

DEER

in Oakland County

White-tailed deer are Michigan's state animal. The deer population in Michigan is currently estimated at over 2 million and is approaching a record high.

DEER FACTS

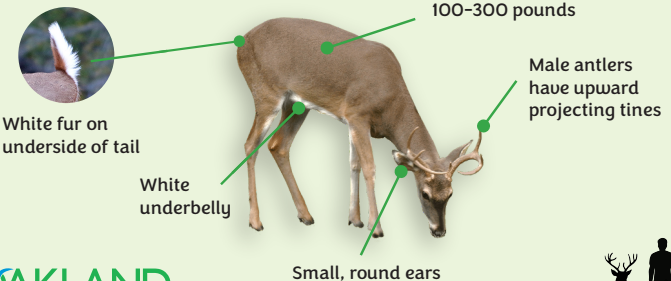
- White-tailed deer can run up to 35 mph and raise their white tail to alert other deer that danger is nearby.
- White-tailed deer have a reddish-brown coat in the spring and summer and a gray-brown coat in autumn and winter.
- White-tailed deer are vegetarians and will eat almost any plant, twig, or fruit.
- Male deer have antlers that shed in spring and grow back in fall.
- White-tailed deer can swim up to 13 mph and hold their breath under water for up to 30 seconds.
- White-tailed deer are found in every county in Michigan.



DEER ID

White-tailed deer

Odocoileus virginianus



PROBLEMS WITH DEER OVERPOPULATION

ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE

Deer are overbrowsing wildflowers and tree seedlings, reducing natural plant diversity and forest regeneration and leading to harm to other wildlife, including pollinators.



LYME DISEASE

Deer transport ticks that carry Lyme disease. More deer leads to a higher tick population, increasing the likelihood of people contracting Lyme disease.

CAR ACCIDENTS

The increase in the population of deer has led to more deer-related car accidents. Oakland County has the highest number of deer car accidents in Michigan.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

DEER HUNTING

Michigan has a rich history of recreational deer hunting. Deer hunting greatly helps balance the population of deer. Follow the QR code below for more information on hunting in Oakland County.



DON'T FEED DEER

Select deer-adverse plants, use physical barriers around your lawn plants, and be careful where you place bird feeders. Feeding deer is illegal under state law.

FOR QUESTIONS:

Email: ParksNR@oakgov.com

