

Rhode Island Suburban Deer Management Archive

Some links to the original article may no longer be active, but the link will go to the original source where the full article may be found by searching that website. A snippet of information is saved here from copyrighted articles.

Bar Harbor

[Deer hunt surveys to be mailed in Bar Harbor](#) June 22, 2013 Rhode Island, Fenceviewer

... Town councilors supported the survey plan earlier this spring as a democratic way of deciding whether a longstanding ban on deer hunting here should stay in place...

Block Island, [Harvested deer numbers tick downward](#) September 16, 2021 Rhode Island, Block Island Times

... it was the Town Council in 1966 that voted to bring deer to Block Island in the first place. According to the report, on February 24, 1967, one buck and three does were brought to the island... a flyover conducted by DEM in February 2017 estimated there were 650 deer on Block Island...

Block Island, [Council receives updates on a variety of island issues](#) October 10, 2019 Rhode Island, Block Island Times

... the council that the board “may have a shortfall” for managing its annual deer tail payment program. “There is \$23,000 in the budget,” she said, noting that the group “needs donations.” One of the problems she said is that “we’re not getting a lot of off-island hunters” to participate in the program. “We need to lure more hunters out here.” ...

Block Island, [Reducing the herd](#) September 13, 2018 Rhode island,. Block Island Times

... a deer count done ... getting an accurate (as possible) count of the deer population seems to be a good idea ... The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management ... have mandated that the deer cannot be reduced to zero ...

Block Island, [DTF to seek \\$40k funding from town](#) October 6, 2017 Rhode Island, Block Island Times

... The Deer Task Force will ask the Town Council to fully fund the deer tail buy-back program from tax revenue in the next fiscal year... the actual expenses for deer management were ... a three-year average expense of \$40,586...

Block Island Deer Cull, [Town Council approvals and updates](#) May 13, 2017 Rhode Island, Block Island Times

... the Department of Environmental Management conducted an infrared flyover survey on March 6 and 7, and calculated that while 272 deer were culled, a population of 630 deer remains on the island...

Block Island, [Deer and mice are Lyme disease culprits](#) July 15, 2016 Rhode Island, Block Island Times

... although the deer on the island produce a large number of ticks, they don't transmit diseases. "The deer does not get the infection from the tick," ... [Dr. Maria Diuk-Wasser... an Associate Professor in the Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology Department at Columbia University] ... She said the deer population on the island could be reduced, but then the infection occurrence might not change...

Block Island, [Deer season open on Block Island](#) January 19, 2016 Rhode Island, The Providence Journal

... In the last three years, 41 deer were killed there ... The public is urged to use caution while walking the trails ...

[Town Council to Make Annual Visit to Prudence Island on Saturday](#) July 31, 2015 Rhode Island, Patch.com

... The debate over extending deer hunting was rather controversial last year ... The DEM in May heard from more people opposed to the extension at a public hearing...

[Deer Reduction Hunt Successful On Block Island](#) June 1, 2015 Rhode Island, Rhode Island Public Radio

... the town offered resident hunters a bounty: \$150 per deer tail... under the White Buffalo contract.” ... guaranteed culling 200 deer and would have charged about \$128,000 to complete the project...

Block Island, [A look from above](#) January 16, 2015 Rhode Island, Block Island Times ... wildlife biologist Susan Bernatas took to the air on Wednesday for the final infrared survey for the Deer Task Force (DTF). Bernatas, who founded the company [Vision Air Research](#) out of Idaho, has been hired in order to get fairly accurate numbers of the Block Island deer population...

Block Island, [Deer hunt to open on Block Island](#) January 13, 2015 Rhode Island, Turnto10

... annual deer hunting season at Black Rock/Rodman Hollow on Block Island. The Black Rock hunt will open on January 20 and run through February 13... a deer checking station at the Block Island Police Station ...

Block Island, [Deer tags...](#) December 24, 2014 Rhode Island, Block Island Times ... The deer “tails” – I believe the count as of last Monday was 135 [tails]. That’s a reimbursement of \$150 dollars each to island hunters.” ... “Anyone who wants to make \$150 per deer is going to turn the tail in [at the police station],” ...

Block Island, [Airborne Infrared Survey for White-tailed Deer On Block Island](#) November 23, 2014 Rhode Island, Bids in Rhode Island

... Scope: Airborne Infrared Survey for White-tailed Deer On Block Island Bids in Rhode Island ... Status: Bidding. [The link to the town website on this request for bids is not working]

[Counting the deer](#) November 14, November Rhode Island, The Block Island Times ... three fly overs to count the current number of deer on the island. The cost of the service, which will be conducted by Vision Air Research Co., out of Boise, Idaho, will cost \$13,215... “We all agree that we need to see the results of the fly overs and [to

assess] how the tail initiative is going,” said Chair Ruth Perfido. The latter program authorizes each local hunter to be paid \$150 for each deer tail turned in ...

Block Island, [Resident hunters target deer reduction](#) October 17, 2014 Rhode Island, The Block Island Times

... This year the town is hosting the first-ever bounty-style hunting season on Block Island. Resident-only hunters over the next five months will be paid \$150 per tail under the so-called “Deer Tails” plan. Private citizens who have been impacted from Lyme disease donated \$70,000 to the town to pay for the tail reimbursements ...

[Block Island council approves DEM plan for 'reducing' deer population](#) December 18, 2013 Rhode Island, The Providence Journal

... The Town Council approved a plan Wednesday night to reduce the deer population on Block Island by hiring a professional sharpshooting company. Bait would be used to attract the deer to certain areas, where they would be shot...

[Block Island culling deer herd with hunting-by-lottery, bait-and-shoot effort](#) January 24, 2014 Rhode Island, The Providence Journal

... the Department of Environmental Management are allowing hunting on the state-owned land on the southern end of the island. Participants, selected by lottery, are permitted to shoot deer for four weeks through mid-February. After that’s over, an unprecedented herd reduction effort will take place when an out-of-state company arrives to conduct a bait-and-shoot operation ...

[Block Island deer herd will be thinned out by sharpshooters](#) December 23, 2013 Rhode Island, theday.com

... How did eight Virginia white-tailed deer - brought to the island from 1967 to 1968 by locals presumably eager to hunt and gaze at wildlife - create such a problem? ... to progressively reduce the herd from an estimated 800 to 1,000 deer down to 100 to 150, according to Brian Tefft, a deer biologist with the state Department of Environmental Management. The goal is 10 to 15 deer per square mile on the 9.5-square-mile island.

[Block Island Deer Population to be Culled](#) November 7, 2013 Rhode Island, ecoRI news

... DEM said it has determined that implementation of a non-recreational deer reduction program is required in order to protect the fragile habitats and natural communities found on Block Island... The town and its residents have raised concerns about crop and landscape damage ... The density of white-tailed deer in the 9.75-square-mile town of New Shoreham is estimated at 80-100 deer per square mile. [total island density not reported] ...

[Block Island Deer Slaughter Canceled](#) February 22, 2014 Rhode Island, GoLocalProv

... After a meeting with the Attorney General's office the Department of Environmental Management has backed off what they describe as a "non-recreational" deer culling operation ... one Connecticut community reported that White Buffalo is under investigation by conservation police for shooting deer without permission on private property ... Their website boasts that they have killed 9,000 deer...

[Block Island delays professional deer cull for up to a year](#) February 21, 2014 Rhode Island, The Providence Journal

... White Buffalo, which had permission to shoot on private property from hunter stands, had already begun baiting to get deer accustomed to frequenting kill zones. But the results have been disappointing, with a scarcity of deer drawn to the areas. "The first baiting was immediately covered by a snowfall," ...

Block Island, [In an earlier age, deer could have walked to Block Island](#) January 22, 2014 Rhode Island, ProvidenceJournal.com, E. Pierre Morenon is an archaeologist ... Block Island is not outside the natural range of the whitetail deer... deer did live on Block Island and other Southern New England islands, such as Martha's Vineyard, hundreds of years ago. ... Block Island is part of a terminal moraine, and over 20,000 years ago was connected to glacial features stretching from Long Island ... Deer were regularly consumed by Block Island's human residents before 1636 ...

Block Island, [A conversation with the DEM](#) March 8, 2014 Rhode Island, The Block Island Times

... will the deer cull happen next year? ... Catherine Sparks: I've received every indication from DEM leadership and the community that this is something that's still a priority and it will be my job to support and assist in that effort. ...

[Conservation Commission supports deer herd reduction](#) October 16, 2013 Rhode Island, Block Island Times

... [the deer population] is a huge issue," said member Donald Littlefield. He noted the island should not be too negative, however, about the deer population ... because it could deter tourists from visiting... voted 5-0 to notify the Town Council that their group is in favor of deer herd reduction on-island...

Block Island, [Council rejects hunting ordinance change](#) November 13, 2012 Rhode Island, Block Island Times

... Deer Task Force member Sara McGinnes, speaking as a member of the public, asked, "How does this council feel about eradicating Lyme disease?" [\[deer density not correlated to Lyme Disease\]](#) She argued — a position echoed by many others — that limiting bow hunting would simultaneously limit hunting on properties that can only be hunted with a bow. Blane, who is also a member of the Deer Task Force, disagreed. He commented that few deer are taken by bowhunting, and he repeated a comment he made in the past that shotgun season is "not deer hunting but deer reduction." ..

[Block Island, Council suggests deer hunters only take one buck](#) May 23, 2013 Rhode Island, Block Island Times

... "I don't see the reason to limit it," said First Warden Kim Gaffett, who opposed the vote. She disagreed with Blane. "Now you can take x number of does and three bucks. You're just reducing your overall potential of deer taken by two." Blane argued that the hunters would hunt bucks instead of does if allowed to take more bucks....

Block Island, [Deer culling project delayed](#) February 20, 2014 Rhode Island, Block Island Times

... "The biggest issue was the more recent decision that we would not be able to use suppressed firearms... concerned he wouldn't get enough deer [Denicola of White Buffalo]...

Block Island, [Deer culling to begin Feb. 24](#) February 18, 2014 Rhode Island, block-island.villagesoup.com

... "The baiting started a day or two before the police chief was aware of it," explained Sparks. "And I, too, got calls from the community with concerns." ... the DEM is

amending its process to provide more detailed updates to the town... "We found some snare traps, and remains of dead deer ...

Block Island, [Deer hunting begins on RI's Block Island](#) January 21, 2014 Rhode Island, Boston.com

... Rhode Island officials say four weeks of deer hunting are beginning on Block Island for 24 hunters who won a lottery run by the state Department of Environmental Management. [many of the rest of the deer will be killed by paid sharpshooters]

Block Island, [Deer inquiry draws emotional response](#) April 10, 2013 Rhode Island, Fenceviewer

... Strong anti-hunting sentiments were expressed by a few vocal residents... Amid debates over whether deer numbers can affect Lyme disease rates and whether the deer population has grown ...

[Deer Population: Where we have been, where we are going](#) August 1, 2013 Rhode Island, Block Island Times

... It was in 1967 that seven deer were imported to Block Island, a process favored by the Town Council and the R.I. Department of Environment Management (DEM)... the deer population has risen to roughly 1,000 ... The Block Island [eradication plan] was to use paid local hunters familiar with the island, while adding baiting to the process ... The DEM volunteered to develop a plan for deer reduction to the level of 10-15 deer per square mile ...to maintain sufficient deer for recreational hunting on Block Island...

Block Island, [Deer Resistant Forsythia is here!!](#) April 4, 2014 Rhode Island, The Block Island Times

... Forsythia has arrived at Highland Farm in all of it's beautiful glory!!! ..

[Deer slaughter a big waste of money](#) January 8, 2014 Rhode Island, The Providence Journal

... the New Shoreham Town Council voted unanimously to fund the slaughter of 80 percent of the whitetail deer herd on Block Island over a five-year period ... the DEM and town have decided to give \$128,000 of local tax revenues to out-of-state companies...

[Deer Task Force looks to state, federal officials for support](#) February 13, 2013 Maine, Block Island Times

Before adopting a plan to drastically reduce or completely eradicate deer on Block Island, members of the Deer Task Force (DTF) agreed this week that they need to gain the support of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM)... USDA is allowed to use a full suite of tactics to extirpate deer, including suppressed

rifles at night, baiting and artificial light. ("Extirpation" is the term used by the USDA for their managed hunts; it means eradication in a local area.) ...

[Block Island, Deer Task Force members to meet with DEM](#) March 18, 2013 Rhode Island, Block Island Times

... the state Department of Environmental Management (DEM) to discuss strategies the task force has to reduce or completely eradicate deer on Block Island... strategies that include strategic shooting of the deer, baiting the deer or instating a bounty system... "If you don't think you're going to gain any DEM support, then we might as well just quit trying," said Paul Deane, task force member...

[Block Island, Deer Task Force prepares for special hunts](#) January 24, 2013, Block Island Times

... A reconstituted Deer Task Force resolved on Monday to put a plan before the Town Council by the end of 2013 that would chart the way toward greatly reducing or eradicating the island's deer herd... A letter from former task force member Bill Wilson outlined several deer reduction/eradication plans considered by past groups concerned with the proliferation of Lyme Disease

Block Island, [Deer Task Force Progress](#) August 30, 2012 Rhode Island, Block Island Times

... the Block Island Conservancy passed a resolution on August 10 to allow hunting on ... a plot contiguous to the town ...near Beane Point... the Land Trust still will not approve hunting, but would consider other elimination methods. Much of their land, member Chris Blane said, prohibits hunting... told by Scott Comings, of the Block Island Nature Conservancy, that there was no clear example of invasives being spread by deer munching, but because the deer eat native plants there was more space for invasives to expand.

[Block Island, DEM criticizes deer plan](#) April 19, 2013 Rhode Island, Block Island Times

A town plan to drastically reduce the deer herd on Block Island with a managed nighttime deer hunt ... Catherine Sparks, Assistant Director of Natural Resources for DEM, called Block Island's plan, which was based on a similar hunt carried out on Skidaway Island, Georgia, "an extirpation plan" and "a suite of illegal activities," at the town council meeting Wednesday evening. She said "removing the opportunity [to hunt on Block Island] is not a hurdle we can overcome."...

Block Island, [DEM Deer Count April 24, 2013 Rhode Island](#), Block Island Times

... 198 deer were taken in the 2012-2013 hunt [Block Island] ... An aerial survey on January 28 found 71 deer per mile... resulting in an estimate of 100 deer per square mile. In 2011 that count was 50 per square mile...

Block Island, [DEM Deer culling fact sheet](#) February 18, 2014 Rhode Island,
block-island.villagesoup.com

... Property owners of properties that are part of this program have terminated their permission for recreational hunting in order to support the baiting and culling process... The self-contained processing trailers will arrive on Feb. 20-21 and set up in the Town Hall parking lot...

Block Island, [DEM Deer culling fact sheet](#) February 18, 2014 Rhode Island, block-island.villagesoup.com

... Property owners of properties that are part of this program have terminated their permission for recreational hunting in order to support the baiting and culling process... The self-contained processing trailers will arrive on Feb. 20-21 and set up in the Town Hall parking lot...

[DEM to help put plan in place to reduce deer herd](#) July 7, 2013 Rhode Island, Block Island Times

... According to Ruth Perfido, Chairperson of the DTF, eliminating the herd entirely “is off the table, period.” That’s because part of the DEM’s mandate is to provide hunting opportunities for state residents... DEM Director Janet Coit said that a healthy deer herd would be somewhere in the range of 12.5 deer per square mile ... “the January 28, 2013 DEM aerial helicopter count ... advised there were 70 to 100 deer per square mile...

[Block Island, DEM to present deer plan](#) December 7, 2013 block-island.villagesoup.com ... “deer culling plan” ... meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 10, in the cafeteria of the Block Island School. Public comment will be accepted ... a brief email stating your position regarding the culling of deer on Block Island sent to townclerk@new-shoreham.com would be extremely helpful ...

Block Island, [DEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife Announces Second Annual Deer Hunt on Black Rock-Rodman's Hollow Property on Block Island](#) January 17, 2014 Rhode Island, RealEstateRama

... For the second year in a row, the Department of Environmental Management’s Division of Fish and Wildlife will hold a deer hunting program at the Black Rock-Rodman’s Hollow Property on Block Island. The Black Rock parcel is the only state- owned property on Block Island that is open for deer hunting.,,

Block Island, [Details of DEM deer plan announced](#) December 10, 2013 Rhode Island, Block Island Times

... A plan that would reduce Block Island's deer population up to 200 deer next year would cost \$128,300 for the first year of this five-year plan... Three professional hunters,

referred to in the plan as "sharpshooters," would work to reduce the herd, although not eliminate the deer completely...

Block Island, [DTF discusses role of local hunter in deer reduction](#) May 30, 2014 Rhode Island, The Block Island Times

... the Deer Task Force (DTF) ... is considering a possible hybrid arrangement to reduce the deer population — a combination of local hunters and professionals... "I thought that both groups would be compensated," Perfido said ... Blansfield also thought it very important to have an infra-red count done in the late fall...

Block Island, [DTF moves ahead on fundraising](#) January 22, 2014 Rhode Island, block-island.villagesoup.com

... The Block Island Residents Association (BIRA) has supported the deer reduction for years ... Barbara Baldwin, Director of the Medical Center, was present at the meeting and submitted a final number of patients who had been seen and treated for Lyme disease or Lyme-related symptoms during the year 2013. "Sixty-nine people came in last year for Lyme-related issues," Baldwin said. In clarification, she said, "All of those 69 patients were treated. [[Deer are immune to Lyme and do not transmit the disease](#)]

[Block Island, DTF recommends special deer hunt](#) April 3, 2013 Rhode Island, Block Island Times

The Deer Task Force (DTF) decided to send a recommendation to the Town Council asking them to approve a special and controlled night hunt for deer to radically decrease or eliminate the island's tick-infested deer herd [deer are immune to Lyme disease and don't transmit the disease, [see research](#)] ... Even if town council approves the special hunt, the DTF will need Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) permission as well. DEM's rules prohibit baiting and spotlighting ...

[Block Island, Estimated cost per deer: \\$640](#) December 19, 2013 Rhode Island, The Providence Journal

... How will the overall budget of \$128,300, which will come out of residents' pockets, be spent trying to cull 200 deer from the herd? An estimated \$99,300 will go toward White Buffalo, a Connecticut firm specializing in reducing deer herds in residential areas...

Block Island, [Gun commentator says technique Rhode Island plans to use to hunt deer on Block Island is illegal](#) January 26, 2014 Rhode Island, PolitiFact

... On Jan. 12, 2014, in a letter to The Providence Journal, Richard August ... "Baiting deer happens to be illegal in Rhode Island," August wrote. "But I guess if you are the

state, the laws don't apply." ... when Richard August asserts that state law makes it illegal for hunters to use bait to lure deer, which is what the DEM plans to do when it stages a mass shooting of deer, he is correct...

[Hunters asked for deer cull plan](#) June 13, 2014 Rhode Island, The Block Island Times ... The "hybrid" plan could include both a contract with a professional company that provides culling services and also, in response to a request from local hunters, provide compensation to the local hunters for reducing the deer herd... The next Deer Task Force meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 14...

Block Island, [Radio Host Calls Out Rhode Island for Alleged Illegal Hunting](#) January 26, 2014 Rhode Island, wideopenspaces.com

... radio host Richard August is claiming that Rhode Island's new plan for culling deer herds on Block Island goes against the state's rules. Illegal hunting, as far as the state is concerned, includes the baiting of deer with feeders...

Block Island, [Suppressors will not be allowed in deer culling](#) February 12, 2014 Rhode Island, block-island.villagesoup.com

... Rhode Island state law prohibits the use of suppression, and the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) had been working with the Rhode Island Attorney General on exempting the deer culling project from that law... Comment from reader: I cannot believe the town is going to have to pay the legal bills for this disgusting company who should be thrown off the island....

[Block Island: Council moves forward with weekday hunting at Rodman's](#) March 13, 2012 Rhode Island, Block Island Times

... voted to work with the Department of Environmental Management to open Rodman's Hollow and Black Rock for hunting next winter... First Warden Kim Gaffett said if the town requires that they be present 100 percent of the time it would mean a large amount of overtime and may not work with the DEM's budget.... a motion to request that the DEM provide officers for at least 50 percent of the time, which passed 3 to 2.

[DEM provides deer update — and frustration](#) August 25, 2013 Rhode Island, block-island.villagesoup.com

... She told the crowd that officials from the DEM and the Department of Health were fully engaged in solving the deer — and by association, the Lyme disease — problem on Block Island. There was mention of a pilot program starting before the end of the year.... Resident Peter Saxon mentioned that controlled hunting has eliminated the deer population in such places as Skidaway Island in Georgia and Monhegan Island in Maine. “They eliminated the problem,” Saxon said. (Note: Deer Task Force Chair Ruth Perfido refutes this in a [letter](#).) see [Deer and Lyme Disease page](#), deer cull not generally effective against Lyme

Jamestown, [Gun advocate warns against local ordinance](#) November 6, 2014 Rhode Island, Jamestown Press

... the town has just adopted several ordinances to allow hunting on town land and established a “bounty” on deer... Dickinson said the money is a “reimbursement” and does not apply to the first deer taken...

Jamestown, [Deer cull won't work](#) October 16, 2014 Rhode Island, The Jamestown Press, Myrna Lee, Member, board of directors Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation
... your Town Council is terribly misled in culling deer as a solution to your tick problem
... Deer are not the only carriers of Lyme-bearing ticks. Ticks attach to anything that brushes against the vegetation where they wait for a host. So you would have to cull all creatures living in your area, including birds...

Jamestown, [Money allocated to reward deer hunters](#) October 9, 2014 Rhode Island, The Jamestown Press

... The Town Council on Monday approved \$30,000 for initiatives to combat Lyme disease, allocating \$15,000 for the University of Rhode Island to launch an education campaign and \$15,000 for costs related to killing the deer... [deer density not generally correlated with Lyme disease, [research](#)] ... resident Jane Koster said she did not think the safety precautions were adequate to deal with hunting on private property...

Jamestown, [Deer cull is counterproductive, says opponents](#) September 11, 2014 Rhode Island, The Jamestown Press

... what about Monhegan Island off the coast of Maine? Professional sharpshooters eliminated the deer there in the 1990s, and the Lyme disappeared... Monhegan Island

does not have mice. “It’s a whole different host ecology,” [Laura Simon] said. To compare Monhegan Island to Jamestown would be “like apples and bananas.” ...

[Jamestown Task force endorses deer cull](#) August 7, 2014 Rhode Island,
JamestownPress.com

... Councilor Mihaly wants to reduce 75 percent of herd ... “We believe tick-borne disease is an epidemic in Jamestown,” he told the councilors during the work session. Although he could not cite “hard numbers,” ... he said. Ideally, there should only be 10 deer per square mile [research does not support this number] ... We are thinking of bringing in a cooling trailer and a butcher,” ...

[Lincoln bow and arrow ordinance still not on target](#) October 17, 2012 Rhode Island,
Valley Breeze

... Both those for and against hunting agree that safety is the top concern. Some say they fear for pets and children being hit by an arrow, and the rest say they fear an increase in the deer population will cause more car accidents when deer dart across a roadway... resident Jim Fredrickson said he is concerned his neighbors could allow hunting, and his children playing on the property line, or himself driving a tractor, could be at risk.

Lincoln, [Deer control question carefully considered](#) October 10, 2012 Valley Breeze. Kenneth G. Pichette, Lincoln Town Council

... Having banned hunting in Lincoln in 1994, the population of deer has continued to grow ... There have been a growing number of people being treated for Lyme disease [[deer density not correlated to Lyme](#)] ... I researched the rules according to the State of R.I. regulations in regard to hunting and bow hunting is the only safe method I could suggest. [[non-lethal population control](#)]

Lincoln, [No need for deer hunting in Lincoln](#) October 17, 2012 Rhode Island, Valley Breeze, John Picozzi

... In 2008, The New England Chapter of the Wildlife Society and the Northeast Deer Technical Committee reported the following options as effective countermeasures for managing deer populations; fencing and repellents, wildlife crossings (such as signs, flashing lights, and headlight reflectors) and exclusionary fencing, particularly when used in conjunction with one another were the only methods with sufficient scientific evidence to be regarded as effective countermeasures. [more information on [transportation safety](#)]

[Rhode Island considers making deer hunter trespass a felony](#) April 28, 2014 Penn Live
... A bill being considered by the Rhode Island legislature would make hunting for deer on private land without permission a felony level offense. The measure, House Bill 7858, would also require jail time (up to two years) for anyone who hunts deer on private land without written permission...