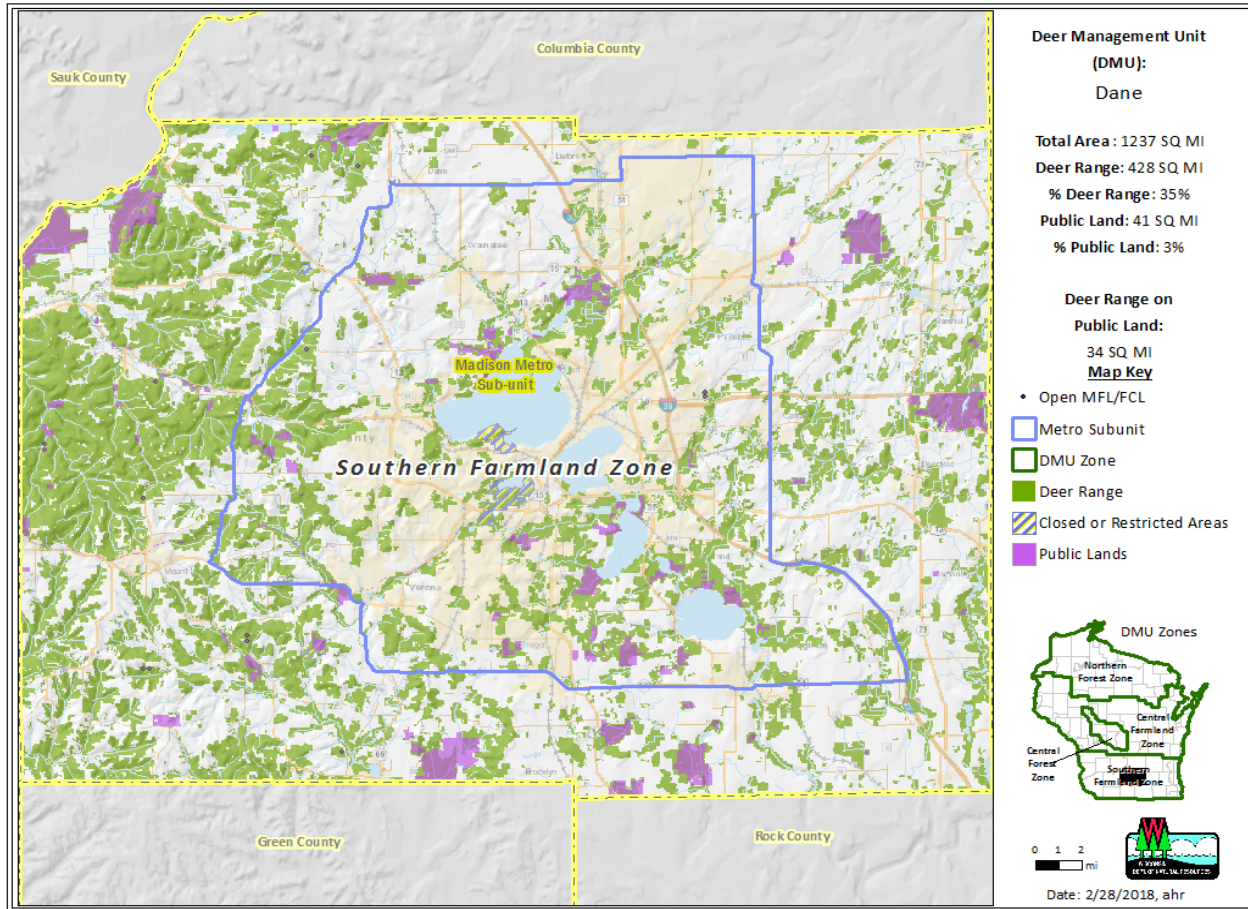


# Dane County Deer Metrics Report

## Spring of 2024

### Management Unit:



### Manager's Note:

The Dane County Deer Management Unit is located in the Southern Farmland Zone. Approximately 34 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range. The unit is one of Wisconsin's larger units (1,238 square miles) and contains a diverse array of habitats and land-use types as it lies at the intersection of four of Wisconsin's 16 Ecological Landscapes. Large agricultural operations dominate the eastern and northern portions of the unit with deer range increasing in prevalence as you move south and west into the Driftless Area. Approximately 90 percent of deer range is located on private lands although high-quality public hunting opportunities do exist on state, federal and county properties including Brooklyn Wildlife Area, Badfish Creek Wildlife Area, Goose Lake Wildlife Area, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Waterfowl Production Areas and a number of Dane County parks. Chronic Wasting Disease is present in the unit with the highest prevalence rates around 25% in adult bucks focused in the Black Earth area. The prevalence of Chronic Wasting Disease is increasing in all sex and age classes of deer in this area. The deer herd in the unit is strong and despite liberal hunting regulations, has increased in recent years with reduced antlerless harvests. For the latest information on CWD in this unit, please visit the DNR webpage: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/prevalence.html>. Hunter densities are low relative to the surrounding units with an average hunter density on the opening day of the 9-day gun deer season of about 10 hunters per square mile. Buck harvest density per square mile of deer range is lower in this unit compared with surrounding units which reflects the lower hunter densities and relatively low amounts of public hunting land access. The current deer herd management objective is to stabilize the population.