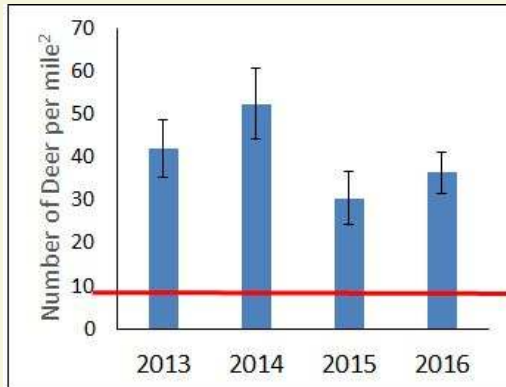


# Are Deer Overabundant in Hamilton, NY?

Colgate students have annually monitored deer populations in 22% of the Town of Hamilton using roadside deer surveys and 27% of the Village of Hamilton since 2016 using sidewalk surveys.

In the town, deer populations remain above the biologically acceptable mean of 10 deer per square mile (figure below).



Deer abundance in the Town of Hamilton NY 2013-2016 ( $\pm$  Standard Error). Years do not vary significantly.

In the Village, we found that there are 140-240 (ave 190) deer that move in and out of the village at dusk, considerably more than in the Town per unit area. This highlights their high density, their dynamic behaviour and their use of the village for refuge.

# Village Deer Cull

**Goal:** To reduce deer population to 13-20 deer per square mile

- Overseen by: The Village of Hamilton Deer Harvest Implementation Committee
- Cullers: Small group of proficient hunters.
- Prospective cullers apply and are vetted by Police Chief.
- Non-firearm hunting only

Date	Deer Culled	Donated to HFC
Dec-March '16	45	4
Sept. '16	9	2

## Village Deer Cull: Survey

We conducted a survey which was posted to NextDoor Hamilton and distributed at various locations:

- 261 respondents, 51% Village of Hamilton residents

## Results from Village Respondents

- 71% think that deer population is too large and should be reduced;
- 85% are not opposed to deer cull;
- 79% think venison donation is important and 63% think that at least 1/3 of culled deer should be donated to HFC;
- 65% think they are well informed about the cull;
- 50% have no concerns about the cull.

# Cull Recommendations

## Donations

- Streamlined protocol for venison donations to Hamilton Food Cupboard (HFC) for cullers & hunters;
- Villagers donate to the deer processing fund at HFC.

## Expansion

- Expand the cull area in Hamilton, e.g. southern golf course & northwestern corner of the village;
- Speak to neighbors to establish a cull site within the center of village with landowners permission;
- Facilitate and encourage more hunting on town lands, especially Spring Street, through a landowner-hunter connection program at the Town Office.

