DEER NEW JERSEY,

Let's find balance for our forests, farms, and families.

MUNICIPAL GUIDE

For local officials and program leaders

MUNICIPAL DEER STEWARDSHIP

A hunting program that earns trust.

Clear rules, antlerless deer-focused goals, venison donation, strong communication and transparent reporting make the difference.



WHY STRENGTHEN THE PROGRAM?

Effective stewardship can help your community, protect native forests, reduce deer-vehicle collisions and support healthier deer herds.

WHAT DOES SUCCESS REQUIRE?

A capable program manager, carefully selected hunters, measurable goals, a portion of venison donated, public responsiveness and annual improvement.

SIX ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS

1	**Start small and transparently**	Begin with one clearly mapped parcel, written rules, public input and close supervision, and a portion of venison donated to local food-insecure residents.
2	**Center on antlerless harvest**	Set a program goal and reward hunters who help reduce the future birth rate while helping to feed local community members.
3	**Make venison donation easy**	Connect hunters with qualified butchers and show them how local organizations, including hunger-relief groups, benefit.
4	**Select and support hunters**	Use applications, licenses, insurance, signed agreements, meetings and regular communication.
5	**Measure and share results**	Track safety, participation, harvests, venison donations and public feedback. Report on time.
6	**Expand a proven program**	Add municipal parcels, then invite nearby private landowners when trust and results are clear.

Results and transparency earn trust.

Deer New Jersey can help with program design, rules and applications, hunter engagement, venison donation and public reporting.

Get the full guide: deernj.org

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FULL GUIDE