

Saratoga National Historical Park

Stillwater, New York

Adaptive White-tailed Deer Management Plan

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



White-tailed deer walking in a field. Photo credit: NPS

What is the purpose of adaptive white-tailed deer management in Saratoga National Historical Park?

The National Park Service (NPS) is in the early stages of developing an adaptive management plan for white-tailed deer (the plan) for the federally managed Saratoga National Historical Park (the park).

The purpose of the plan is to provide an adaptive white-tailed deer management framework that supports a healthy deer population while also protecting the park's other resources.

The plan is needed to manage the impact deer overabundance has on:

The preservation of the forest and field configuration of the 1777 battlefield landscape.

Improving forest health and resilience.

Preserving and restoring native vegetation and wildlife biodiversity.

The health and safety of park visitors and staff.

How do overabundant deer impact this resource?

Deer overbrowse of vegetation precludes the NPS from successfully implementing recommended cultural landscape treatments.

Deer overbrowse of seedlings and saplings impacts forest understory regeneration. The forest is at high risk of being replaced by invasive plant thickets.

Deer overbrowse degrades native vegetation communities and habitat for other wildlife such as migratory birds.

Deer are critical hosts for ticks and can become accustomed to humans when approached and fed. Deer-vehicle collisions are more likely if deer become habituated and may linger near the roadside or even approach vehicles expecting to be fed.

Considerations for deer management and impacts at the park:

Have you observed any impacts from deer on the park's cultural landscapes?

Have you observed any impacts from deer on the forest understory or native wildlife biodiversity?

What changes have you noticed in the deer population and vegetation at the park over the years?

Have you observed deer impacting human health and safety at the park?

How to participate in the planning process:

Your input is vital to the development of the plan. The NPS is seeking public input regarding how white-tailed deer impact public use opportunities and experiences in the park. Your comments will help inform development of this plan.

What do you think the park should consider when developing a deer management plan?

How to learn more about the project and submit comments:



You can learn more about the proposed plan and submit comments on the project website by scanning the QR code or viewing the following link:

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?ProjectID=136866>.

Written comments will also be accepted via email to:

Leslie.Morlock@nps.gov.

Or via mail to:

Superintendent, Saratoga National Historical Park, 648 Route 32, Stillwater, NY 12170

All comments must be received or postmarked by 11:59 p.m. EDT on Friday, July 17, 2026.

Please note that your entire comment, including any personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time because it becomes part of the project record. While commentors may ask that their personal identifying information be withheld from public view, NPS cannot guarantee this.

The NPS hosted a hybrid format public open house to solicit public input at Stillwater Town Hall, on Wednesday, June 17, 2026. There will be an additional opportunity to provide comments with the release of the Draft White-tailed Deer Management Plan/Environmental Assessment in 2027.

Planning process and schedule:

The NPS is in the initial stages of the planning process, aiming to produce a management plan in Fall 2027 for implementation thereafter.

Planning Stage	Schedule
Civic Engagement Period Begins	June 17, 2026
Open House	June 17, 2026
Civic Engagement Period Closes	July 17, 2026
Analysis of Civic Engagement Comments	Summer 2026
Plan Development	2026
NEPA Process Begins	2027
Environmental Documents Released, Comment Period, and Public Meeting	2027
Analysis of Comments on Environmental Documents	2027
NPS Decision	2028



White-tailed deer in winter. Photo credit: NPS