

CITY OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

CITY COMMISSION POLICY

Policy Number: 2000-01	Revision Date:
Date Adopted: March 13, 2000	
Department: Administrative	

SUBJECT: PRESQUE ISLE PARK DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN

PURPOSE: The City of Marquette is committed to maintaining an observable deer herd of 12-15 individual animals in Presque Isle Park. Increasingly the number of deer in Presque Isle Park have exceeded the capacity of the naturally occurring food source to sustain the herd. The Management Plan enforces feeding prohibition, promotes an active public education program, and provides for an annual deer count.

POLICY:
The City of Marquette considers Presque Isle Park as the jewel of its system of parks. The park is a place of natural beauty and solitude supporting a variety of plant and animal species. Over the years, residents and visitors alike have enjoyed the opportunity to observe and feed the deer which reside or have traveled into the park.

Increasingly, the number of deer in Presque Isle Park have exceeded the capacity of the naturally occurring food source to sustain the herd. The growing deer herd has damaged plant species through over-browsing. It is believed the increased deer numbers are the result of readily available feed which many people have supplied at the park to attract deer so they may be closely observed, as well as to provide a supplemental or sustaining food source. This situation has been closely monitored by the City.

An active City management plan has been in place whereby the deer herd has annually been reduced through a translocation program intended to sustain a population of 7-12 deer. This option is no longer available as the State permitting agency has determined it to be a potential source of spreading bovine tuberculosis amongst other concerns.

The City of Marquette is committed to maintaining an observable deer herd of 12-15 individual animals and wishes to avoid, preferably, or minimize the use of lethal methods to arrive at this herd size. In order to achieve this objective, all artificial feeding of deer will be prohibited after

expiration of the special permit obtained by the City which is May 15, 2000. Strict enforcement of this feeding prohibition is hereby directed, henceforth. An active public education program working in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources and others will be implemented explaining the adverse effects of feeding deer on Presque Isle.

Beginning approximately September 1, 2000, and continuing on a monthly basis and to be repeated annually, a deer count will be made using volunteers from the community under the direction of the Director of Parks and Recreation. He will receive advice and support from the Presque Isle Advisory Committee in conducting and documenting deer numbers.

When the December deer census count is taken, and if the population exceeds 15, immediate steps will be implemented to humanely, with the least stress to the animals as possible, selectively reduce deer numbers through lethal means beginning with calendar year 2000.