

THE NORTH FORK DEER EMERGENCY

OBJECTIVE

To return the deer population to a level compatible with the health and safety of the human population and the economic and environmental integrity of the region.

- *Level to eliminate tick borne disease is 8-10 deer per square mile (Southold = 65).*
- *As deer numbers diminish collisions decrease, crop losses shrink the understory recovers, and it is safe to enjoy the outdoors again.*

Impact of Deer Over Population

High rates of tick borne disease including – *Lyme* (Virtually everyone knows someone who has, or has had, Lyme disease; \$10,653 economic cost of each case); Suffolk County has 7.5% of the NY State population with 49% of the state cases of *Babesiosis* and 44% of state *Ehrlichiosis* cases; *Anaplasmosis, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever; Undiagnosed or inadequately treated diseases* can cause lifelong debilitation and be confused with arthritis, MS, chronic fatigue, fibromyalgia, Parkinson's and many other conditions.

Increasing deer/vehicle collisions - with threat of injury, property damage, and death.
Average claim of \$3300 per accident; 444 Southold roadkill deer in 2012.

Agricultural crops and residential landscaping costs - millions lost to damage, fencing, and repellants.

Understory destruction from over browsing - prevents reseeding and perpetuation of the forest canopy, destroys habitat for native animals, birds and plants, invites the spread of invasive species, and increases runoff and pollution of our waters.

Out door recreation has become dangerous and restricted.

Economic impact looming (tourism, vacationing, 2nd homes) - as the North Fork is increasingly seen as a high risk destination.

Solutions

To Achieve 8-10/square mile (from 65) - targeted removal (e.g. the USDA program).

To Maintain at 8-10/square mile - current Town recreational hunting program.

Ineffective methods include - 4 Poster (only ticks removed and at high cost); sterilization (very high cost and slow results); contraception (not available for free ranging deer).