



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers
FROM: Howard S. Lazarus, City Administrator
SUBJECT: FY2019 Deer Management Program Activities Update
DATE: December 14, 2018

I am providing this memorandum and its attachments to provide an update to City Council on the FY2019 Deer Management Program Activities. The attached implementation plan addresses the sterilization efforts that have been completed and the final details for this year's culling operation. The associated maps indicate the areas where sterilization actions have occurred and there culling will occur.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance.

ATTACHMENTS

2019 Deer Management Implementation Plan
2019 Deer Sterilization Areas Map
2019 Deer Management Map

2019 Deer Management Implementation Plan

(January 2019)

The long-term objectives for the Deer Management Plan are available at <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/community-services/Pages/Long-Term-Objectives.aspx>. To make progress towards these objectives, the 2019 program was developed with specific objectives available at <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/community-services/Pages/2018-Program.aspx>.

The 2019 Deer Management Plan has three primary components:

1. Educational Program & Public Rights-of-Way Improvements – Providing educational materials to the community on how to live with deer, evaluating the city’s fencing ordinance, and recommending/implementing improvements that can be made in the city’s rights-of-way, such as signage.
2. Sterilization (non-lethal) Plan – pneumatically darting female deer in three neighborhoods, temporarily removing the deer for surgical sterilization, and returning the deer back to the original area.
3. Lethal Plan - sharpshooting deer on public lands and a small number of city-selected private parcels with prior written consent from landowner.

Residents should be aware that:

1. Interfering with the operations of the City’s Deer Management Implementation Plan (e.g. tampering with bait piles) is against the law.
2. Baiting deer onto private property within the city is also against the law, unless performed by the city’s contractor.

IMPLEMENTATION PLANS:

1. Sterilization (non-lethal) Plan
 - a. Based on White Buffalo’s request sterilization efforts were moved forward and conducted **November 25 – 28**. The approved permit from the MDNR limited the City to a maximum of eight additional deer. Six female deer were successfully captured sterilized and returned to the field. Operations were limited to the northern and southern sterilization zones identified in the attached map. Success within the areas is achieved by the capture and sterilization of > 95% of female deer within identified zones. White Buffalo will assess the level of success in the final report.
 - b. No public parks were closed for female deer sterilization activities. Selected public lands were utilized for darting, but public access is not affected.
 - c. No University lands were utilized for sterilization activities.
 - d. Sterilization activities occurred in two phases:
 - i. Phase I: “Dusk” Activities from city-selected private parcels:
 1. Baiting female deer occurred on some city-selected private parcels within the two identified neighborhoods with appropriate consent.
 2. Pneumatic darting of female deer on the selected private parcels occurred from 3 p.m. (near dusk) to 10 p.m.
 3. Once the female deer is anesthetized, it was picked-up with a stretcher, temporarily removed to a private location for surgical sterilization, and tagged on the ear to designate that it has been sterilized. Select females also had a collar attached to them.
 4. Sterilized females were returned to the original area the same evening and observed as they recover from the anesthesia.
 - ii. Phase II: Mobile Pneumatic Darting:
 1. Following the completion of Phase I, White Buffalo Inc. personnel, accompanied by an Ann Arbor police officer, utilized a city vehicle to drive through the neighborhood and dart

female deer that are near the rights-of-way. Once anesthetized, the female deer were handled with the same procedures described above.

2. Phase II activities occurred until 5 a.m.

2. Lethal Plan

Timing & Location

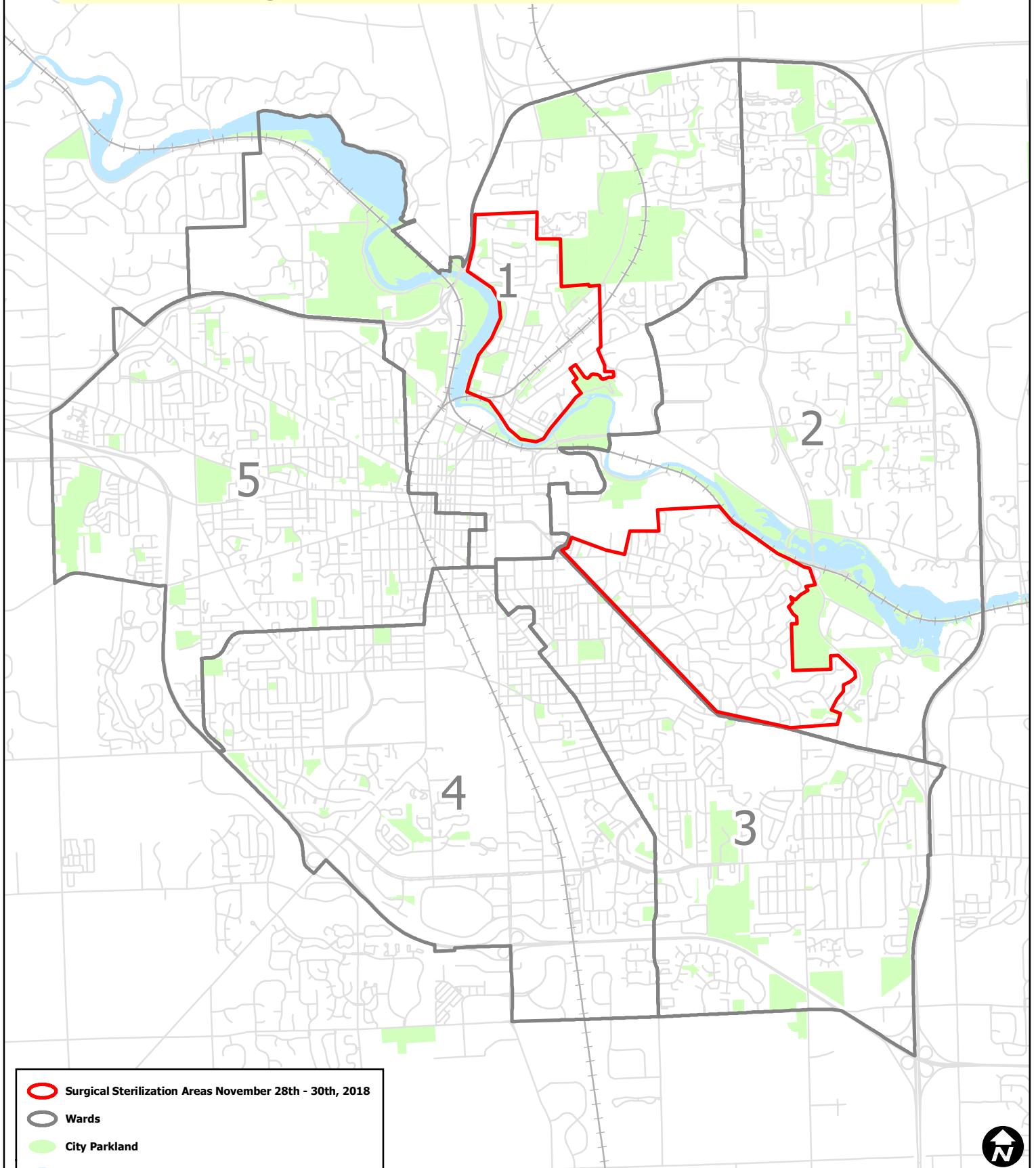
- a. **January 2- 27 – Private Parcels:** Sharpshooting activities may start on January 2 on privately owned parcels, subject to the owner's prior written consent and in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. Residents can continue with their normal daily routines since all deer management activities will occur on private property. Unauthorized trespassing is not permitted and will be subject to enforcement action.
- b. **January 2 - 27 – City Parks/Nature Areas:** The following city parks (located in Wards 1 and 2) will be CLOSED every day for all activities from 3 p.m. until midnight (See Exhibit I - Map) for sharpshooting activities to occur:
Barton Nature Area [only the Foster area north of Warrington Dr.]
Bird Hills Nature Area
Cedar Bend/Island Park
Foxfire West Nature Area
Huron Parkway/Braun Nature Areas
Leslie Woods Nature Area
Leslie Park Golf Course
Narrow Gauge Nature Area
Oakwoods Nature Area
South Pond Nature Area [only the area in NAP office vicinity located at 3875 E. Huron River Dr.]
- c. **January 2- 27 - Selected University of Michigan, and Concordia University properties:** Pending final authorization from UM, university selected sites will be CLOSED every day from 3 p.m. to midnight (See Exhibit I - Map).
- d. **January 7th, 14th, & 17th – Nichols Arboretum:** Pending a final authorization from UM, it is expected that Nichols Arboretum will be CLOSED each of these days from 3 p.m. to midnight for sharpshooting activities to occur.
- e. Sharpshooting will not occur from a moving vehicle but may occur from a parked vehicle.
- f. If sharpshooting activity is completed early, the community will be notified and properties will re-open.
- g. Sharpshooting activities may occur in all of the areas that are closed. Sharpshooting activities will occur seven days a week. On any particular day, multiple locations will be utilized. Weather and other field condition factors will determine which locations are utilized on any particular day.
- h. The number of Park/Nature Area closures has been minimized. All closed Parks and Nature Areas MAY have deer culled from them. At the conclusion of the lethal program, not all parks WILL have deer culled from them due to conditions at the time.
- i. Preliminary results of the sharpshooting activities will be shared publicly when complete.
- j. If poaching activities are suspected, residents are asked to call the MDNR *Report All Poaching* (RAP) hotline at 800-292-7800 or visit the [RAP website](#) for information about how to report a violation.
- k. Deer carcasses:
 - i. The city or contractor will remove all deer carcasses associated with the deer cull.
 - ii. The city has jurisdiction for removing deer carcasses from public lands resulting from any other causes of death.
 - iii. Private property owners are responsible for removing deer carcasses from private property not related to city deer management activities. The city may, at its sole discretion and by exception only, remove deer carcasses from private property.
- l. **Safety Measures:**

- i. The city's contract for professional sharpshooters is based on the contractor being paid for time and materials. The contractor's compensation is not dependent on the number of deer culled. White Buffalo Inc. is a non-profit organization.
- ii. The safety protocols of the contractor have been reviewed by AAPD personnel.
- iii. Designated city park and nature areas will be closed daily from 3 p.m. until midnight.
- iv. The city will communicate in December park and nature area closures from Jan. 2-27.
- v. The designated University of Michigan (pending final authorization) and Concordia University properties will be closed from 3 p.m. until midnight from January 2-27.
- vi. Nichols Arboretum (pending final authorization) will be closed on Jan. **7th, 14th, & 17th**
- vii. Signage warning of sharpshooters and closures will be posted along entrances and other notable locations around all designated city parks and nature areas and University sites at least 24 hours in advance of the three-week closure timeframe. Snow fencing will supplement signage at select locations.
- viii. Only personnel authorized by the City or UM are permitted in the parks and on UM property during closures.
- ix. A city security contractor, in coordination with White Buffalo, will patrol closed public areas when sharpshooting activities are occurring.
- x. City Police staff will coordinate as appropriate with the UM Division of Public Safety and Security and Concordia University for all sharpshooting activities on university properties.
- xi. Notwithstanding all of the above items, the professional sharpshooters are responsible for following safety protocols to ensure no injuries at all times.

WHAT TO DO IF....

- You observe or suspect unlawful activity (such as baiting on private property) or hear shots fired and are concerned, call the Police Dept. Emergency 9-1-1 | Non-Emergency 734-994-2911
- You suspect poaching, call the MDNR *Report All Poaching* (RAP) hotline at 800-292-7800 or visit the [RAP website](#) for information about how to report a violation.
- You have additional questions about the City's Deer Management Implementation Plan:
 - Check out Answers to Frequently Asked Questions at www.a2gov.org/deermanagement
 - Review the Approved Proposal and Permits at www.a2gov.org/deermanagement
 - Contact the city via email at deermanagment@a2gov.org or call the Deer hotline at 734.794.6295

Deer Management Sterilization Nov. 28-30, 2018

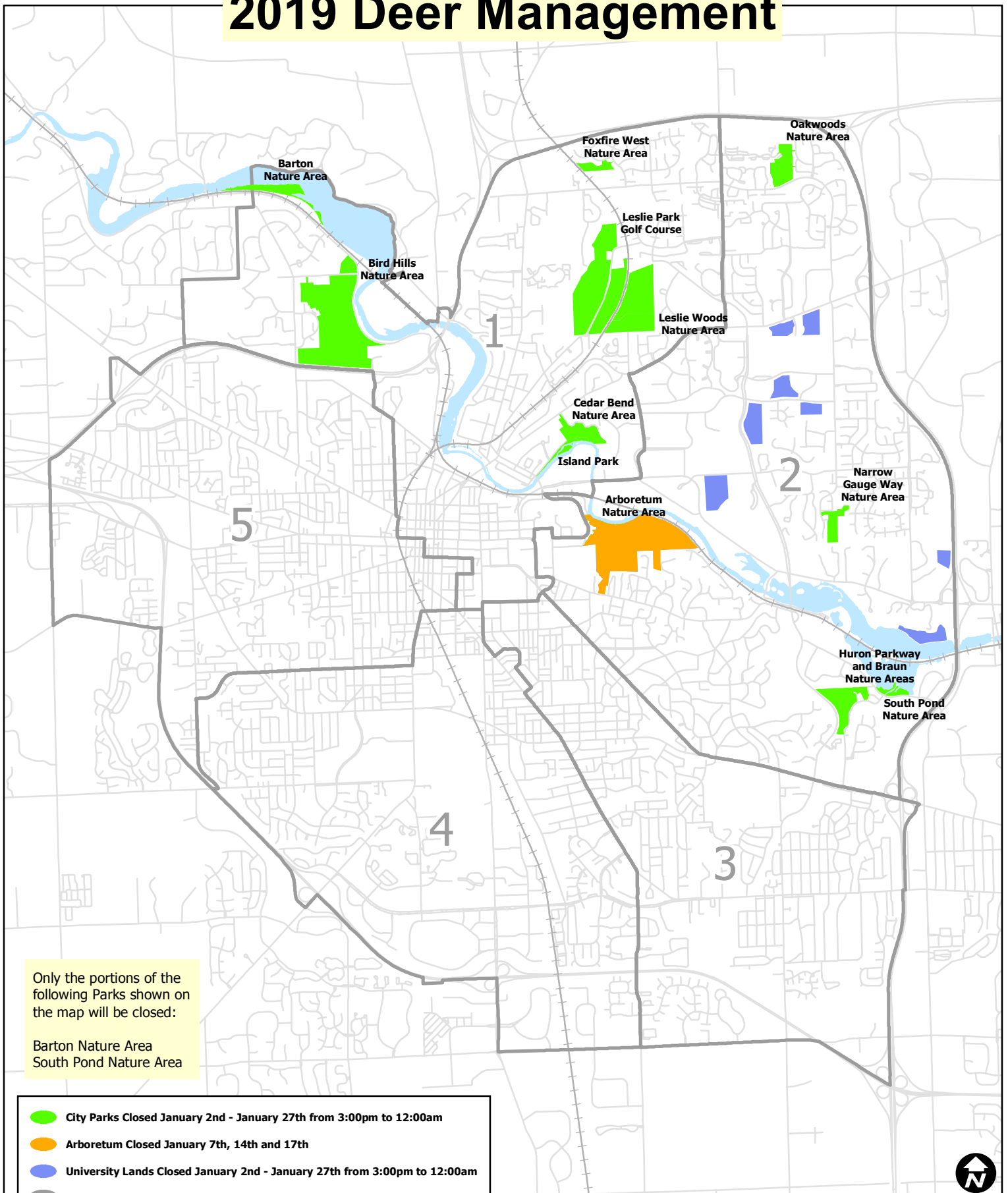


- Surgical Sterilization Areas November 28th - 30th, 2018
- Wards
- City Parkland
- Huron River
- Railroads
- Centerlines



Map date 11/14/2018
Any aerial imagery is circa 2018
unless otherwise noted
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2019 Deer Management



Map date 12/13/2018
Any aerial imagery is circa 2018
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