

Deer Management Program Update from Avalon Park & Preserve

March 12, 2020

The research team just wrapped up darting efforts yesterday, and will be returning in mid-April to continue darting and observing animals throughout the village. To date, field researchers have captured and tagged 56 Does within the village. These animals are identifiable by numbered ear tags as well as indwelling microchips. Note, bucks and fawn are NOT tagged as part of our program.

Half of the animals included in the study receive birth control injections at the time of tagging, where as the other half will receive their dose via dart throughout the duration of the study. During tagging efforts, the research team also draws blood to confirm pregnancy status at time of capture. For these reasons, it will not be uncommon to see tagged animals with offspring this summer given the timeline of injections. (The birth control injections given do not interrupt current pregnancies, rather aid in preventing pregnancy during the next breeding cycle).

Camera imaging and drone survey data will continue to be collected throughout the duration of the study to assist in modelling population estimates. The research team anticipates that village-wide population estimates for 2019 and 2020 will be completed by the end of the year and be re-evaluated and reported annually thereafter.

Residents may follow the progress of the project and read annual reports through visiting Avalon Nature Preserve website, <https://avalonnaturepreserve.org/conservation/>

Residents are encouraged to share their observations with project staff by utilizing the Deer Project Hotline at 1-888-337-1099 , or emailing deer@avalonparkandpreserve.org. There will soon be a way to log observations and reports directly on the website, so please stay tuned.

Please keep in mind the reporting process is a way to assist in data collection and field activities, and is not an opportunity for immediate service to any individual property, etc.