER OVER-ABUNDANCE?**

### *Impacts of Over-Abundant Deer*

Significant research has been conducted documenting the social, economic, and environmental consequences of deer over-abundance. Staff has explored several resources, including peer reviewed, scientific journal articles, guidance from the DNR, and documents from several MN cities to gain a full understanding of the impacts of deer over-abundance and strategies for population management.

Sources agree on the following regarding deer overabundance:

- Deer populations have increased due to the abundance of ornamental plants, garden plants, and other food sources in urban areas, combined with a lack of predators and diminished hunting.
  - Increases in deer populations means increased conflicts with humans in the urban/suburban environment in the form of car collisions, property damage, landscape destruction, health concerns, and other ecological damage due to over-browsing.
  - Some people enjoy increased interactions with deer. However, when encounters exceed human tolerance levels, there is a deer overabundance situation.
  - Over-browsing or grazing by overabundant deer populations can cause changes to the structure and content of deer habitat, as well as the habitat of other woodland wildlife species. Reducing high deer density will result in increased plant production, regeneration, and/or plant diversity.
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- Deer overabundance can also contribute to public health issues including the potential spread of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illness. Other diseases, including Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is spreading among deer populations, has been confirmed in MN, and is being monitored.
- The need for intentional culling of deer populations will continue for the foreseeable future as deer populations continue to increase.

## **WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPACTS TO PRIVATE PROPERTY RESULTING FROM DEER OVERABUNDANCE**

The DNR's *Urban Deer Population Control Policies and Procedures* are included as **Exhibit G**. This document explains that, while wildlife is owned by the State, they are not liable for damage caused by wildlife. The DNR manages deer populations through regulated hunting. When a city's ordinances preclude hunting, responsibility for deer population management reverts substantially to the city. The DNR will provide technical assistance to the city and requires permits for any focused hunting operations.

North Mankato currently has ordinances that (1) prohibit the discharge of firearms and (2) prohibit the feeding of deer. While cities are responsible for deer population management, the onus still lies with homeowners to take precautions on their properties to deter deer, rather than attract them.

Many Cities in Minnesota have Deer Management Plans, including Roseville, Bemidji, Golden Valley, Mankato, New Ulm, Eden Prairie, Burnsville, Maplewood, Fridley, Brooklyn Park, Owatonna, Shorewood, Rochester, and others. This means that other cities have taken responsibility for controlling seemingly problematic deer populations.

## **HOW HAS THE CITY RESPONDED TO RESIDENT CONCERNS?**

The City has responded to requests to control the deer population. While there have not been many citizen complaints in the past, complaints are on the rise. The following is a timeline of city responses to citizen complaints:

### 2017

- After receiving a complaint regarding deer damage to a property on Lake Street, an article was included in the City News and Views newsletter suggesting North Mankato did not have issues with deer (see **Exhibit H**). Statements in the letter suggest that "*With regard to erosion, after visiting with Minnesota DNR...and our North Mankato forester..., there is no impact on the erosion of our ravines with our current deer population.*"
- The City adopted ordinance 91.19 *Prohibition on Supplemental Deer Feeding* which prohibits residents from intentionally feeding deer on private property. Adopting this type of ordinance is recommended by the DNR as a step to combat urban deer issues and language in the City's ordinance matches their model ordinance (see **Exhibit I**).

### 2018

- The City responded to a citizen request for a deer hunt to control the deer population in early 2018 by sending City Parks Department staff to 927 Lake Street. Staff observed deer bedding
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down on the property and damage to vegetation.

- The City adopted Resolution no. 25-18 determining that a deer hunt would not be considered at the time (see **Exhibit J**). The resolution states that the Parks Department and Greenway Conservation Advisory Committee inspected the understory and ravine health and determined that it was in good condition and that any erosion was due to rainfall. The City concludes in the resolution that they will work with the DNR to monitor the deer population.
- The City responded to a request from the resident of 927 Lake Street for the City trail camera to be placed on his property to observe the deer problem. A letter was furnished to the resident, included as **Exhibit K**, stating that the City has been conclusive in articulating the wooded location of the residence on the edge of a bluff is the cause of deer attraction and that the City denies the request. The letter also states that, *"North Mankato has concluded there is not a deer problem in the community and consider this matter closed."*

### 2019

- Over the period from August 2, 2019, to October 6, 2019, City staff met with nine residents at their properties to respond to problematic deer behavior. All but one resident had issues with deer eating vegetation and some requested the City hold a deer hunt. The list of observations is included as **Exhibit D**.
- City staff reached out to the DNR for recommended methods property owners could use to deter deer from their properties. A representative from the DNR provided information for homemade deer deterrent. This information was provided to residents as a mailer, was included in the e-newsletter, was on the City's website, and physical copies were available at City Hall from September 2019 through November 2019, and again from June 2022 through September 2022 (see **Exhibit L**).

### 2022-2023

Despite the City taking the stance that North Mankato does not have a deer problem, staff continue to receive requests from residents to control impacts on private property from deer browsing. Staff consulted with the DNR and other agencies and explored methods to assess potential impacts from deer over-abundance. This led to staff reviewing vehicle/deer crash data and completing a drone flight over targeted greenway sections identified as problem areas through resident input (see **Exhibit E**).

#### *Deer Collisions with Vehicles*

**Exhibit E** shows clusters of vehicle crashes with deer from 2013 to 2022. Data was referenced from the North Mankato Police Department and the MN Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and showed 62 total crashes over that period within City limits, on City right-of-way. Crashes with deer are primarily located along Lookout Drive and Lee Boulevard. Lake Street did not exhibit any crashes. Lee Boulevard had the highest occurrences at 18 crashes over that period. While data doesn't show a strong increasing trend, it does show that crashes are occurring annually. It should be noted that not all deer collisions are reported as they do not all result in personal injury or property damage.

#### *Drone Inventory*

Many deer were observed within and outside of City limits in the "Drone Inventory Areas" identified in **Exhibit E**. The aim of the flights was to identify the number of deer that exist per

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square mile within a representative sample of the deer habitat within the City, which totals roughly 0.8 sq. mls. (502 acres) of greenway (as identified in the Comprehensive Plan). DNR guidance suggests that an urban deer population of 15 to 20 deer per square mile of habitat is a common goal for suburban communities in MN.

The Lake Street hillside was a major focus of the drone flights where staff observed eight deer over 0.08 square miles (48.5 acres). This would mean the calculated dpsm for the Lake Street hillside would equal 106, which far exceeds the 15 to 20 dpsm recommended by the DNR.

#### *Inventory Results Analysis*

In August 2023, staff met with DNR reps Stein Innvaer (Area Wildlife Supervisor) and Brian Haroldson (Wildlife Research Biologist), as well as Tom Hagen (resident at 927 Lake Street) to review the inventory process and understand the findings. During the meeting, DNR reps suggested that data collected through the inventory and collision assessment is inconclusive to state there is a deer over-abundance. This is because the City is surrounded by green space within the Minnesota River corridor and deer can move freely through the City, making the number of deer immeasurable. However, those at the meeting did agree that the City is exhibiting adverse impacts from deer over-browsing. A summary of this meeting is included as **Exhibit M**.

### **ARE DEER OVER-ABUNDANT IN NORTH MANKATO?**

The evidence supporting that North Mankato has an over-abundance of deer is building. An increasing number of residents have reported issues with deer browsing landscaped vegetation on private properties, staff have visited homes and have photographed decimated landscaping, and the number of observed deer on the Lake Street hillside corresponds with resident sightings and complaints received.

As mentioned, the DNR has also confirmed they are increasing hunting pressure on the City's periphery to deal with a known over-population of deer. The Mankato Free Press has reported on the Mankato Area's thriving deer population, stating that the Mankato bow hunt is insufficient to cull the population. This over-abundance of deer observed by the DNR surrounding the City has undoubtedly become a source for population increases within North Mankato City limits, as the animals browse greenways looking for food.

#### Indicators of Deer Over-Abundance

Sources indicate that no single factor (i.e. a deer inventory) will determine if there is an overabundance of deer beyond an area's carrying capacity<sup>1</sup>. Similar to the observed deer presence and vehicle/deer collision occurrences, other indicators include observed decimation of vegetation on public and private land and citizen complaints. State and other agency guidance suggests that cities will set their own goals for reducing a deer population, which might not include achieving a certain dpsm that can't easily be defined anyway without extensive study. DNR reps suggested that extensive study may not be necessary

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<sup>1</sup> Carrying Capacity: The maximum population of a particular species that a given area of habitat can support over a given period of time. (MNDNR. 2016. White-tailed Deer in Minnesota: Information Packet for the Deer Management Plan Advisory committee. Accessed June 1, 2023. [https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/wildlife/deer/deer\\_backgrounder.pdf](https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/wildlife/deer/deer_backgrounder.pdf))

and would likely not be a responsible use of City funds when other factors already indicate issues with deer over-population exist. DNR reps suggested the City could focus goals on other factors. Achieving a total reduction in complaints from citizens may be the major goal for the City to consider. This would include setting a threshold for the number of complaints received that would trigger City action. Potential City actions to deter or remove deer would be identified in a wildlife management plan.

## HOW CAN CITIES MANAGE DEER POPULATIONS?

There are several ways to manage deer populations in urban areas, including lethal and non-lethal removal options. The following are non-lethal management options and related City actions:

1. *Cities can establish a strong ordinance banning feeding of urban deer.* The City of North Mankato currently has ordinance § 91.19 *Prohibition on Supplemental Deer Feeding* which matches model language provided by the DNR.
2. *Deterrents, including sounds, lights, plant deterrents, electric fencing, and exclusion fencing.* North Mankato has reached out to the DNR in the past for methods for property owners to deter deer from private property. Information was provided to residents through the mail, social media, and the website in 2019 and 2022 to promote deer deterrence on their properties. As mentioned, a copy of this information is attached as **Exhibit L**.

The following are lethal options for management:

1. *Allow hunting during deer season.* North Mankato has not pursued this in the past. Given the small amount of land providing deer habitat in city limits, staff feel this would create a dangerous situation. To measure this in North Mankato, staff reviewed criteria for the City of Mankato that establishes suitable hunting locations (i.e. No setup within 125 feet of roads, within 125 feet of walking/biking trails, etc.)<sup>2</sup>. **Exhibit N** depicts areas defined by applying Mankato's criteria to North Mankato. According to **Exhibit N**, it's evident that only small, narrow acreages remain viable hunting areas.

Typically, urban hunts are set up as archery-only, and deer shot with arrows have high potential to run far distances before falling. This could result in deer running into adjacent properties and/or City streets after being shot. In the Twins Cities Metro area, the Metro Bowhunter Resource Base is a group that works with communities through the hunt. They also do not recommend archery hunts on small acreage for the same reasons.

Some MN Cities known to employ a special archery hunt include Mankato, New Ulm, Bemidji, Elk River, Anoka, Redwood Falls, among others.

2. *Removal by special permit from the DNR.* Removal can also be done by sharpshooting performed by a hired contractor or the local police department. This type of hunt may be more suitable for small acreage of habitat similar to that seen in North Mankato. However, this requires a special permit from the DNR. To obtain a permit, a LGU must follow a few steps, including:

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<sup>2</sup> City of Mankato. (2023) City of Mankato Archery Deer Hunt Rules and Regulations. Accessed December 1, 2022. <https://www.mankatomn.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/7539/638259616597130000>



- a. *Estimate the urban deer population:* Staff has inventoried areas of the community and determined a number.
- b. *Identify a population goal:* 10-20 deer per square mile is recommended.
- c. *Perform public involvement:* Provide an open process for citizen input.
- d. *Develop a Management Plan:* Written management plan to achieve goals.
- e. *Keep and maintain records of deer/car collisions and citizen complaints:* Many complaints have been received and documented and collisions have been documented from data derived from the Police Department and MnDOT.
- f. *Request in writing for DNR deer removal permit annually to remove specific number of deer.*
- g. *Submit and/or update wildlife control application.*

Some MN cities known to employ a sharpshooting program include the cities of Maplewood, Burnsville, St. Paul, Roseville, and Eden Prairie, among others.

3. *Population Estimate and Goal.* Municipalities will set their own goals for reductions in deer population, car/deer collisions, and/or deer complaint calls.

## CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

Insight provided through this process has given staff confidence that the City of North Mankato is experiencing negative impacts from deer overabundance that warrant City action. This problem is not unique to North Mankato as many other MN communities, including Mankato, have established deer management plans and incorporated some sort of hunt to control deer overabundance.

In North Mankato, it's clear that those experiencing the most impact from deer over-browsing reside between Lake Street in Lower North and Sherwood Dr/Mary Lane in Upper North. DNR reps have also confirmed an over-abundance surrounding the periphery and have increased hunting limits as a first step to combat area growth.

The City has responded to citizen complaints in the past but should consider a more robust response as the area deer population and resident complaints are on the rise.

The following are additional recommended City actions per the DNR:

1. *Perform a Citizen Survey.* The City should survey citizen views on perceptions of deer and other wildlife populations in the community prior to the development of a wildlife management plan. Any survey should follow the DNR's policy which includes surveying with a statistically valid survey or interview instrument. This could provide input on problem locations and other useful information for wildlife management.
  2. *Complete a Wildlife Management Plan.* The City should consider developing a wildlife management plan that establishes goals aimed at diminishing impacts from not only excessive deer, but other animals that cause damage to properties. This action would respond to Greenway Goal 1, Objective 1.2 in the Comprehensive Plan. Reducing citizen complaints should be a major goal in this plan.
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3. *Create an Urban Deer page on the City's website.* The City should provide citizens with a webpage serving as home to educational materials and resources on deer deterrence methods. The webpage could also provide an avenue for citizens to submit complaints about urban deer and other wildlife. Staff would track the number of complaints received and determine action as defined by the management plan.
4. *Establish deer hunt with the Police Department to sharpshoot deer.* The City should consider using the wildlife plan as a first step to obtaining a permit from the DNR to perform a sharpshoot to cull the deer population. The Plan should identify designated deer removal zones and establish a threshold for the number of citizen complaints received that would trigger City action.
5. *Monitor Deer Activity.* The City should monitor complaint trends, deer collision statistics, and other indicators and report findings annually to track progress.

## RESOURCES

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# DEER IN NORTH MANKATO

Exhibit A



Those of us living on Lake Street and in the Sherwood Court, Sherwood Drive area are facing some serious potential problems with our properties. Damage to the hillside stock of young trees and understory vegetation between Sherwood and Lake Street puts us all at risk for erosion and potential slumps, which could eventually threaten the backyards and homes on the edge of the bluff. At the right is a picture of a recent slump on the 1000 block of Lake Street which will eventually move uphill endangering the house above it.

The damage to the vegetation that helps hold the soil in place is being done by a persistent and increasing deer herd that permanently live in the area woods and are eating all the understory vegetation including young trees. The hillsides under the existing trees look like someone has mowed them because the deer eat nearly all the forest floor vegetation. The local DNR expert on wildlife management with 30 years of experience has visited the hillside and stated in a letter to the City:

*"I observed a distressing lack of ground and shrub layer plants in the woods...every species I looked at had been fed upon, including some that are of low palatability for deer. With fewer plants present to hold soil in place against erosion it would take only a few heavy storms to start the process of cutting and expanding ravines."*

*(Stein Innvaer, DNR wildlife management expert, Nicollet Mn.)*



Over the last four years I have tried to get the City of North Mankato to pay attention to this problem. (The DNR is not permitted to take mitigation action without City Council approval) I have been told by the City multiple times that there is no deer problem in North Mankato...Case closed. Neither the mayor nor the City administrator will agree to come and even look at the problem. I appealed to the City's Greenspace committee and was told by Diane Norland, the Chair, that they are "focused on other work." The City has also refused to conduct a deer count in the North Mankato area to determine the scope of the problem.

The DNR report concluded that **"without support from the City there is little chance that effective action can be taken."** The DNR suggested a controlled hunt as has been successful in Mankato for the last nearly 20 years. The City of Blue Earth established a controlled hunt just this year to deal with their growing problem.





# DEER IN NORTH MANKATO



Each year the deer herd grows in this area. Below is a picture of deer wintering between Lake Street and Sherwood. In the winter they eat all the young tree seedlings in the woods.



The environment is at risk. Biodiversity is at risk. Eventually, your property will be at risk. The City will do nothing unless we who are at most risk organize.

**Contact Tom Hagen** at [hagen927@hotmail.com](mailto:hagen927@hotmail.com) to consider organizing around this important issue

ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

<https://news.wisc.edu/deer-account-for-almost-half-of-long-term-forest-change-study-finds/>

<https://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/police/animalcontrol/pdf/deer-management-plan.pdf>

Mankato Free Press Sept. 29, 2019 Oh Deer: North Mankato resists pleas for hunt.

Faribault County Register Jan.27,2020 "First Ever Blue Earth Deer Hunt a Success"



Erosion in the woods between Lake Street and Sherwood after a fall rain.

**Nicollet Area Wildlife Office  
Division of Fish and Wildlife  
501 – 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Nicollet, MN 56074**

May 28, 2019

Tom Hagen  
927 Lake St.  
North Mankato, MN 56003

Dear Tom,

It was a pleasure meeting with you last month at your property in North Mankato. I can certainly see why you enjoy living and working in such a peaceful and beautiful location. I can also understand your concern about the impact that white-tailed deer are having on your ornamental, vegetable, and native vegetation. I observed a distressing lack of ground and shrub layer plants in the woods behind your home. Despite the early spring timing of my visit, I would have expected to see more ground plants emerging from the leaf litter. The ornamental shrubs had sustained browsing as high as six feet from ground level, and every species we looked at had been fed upon, including some that are of low palatability for deer.

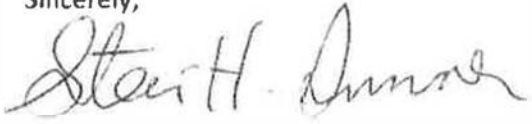
As you are aware, some of the low plant diversity of the woodlands can be explained by the shading of the over-story trees, but this natural condition is being magnified by the heavy deer browsing. Of equal importance to the lack of plant diversity in my mind however, is the effect that this lack of ground cover can have on soil stability, particularly on the steep slopes of your property. With fewer plants present to hold soil in place against erosion, it would only take a few heavy storms to start the process of cutting and expanding ravines through your property. In normal circumstances I would recommend planting shade tolerant ground cover plant species to help hold soil on these slopes, however with the persistent and extensive deer browsing these plants will probably not become established.

The Department of Natural Resources works with many communities to manage deer conflicts with urban landowners. While the use of repellents and scare devices has had only limited long-term success, fencing can also be a viable solution in some situations. Unfortunately, the cost of installing a permanent deer proof fence can be quite expensive. Many communities have instituted controlled archery hunts to remove deer from urban areas. In most cases the hunters are drawn from a pool of qualified individuals that have demonstrated proficiency with their equipment and are willing to accept the often stringent rules imposed by the city regarding where and how deer may be taken. This option requires that City officials work with landowners being impacted by high deer numbers, and as you know, it can be difficult to get such a program started. I have worked with several municipalities in the past that have held successful hunts and would be more than willing to work with the City of North Mankato if they choose to look into this option. However, without support from city



management there is little chance that effective action can be taken to lower deer numbers in your area. It is also important to recognize that to be effective in limiting deer populations a hunting program would need to be an annual event with a high level of participation, thereby creating a disturbance and threat to local deer. I wish you luck and if you think I can be of any further assistance please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stein H. Innvaer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stein" being more prominent.

Stein H. Innvaer  
Acting Area Wildlife Supervisor

CC: Joe Stangel

*Equal Opportunity Employer*

Kerry Lay - 1609 Sherwood - 351-3078

Todd King - 1606 - 381-3346

Jeff Adams 1602 340-2432

Leigh Bullock 1598 387-4894

1590

Tara Huber 1582 605-651-6117

URSULA DORING 510-812-8995

Richard Potchard 1704M 507-400-4672

Diane Telshor 1712 Mary 507-388-2484

Vickie Senne 1716 507-388-4295

Jeremy Solie 1720M 612-799-5357

Jan Friedrich 507-327-2699

CJ Sadusky King 118 507-210-1238

Norma Pulis 115 507-380-5312

Todd + Maria King 1606 Kingfam83@outlook.com

Under MLK @ gmail.com 1507-995-4000

Jerry and Marilyn Underwood

507-420-1453

GENE & CORINE WESLEY  
gcwesely@gmail.com

Beverly Gruenzner-Kragh 507-469-9075

Berg 76 @ gmail.com

Anthony Kelly 309-264-8695

Saleen Donovan @ yahoo.com

Cakephart 1225 @ gmail

Senne 1937  
@ charter  
net

1706

DEER CONCERNS				
DATE	RESIDENT	ADDRESS	COMMENTS	RAVINE CONCERNS
2/27/2018	TOM HAGEN	927 LAKE STREET	AFTER NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS, JASON VISITED WITH MR. HAGEN ON FEBRUARY 27 AND TOOK PHOTOS OF HIS CONCERNS.	
8/2/2019	PAUL HOLZHUETER	1585 SHERWOOD DRIVE	JASON MET WITH MR. HOLZHUETER ON OCTOBER 11. DEER ATE ALL HOSTA IN BACKYARD. HE USUALLY 5 DEER IN THE HERD IN HIS BACKYARD.	ON OCTOBER 11, MR. HOLZHUETER DID NOT HAVE ANY RAVINE CONCERNS.
8/7/2019	GARY DORING	1566 SHERWOOD DRIVE	JASON SPOKE TO MR. DORING ON OCTOBER 11. HE LOVES THE DEER, MR. DORING IS A COMBAT VET AND SAID THAT THE DEER ARE SOOTHING FOR HIS PTSD.	ON OCTOBER 11, MR. DORING DID NOT HAVE ANY RAVINE CONCERNS.
8/8/2019	SANDRA PETERSON	1574 SHERWOOD DRIVE	JASON MET WITH MRS. PETERSON ON AUGUST 15. RESIDENT HAD PROBLEMS WITH DEER EATING FLOWERS. IN THE PAST THEY HAD EATEN HER ARBORVIDES, BUT ELIMINATED THE PROBLEM WITH A MOTION LIGHT.	ON AUGUST 15, JASON OBSERVED THAT BUCKTHORN HAD BEEN REMOVED IN THE RAVINE AND AT THAT TIME MS. PETERSON HAD NO CONCERNS.
8/30/2019	MARLA KONTAK	2002 ROE CREST DRIVE	JASON MET WITH MR. AND MRS. KONTACK ON SEPTEMBER 30. DEER ATE SOME SPECIES OF HOSTA. AT THAT TIME RESIDENTS OF 2001 AND 2000 ROE CREST DRIVE CAME OUT AND VISITED ALSO. THEY HAD HOSTA DAMAGE TOO. ONE OF THE RESIDENTS HAD A PEAR TREE THAT THE DEER ATE. DAMAGE DONE BY 2 DOES AND 4 FAWNS AND AN OCCASIONAL BUCK.	MR. KONTACK HAS CONCERNS ABOUT EROSION, BUT NOT FROM THE DEER. AT ONE SPOT IN HIS YARD THE RAVINE COMES TO A SWALL IN HIS YARD AND WHEN THERE IS A HEAVY RAINFALL IT WASHES DOWN THAT AREA.
9/23/2019	JERRY UNDERWOOD	1708 MARY LANE	JASON STOPPED ON OCTOBER 11, BUT MR. UNDERWOOD WAS NOT HOME. HIS NEIGHBOR AT 1706 MARY LANE SAID THE DEER HAVE DAMAGED THEIR BUSHES AND ATE THEIR HOSTA AND TOMATO PLANTS.	JASON SPOKE TO MR. UNDERWOOD ON OCTOBER 14. AT THAT TIME HE HAD NO CONCERNS ABOUT THE RAVINE.

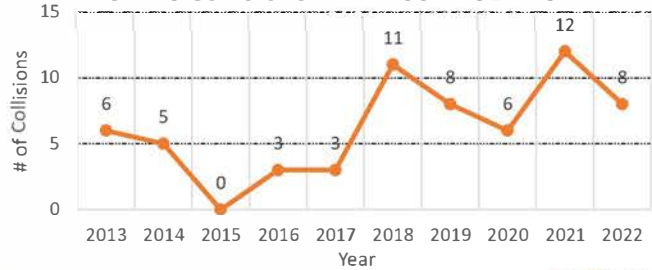
9/29/2019	<b>MANKATO FREE PRESS ARTICLES</b>			
9/29/2019	ALMA ERKEL	1586 SHERWOOD DRIVE	NOT AWARE OF ANY CONTACT WITH THE CITY, SHE WAS FEATURED IN THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE	
9/30/2019	GENE WESLEY	114 KINGS COURT	JASON MET WITH MRS. WESLEY ON OCTOBER 2- DEER EATING HOSTAS AND THEY HAVE A PEAR AND APPLE TREE IN THE YARD. THEY DO WANT A DEER HUNT.	NOT ON A RAVINE
9/30/2019	ALYSSA INNIGER	1577 SHARON COURT	JASON STOPPED ON OCTOBER 2. MS. INNIGER WAS NOT HOME, BUT SAID JASON WAS WELCOME TO LOOK. HOSTAS AND RHUBARB HAD BEEN EATEN.	NOT ON A RAVINE
10/3/2019	TINA NELSON	108 OAK TERRACE COURT	JASON STOPPED ON OCTOBER 11, BUT MS. NELSON WAS NOT HOME. THE HOMEOWNER HAS FENCED IN TWO APPLE TREES IN THE FRONT YARD. JASON DID LEAVE A DOOR HANGER LETTING HER KNOW HE HAD STOPPED.	MS. NELSON HAS NOT RESPONDED TO JASON'S NOTE, BUT JASON DID OBSERVE THAT THEY DO HAVE DRAIN TILE THAT IS NOT EXTENDED TO THE END OF THE RAVINE AND THIS MAY CAUSE PROBLEMS IN THE FUTURE.
10/6/2019	LEIGH PAULSON	1598 SHERWOOD DRIVE	JASON MET WITH MR. PAULSON. DEER ARE EATING THE LEAVES OFF HIS PEPPER PLANT AND ALL THE BLOOMS OFF HIS HOSTAS. HE WANTS A DEER HUNT.	AT THE TIME OF JASON'S VISIT MR. PAULSON DID NOT HAVE RAVINE CONCERNS.
10/10/2019	<b>CITY WAS INFORMED OF A DEAD DEER IN SPRING LAKE PARK, PARK STAFF</b>			
	<b>FOUND A YOUNG BUCK WITH 3 BROKEN LEGS, ESTIMATED TIME OF DEATH-</b>			
	<b>HIT BY CAR EARLY MORNING</b>			



## Information

- Total Number of Deer Collisions Reported from 2013-2022: **62**
- Collisions occurring on Highways 14 and 169 were removed from this analysis.
- Drone inventory area (*Locations 1 & 2 only*): 0.09 sq. ml.
- Number of deer observed (*Locations 1 & 2 only*): 12
- Other flight locations not in City limits.
- Deer habitat (greenways) within City Limits: 0.79 sq. ml.

## Vehicle Collisions with Deer: 2013-2022

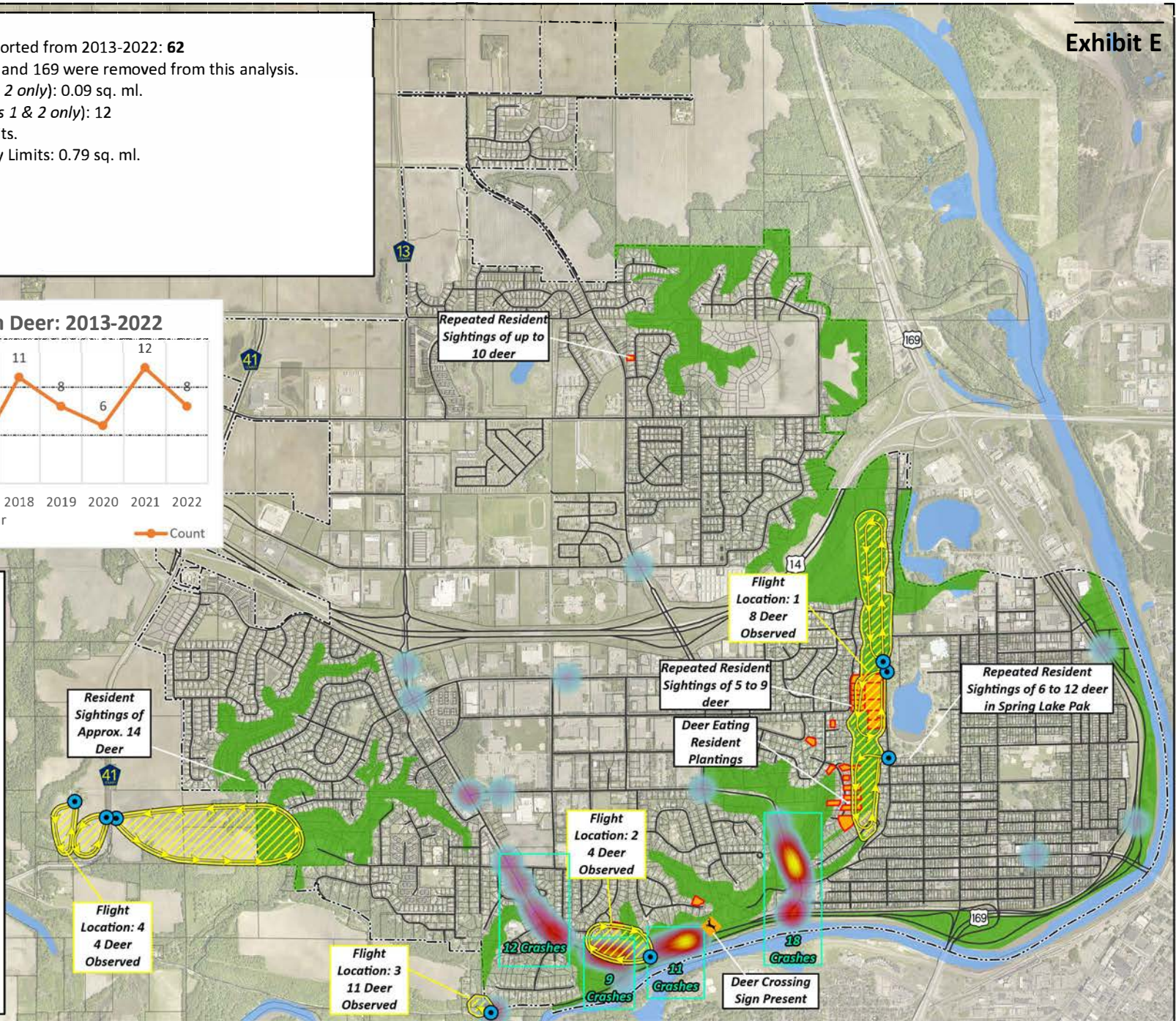


\*Source: North Mankato Police Dept.; MnDOT

## Legend

- Parcels
- City Limits
- Deer Habitat within City Limits (0.8 sq. mls.)
- Roads
- Drone Flight Origin
- Drone Flight Paths
- Deer Inventory Area
- Vehicle/Deer Collisions: 2013-2022
- Sparse
- Dense
- Properties with Deer Concerns

0 2,000 Feet





**Observed North Mankato Damage**



*Figure 1. Browsed landscaping at Alma Erkel's house at 1586 Sherwood Dr.*



*Figure 2. Browsed landscaping at Alma Erkel's house at 1586 Sherwood Dr.*

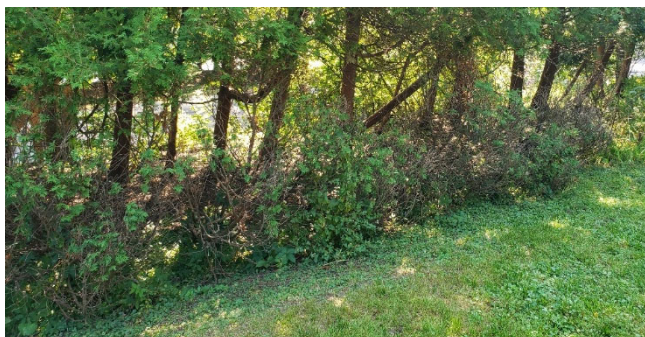
**Deer Damage Examples Provided by the U of M Extension.**



## Observed North Mankato Damage



*Figure 3. Browsed trees at Tom Hagen's property on 927 Lake St.*



*Figure 4. Browsed bushes at Tom Hagen's property on 927 Lake St.*

## Deer Damage Examples Provided by the U of M Extension.





## Other Damage Reported by North Mankato Residents



Figure 5. Browsed flowerpots at Alma Erkel's house at 1586 Sherwood Dr.



Figure 6. Browsed hillside at Tom Hagen's property on 927 Lake St.

## Deer Present on Private Property



Figures 7-9. Deer near Gerald Underwood's house at 1708 Mary La.

## URBAN DEER POPULATION CONTROL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

February 2, 2007

### POLICY

1. Wildlife is owned by the State (MS 97A.025), however the State is not liable for damages caused by wildlife (MS 3.736).
2. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages deer populations primarily through regulated hunting seasons. When a local governmental unit (LGU) precludes hunting through weapons discharge or other ordinances, responsibility for deer population management reverts substantially to the LGU.
3. DNR provides technical assistance and coordination to LGU's for controlling deer populations.

### PROCEDURES

1. DNR Area Wildlife Managers maintain a Wildlife Complaint Inquiry Log, detailing locations and nature of deer damage, which is provided to local governments on request.
2. When citizens request deer population control, they are referred to the LGU.
3. When the LGU decides to address deer population control the Area Wildlife Manager provides the following assistance:
  - A. Assist with the development of deer population surveys.
  - B. Provide estimates of probable population growth and deer removal needs to meet desired population density goals.
  - C. Meet with the LGU, citizens and committees/task forces to discuss possible control options and make recommendations.
4. If the LGU decides to pursue deer population control, DNR requires the following:
  - A. Deer population estimate.
  - B. Deer population goal.
  - C. Public involvement: an open process to allow citizen discussion/input, such as public meetings, hearings or committees.

## MN URBAN DEER CONTROL

### Page 2

- D. A written plan to achieve and maintain the population goal, including information on non-lethal damage abatement techniques.
  - E. Keep and maintain accurate records of deer-vehicle collisions.
  - F. Institute and maintain a standardized system to record citizen complaints.
- 5. DNR strongly recommends that the LGU also do the following, so that results of deer control can be measured.
  - A. Survey public opinion and experiences in the area/community, preferably with a statistically valid mail and/or interview instrument.
  - B. Survey deer damage to vegetation in natural areas.
- 6. Upon completion of a deer management plan, if deer removal outside of normal hunting is proposed, the LGU must apply in writing for a DNR deer removal permit annually to remove a specific number of deer. Population control methods which may be approved are shooting with firearms or archery equipment, including trapping deer and dispatching them in the trap, and experimental immunocontraception (see Minnesota Rule 6212.1750 PERMITS FOR USE OF CONTRACEPTIVE CHEMICALS). Trap and transfer of deer will not be allowed.
- 7. The LGU must provide DNR with data on sex, age and location of deer taken, as well as number and sex of fetus' present in females.
- 8. All deer taken must be field dressed and donated to charitable organizations, conservation organizations or otherwise needy individuals.



## Deer! Deer!

*... They're everywhere; they're everywhere!*

Not really. During winter months with snow on the ground, deer are more visible. However, they generally browse our neighborhoods throughout the year. During this time of year they eat the low hanging fruit on Cherry and Crabapple



trees, they will browse on Arborvitae, Fir, and White pines, etc.. There really isn't any plant in our area that is entirely deer proof. During the summer they love Hostas, Daylilies, Violets, etc.. Your local nursery can provide you a list of what deer and rabbits prefer.

It has been suggested by one individual that North Mankato have a controlled deer hunt like the one that Mankato has at Rasmussen Park. North Mankato will not have a controlled deer hunt until such time that overwhelming evidence, as can only be acquired from the Minnesota Wildlife Management of the DNR in Nicollet Minnesota, demonstrates the need for such a control measure. After visiting with the Wildlife Management in Nicollet, there would have to be a deer count done by helicopter to obtain an accurate count. No such count is scheduled to be performed.

Please understand that the city council has only received one complaint. As chair of the Green Space Advisory Committee, I took it upon myself to examine several areas in North Mankato. I found the understory upon which deer browse to be in very good shape

A comparison between North Mankato's steep hillsides and Rasmussen's vast terrain of marsh, woods, prairie, and creeks can't be seen as the same environment. Rasmussen's expansiveness is conducive to a controlled deer hunt however, North Mankato doesn't have an area that compares without jeopardizing human safety.

While there is a growing concern for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), there doesn't seem to be any evidence that it exists in our area. The nearest findings of this disease would be in the herds in South Eastern Minnesota. CWD is transmitted among deer through saliva. Therefore, it makes sense that feeding deer in urban areas or growing food plots should be of the greatest concern and the easiest to control. North Mankato and the DNR urges you not to feed the deer.

With regard to erosion, after visiting with Minnesota DNR wildlife management (Stein Innvaer), Minnesota DNR prairie management (Randy Schindle) and our North Mankato forester (Jason Lobitz), there is no impact on the erosion of our ravines with our current deer population. Deer browse, they do not graze. There is a big difference. Erosion in our ravines is more a factor of excessive and frequent rainfall events. We had upwards of 60 inches of rain last year during our growing season! This soil saturation will, no doubt impact our ravines again this year. Proof of this can be seen in the Minnesota River at a depth of 9 feet on February 1st with almost no snow compact providing runoff! Because of subsoil saturation, tiles are still running keeping the rivers and streams mostly open.

Lastly, it has been suggested that deer have no predators. Again, this is simply not true. Coyotes have been an effective check and balance in Southern Minnesota. They prey on young deer as I have personally witnessed. I live in a neighborhood where my wife and I have also witnessed Coyotes, just after dark come up out of the ravine and prey on voles burrowing in the grass under our cherry tree. Besides Coyotes and hunting, deer are controlled by Buicks, Chevys, Fords, and Mack trucks.

Bob Freyberg

*Thanks to Stein, Randy, and Jason  
for their professional input.*

**§ 91.19 PROHIBITION ON SUPPLEMENTAL DEER FEEDING.**

(A) *Findings.* It is hereby determined that an increasing population of deer within the city poses a threat to public safety by:

- (1) Increasing the likelihood of deer-vehicle collisions;
- (2) Contributing to the transmission of diseases to humans from deer;
- (3) Posing a threat to native and ornamental plants and animal life by excessive foraging which disturbs natural ecological balances;
- (4) Posing a threat to the quality of life by deer-related damage to landscaping and vegetable gardens;

(B) *Purpose.* Prohibition on supplemental deerfeeding, which results in unnatural concentrations of deer and can affect the normal movement of deer within the community.

(C) *Prohibition.* No resident may place or permit to be placed on the ground, or within five feet of the ground surface any grain, salt licks, fruit, vegetables, nuts, seeds, hay or other edible materials which may reasonably be expected to intentionally result in deer feeding, unless such items are screened or protected in a manner that prevents deer from feeding on them. Living fruit trees and other live vegetation shall not be considered as supplemental deer feeding.

(D) *Exemptions from provisions.*

(1) Veterinarians, city animal control officials or county, state or federal game officials who are in the course of their duties and have deer in their custody or under their management.

(2) Persons are feeding birds using self-enclosed feeding devices or containers.

(3) The use of straw, hay or straw-related materials for erosion control, mulching, gardening or other landscape purposes.

(4) Persons are maintaining a compost pile that is screened or protected to prevent deer from foraging.

(Ord. 87, 4th series, passed 3-6-2017)



RESOLUTION NO. 25-18

RESOLUTION REGARDING WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, the North Mankato City Council has received request from a resident to perform a deer hunt; and

WHEREAS, the number of deer/vehicle incidents in the past 2.5 years is eight with four occurring on Judson Bottom Road; and

WHEREAS, the North Mankato City Council, to accommodate citizen request, adopted an Ordinance banning the active feeding of deer to reduce attracting them; and

WHEREAS, Parks Department Personnel and Greenway Conservation Advisory Committee members inspected the understory in parts of the City of North Mankato and determined it was in good condition; and

WHEREAS, Parks Department Personnel and Greenway Conservation Advisory Committee members inspected erosion in several ravines and concluded the primary cause of erosion occurred because of rainfall and was not caused by deer; and

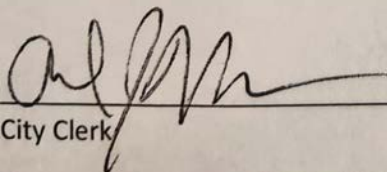
WHEREAS, the risk of Chronic Wasting disease was reviewed and it was determined it is not found in South Central Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Health reported North Mankato is in a low-risk area for tick-borne disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MANKATO, MINNESOTA, as follows:

1. A deer hunt will not be considered at this time.
2. The Parks Department and Greenway Conservation Advisory Committee in consultation with the DNR will monitor the deer population.

Adopted by the City Council this 5<sup>th</sup> day of March 2018.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

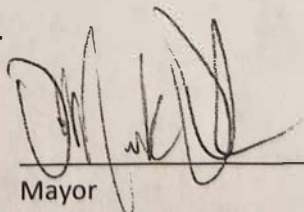
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor



Exhibit K

MICHAEL H. KENNEDY  
CHRISTOPHER M. KENNEDY

REPLY TO:  
99 NAVARRO AVENUE, SUITE 104  
MANKATO, MN 56001  
TELEPHONE: 507-345-4582  
FAX: 507-345-1010

April 6, 2018

Mr. Tom Hagen  
927 Lake Street  
North Mankato, MN 56003

Dear Mr. Hagen:

On Monday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April, you requested the use of the City of North Mankato's trail cam on your property. The City has reviewed the request and determined to not use the trail cam on your property. Through several conversations with staff and actions of the City Council, North Mankato has continued to articulate to you the conclusions of staff, committees, and the full Council regarding the matter. The City also has determined the wooded location of your residence on the edge of a bluff is primarily the cause of any attraction deer may have to your property, along with the presence of fruit trees and sawdust trails that may actually attract deer to the property. The City hereby denies your request to use the City trail cam, which is to be used for public safety and prevention of vandalism to City property.

North Mankato has concluded there is not a deer problem in the community and consider this matter closed.

Sincerely,

KENNEDY & KENNEDY

Michael H. Kennedy  
MHK/emw







# DEER CONTROL

Is your yard a local attraction for deer? Looking to detract deer in a safe, all natural, and cost effective way? Try one of these easy to make recipes recommended by the DNR!

## Homemade Deer Repellent

- 1 gallon of warm water
- 3 raw eggs
- 3 tbs of milk or yogurt
- 3 crushed garlic cloves
- 3 tbs of cayenne pepper
- Blender
- Strainer
- Garden sprayer (or large spray bottle)

**Step 1: Blend all ingredients.** Put eggs, milk/yogurt, garlic, and cayenne pepper along with 2-3 cups of water in a blender and puree thoroughly. Strain the mixture into a gallon jug, add the remaining water and seal.

**Step 2: "Ripen" the mixture.** While the homemade deer repellent can be used immediately, it will be more potent if left to ripen at room temperature for 24 hours. Transfer to garden sprayer or spray bottle. Note: it will have a pungent smell as it ripens.

**Step 3: Spray the solution.** Spray plants liberally after morning dew or any rainfall has fully dried. Make sure to spray the entire plant, leaves, stems, fruits, and all. It won't harm your foliage, it will just cause it to smell and taste bad to foraging deer. Once dry, the odor will be undetectable to humans but still unpleasant to ruminants.

**Step 4: Store it properly.** The sticky homemade deer repellent could clog your spray dispenser, so after dosing your garden, pour any remaining mixture back into the jug for storage in the garage or a cabinet.

**Step 5: Reapply as necessary.** Reapply the homemade deer repellent weekly and after any rainfall. Ideally, begin spraying early in the growing season, as soon as the weather warms up in March and April. During this time, deer are establishing their feeding patterns and your plants are breaking winter dormancy. If you make your yard unappetizing to them from the get-go, they'll find more hospitable grazing ground and may steer clear of your home.



For trees or shrubs not for human consumption that are being browsed by deer, Reppellex is a product available at Home Depot and other similar establishments. Reppellex comes in tablet form that you plant in the soil and is a systemic product, meaning it is actually taken up by the roots of the plant making it taste bad. You would not want to use it on food sources as you could have an apple or fruit as hot as a chili pepper.

## Red Hot Chili Pepper Spray

This recipe is courtesy of North Dakota State University horticulturist Ron Smith.

**Warning:** Handle the peppers very carefully—they are extremely spicy.

### Ingredients:

- 4 habanero peppers
- 1/4 cup of water
- 2 tbsp of olive oil (or vegetable oil)
- 3 tablespoons of yogurt or milk (milk products contain a protein called casein that helps the mixture stick when dry)

### Instructions:

1. Blend the peppers in enough water to liquefy. Start the blender at the lowest speed to avoid splashing on yourself.
2. Strain the mixture through a coffee filter or cheesecloth into a jar with a lid. Don't skip this step or the solids will clog the spray bottle.
3. Mix in the olive oil and milk/yogurt. This helps the mixture stick to the plants.
4. Add the mixture to a spray bottle, and dilute with enough water to get a 1:10 concentration (1 part mixture to 10 parts water).
5. Spray in the early morning after morning dew dries.
6. Reapply weekly and after a rainfall.

## **North Mankato Deer Inventory Meeting with MNDNR**

*Meeting #1 – August 24, 2023*

### **Summary**

*Attendees: Brian Haroldson – MN DNR Wildlife Research Biologist; Stein Innvaer – MN DNR Area Wildlife Supervisor; Tom Hagen – Resident; Matt Lassonde – City Planner*

0. DNR review North Mankato inventory methods and results and advise on next steps
  - a. What does our data say about our deer population?
  - b. Other steps that should be taken

*Staff began discussion by asking the DNR reps their thoughts on deer inventory methods already undertaken by the City and if there is anything missing from the collection to help determine the “deer per square mile” (dpsm). DNR reps suggested that the City of North Mankato may not necessarily need to calculate a dpsm as there are other methods to monitor deer population trends.*

*Brian stated counting deer is difficult and, from his point of view, data collected through the North Mankato flight inventory and assessment of vehicle/deer collisions is inconclusive to state there is a deer issue. He stated that North Mankato is surrounded by green space within the river corridor and deer can move freely throughout the community. The observed deer population on the hillside of Lake Street should not be used to calculate the North Mankato deer population because it is likely not representative of deer use throughout the unsampled portions of deer habitat within the city. He also mentioned that aerial surveys (e.g., helicopter with or without thermal imaging camera) can be used to estimate dpsm within the community, but they are expensive (approx. \$1000/hr) and, depending upon the City’s budget, may be cost prohibitive. Alternative monitoring protocols do exist.*

*Staff stated that it is clear from decimated vegetation and citizen complaints that deer are adversely impacting vegetation on public and private land. Stein indicated that the DNR is increasing hunting limits on the periphery of municipal limits in the Mankato Area due to deer over-abundance, which further supports the reality of observed issues within City limits.*

*DNR representatives suggested that, rather than setting a goal for reducing the population to a certain dpsm, the City consider setting a goal for total reduction in complaints from citizens. The City could set a threshold for the number of complaints received that triggers action to potentially cull the population.*

*DNR Representatives also suggested that this would need to be an ongoing process as deer will not stop entering the area even after culling. They stressed that there is no single solution, and it will require a combination of citizen education on (and City application of) deterrence methods and potential culling of the population. Staff stated that a deer hunt, controlled by the City, that would allow hunters to qualify to set up a stand and take deer in the City is not likely possible. City staff has discussed internally and given limited deer habitat and proximity to residences, it is more likely that any culling operation be accomplished by sharpshooting, pending City Council and DNR approval.*



2. Sharpshooting:

a. MNDNR Oversight?

*Staff asked if and how sharpshooting might be an option for the City to consider, stating that the North Mankato Police Department (NMPD) has agreed to perform sharpshooting if necessary. DNR representatives stated this would be an option but there would be meat processing implications; meat would need to be processed by a USDA approved facility.*

*Tom asked if there would be any need to perform a CWD test on animals that are killed. DNR representatives stated that this area is not in a CWD observation zone and that they are unaware of any requirements for that. Staff stated that state reps at a recent session discussing urban deer suggested it is preferred if samples were taken from any deer and sent to the CWD team. DNR reps stated they could work with the City to learn how to train hunters to remove lymph nodes and submit samples.*

*Staff asked about the process for sharpshooting, asking if deer would be baited or lured to an area and/or if the shooting could occur on a private property. Stein suggested he'd follow up on this. Tom asked if he could hire someone out to hunt with either a gun or bow to his property. Stein and staff suggested that City ordinance may restrict firearms, preventing this from happening. (**Note:** Staff followed up with Tom after the meeting, providing him with the City ordinance "§130.09 DISCHARGING FIREARMS" which prevents firearm/bow and arrow discharge within City limits.)*

*DNR reps stated that the City should designate "Targeted Removal Zones" to communicate to the public that this isn't a "fun shoot." DNR reps suggested that the City could also help get the word out that the DNR is increasing hunting pressure on the periphery of the City.*

*Tom asked if contraceptive measures could be used to control deer. DNR reps and City staff stated this is known to be cost prohibitive and is widely not recommended.*

b. NMPD willing to take this on:

*Staff stated that the NMPD will perform sharpshooting if allowed. DNR reps mentioned the City should consult their attorney to weigh in on how PD performs hunt. There may be liability issues and additional training will be important.*

i. Timing and Frequency

*Staff asked if sharpshooting performed by the NMPD (if allowed) would be restricted to only the hunting season. DNR reps mentioned the City could get flexibility in removal permits to take deer as issues arise and citizen complaints meet thresholds. DNR reps mentioned the City will need to set expectations with the public to ensure it is clear that decreasing deer issues will be a process and all issues won't be alleviated all at once. DNR Reps suggested the City provide mechanisms for receiving public complaints related to deer on the website that will allow the City to understand when thresholds are met.*

ii. Certifications for NMPD to perform hunt

*Staff asked if NMPD will need any training or certifications to perform the hunt. DNR reps stated that the Bloomington PD performs hunts and they still needed screening to qualify. North Mankato will need to do something similar. Could ask other cities what they did.*

c. Public Involvement Requirements

*Staff asked if there would be additional public involvement requirements. DNR reps stated that this could be accomplished through regular City Council meetings and City notifications.*

d. Management Plan:

i. Can staff complete this in-house?

*DNR reps confirmed that a management plan could be completed in house that would suffice to meet the requirement for obtaining a permit.*

3. Greenway understory restoration:

a. Responsibility

*Staff asked who is responsible for restoration of decimated vegetation on public and private property. DNR reps state there might be a grant or community program that could award funding for this. Stein suggested he has an ecologist colleague that could come in and advise on restoration techniques.*

4. Next Steps/Timeline

*All agreed that North Mankato appears to have negative impacts from deer. Staff commented that the ability of the NMPD to take deer whenever complaints meet the complaint threshold removes any race to try to complete the process by hunting season, which is impossible anyway. DNR reps suggested they could move quickly on permitting once the management plan is complete. Staff stated that this would likely be a "Wildlife Management Plan" and not just a "Deer Management Plan," suggesting it could take several months to complete and get through a process with the City Council. Staff explained the next step is to complete a memo to the City Council that discusses the recommendation to pursue development of a wildlife management plan and eventually a sharpshoot if they approve.*



