



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods, and diverse communities of Fairfax County

Colonel  
Edwin C. Roessler Jr.  
*Chief of Police*

November 14, 2014

CURRENT RESIDENT  
1666 PARKCREST CIR  
RESTON, VA 20190

Lt. Colonel  
Thomas Ryan  
*Deputy Chief of Police  
for Administration*

Dear Park Neighbor:

Each year, deer management is conducted in Fairfax County parks under a program of the Fairfax County Police Department, in partnership with the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. You are receiving this letter because you live near or adjacent to a park where upcoming deer management activity is planned to occur. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with important information about the county's program.

Lt. Colonel  
Ted Arnn  
*Deputy Chief of Police  
for Investigations  
Operations Support*

The Fairfax County Deer Management Program uses the most safe, effective, and sustainable deer management methods currently permitted by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. These methods include archery, managed (shotgun) hunts, and sharpshooting.

Lt. Colonel  
Erin F. Schaible  
*Deputy Chief of Police  
for Patrol*

Sharpshooting has been selected as the most appropriate method of deer management for the following parks:

Green Spring Gardens  
Lake Fairfax Park  
Marie Butler Leven Preserve  
Mason Neck West Park  
Frying Pan Farm Park

## Why is deer management necessary in Fairfax County?

The deer population in Fairfax County has grown to a level that poses safety and health hazards to our communities, and is not sustainable by the environment over time.

*Public Safety Concerns:* Serious public safety concerns are associated with an overabundant deer population. The primary concern is the high number of deer-vehicle collisions that occur annually in Fairfax County, which may result in injury and even death of residents. Thousands of these collisions occur each year in Virginia.

**Fairfax County Police Department**  
4100 Chain Bridge Road  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030  
703-246-2195, TTY 711  
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*Human Health Concerns:* Overabundant deer populations pose a human health concern. Deer are the primary maintenance hosts for ticks, which can transmit the pathogens that cause Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever in humans. High densities of ticks carried on deer may increase the spread of these tick-borne illnesses to humans.

*Environmental Impact:* Over-browsing by white-tailed deer has led to destruction of many of our forests. This has negatively impacted the entire ecosystem, including loss of other wildlife species that depend on these diverse habitats for food, cover, and nest/den sites.

The goal of the Deer Management Program is to reduce the current deer population to more sustainable levels to minimize these impacts for residents and wildlife alike.

**How might this program affect me and my use of the park?**

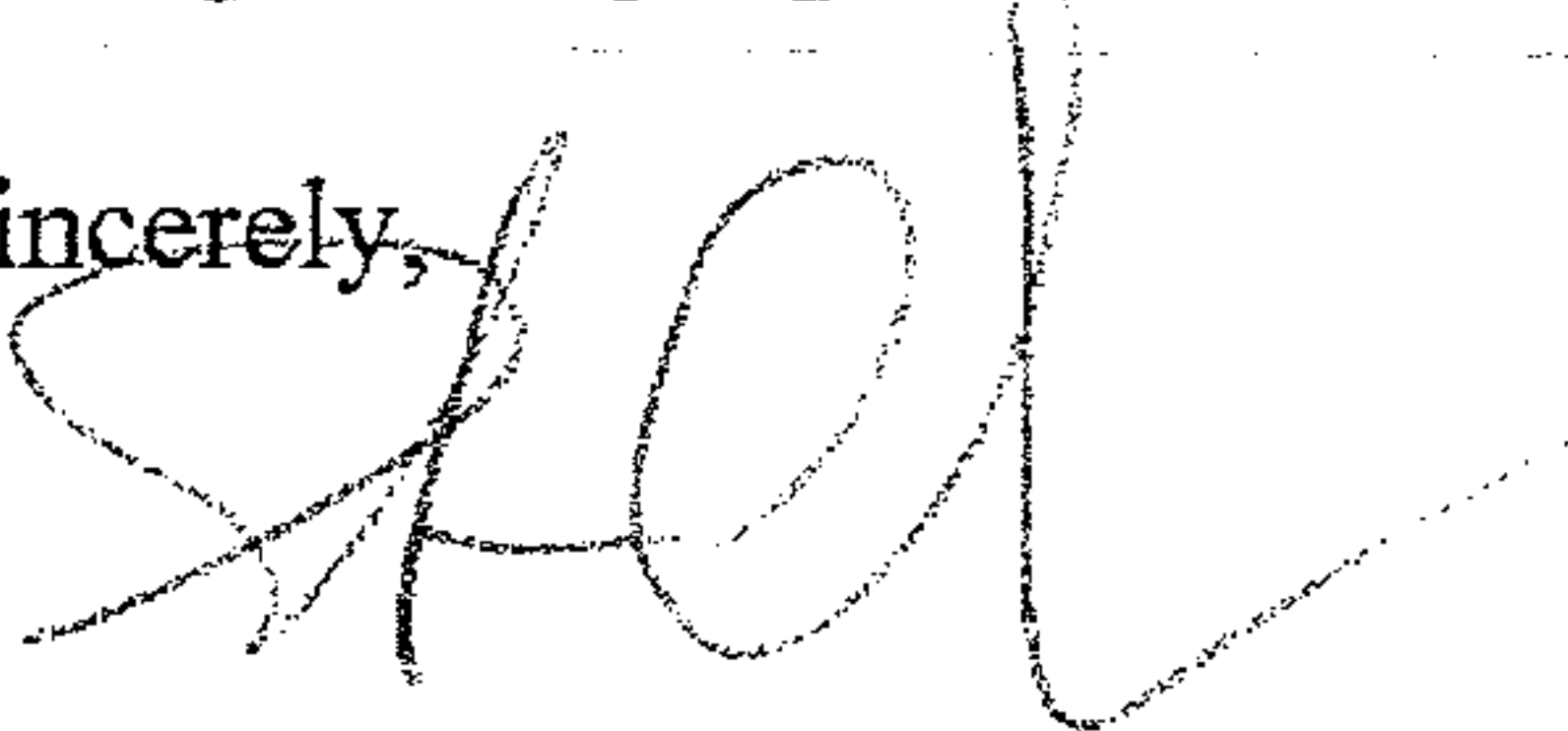
In order to efficiently reduce the deer herd, a nighttime sharpshooting operation will be conducted by the Fairfax County Police Department. Sharpshooting will occur no earlier than one half hour after sunset, when most parks are closed to the public, and in pre-determined locations away from residences and businesses. Operations will be conducted on up to five evenings in each park, between December 2014 and February 2015. County staff and/or uniformed public safety officers will be present at parking lots and trailheads informing park patrons of this activity and preventing unauthorized access. All venison harvested during sharpshooting operations will be donated to Hunters for the Hungry, a non-profit organization that provides food for the needy.

If you have any further questions, please contact Sergeant Earit W. Powell or Captain Michael D. Dittmer, Commander of Animal Control at 703-324-0222.

You can also visit the Fairfax County website for more information about the Fairfax County Deer Management Program at:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/animals/wildlife/management/deer-management/program.htm>

Sincerely,



Edwin C. Roessler Jr., Colonel  
Chief of Police