



# FREMONT Michigan

*"NOW AND ALWAYS -- A Fine City • A Great Community"*

## PRESS RELEASE

**DATE:** January 15, 2008

**CONTACT:** James Breinling, Facilitator  
City of Fremont Deer Management Task Force

**SUBJECT:** **FREMONT DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM- PART III**  
-Third in a Series of Articles Highlighting the City's Deer Management Program

### **PROJECT TO THIN FREMONT AREA DEER HERD DEEMED SUCCESSFUL**

The City of Fremont's Deer Management Task Force reported today that its program to thin the Fremont area's white-tailed deer herd has concluded for 2007. Individual sportsmen and women were issued 80 MDNR-approved permits by the City during the regular fall deer hunting seasons for bow, firearm and muzzleloader. These permits could be used only within or adjacent to the eight-square-mile Deer Management Area (DMA), which surrounded the perimeter of the City (see map below.) Seventy-five, or 94% of the permit holders were successful in filling their antlerless deer permits.

During more than a year of research, analysis and discussion, Fremont's Deer Management Task Force reviewed the plans of Iowa City, IA, Burnsville, MN and other communities across Michigan and the U.S. The Fremont Deer Management Plan (DMP) includes many of the best aspects of these other programs, which were then customized to meet local needs and desires. Unlike some of the other communities, the Task Force decided to use local hunting enthusiasts instead of hiring professional sharpshooters to help reduce deer densities within the DMA. This was not only more acceptable to our area hunters, but was more cost effective for the City. It also allowed the permit holders to choose their preferred weapons; deer were taken with a bow (34), rifle (25) and muzzleloader (16).

It is very important to note that the Fremont City Code of Ordinances does not permit discharge of any firearms, for hunting or any other purpose, within the City limits. All deer were taken from private lands outside the City limits but within the DMA. Of the 75 total deer, 59 were taken north of Main (48<sup>th</sup>) Street and 16 south of Main Street. Deer were taken from all eight of the DMA sections as follows:

	<u>Section No.</u>	<u>No. of Deer</u>
Dayton Township	25	18
	26	7
	34	4
	35	15
	36	<u>15</u>
Subtotal Dayton		<b>59</b>
Sheridan Township	1	10
	2	2
	3	<u>4</u>
Subtotal Sheridan		<u><b>16</b></u>
<b>Total DMA</b>		<b>75</b>

The Task Force generally meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the City Council Chamber of City Hall. The meetings are open to the general public and citizens are encouraged to attend. At the meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Task Force members will review the 2007 thinning operation and refine their methods to evaluate its effectiveness on reducing deer browse as well as deer/vehicle accidents in the Fremont area. They will also further discuss the logistics for conducting an aerial deer count this winter in order to establish further baseline data for the ongoing management of the urban deer herd.

In recent years, the practice of supplemental or recreational feeding of deer has become more popular. Unfortunately, this practice lures even more undesirable deer into residential areas of the City. The Task Force continues to discourage property owners from providing supplemental or recreational feeding of deer on their own property or on other public and private properties.

Artificial feeding also domesticates the animals and provides them “safe harbors,” within which they are not subject to human predation. However, eventually the population will overwhelm the carrying capacity of its localized habitats; at this point, deer become susceptible to disease and cause excessive browsing damage on adjacent lands, both at the “feeding” site, as well as during their migration to and from the site.

In fact, under MDNR rules for recreational feeding, the volume of feed on the ground cannot exceed two (2) gallons per residence at any time. The feed must be placed within 100 yards of a residence, on land owned or possessed by that person. It cannot be placed on adjacent public or private land. The feed must be scattered or dispersed directly on the ground and not placed in a pile.

The Task Force will soon be issuing or highlighting educational materials regarding what plants, shrubs, flowers and trees are generally avoided by browsing deer, and which ones are their favorite food sources. Landowners can use this information this spring to begin reducing or eliminating those plants favored by deer and replacing them with those most often left alone by deer. By eliminating favored browsing plants, as well as supplemental feeding, it is projected that problem deer will return to other natural sources of food and reduce deer browse damage in parks and residential neighborhoods.

The above information will be available in printed form at City Hall and will be posted to the City’s website at [www.cityoffremont.net](http://www.cityoffremont.net). The City will continue to provide articles and educational materials on additional key aspects of the City’s Deer Management Program. Questions or comments regarding the Program or the Task Force may be directed to James Breinling at home at 924-5740 or Fremont City Manager Chris Yonker at City Hall at 924-2101.

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