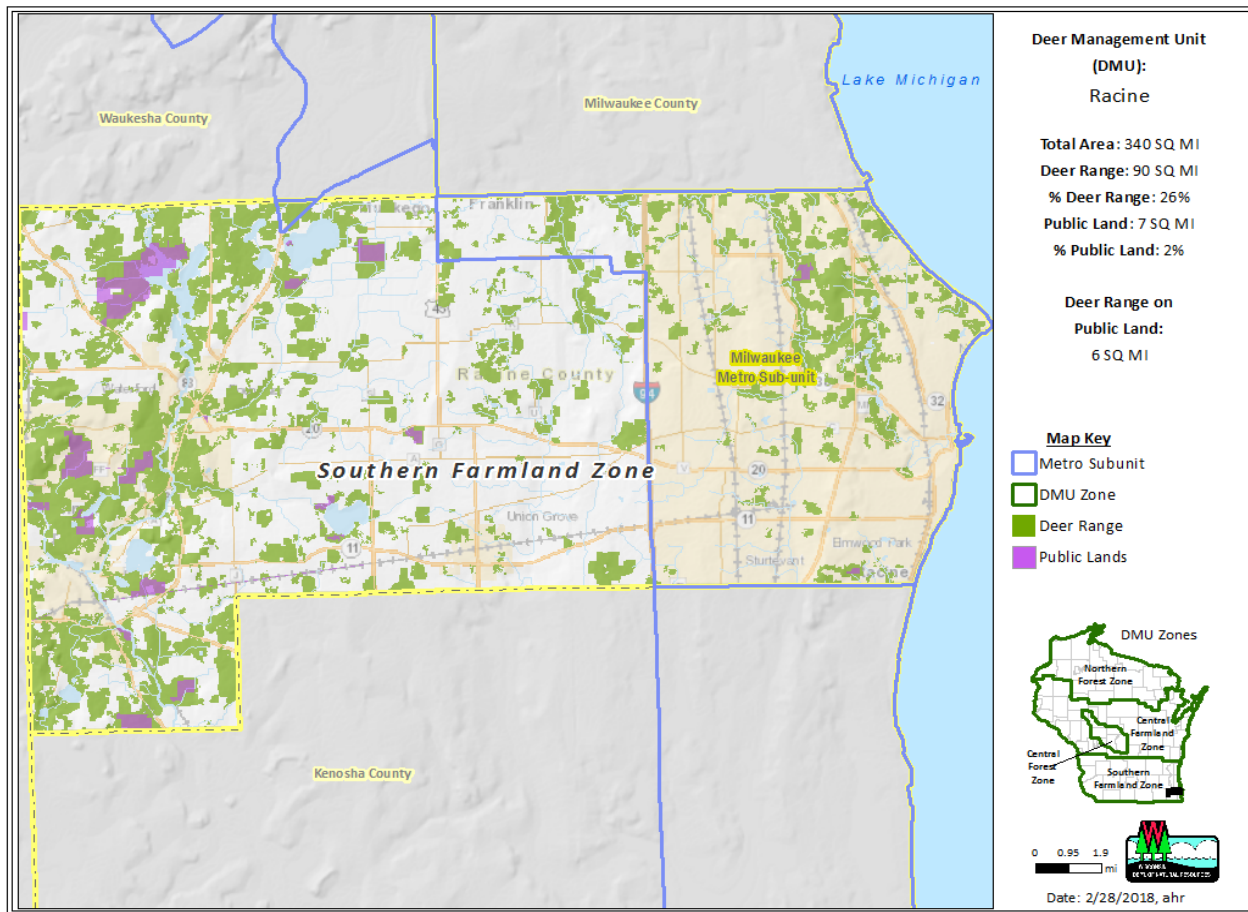


# Racine County Deer Metrics Report

## Spring of 2024

### Management Unit:



### Manager's Note:

The Racine County Deer Management Unit is in the Southern Farmland Zone. Approximately 26 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range (84.3 square miles on private lands and 5.6 square miles on public lands). The unit is a mixture of agricultural lands, isolated woodlands of varying size, wetlands, lakes, urban centers and dense urban development. The eastern one-third of the unit is bisected by Interstate I-94 and the Milwaukee Metro subunit is located east of the interstate. Public hunting opportunities are limited with public lands making up approximately 2 percent of the unit. Access to private lands is tightly controlled by landowners throughout the unit and heavy urban development on the east side of the unit limits hunting opportunities (Metro subunit portion). Public lands with hunting opportunities include Honey Creek Wildlife Area, Tichigan Wildlife Area, Karcher Wildlife Area, Burlington Wetland Area, Hoosier Creek Wetland Area, Wind Lake Habitat Area and the Dover Wildlife Area- only during the 9-day gun season. Hunting opportunities in the Metro subunit are limited to private lands as there are no public lands open to hunting in the subunit. The 2013 legislative action (ACT 71) will increase archery and crossbow hunting opportunities on private lands only in the Metro subunit and other urban areas, but it should not result in a significant increase in the harvest. Management objectives for the unit, including areas west of the interstate and the Metro subunit, have been to lower herd levels to minimize deer-vehicle collisions, prevent agricultural and/or urban damage and to help with Chronic Wasting Disease management. As season frameworks have become less aggressive in recent years, occurrences such as bonus season frameworks; a couple consecutive years of poor opening gun deer weekend weather; no bonus antlerless permits available for 2 years; and an increasing trend in the buck harvest over the last 11 years suggests a slight increase in the population trend. (The 2015 season saw the highest buck harvest in the last 11 years- 338.) This portion of the unit has been involved with CWD management since 2003. One CWD positive deer was detected in 2012 and was an adult doe that came from the southwest part of the unit. For the latest information on CWD in this unit, please visit the following DNR webpage: