

Urban Deer Management

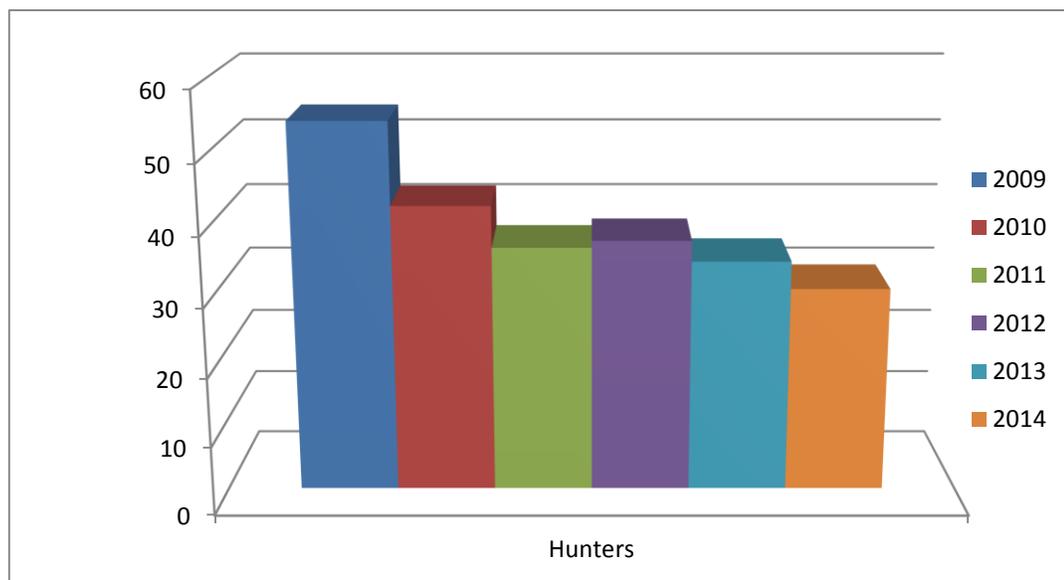
The 2014 Urban Deer Management program started with a number of changes due to the implementation of Wisconsin Act 71. Act 71 focused on what restrictions imposed by local governmental units on hunting with bow & arrow or crossbow. (Act 71 is attached) With these changes we were not able to require hunters to participate in the Urban Deer Management program. Staff did a great job of educating the public on the changes and what they meant for everyone.

Onalaska Park and Recreation Department continues to work to bring success during the Urban Deer Management seasons, this year was no exception. The 2014 season began on September 8th when the first tags were able to be picked up. The private lands that were approved for hunting were open from September 13th until October 10th. They were closed until October 11th and then reopened from October 13th until November 21st. They were closed again from November 22nd until December 10th and opened from December 11th until January 31st. The parklands were available Monday through Friday on four different weeks; October 13th through the 17th, November 10th through the 14th, December 15th through the 19th and January 12th through the 16th.

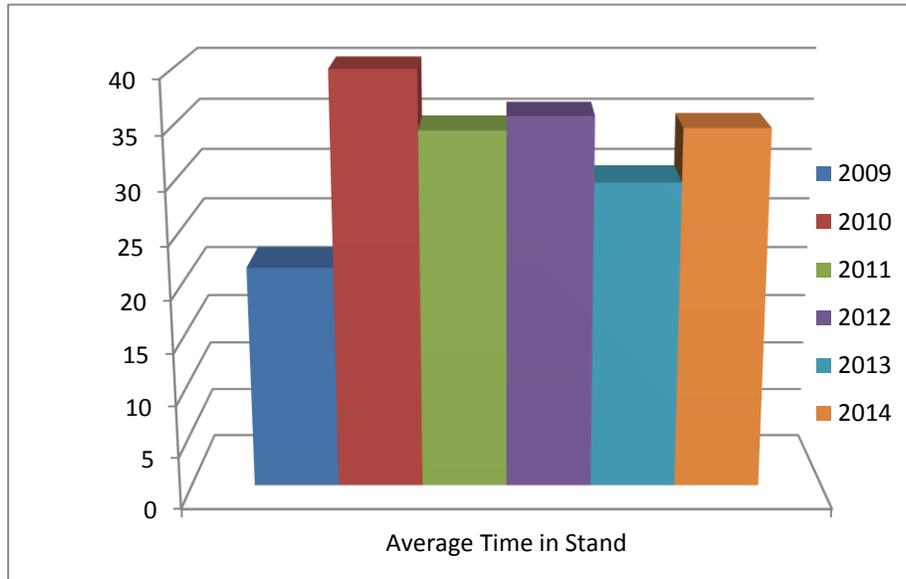
Some statistics are as follows:

1. There were **30 hunters total** who hunted an **average of 12.37** days for the 2014 season. This season started on September 13th.

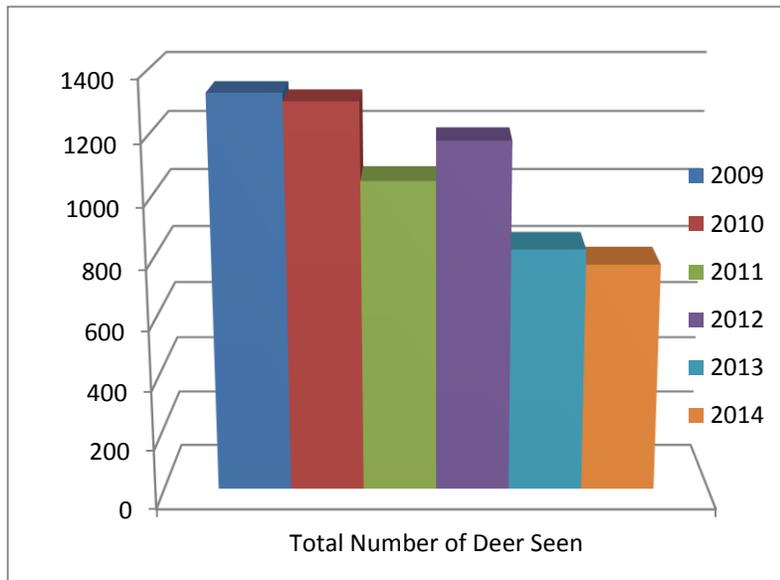
In 2009 there were 54 registered hunters who on average hunted for 7.6 days during the season. In 2010 the hunters hunted 12.30 days. In 2011 the hunters hunted 10.39 days. In 2012 the number of days hunted increased by 2.11 days. (12.5 days total). In 2013 there were 34 registered hunters who on average hunted for 9.5 days. 23 of the hunters returned from 2012 season.

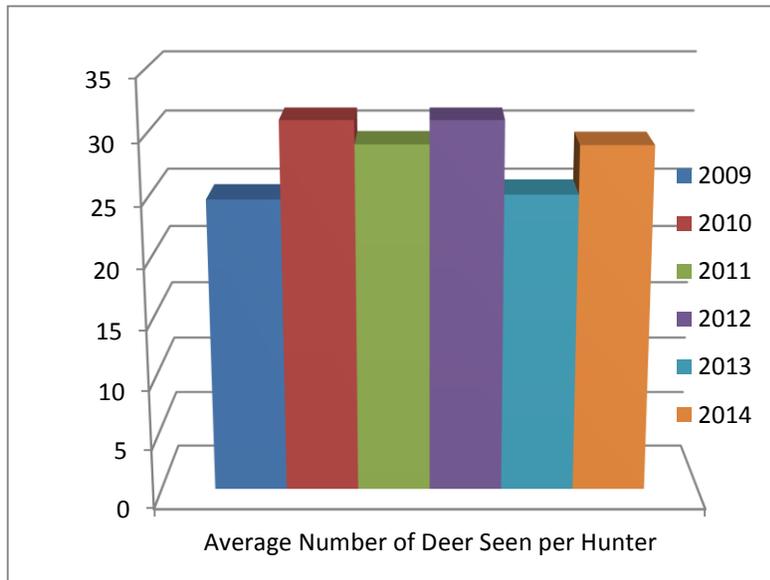


2. The average amount of time spent in the stands was **34.62 hours per hunter** during 2014. The average amount of time spent in the stands was **29.56 hours per hunter** during 2013 -- **35.7 hours per hunter** during 2012 season -- **34.38 hours per hunter** during the 2011 season -- **40 hours in the stand** during the 2010 season -- **21.5 hours per hunter** during the 2009 season.



3. In 2014, the **average number of deer seen per hunter was 25.7** for a total of **771 deer**. In 2013, the **average number of deer seen per hunter was 24** for a total of **822 deer**. In 2012, the **average number of deer seen per hunter was 31** for a total of **1,176 deer**. In 2011, the **average number of deer seen per hunter was 29.06** for a total of **1,046 deer**. There were on **average 31 deer seen per hunter** in the 2010 with a total deer seen count of **1,302**. In 2009 a total of **1,329 deer** were seen with an **average of 24.6 deer** seen per hunter.





4. Number of hunters seen during the 2014 season: **30 hunters**

This total is up 5 from the 2013 season when 25 hunters were seen.

5. Number of non-hunters seen during the 2014 season: **87 non-hunters**

This total is down 6 from the 2013 season when 93 non-hunters were seen.

6. Number of shots taken in the 2014 season: **49 total shots taken**

This total is up 12 from the previous 2013 season when 37 shots were taken.

7. The total number of arrows retrieved in the 2014 season: **47 arrows retrieved**

There were two lost arrows this season do to land not accessible.

8. The total number of deer hit in 2014 was: **46 total deer**

9. The total number of deer recovered in the 2014 season was **40 deer harvested.**

This total is the up 12 from the previous 2013 total of **28 deer harvested.**

A total of **30 hunters harvested** deer this season. This meant that there was an **average of 1.33 deer per hunter** that was harvested this season.

10. The number of times hunters lost blood trail of game were: **4 time**

46 deer were hit and only 40 were recovered and harvested during the 2014 season. For 2014 season 87% of the deer were recovered.

6 total deer were not recovered that were hit during the 2014 season. Land was not accessible for two of them, four lost blood trail.

In comparison with the 2013 urban deer management season the number is **down by 5**.

11. The total time spent searching for shot game was 27.5 hours for the 2014 urban deer management season.

Group Hunts

2014 year did not work in the NASA schedule for a weekend that would fit with them.

2013 was the third year of the partnership between North American Squirrel Association (NASA) and the City of Onalaska. Although no deer were harvested, the participants enjoyed their time and are looking forward to continue the program into the future. The event took place on October 25th & 26th, with four disabled participants partaking in the event. NASA saw several non-hunters which it was also a very nice day. In the future we need to close the park to hikers, park users for this event. Picture below are one of the five signs we post annually.



Staff Time

It has been requested that we include staff time in this report. Although it is difficult to pin point every moment spent dealing with the Urban Deer Management Program, we have broken down our time the following:

- 6 hours of field work by park staff to make sure proper signs are up and each zone is identified
- 8 hours registering program participants
- 35 hours data entry and annual report preparation

Date of enactment: **December 12, 2013**

2013 Assembly Bill 8 Date of publication*: **December 13, 2013**

* Section 991.11, WISCONSIN STATUTES: Effective date of acts. "Every act and every portion of an act enacted by the legislature over the governor's partial veto which does not expressly prescribe the time when it takes effect shall take effect on the day after its date of publication."

2013 WISCONSIN ACT 71

AN ACT *to renumber and amend* 29.038 (3); and *to create* 29.038 (3) (b) of the statutes; **relating to:** restrictions imposed by local governmental units on hunting with a bow and arrow or crossbow.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 29.038 (3) of the statutes is renumbered 29.038 (3) (a) and amended to read:

29.038 (3) (a) ~~Except as provided in par. (b), a~~ local governmental unit may enact an ordinance or adopt a regulation, resolution or other restriction that has an incidental effect on hunting, fishing or trapping, but only if the primary purpose is to further public health or safety.

SECTION 2. 29.038 (3) (b) of the statutes is created to read:

29.038 (3) (b) 1. In this paragraph:

a. "Building" means a permanent structure used for human occupancy and includes a manufactured home, as defined in s. 101.91 (2).

b. "Restriction" means an ordinance, regulation, resolution, or other restriction enacted or adopted by a local governmental unit.

2. Except as provided in subd. 3., a local governmental unit may not enact or adopt a restriction that prohibits a person from hunting with a bow and arrow or crossbow within the jurisdiction of that local governmental unit.

3. A local governmental unit may enact or adopt a restriction that does any of the following:

a. Prohibits a person from hunting with a bow and arrow or crossbow within a specified distance, not to exceed 100 yards, from a building located on another person's land. A restriction enacted or adopted under this subd. 3. a. shall provide that the restriction does not apply if the person who owns the land on which the building is located allows the hunter to hunt within the specified distance of the building.

b. Requires a person who hunts with a bow and arrow or crossbow to discharge the arrow or bolt from the respective weapon toward the ground.

This was taken from: <http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2013/related/acts/71>

ACT 71

The following are Pro/Cons developed from Act 71 potential effect the Onalaska Urban Deer Management Program.

- ACT 71 was written and passed by the State Legislators and questions and comments should be directed towards local representatives. The Department of Natural Resources only complies with the laws.

PROS:

Urban Deer Management Plan is a guideline that still works today.

Proficiency Test is every five years

Bow Hunter Exam is also a source of aid to determine if the hunter knows the Onalaska Urban Deer Management rules.

Bonus or additional tags are free; DNR tags will be \$12 for each county they hunt in.

Urban Deer hunters will have a longer season than standard archery season.

Hunters would have option to use their DNR or Urban tag when hunting during the normal Wisconsin Archery season.

CONS:

Proficiency test has to be retaken every five years. Since Urban Deer is in fifth year a majority of hunters will be retaking the test in 2014.

Blaze orange will be seen by non-hunters during any firearm season. The public perception would be that these hunters are using firearms.

Urban Deer Management program requires all hunters to register their harvest at one specific registration station, DNR does not restrict this.