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Animal and
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Service

Wildlife Services
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Annapolis, MD
21409

Carrie Oberholtzer
Baltimore County Dept. of Environmental Protection & Sustainability
Forest Management & Sustainability
111 W. Chesapeake Ave., Suite 319
Towson, Maryland 21204

16 January 2026

SUBJECT: Deer Survey Results: 7 January 2026, Lake Roland Park

Dear Ms. Oberholtzer:

Wildlife Services would like to thank you for the opportunity to continue to help you with deer management in Baltimore County and to survey Lake Roland Park. Wildlife Services conducted a deer survey on 7 January 2026 to provide you with information about the number of deer on the Park. This letter serves as a written summary of the deer survey that Wildlife Services conducted.

The deer survey was conducted systematically from a UTV and on foot using the roads and other drivable surfaces on the Park in an attempt to survey as much of the area as possible and to minimize recounting previously counted deer. We were accompanied by Gabrielle Acampora, Natural Resource Specialist II, Department of Recreation and Parks during the survey. Handheld thermal imaging cameras and spotlights were used to observe and verify the presence and number of deer. The survey began at 5:30 pm and concluded at 8:30 pm. During the survey 22 white-tailed deer were observed.

The survey route began on the UTV on the Paved Loop Path at the Nature Center where we observed four deer in mowed lawn by the pavilion and one deer crossing the railroad tracks behind the Nature Center. We continued across the bridge to Lakeside Drive and observed two deer in the woods behind the Nature Center above the Jones Falls. We surveyed the Pink Trail to Woodbrook Lane and returned back to Lakeside Drive and up the hill to the Hollins Avenue gate. We returned to Lakeside Drive and surveyed to the Old Falls Road gate and observed one deer near the old buildings along the Jones Falls. We returned to the Nature Center and loaded the UTV on the trailer and drove to the White Trail gate on Copper Hill Road.

We could not open the padlock on the gate at the White Trail. We walked the White Trail to the Serpentine Barren Restoration Area and back to Copper Hill Road. We did not observe any deer. We surveyed from our truck on Copper Hill Road back to Falls Road and did not observe any deer.

We drove to the parking area off of Falls Road near the northwest end of the Red Trail. We could not open the metal gate across the Red Trail. Robert and Gabrielle walked the Red Trail from the northwest gate to Paved Loop Path. They surveyed five deer in the woods below Ridgecrest Court and another nine deer near the intersection with the Green Trail.

I drove our truck to the Blue Trail gate off of LHirondelle Club Road. I surveyed the Blue Traill and Field Loop Path on foot. No deer were observed. I concluded the survey there at 8:15 pm and drove back to the Nature Center and met Robert and Gabrielle who concluded their walk of the Red Trail at the Paved Loop Path at 8:30 pm.

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The total acreage of Lake Roland Park is approximately 503 acres, however the lake which is approximately 100 acres and other amenities, leaves about 400 acres of habitat that is available to deer. Many areas of the Park are wooded and were not accessed by us during the survey. We suspect that there were deer in those areas that we did not observe. We estimate there are 22 to 33 deer in Lake Roland Park (35 – 52 deer per square mile). Baltimore County seeks a white-tailed deer population at a deer density of 15 to 20 deer per square mile (9 to 13 deer on the Park). The deer density at the Park at the time of the survey is over the desired population. Wildlife Services recommends that deer be removed, and the herd maintained each year at that density to reduce threats to the Park's natural resources. Based on the survey data, 9 to 24 deer could be removed this year to achieve the desired number of deer on the Park. We encourage you to continue to consult with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR) Deer Project staff for further guidance on deer population management at the Park.

Wildlife Services participates in the Deer Cooperator Permit program administered by the MD DNR. Management of deer through the Deer Cooperator Permit program requires the applicant to develop an Operational Plan that must be reviewed and approved by the MD DNR. If approved, Deer Cooperator Permit actions are restricted to January 15 and April 15. If Baltimore County would like to continue deer management at Lake Roland Park, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can coordinate with you to proceed with planning.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or comments concerning this letter.

Sincerely,

Scott Healey
District Supervisor
MD/DE/DC Wildlife Services