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WOODLAND & WILDLIFE CONSULTANTS

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August 29, 2024

Tim Gillette, Operations Director for Tega Cay
7725 Tega Drive
Tega Cay, SC 29708

RE: Deer Spotlight Survey Report, 2024

Mr. Gillette,

Folk Land Management, Inc. conducted a deer spotlight survey on the Tega Cay peninsula on the nights of August 26th and 27th, 2024. We followed the survey routes established by the SCDNR in 2022 which had a visibility area of 212 acres. This is approximately 14% of the total acreage of the Tega Cay peninsula which is 1,518 acres (Figure 1). The results of the surveys are presented in Tables 1 and 2. I want to thank you for driving the survey vehicle and Chad for being our data recorder during these surveys.

We counted a total of 114 deer on the night of the 26th and 142 deer on the 27th. These numbers are similar to our counts in 2023. Based on the highest count total of 142 deer, the calculated deer density for the peninsular portion of Tega Cay is: $212 \text{ ac}/142 \text{ deer seen} = 1.5 \text{ acres per deer}$ which calculates to a deer population of 1,012 deer. The deer density estimate of 1.5 acres/deer is considered extremely high, and this estimate is even higher if you consider the amount of land occupied by roads, sidewalks, and homes that provides no habitat for deer.

In addition to counting the deer we also measured the distance from the survey route to where the deer were first sighted. We tried to position ourselves at a 90-degree angle perpendicular to the spot where deer were sighted so that this distance measurement represented the minimum distance between the route and location of the deer. These data are presented in Tables 3-4.

During our conversations, you indicated Tega Cay has approved a deer management program which could include both sterilization of some deer and the culling of some deer using a sharp shooter. Please share our survey data with the contractors who will be doing this work, and the contractors are welcomed to contact me if additional information is needed. If possible, please keep me updated on the any deer management activities implemented. To fully evaluate the outcomes of these activities it will be important to repeat these surveys in 2025.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you, and I hope your management program is very successful.

Regards,

Ernie P. Wiggers

Ernie Wiggers, PhD
Certified Wildlife Biologist

SURVEY DATA

Table 1. Number of Deer Observed by Sex and Age class during spotlight survey counts on Tega Cay. Survey area = 212 acres; total land area = 1,600 acres.

DATE	BUCKS	DOES	FAWNS	UN-IDENTIFIED	TOTAL	ACRES/DEER	Estimated herd size
SC DNR 3/21/22	0	0	0	101	101	2.1	762
SC DNR 9/14/22	NA	NA	NA	NA	117	1.8	889
9/11/23	19	69	20	10	117	1.8	889
9/12/23	19	96	42	0	157	1.3	1,230
8/26/2024	12	71	29	2	114	1.9	799
8/27/2024	16	74	42	10	142	1.5	1,012

Table 2. Population Parameters for deer herd observed during spotlight survey counts on Tega Cay.

YEAR	AVERAGE DOES/ BUCK	AVERAGE FAWNS/ DOE	HERD INCREMENT	AVERAGE % UNIDENTIFIED
SC DNR 3/21/22	NA	NA	NA	NA
SC DNR 9/14/22	2.5	0.70	NA	NA
2023	4.3	0.4	0.31	4%
2024	5.2	0.5	0.4	4.7%

Table 3. Data recorded for each sighting of deer during deer spotlight counts along survey routes on Tega Cay for night of August 26, 2024.

Route Segment	Sighting #	# Buck	# Does	# Fawns	# unident- tified	Distance (yds)
2	1		1			26
2	2	1				29
3	3		2	2		20
3	4		1			58
3	5		1	1		14
4	6		2			12
4	7		1			24
4	8		1			48
5	9	1				41
5	10	1	1			15
5	11		1	1		16
5	12		5	2		14
5	13		1			25
5	14	4				48
6	15		3	2		37
6	16	1	7			52
6	17			1		17
6	18			1		13
7	19		10	1		16
7	20			2		34
7	21		1			46
7	22		2	1		17
7	23		1	1		19
7	24			1		17
7	25		1			22
7	26		2	1		29
7	27		4			17
1	28		1	2		12
1	29			2		9
1	30	1	4			34
1	31				2	57
1	32	1	2	2		48
1	33			2		109
1	34		1			63
1	35		1	1		38
1	36		2			8
1	37		7			50
1	38	1				21
1	39		1	1		57
Route Seg-	Sight-	#	# Does	#	# uniden-	Distance

ment	ing #	Bucks		Fawns	tified	(yds)
1	40		2			36
1	41			2		61
1	42		2			18
1	43	1				28
Total		12	71	29	2	1,375 yds
Total Deer	114					
Mean Dis- tance						32.0 yds

Table 4. Data recorded for each sighting of deer during deer spotlight counts along survey routes on Tega Cay for night of August 27, 2024.

Route Segment	Sighting #	# Buck	# Does	# Fawns	# un ID	Direction	Distance (yds)
2	1		1	3		R	46
2	2	2				R	18
2	3		1		1	L	19
3	4		1	2		R	21
4	5		1			R	16
4	6		1			L	20
4	7			2		R	13
5	8		1	2		R	79
5	9		1			R	44
5	10	1				R	49
5	11		1	1		L	21
5	12	1				R	31
5	13		1	1		L	28
5	14		5	1		L	64
6	15	1	2			L	30
6	16	2	4	2		R	41
6	17		1		2	R	59
6	18		6	2		R	66
6	19		1			R	46
6	20	1				L	36
6	21			2		R	14
6	22	1	6	3	1	R	36
7	23		7	2		R	27
7	24		2			R	97
7	25		2	1		R	26
7	26		1		1	L	43
7	27		3	3		R	29
7	28			1		R	53
7	29		6			R	26
1	30	1	2	1		R	40
1	31			1		R	17
1	32		1	1		R	10
1	33		1	3		R	50
1	34		2	1		R	16
1	35		4			R	35
1	36	1	8	1		R	36
1	37			5		R	38
1	38				1	R	6
1	39				4	R	182
Route Segment	Sighting #	# Buck	# Does	# Fawns	# un ID	Direction	Distance (yds)

1	40		1			R	40
1	41			1		R	23
1	42		2			R	25
1	43	1	1			R	30
1	44		1			R	29
Total		12	78	42	10		1,675 yds
Total Deer	142						
Mean Dis- tance							38.1 yds

Figure 1. Outline of the Tega Cay deer survey area and survey transects followed for counting deer.

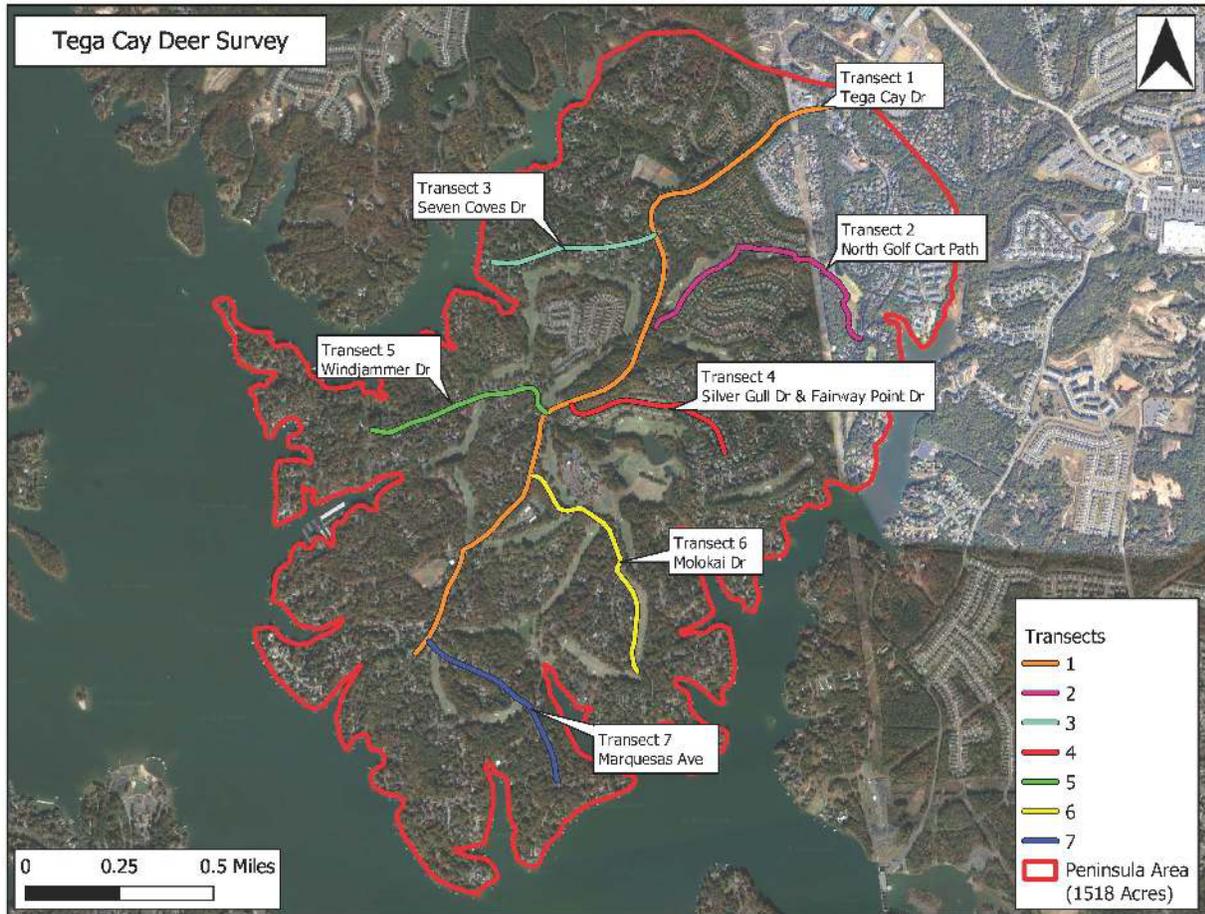


Figure 2. Location of each deer group detected during a spotlight survey on Tega Cay on the night of 26 August 2024. Each numbered location on the map corresponds to the same sighting number presented in Table 3 of this report.

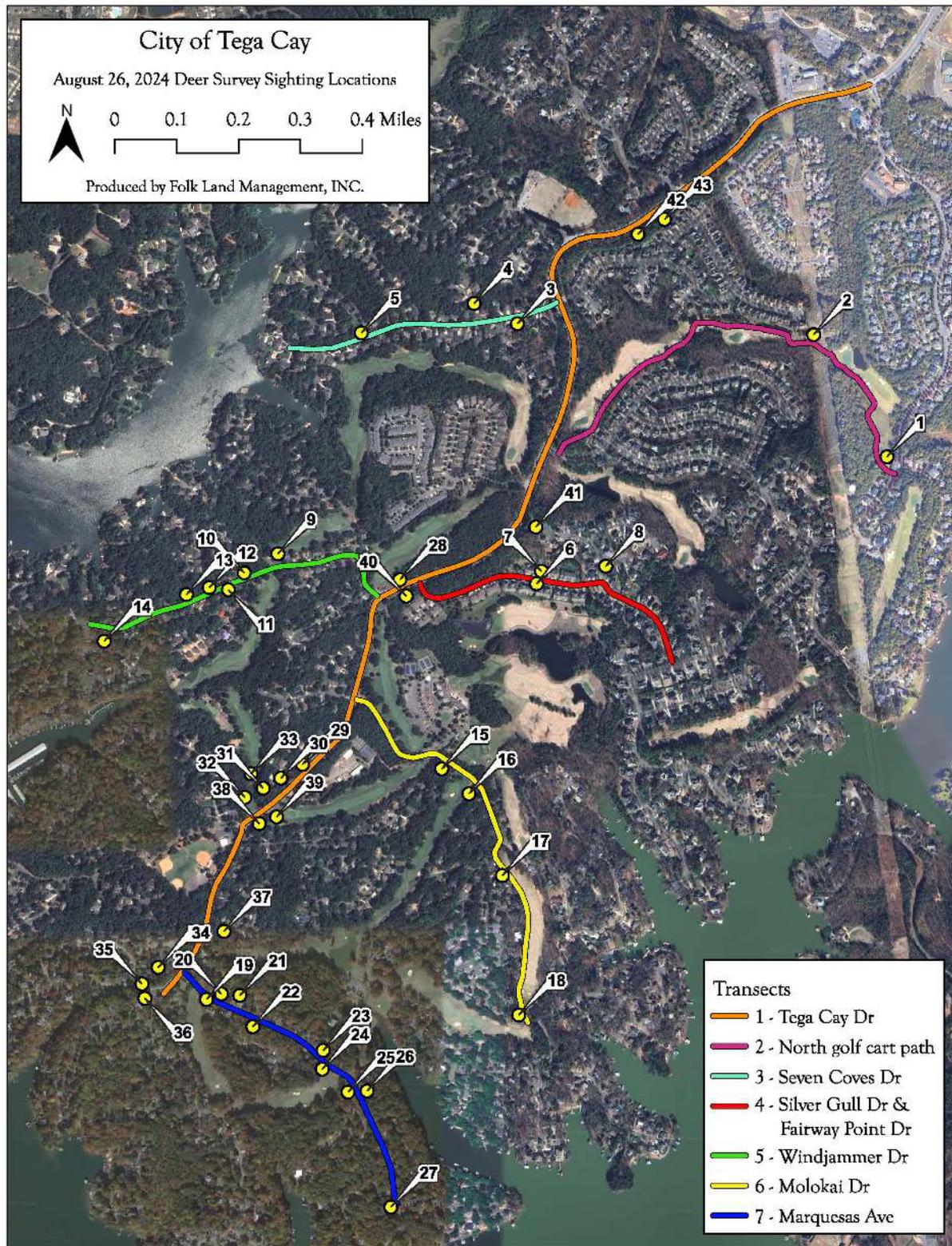


Figure 3. Location of each deer group detected during a spotlight survey on Tega Cay on the night of 27 August 2024. Each numbered location on the map corresponds to the same sighting number presented in Table 4 of this report.

