

Deer Management Project

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Department of Parks and Recreation
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**ARLINGTON
VIRGINIA**

Parks & Recreation

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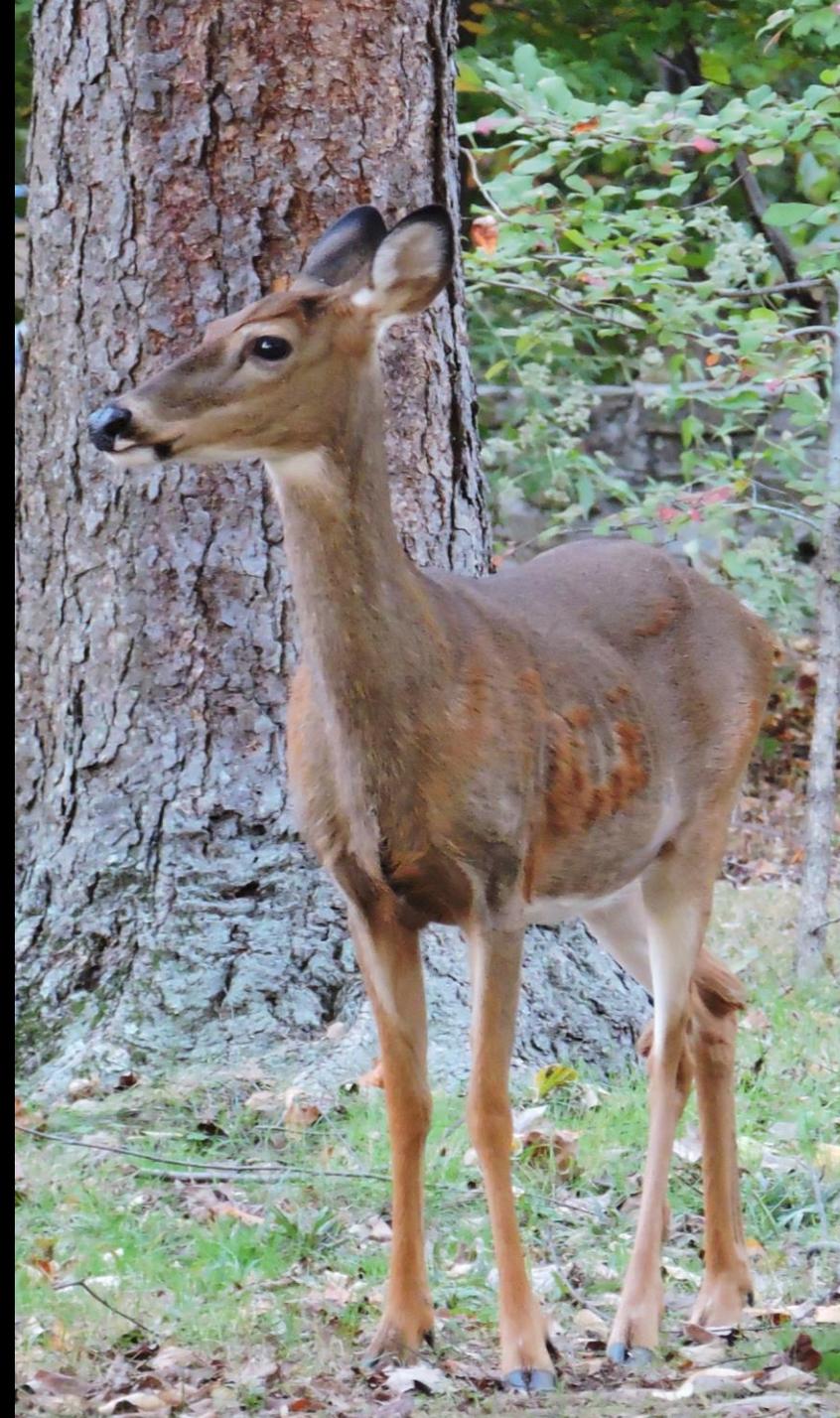
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Project Background

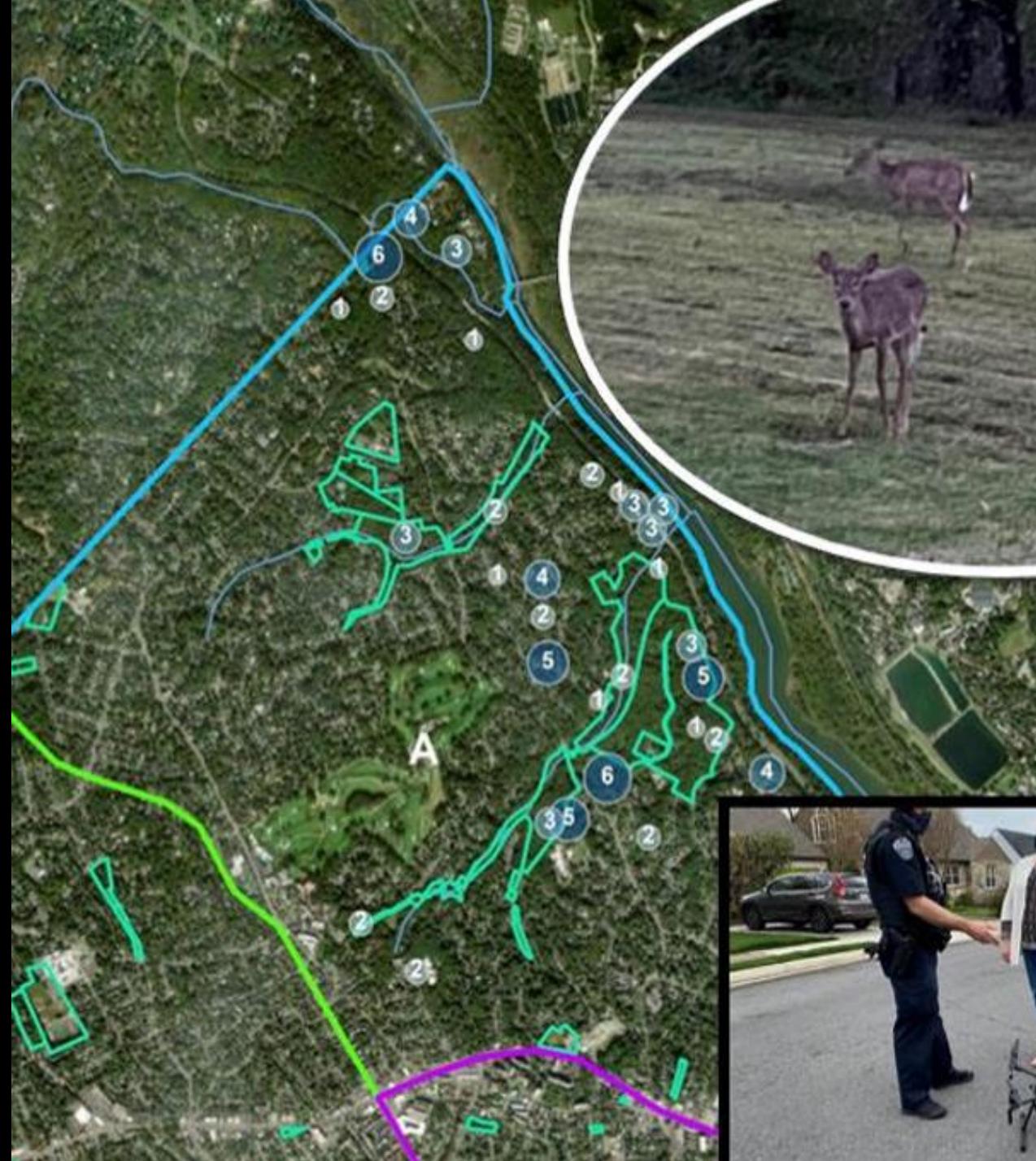
Deer are important but can be problematic

- White-tailed deer are important for Arlington's ecology
- High deer population densities can harm local ecosystems
- Deer eat key native plants faster than they can regenerate (Ecological Carrying Capacity)
- Too many deer will destroy the habitat impacting not only our forest's ability to regrow, but also animals that rely on the plants for food and cover

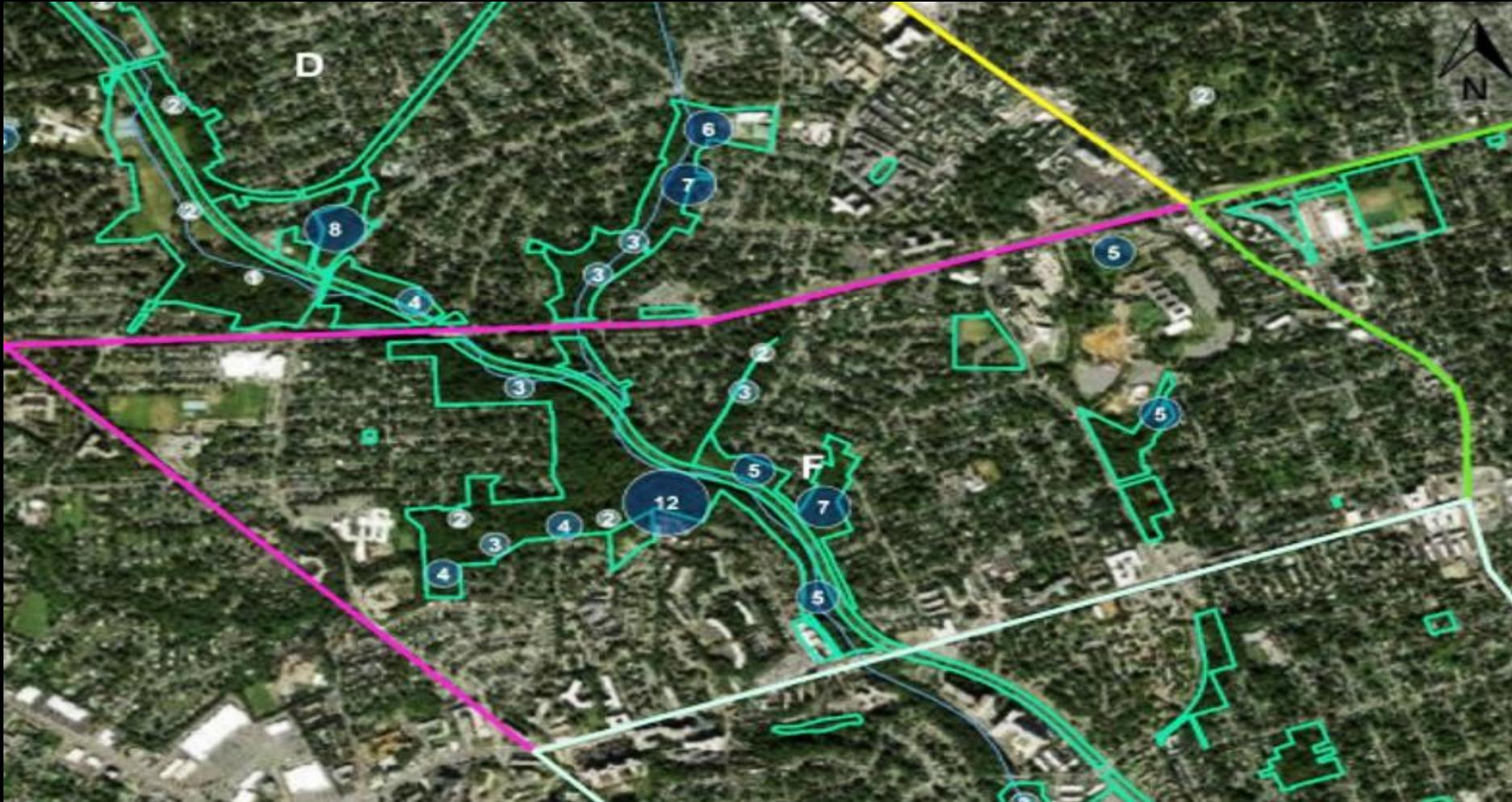


Project History

- Anecdotal evidence of deer overbrowsing has been seen over the years
- April 2021 - Arlington County conduct aerial drone surveys
 - Survey found at least 290 deer County wide. Average density of 124 per square mile in 12 key forest parks.
 - Fall 2022 – Arlington County conducted browse surveys in 12 forest parks to evaluate deer impacts to vegetation.



Deer Population



Concentrated in our Natural Areas

Our Forests Have Too Many Deer

- 12 out of 12 surveyed parks showed damage from deer overpopulation.
- The surveyed parks had an average deer density of 124 deer per square mile in 2021. Research recommends no more than 15-20 per square mile.
- Densities were 1.9-17 times the recommended levels in 11/12 surveyed parks.



A Tale of Two Forests



Lacey Woods Park

The forest is mostly untouched by deer



Barcroft Park

The forest is mostly eaten by deer

Suitable Options In Arlington

- Sharpshooting
- Fertility control (surgical)
- Controlled Archery hunting (hybrid only)
- Fencing (hybrid only)
- Repellents (hybrid only)



Sharpshooting



Surgical Sterilization



Controlled Archery Hunting



Fencing



Deer Repellent

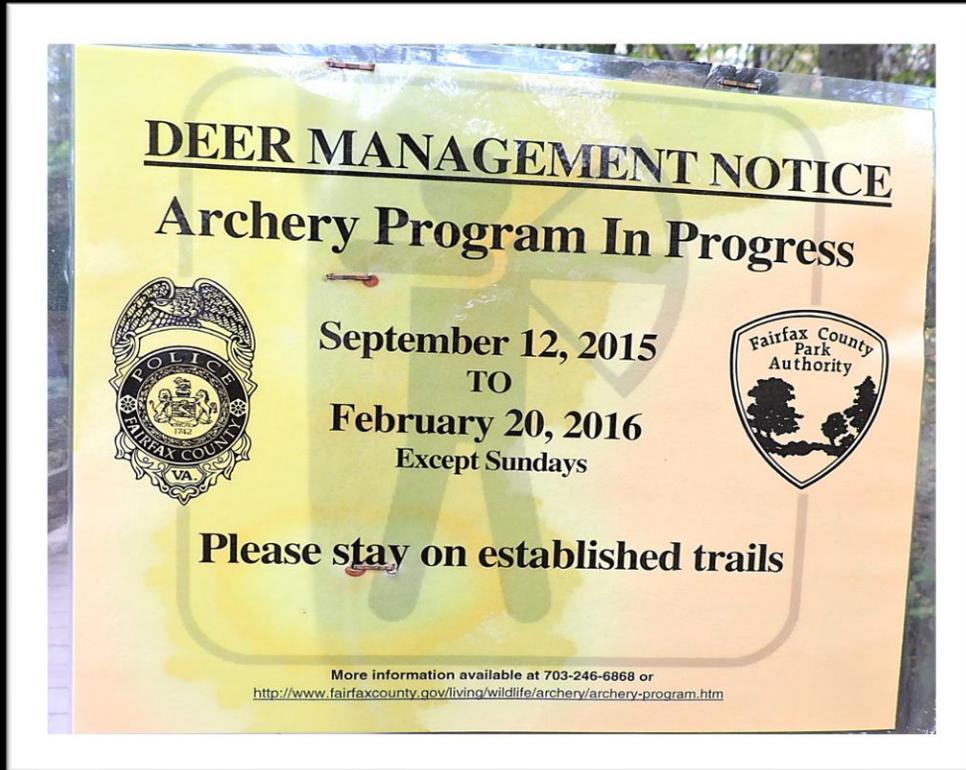


Deer Management in Arlington

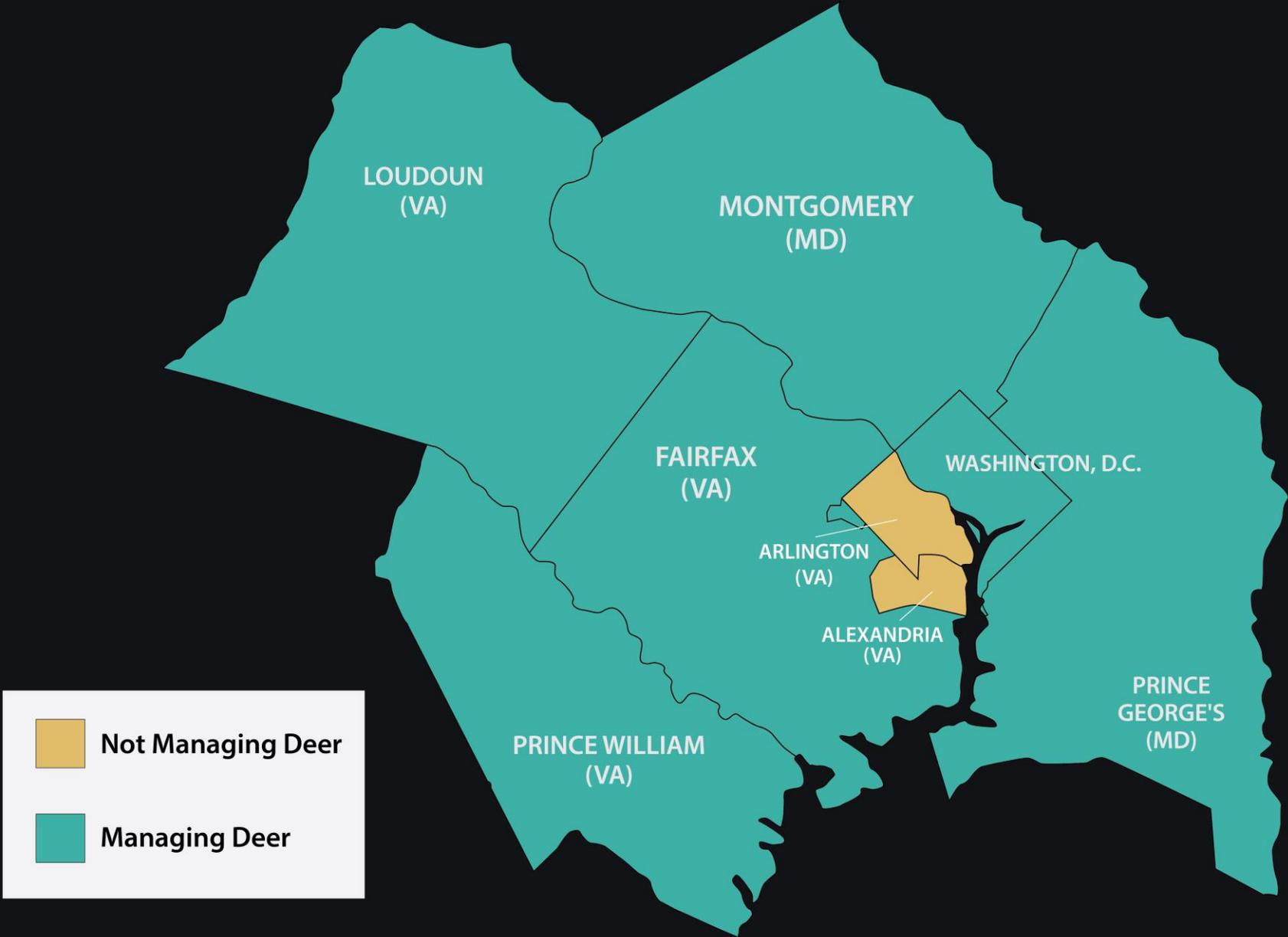
- Arlington County Parks
 - Repellents
 - Fencing
- Army Navy Country Club
 - Archery hunting -
Fall 2012+
 - 97 deer culled
 - Still had 25 deer on
property during 2021
drone survey
- Private lands
 - Fencing
 - Plants
 - Repellents
 - Scare techniques



Deer Management in Adjacent Jurisdictions



- **Washington D.C.** - Rock Creek Park
 - USDA sharpshooting program
 - Tree seedling density tripled since lethal control
 - Recently expanded to other NPS properties in D.C. and Maryland.
- **Maryland** - Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties
- **Virginia** - Fairfax County & NPS Manassas National Battlefield Park
 - Browse monitoring
 - Hunting
 - Sharpshooting
 - Meat donated



Not Managing Deer



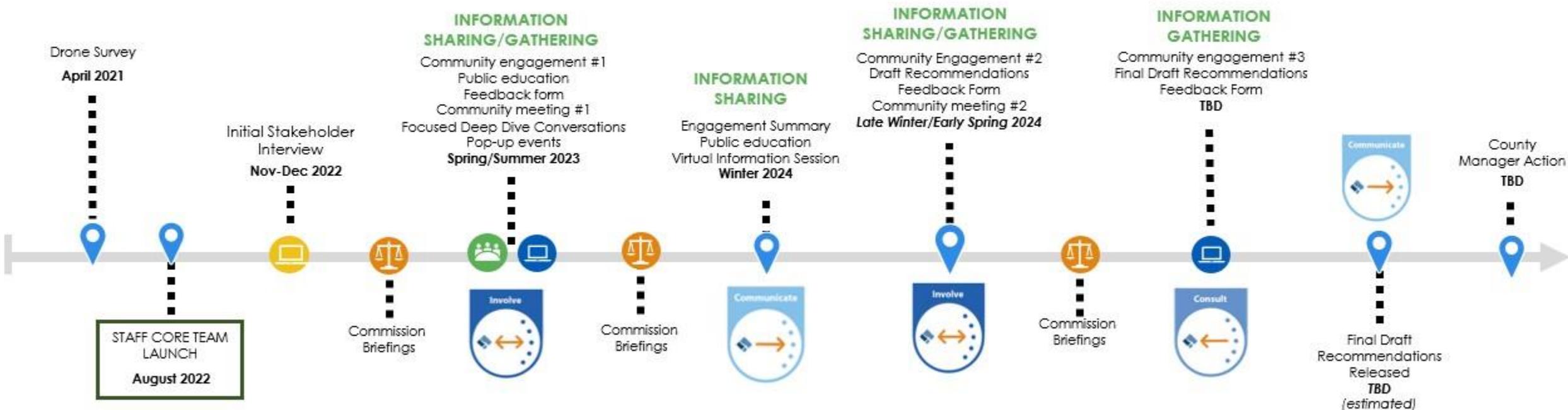
Managing Deer

Deer Management Project Timeline

Origin: Natural Resources Management Plan

Funding: General Fund

Staff Contact: Alonso Abugattas
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Online Feedback
(e.g., questionnaire, feedback form, etc.)



In-Person Engagement and Pop-Ups
(e.g., community meeting, roundtable, tabling, walking/bus tour, deliberative dialogue, etc.)



Virtual Meeting
(e.g., TEAMS, TEAMS live, Zoom, etc.)



County Board Engagement
(e.g., public hearing, Board work session, open door Monday, commission meeting, etc.)



Key Milestone

How can you participate?

- Sign up for updates on the Deer Management Project Page.
(Search 'Arlington Deer Management Project')
- Participate in upcoming engagement and events in early 2024.