



Dear Village Manager,

For more than 35 years, the Lake County Forest Preserve District has carefully managed white-tailed deer at select forest preserves. When deer populations grow too large, they damage plants, slow forest recovery and reduce wildlife diversity.

Our Deer Management Program is permitted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and we must reapply every year with current evidence of overpopulation and ecological impacts.

A key part of this process is getting an accurate count of deer in the preserves. During winter, our wildlife ecologist conducts aerial surveys by helicopter. The flights are low-altitude and follow a grid pattern over the preserves and nearby land. Surveys require at least four inches of snow so deer are easier to see, which means they are often scheduled with little notice, sometimes the day after a snowfall.

**We're sharing this information in advance because a low-flying helicopter can understandably cause concern for residents.** In addition, you will receive an email on the morning of an aerial wildlife survey if a preserve in your jurisdiction is on the list for the day. The email will contain this link ([LCFPD.org/deer](http://LCFPD.org/deer)) which will take you to our deer management page containing a map of the preserve areas where an aerial survey is taking place that day.

Aerial surveys are conducted annually at these core preserves. We conduct surveys at more locations when possible, to obtain the most accurate estimate of white-tailed deer populations in the forest preserves.

- Cahokia Flatwoods (Deerfield)
- Captain Daniel Wright Woods (Mettawa)
- Cuba Marsh (Deer Park)
- Egret Marsh (Long Grove)
- Fourth Lake (Lake Villa)
- Gander Mountain (Antioch)
- Grainger Woods (Mettawa)
- Grassy Lake (Lake Barrington)
- Greenbelt (North Chicago)
- Heron Creek (Lake Zurich)
- Independence Grove (Libertyville)
- Lakewood (Wauconda)
- Lyons Woods (Waukegan)
- MacArthur Woods (Mettawa)
- Middlefork Savanna (Lake Forest)
- Old School (Mettawa)
- Rollins Savanna (Grayslake)
- Ryerson Conservation Area (Riverwoods)

If you would like further details about the deer management program, please contact Pati Vitt, Natural Resources Director, at 847-968-3285 or [pvitt@LCFPD.org](mailto:pvitt@LCFPD.org), or Jim Grego, Wildlife Ecologist, at 847-968-3283 or [jgrego@LCFPD.org](mailto:jgrego@LCFPD.org).

Thank you for your cooperation with this important natural resource management program.

Sincerely,

Alex Ty Kovach  
Executive Director, Lake County Forest Preserves