

2018 BEACHWOOD RESIDENT  
DEER SURVEY RESULTS &  
POINTS OF EDUCATION

9/20/2018  
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## About the Survey

The 2018 Beachwood Resident Deer Survey was hosted on the City of Beachwood website. The survey opened around 2:25 p.m. on Sept. 4, 2018 and closed around 8:00 a.m. on Sept. 18, 2018.

Information about the survey was shared via the City of Beachwood home page, a City News website posting and e-blast, a CivicSend e-blast, via social media (Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor.com) and through print and online media (Cleveland Jewish News, Patch.com, the Plain Dealer, Cleveland.com).

### Referring page/site:

- Facebook: 84 (53 from the mobile version)
- Nextdoor.com: 41
- Cleveland.com: 14
- Patch.com: 11
- City News (beachwoodohio.com): 33
- CivicSend eblast: 5
- City of Beachwood home page: 120 (many news articles referred people to the City's homepage, where a link to the survey was made available)
- 13 additional responders came to the page from their email programs. These messages could have resulted from subscriptions to Patch.com, Nextdoor.com, or a City of Beachwood e-blast.

There were 729 total respondents from Beachwood residents. When Shaker Heights conducted their deer survey "about 200-300" people responded, according to their Mayor's Office, and they have at least double the adult population of Beachwood. Operating under the Beachwood population estimate of 11,700, from which an estimated 2,339 were under the age of 18, a total of 9,361 adults could have taken the survey. As such, 7.8% of the adult population of Beachwood responded to the survey.

**With 729 responses from Beachwood residents, the  
2018 Beachwood Resident Deer Survey  
achieved a 95% confidence level<sup>1</sup> at  
less than a 3.5% margin of error<sup>2</sup>.**

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<sup>1</sup> The **confidence level** tells you how sure you can be. It is expressed as a percentage and represents how often the true percentage of the population who would pick an answer lies within the confidence interval. The 95% confidence level means you can be 95% certain; the 99% confidence level means you can be 99% certain. Most researchers use the 95% confidence level. (<https://www.surveysystem.com/sscalc.htm>)

## Tally of Results

Any variants from  
100% are due to  
rounding

<b>Do you have concerns about deer in the City of Beachwood?</b>		
Yes	418	57.3%
No	258	35.4%
Unsure	51	7.0%
No answer	2	0.3%
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TOTAL RESPONSES	729	100.0%
<b>Have you noticed a change in the number of deer in your neighborhood compared to last year?</b>		
More deer now	292	40.1%
Fewer deer now	83	11.4%
No change	299	41.0%
Unsure	54	7.4%
No answer	1	0.1%
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TOTAL RESPONSES	729	100.0%
<b>How would you describe the deer population in the City of Beachwood?</b>		
Overabundant	236	32.4%
Abundant	227	31.1%
Just right	193	26.5%
Low	30	4.1%
Very Low	4	0.5%
Unsure	37	5.1%
No answer	2	0.3%
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TOTAL RESPONSES	729	100.0%

Also: "What a 95 percent confidence level is saying is that if the poll or survey were repeated over and over again, the results would match the results from the actual population 95 percent of the time."

(<http://www.statisticshowto.com/confidence-level/>)

<sup>2</sup> For example, if you use a confidence interval ("margin of error") of 4 and 47% percent of your sample picks an answer, you can be "sure" that if you had asked the question of the entire relevant population, between 43% (47-4) and 51% (47+4) would have picked that answer. (<https://www.surveysystem.com/sscalc.htm>)

**How would you describe the deer population in your neighborhood?**

Overabundant	250	34.3%
Abundant	200	27.4%
Just right	188	25.8%
Low	48	6.6%
Very Low	11	1.5%
Unsure	17	2.3%
No answer	15	2.1%
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TOTAL RESPONSES	729	100.0%

**If you have concerns about deer in the City of Beachwood, please indicate those concerns**

Damage to landscape and garden plants	318	43.6%
Potential transmission of diseases	77	10.1%
Decline in deer health due to overpopulation	15	2.1%
Aggressive deer behavior toward humans/pets	29	4.0%
Hit a deer/almost hit a deer with my vehicle	57	7.8%
Other	22	3.0%
None/no concerns	195	26.7%
No answer	16	2.2%
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TOTAL RESPONSES	729	99.5%

**In the future, what would you like to see happen with the deer population in the City of Beachwood?**

**NOTE: Four people commented that they did not see a "decrease" option in this question, so**

**"stay the same" might be an artificially high value.**

Substantial increase	14	1.9%
Slight increase	38	5.2%
Stay the same	215	29.5%
slight decrease	123	16.9%
substantial decrease	281	38.6%
unsure	56	7.7%
No answer	2	0.3%
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TOTAL RESPONSES	729	100.1%

**In your neighborhood, are you aware of residents feeding deer?**

Yes	67	9.2%
No	586	80.1%
Unsure	66	9.1%
No answer	10	1.4%

TOTAL RESPONSES	729	99.8%
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**Should the City of Beachwood participate in a deer-culling effort?**

Yes	337	46.2%
No	272	37.3%
Unsure	114	15.6%
No answer	6	0.8%

TOTAL RESPONSES	729	99.9%
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**For culling purposes, should the City consider moving deer from residents' private property to city-owned properties?**

Yes	248	34.0%
No	289	39.6%
Unsure	181	24.8%
No answer	11	1.5%

TOTAL RESPONSES	729	99.9%
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**If the City were to decide to cull deer on private property with the owners' permission, would you want your property included?**

Yes	233	32.0%
No	358	49.1%
Unsure	135	18.5%
No answer	3	0.4%

TOTAL RESPONSES	729	100.0%
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## Survey Findings

*Percentages throughout this section are rounded from the thousandths place: for example, a mathematical finding of .247 would be rounded to 25%*

*Total number of respondents: 730*

- 46% of residents (337) believe that the City of Beachwood should participate in a deer-culling effort. 37% (272) do not believe that the City of Beachwood should cull deer.
- An additional 16% of residents answered “unsure” to the deer-cull question. It is believed that a follow-up question should be sent to the “unsure” responders of this question only (see Appendix). In order to maintain the integrity of the survey, this question should be sent to responders before the overall survey results are made available to the general public.
- If the City were to decide to cull deer on private property, nearly one-third of residents (233) would want their property included. This is a very strong sentiment.
- Nearly 10% (67) of residents are aware of residents feeding deer in their neighborhood.
- Regarding the change in the number of deer in their neighborhood compared to last year, 299 replied “no change” and 292 said there are more deer now. Eighty-three (83) people replied that there are fewer deer now.
- At least five people surveyed mentioned that they have seen coyotes on or near their property. The coyote is the apex predator of Beachwood. Although its primary diet is rodents, there is a two-week window during fawning season where it can kill a fawn: once a fawn is two-weeks-old, it can outrun a coyote. That being said, one responder said that a coyote killed a deer in their yard.
- The most “no-answer” responses (2.1% / 16) resulted from this question: “If you have concerns about deer in the City of Beachwood, please indicate those concerns.” This was also the most complex question to answer, with seven possible responses.
- The biggest concern regarding the deer was “Damage to landscape and garden plants” (44% / 318), but 4% of respondents (29) cited a primary concern of “Aggressive deer behavior toward humans/pets” and 8% (57) have “Hit a deer/almost hit a deer with my vehicle.” At least 7 additional responders said that they or their children were not comfortable using their backyards due to aggressive deer or the presence of deer ticks, and none of those six chose “aggressive deer behavior” as their primary concern, raising the percentage of residents concerned about aggressive deer to nearly 5%.

- Respondents with “None” concerns about deer totaled 195 (27%), a somewhat surprisingly lower number of people than the 273 (37%) who responded that the City of Beachwood should **not** participate in a deer-culling effort. Therefore, 77 people who are against deer culling also have at least one concern about the deer population in Beachwood.
- A combined 62% of residents (450 of 730) would categorize the deer population in their neighborhood as “abundant/overabundant.” Regarding the deer population in the City of Beachwood, a combined 463 residents would categorize it as “abundant/overabundant.”
- 404 residents (55%) would like to see the deer population decrease in the City of Beachwood. At least four respondents said that they did not see “decrease” as an answer option, so the 215 “stay the same” responses (30%) might be an artificially high response rate. Of the 12 respondents who replied they would like to see a “substantial increase” in the number of deer in Beachwood, 4 (33%) also believed that the City of Beachwood should cull deer. Only one respondent who said they would like to see a “slight increase” in the deer population also replied that Beachwood should cull deer.
- 26% of residents (188) would categorize the deer population in their neighborhood as “just right,” and slightly more (194) would say the same of the deer population in Beachwood as a whole.
- Four respondents used the word “murder” in their short-answer comments. Three respondents used the word “protest,” six used the word “cruel.” Six inquired about the possibility/mentioned the use of “birth-control” options and six more about “contraceptive.”

## Comments of Interest (Unedited)

### Anti-Cull:

1. This survey is self-serving and it appears you have already decided to murder these poor sentient beings who've nowhere else to go. I am an exceptionally informed activist who has sued AND WON VIA APPEALS COURT in Cuyahoga County and won. The city now has to pay me thousands after violating constitutional rights violations, passing an illegal ordinance and more. My group will mobilize in Beachwood to do the same. It has already been made public that LEAP and mayors/city mgrs assn HOLDS SECRET MEETINGS ABOUT DEER LILL PROGRAMS THAT VIOLATE PUBLIC TRUST. In my exceptionally informed and balanced view (I no longer believe any lethal programs are effective pop control but are implemented to satisfy 4% of population who hunt and PARADOXICALLY, UNEQUIVOCALLY create rebounding herd numbers), all this means you are deceiving public, violating Public Trust Doctrine, opening city to civil lawsuits, and can expect bad publicity. If you aren't lying, then invite ME to present my Urban Hunting Myths and Facts to tell the whole truth about all lethal deer programs, and what councils mayors LEAP etc. lie about. If you want the truth, call me at 2165366138. If not, we'll be there to protest. **[NOTE: The person who left this comment and responded to the survey is not a Beachwood resident and as such, their survey has been stricken from the results. She is a member of Deer Defenders of Ohio]**
2. Do your research. Culling programs are expensive and don't work. I will join my fellow neighbors in protest should this become a reality in our city.
3. Deer don't go up to the 31st floor of a hotel and kill. They do no wrong. We are all creatures of this world. They deserve the same chance to live as we do. Be careful when you operate a car and take pleasure in their beauty. We should not harm them.
4. I think it is absolutely horrific that this is even coming up. We are all sharing this earth and the deer do not deserve to get pushed out of their homes or moved. This is disgraceful of beachwood and I am very disappointed by everyone involved.
5. This is a very stupid idea. And I will speak out loudly against it if you decide to move forward and kill deer.
6. Cull is an euphemism for murder!
7. Unless it's been proven that the deer have some kind of potential negative impact that is worse than the eating of vegetation (even if that vegetation is a flower or vegetable etc. belonging to someone), I'm very strongly against culling.

8. We are concerned about car-deer collisions, but are more concerned with violent culling in residential neighborhoods. I just don't want that type of violence around my house, and when my kids are at friends' houses. That seems horrifying to me.
9. culling is a euphemism for killing. do not kill wildlife. it is a terrible image for the city that it would sanction killing.
10. The deer are majestic and beautiful. They are big part of our happiness here in Beachwood. Our family, our children, would be devastated if any were killed or tormented in any way. I am sure my wife, teenage children, friends and neighbors would participate in protesting any sort of culling effort. To spend even a dime of taxpayer money on deer reduction is something our family opposes.
11. if you decide to "cull" - kill the deer, i'd consider moving from Beachwood. that's despicable and pathetic. it'd be embarrassing that we as a community support this. i'm sickened even just reading about this possibility. forcing an answer to the following question is not right: If you have concerns about deer in the City of Beachwood, please indicate those concerns (check all that apply):\* i don't have a concern but have to endorse one to submit this survey. misleading.  
*[ED. NOTE: "None" was added to the potential answer list within 30 minutes of the survey being published and we called to let this resident know. Three of the 12 responders during this initial half-hour chose "Other"; six chose two answers; one chose "damage to landscape..."; the other chose "hit a deer/almost hit a deer..."]*
12. I have been a citizen of beachwood for almost 22 years old and I have absolutely do not support this effort of killing deer to build more infrastructure for human beings. Prior to this, I felt so much pride in the fact that we are a community where deer can be safe. Throughout the years family of deer have fun out around my area so much that my family and I could easily identify "Whitey", an albino female deer who lived a a considerable long prosperous life. This is the community where I hoped to in turn raise my family. But I can tell you first and foremost if this city does become a city that feels so inclined to kill a population of harmless beings then I will be moving far away from this town.
13. We're destrying their home by cutting down forrestry to build. Why would we then kill them too? It's not right. Think about if you got your house knocked down for a "superior race" and then someone tried to kill you for roaming around. It's not right.
14. Please do not cull the deer! We have taken away their homes with construction -- please DO NOT take away their lives. We see deer almost every day -- and they are beautiful, graceful animals. They do not bother us -- we enjoy watching them. if you must decrease the population -- I believe it would be more inhumane to inject with contraception -- then the population could decrease slowly. Please be kind and humane!

15. I've learned to live with them. We can all get along in this neighborhood.
16. First, we permit the developers to destroy the deer's natural habitat without the benefit of an environmental study. Then, we the taxpayers, subsidize the developers by handling their problem. This is poor thinking and poor planning. Then, we blame the deer for a problem they did not cause and since there is no one to represent them, we kill them. How cruel.
17. Totally opposed to any culling. Live on Shaker across from park and enjoy the deer on my front lawn and in the park. I was quite disturbed by the method and manner of culling in Shaker Heights last year.
18. Perhaps try to spay/neuter deer if they are too numerous or put birth-control substances in saltblocks for them to consume... WE DO NOT NEED TO CULL THE DEER. KILLING IS NOT THE SOLUTION TO EVERYTHING AND WE HAVE CREATED THE PROBLEM BECAUSE WE HAVE CUT DOWN ALL OF BEACHWOOD'S ONCE FORESTED AREAS FOR COMMERCIAL USE. THIS IS THEIR HOME, TOO!
19. I am strongly against doing anything harmful to the deer. They were here first. We need to be responsible citizens and good role models for our kids.
20. Do not kill deer. You set a terrible example if you kill wildlife.
21. I am emphatically against deer culling. A more humane solution, assuming a solution is necessary, would be to anesthetize deer and take them to a far away wooded sanctuary.
22. I love seeing them, but I know the damage they can cause at properties and G-d forbid if they are hit by cars. I know we've taken over their habitats and I feel bad about that.
23. What about introducing natural predators?
24. Leave deer alone. They are not hurting anyone or anything. Animal cruelty. Keep my property out of this.
25. I like seeing the deer in and around Beachwood.
26. The number of deer in our neighborhood seems to be the same as it has been for the last couple of years, however, they don't appear as aggressive as they were 2-3 years ago - on the contrary, they are not afraid of the dog or of us and stand their ground in a much milder manner. Although I am concerned about ticks and the various diseases that they may carry, I can't justify killing them. They have eaten and destroyed some of our plantings but I did find an organic substance that deters them. It would be nice if they could just be transported to a more appropriate setting!
27. the deer were here first, we need to adapt our gardens and planting and it works out. do need to wrap the small trees though

28. My children will be very mad if you hurt any of their deer friends.
29. First of all, I didn't know they are transmitting diseases or that they are aggressive toward humans/pets (is that even true or just a hypothetical worry? I guess I'll worry about it now.). Is "culling" a euphemism for killing?! How exactly would they do that?! I don't want anyone shooting on my property or anywhere nearby! What do you mean by moving them to city-owned properties? To a zoo? To Trump Tower? To the Pentagon, to use their diseases and aggression as weapons against terrorism?! P.S. My husband loves the deer, thinks they are beautiful, and says, "Please don't get rid of the deer! They can even add a few more."
30. I am 100% opposed to harming our deer population in any form! I am against any cruel treatment of animals. I get great joy watching the deer in my neighborhood and walking through my year.
31. The overpopulation of deer has been caused by us building on their homes. This is not a reason to kill them. Also, if people quit texting and using their phones while driving they would be more alert about their surroundings.
32. I don't believe the deer are a problem. They have been on our street for twenty-five years and cause no issues. They are animals that deserve to live just as we do. I believe it is barbaric to kill any deer because they eat somebody's plants or are an inconvenience.
33. Not in favor of any culling. We share our neighborhood and community with the deer. Do people want us to go after the birds and squirrels, too? Or how about the cars and people that are a perceived nuisance? ?? Don't fully understand the concern.
34. This is terrible. the ONLY reason why people want to kill the deer is because they want to eat a leaf or vegetable that they grew in the backyard. GO TO THE GROCERY STORE PEOPLE. The deer were here first. They have no voice. They eat no animals. They are cool animals.
35. Please do not kill these deer. They have not been a problem more than any other place or time. Can't you move them to a big park or do some type of birth control? I am AGAINST KILLING THEM. That is so cruel..

## Pro-Cull

1. My wife has been chased by aggressive deer. My dog and daughter both got giardiasis likely from deer feces. They are dangerous to drive around and I am especially concerned about my 15 year old daughter starting to drive around them. I would consider the city liable if there were an accident and the city has not done anything to stop it. I am highly in favor of culling the population.
2. The deer situation in our neighborhood (Maidstone) is out of control and scary. We walk our dog 5-6 times a day. Nearly every time we see up to 7 deer. A few months ago my dog and I were chased home by a deer! And a neighbor told me that a deer chased her and her dog into her garage. It's gotten to the point that I am afraid to go outside, especially when it is dark. There are tons of children in our neighborhood and I am concerned for everyone's safety. Would be happy to help the City deal with this problem in any way we can contribute.
3. I have lived on Fairwood Court for the past 11 years. I was the first resident on the street. We had a few deer at that time. I now have to fence off my arborvitae in the winter. Two years ago I had 13 deer hiding and sleeping behind them. They cross North Woodland coming from The Village. Their fences don't stop them. We have had several nighttime scares almost hitting them on North Woodland.
4. When walking at dusk deer also become a hazard as they are aggressive to those walking by , especially with dogs. I know that on several occasions my children have been followed and have not felt safe. One time a neighbor saw the deer chasing my daughter walking our dog and stopped her car so they could get in. Another time I witnessed someone being charged by a deer - an onlooker, had stopped their car - angling in the middle of the street - to act as a blockade so the man could make it to safety.
5. Deer almost attacked my 3 year old.
6. The deer are no longer afraid of us or our dog. They've actually turned on my dog. Last rutting season a male turned on my neighbor and faced him while scraping his foot on the ground. It is not uncommon to wake up with 10-12 in our yard. I hate to see them fight as well ( the males); I am an animal lover and advocate, but they seem to be competing for space and getting injured fighting ( and getting hit by cars)
7. They have caused us to no longer sit in the backyard. I got a bullseye rash which is the result of a deer tick. They are an extreme health hazard. Humans can get lyme disease.
8. Almost hit deer at least x2 weekly 6am Deer are very aggressive in my area

9. They're getting friendlier and friendlier. A deer gave birth on my front walkway and she kept the baby deer on my front steps. Plus all the damage they're doing to my front lawn and bushes.
10. The true problem is that you keep eliminating every green space in the city and the deer are displaced. While I would like culling to happen. I have learned that the city doesn't know how to follow through with anything, so I am sure they will not follow through with this either.
11. We've live adjacent to Canterbury Golf Club. Our location has many trees, land, the creek and vegetation. In the 27 years we've lived here, we have never seen as many very young fawns as we have this year. Literally every evening, we see anywhere from 4 to 10 deer grazing or walking through our back yard. While none has ever behaved in a threatening way (just the opposite) they do leave droppings and occasionally feed on our perennials - even with deer repellent applied. They move next to the house, graze in the front yard, and literally walk up the sidewalks and across the street (Belvoir Blvd). While we never have hit any in our car, we have had a number of close-calls... especially after dark. We do feel there are too many deer, yet would NOT want to have any of them culled on our property.
12. In addition to not being able to see them at night since the streets are sooo dark at night, they are very aggressive . I have been chased with my dogs more than once . I am scared to walk to streets . Especially at night . We need street lighting s too !!!! I am assuming the question above you meant decrease the deer not Increase
13. We all love deer and nature but they are becoming a hazard in our suburb and potential danger. Unfortunately, they must be culled. Depending on methods used, I would consider allowing our property to be used.
14. I am not in favor of cruelty to animals, but things are getting excessive. Just in the last week I have nearly missed my bus to work twice because of aggressive behavior from deer. Furthermore, deer are a vector for Lyme disease, a very serious public health hazard to humans and pets. I would favor culling, but also shooting deer with injectable contraceptives.
15. deer feces all over yard...my dog tries to eat it
16. This year in our backyard, a doe reared up and tapped my dog on his back (my dog was inching slowing towards/sniffing and deer was too which went on for a long time). I was surprised deer did not run away. The rearing up scared my dog, but he was not injured. I did not realize she would be aggressive. Looking back, she was pregnant at the time, or recently had a baby. I called a wildlife sanctuary which said this is normal behavior so I was not too concerned after that. Next time, I will call my dog away if he's sniffing a

deer. Also deer of course carry the Lyme/Deer tick. (my vet said cases of canine Lyme disease are increasing). We normally do not have ticks in our backyard that I know of. I found one on my dog this year, but it was a dog tick. Nothing since then. I put our dog on tick preventative this year since it's more of a concern.

17. I can't believe we pt up with these large wild animals on our streets and sidewalks, and in our yards. This is weird and dangerous (my dog was trampled by a deer in our yard). My friends from Columbus can't believe their eyes when they visit me and see deer roaming the streets so you can't tell me this is a "Midwest thing."
18. I am very concerned about deer breaking through a window into the house. This happened a few doors down from me and to a friend a few blocks away.
19. I am very concerned about the deer and their closeness to my house and children. The deer are constantly around our swing set and frankly it's not safe for my kids to play outside.
20. 1. There are over 18,000 car/deer accidents in Ohio last year that were reported, many are not. Some of these involve injury and can also be fatal. 2. Solon and other neighboring cities have already had deer culling programs. 3. I have a significant 5 figure investment in my landscaping AND pay over 400/month to spray for deer prevention. This also includes the winter months!
21. We paid \$5000 for a partial fence to keep out the deer.
22. This shook me up -- the almost auto accident just happened three years ago. They came out of the woods near my house runnign across the street right in front of me. I was glad that I could stop -- it was within an inch of the deer, and the car behind me nearly hit me. It is important for safety of people, children, and vehicles to remove the deer from the area. I am not for killing animals but there is no useful purpose for the deer -- only danger.
23. My whole yard is full of deer poop, and from what I've read has the potential for the transmission of E. coli and chronic wasting disease (CWD), similar to mad cow disease. The disease could possibly be transmitted to a human if you were to touch contaminated deer excrement and then inadvertently introduce it into your mouth. My grandchildren play in the yard, and they have stepped and fallen on the poop. I do not live in the wilderness, I live in Beachwood. I hope we can all see the danger.
24. I am not in favor of cruelty to animals, but things are getting excessive. Just in the last week I have nearly missed my bus to work twice because of aggressive behavior from deer. Furthermore, deer are a vector for Lyme disease, a very serious public health hazard

to humans and pets. I would favor culling, but also shooting deer with injectable contraceptives.

25. I'm also concerned about the coyote population. They've been walking through my yard during the day and at night. I have dogs and kids and live near Bryden school. Please consider coyote culling too. I'm actually more nervous about the coyote. If it means decreasing the deer population to rid the coyotes, you have my vote.
26. We've had two deer incidents with our dog. The first a doe knocked our 80+ lab off her feet, she was unharmed. More recently, in our backyard the dog approached our field the doe came out and slammed the dog who required stitches. In the deer's defense she was protecting her fawns which we were unaware of.
27. It is high time and long overdue that the City of Beachwood starts culling its deer to keep them from multiplying and continuing to destroy property and as a dangerous reality for drivers who hit them and can cause death.
28. They eat my plants. They sleep in my backyard. I am a walker and am afraid to walk around Beachwood.
29. I have lived here 15 years and have seen the deer population rise in great numbers. I grew up in the country and maybe saw 1 deer a year. Now I have a herd in my backyard on a regular basis. I have a golden retriever. The deer are not even afraid of him. If I let the dog chase the deer he would chase them into Green Road and cause an accident. People need to respect nature and NOT put out food for them. If they don't have food, the population would naturally drop. Also, there are no native predators here to control the deer population. I hate they eat my garden however there are worse things.
30. Aggressive behavior toward a pet 2-3 times
31. The deer poo in my back yard attracts flies. The deer are aggressive and not deterred by ribbons or noise or fences or dogs. We have seen skunks also. I will be away over the winter. My back yard is secluded. But I am near Green Road, so I believe I see fewer deer than others.
32. My yard is so full of deer excrement that my child cannot play outside. They have eaten every edible plant on my property. I see them grazing on acorns in my yard daily. They are not afraid to see humans and do not run away even if approached. They are definitely overabundant, due to the lack of natural predators and hunters. Something needs to be done to control the deer population, or else it will continue to worsen. I am an experienced deer hunter and am willing to help out as needed.
33. My dog was attacked last summer in my back yard by a deer (no serious injuries). We have one deer (with a bad leg) comes around often that is not scared of us. She will stop

her foot and not flee when we challenge her while she eats our landscaping. This deer in particular needs eliminated.

34. The deer problem is out of control. We were hiking in the Metroparks and the Cuyahoga National Park over the weekend and saw zero deer. But I see steady traffic through our lot in Beachwood. My wife asked if we should plant tulip bulbs. I laughed, because as soon as they bloom the deer chomp on the flowers. Let's move them to the woods and both the deer and the residents will be happy. This is getting so bad it will be an election issue and the council members and mayoral candidates who make an issue of it will get elected. Do something please!!
35. My kids are very frightened by the deer that roam around our property too often. We are concerned that we may hit them when driving on our street, especially at night since Beachwood is so dark. Lastly, we would love to plant certain perennials that are not deer resistant. It's especially frustrating that we can't have a vegetable, herb garden as well!

## Neutral

1. I don't have a good year over years understanding of the deer population. I did come from a neighborhood where "Save the Deer" was a big topic come town hall time. It nearly split the neighborhood in two! Waiting for the problem to solve itself did not help as coyotes were sighted and a few mauled deer and pets were found shortly after. Some pests come and others will follow. I myself don't mind coyotes, but I'm not sure of any other residents enjoying the "meat-eaters" hanging around. If there is no action on the deer a helpful next move would be to introduce fears of coyotes as a substantial driver towards a decent solution. Good luck as this problem might not be easy. As a side note, I lived in another suburb just shy of Beachwood in its proximity to nature and the city including major highways and traffic patterns. I assume the "meat-eaters" will make there way here if their numbers grow and there is available food.
2. Our deer population does seem marginally high. However, last winter, we saw slightly fewer deer than in prior years. Deer last winter tried to eat sunflower seeds from the feeder I put out for the birds, so we did have to stop feeding sunflower seeds then. I'm worried about culling in our area with high population densities, and narrow city park, with problems to exclude public during cull. (Very different than closing off a Metropark). Sharpshooting is probably most humane method for culling, but would be difficult, given property layouts in Beachwood. If needed, could a cull be organized from one of the adjacent golf courses? Is deer birth control feasible?  
<https://blog.humanesociety.org/2017/07/epa-gives-thumbs-vaccine-manage-deer-populations-humanely.html>

3. I think the city should provide a recommendation about the number of deer, safety issues (how many deer — vehicle incidents there have been), what is the incidence of disease. Also, what is meant by removing deer to city owned property. What safety measures are contemplated for any culling program, etc.

## **Letter to the Editor, Cleveland.com**

### **Beachwood does not have a deer problem: Letter to the Editor**

#### **By [Other Voices](#)**

We often hide the ethical implications of our actions by euphemism. Thus, plans to kill deer are described as "culling." A business that carries out this killing is named "Precision Wildlife Management." The fact that we shy away from describing our plans directly, suggests that we are engaged in self-deception. We should remember that it is our sprawl and development that disrupted the deer's habitat. Beachwood does not have a deer problem. It is the deer that have a people problem. What would it say about us, if we choose killing the deer instead of trying to live with them?

Jeremy Genovese, Beachwood

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### **Email message from a Shaker Heights resident**

From: Nancy Davis [<mailto:nancysmithdavis@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2018 4:37 PM

To: Lynn B. Johnson, MFA

Subject: Deer in our backyard and front of house

Dear Lynn, We live one block away from Beachwood, on Hazelmere Road, in Shaker. We have had a serious deer problem for many years. This past Saturday, Sunday, and Monday we have awoken to find our yard extensively messed up by multiple deer hoof digs of the grass, as if two bucks had a big fight (which has happened in the past).

We take great pride in our landscaping, at great expense. The many products to repel deer have proven ineffective. Our back yard is now a mess. Anything Beachwood can do to redirect or eliminate the deer population will be greatly appreciated.

Nancy and Chuck Davis, 216-751-5580.

### **Email messages from those who responded after the survey was closed**

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Miriam Svec: 3285 Belvoir Blvd., 216-751-1794 (She called the office because she does not have email)

I don't want anybody killing them. I have a woods behind my house. Some seem tame. I can talk to them. They're beautiful animals and I don't want anything to happen to them. When my dog barks, they leave the dog alone. They aren't dangerous like some animals are. One a few years ago actually went through my sprinkler on a hot day. She was like a pet.

\*\*\*\*

My name is Anshel Epstein  
at 24118 East Baintree in Beachwood for the last 18 plus years.  
When we moved to the city there was no deers in my neighborhood , now it is an epidemic. We strongly urge the city to curve and eliminate the deer population in the city Thank you Anshel and Nechama Epstein  
216-346-5550

## Points of Education

### Deer Diseases

“Hemorrhagic Disease (HD) is the most important viral disease of white-tailed deer in the United States. It is caused by related orbiviruses of the epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) or bluetongue (BT) virus serogroups. Since disease caused by EHD and BT viruses are indistinguishable without laboratory testing, the general term, hemorrhagic disease (HD), is often used. The virus is transmitted by biting flies of the genus *Culicoides*, which are commonly called midges, sand gnats, or no-see-ums. For this reason, the occurrence of HD is seasonal, and coincides with periods of the year when these biting flies are abundant - typically late July through November. The first hard freeze of the fall causes a sudden decline in *Culicoides* activity, eliminating new cases of HD. ... The severity and distribution of HD outbreaks are highly variable. While HD outbreaks only occur sporadically in Ohio (recent significant disease events include 2007, 2012, and 2017), they can be severe with locally high mortality. Presently, there are no wildlife management tools that can prevent or control HD. While significant localized mortality can cause alarm among the public, past experiences show that HD will not eliminate entire populations, the disease will come to an end with the onset of cold weather, and deer populations will bounce back within a few years. In the summer of 2017, the ODNR Division of Wildlife documented significant HD mortality in several Ohio counties, including Jefferson, Lorain, Belmont, and Cuyahoga.”<sup>3</sup>

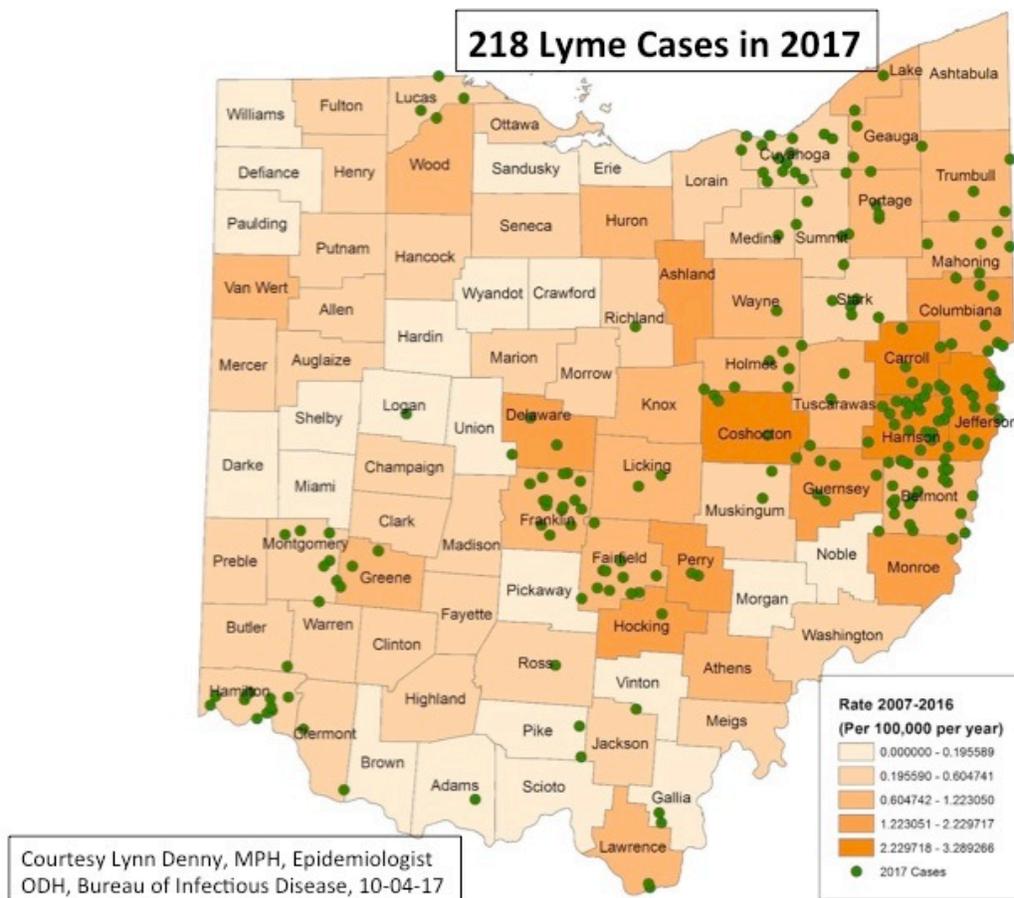
“Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal disease of the central nervous system of mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, and moose. CWD is disease caused by abnormal proteins, or prions (not a bacteria or virus), that ultimately destroy brain tissue. This type of disease is known as a

<sup>3</sup> [http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/Portals/wildlife/pdfs/publications/hunting/Pub%205304\\_DeerSummary2018.pdf](http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/Portals/wildlife/pdfs/publications/hunting/Pub%205304_DeerSummary2018.pdf), pg. 12

transmissible spongiform encephalopathy. This family of diseases includes bovine spongiform encephalopathy (mad cow disease), scrapie in sheep, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease in humans. Since 2002 the ODNR Division of Wildlife has conducted statewide CWD surveillance, testing 17,493 deer. To date, there has yet to be a wild, free-ranging deer test positive for the disease in Ohio. In 2017, a total of 1,512 deer were submitted for CWD testing. ODNR Division of Wildlife staff collected 779 road-killed deer from 57 counties and hunters submitted 661 deer (16 of which were escaped captive deer) for CWD testing. An additional 15 escaped or confiscated captive cervids, deer displaying abnormal behavior and/or poor physical condition (n=55), a euthanized research animal, and one deer found dead under suspicious circumstances were also tested for CWD in 2017. **CWD was not detected in any of these samples.**<sup>4</sup>

## Lyme Disease

There have been confirmed cases of Lyme Disease in Ohio<sup>5</sup>. Lyme Disease is carried by deer ticks. More information is available online at <https://www.odh.ohio.gov/lyme>.



<sup>4</sup> Ibid, pg. 13

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.odh.ohio.gov/lyme>

## Deer Sterilization

According to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), surgical sterilization methods are more invasive and not a solidly effective tool for managing the population. “Our deer migrate, and that’s the biggest hurdle,” said Geoff Westerfield of ODNR. The migratory aspect of our deer means it is difficult to track animals who have been sterilized to make sure they do not develop post-op infections or other issues.

Sterilization of deer is also expensive and does not address concerns about deer/vehicle accidents or landscape damage in the short term. Additionally, it might not hinder the population at all. Cornell University attempted a sterilization program on their campus with unexpected results:

A team of biologists led by Paul Curtis, an associate professor and extension wildlife specialist at Cornell, began to closely track changes in the deer population. Initially, the results looked promising: The birth rate went down. Yet the total number of deer remained steady over five years. Something strange was going on.

“Sterilization definitely did decrease fawn numbers, and doe numbers also declined,” Curtis said. “However, these population reductions were offset by increasing buck numbers. There were about 100 deer on campus when we started, and there were still about 100 deer [five years later].”

Something was attracting an abnormal number of mature bucks. Cornell’s biologists realized that the reproductive cycle of the ligated does was to blame.

Under normal conditions, all female whitetails go into heat within several weeks of each other and become pregnant at around the same time. This annual event is called the rut. However, if a doe is not impregnated during the rut, it will enter heat again the following month and again the month after that. Because the ligated does were unable to become pregnant, they continued to produce chemical signals of readiness to reproduce — signals that can attract bucks from miles away.<sup>6</sup>

Per the same article, “If some form of surgical sterilization or contraception is eventually successful among free-ranging populations of wild deer, it could change the way that urban and suburban communities deal with excessive deer numbers.”<sup>7</sup>

## Deer “Birth-Control” Methods

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<sup>6</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/trying-to-limit-the-number-of-deer-with-surprising-results/2014/09/29/3c16f9dc-28a5-11e4-958c-268a320a60ce\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.54d3f1901831](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/trying-to-limit-the-number-of-deer-with-surprising-results/2014/09/29/3c16f9dc-28a5-11e4-958c-268a320a60ce_story.html?utm_term=.54d3f1901831)

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

According to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, there are no products or pharmaceuticals currently on the market that has been proven effective for deer in an open (migratory) population like the deer in Beachwood.

The claim that “It is a fact that PZP, a safe immuno-contraception (birth control) protein (NOT a hormone) used in many other mammals for years with 90% effectiveness, is being used on free-roaming deer in other states”<sup>8</sup> does not ring true. There are not currently any one-shot vaccines available that are effective in blocking fertilization in deer. “Until that one-shot form of the vaccine has been perfected in deer, two shots are necessary the first year and a single annual booster thereafter unless one takes the approach in which as many deer as possible are darted the first year without looking for any significant results for that year and then given a booster the second year.”<sup>9</sup>

Such a program has not been proven effective for managing deer births in an open population, and also does not provide touchless effectiveness, as to be truly effective the vaccinated deer would need to be tagged or notched to denote their participation in the program.

Tufts University in Massachusetts is studying the use of a contraceptive vaccine in white-tailed deer. The method involves stimulating the deer’s immune system to prevent pregnancy. Earlier experiments with captive deer have been successful. While it will be years until the results are clear, the ongoing challenges in the wild include high cost (it costs about \$1,300 each time a deer is captured and given a shot) as well as the difficulty of monitoring large numbers of individual deer and getting them booster shots.

“It is nearly impossible to keep free-ranging deer on a booster schedule,” said Curtis, who has also been involved with immunocontraception experiments in deer. Without being restricted to an enclosure, deer that have been given shots can either hide or wander out of the study area. Deer from outside the study area will tend to move in and occupy the habitat opened up by a declining local population.<sup>10</sup>

## Potential Deer Sanctuaries

In hopes of fulfilling some residents’ wishes that the Beachwood deer be transported to sanctuaries, the Mayor’s office has phoned the following organizations: Lagoon Deer Park in

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.change.org/p/greater-cleveland-food-bank-stop-accepting-mass-slaughtered-deer-meat-from-cleveland-metroparks>

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.pzpinfo.org/pzp\\_faqs.html](http://www.pzpinfo.org/pzp_faqs.html)

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/trying-to-limit-the-number-of-deer-with-surprising-results/2014/09/29/3c16f9dc-28a5-11e4-958c-268a320a60ce\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.54d3f1901831](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/trying-to-limit-the-number-of-deer-with-surprising-results/2014/09/29/3c16f9dc-28a5-11e4-958c-268a320a60ce_story.html?utm_term=.54d3f1901831)

Sandusky, OH 419-684-5701 (Jeff - LM) and Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust (three designated sanctuaries in Ohio 800-729-SAVE (Linda Winter – LM).

Moving deer out of town might result in other deer migrating to Beachwood to neighboring communities.

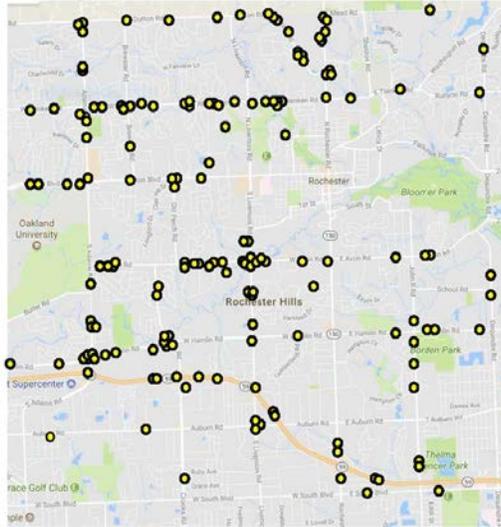
Additionally, according to Rochester Hills, MI Natural Resources Director Matt Einheuser, “relocation is very stressful on deer.”<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Phone call between Matt Einhauser and Lynn Johnson, 9/20/18, 11:17a.m. (duration 19:32)

## Shaker Heights Deer Cull

A petition against the Shaker Heights Deer Cull suggested that the City of Rochester Hills, MI is an area similar to Shaker Heights and has instituted “a very successful and simple non-lethal plan”<sup>12</sup> for controlling deer populations. The Mayor’s Office has reviewed this plan from Rochester Hills. It includes a map of Deer-Vehicle accident sites<sup>13</sup>, shown here (yellow dots denote deer-crash locations):



**2016 Deer Crash Locations in Rochester Hills  
per Police Accident Reports Documented  
with the Traffic Improvement Association (TIA)**

Additionally, the Rochester Hills deer population reached an all-time high in 2016. Figures for 2017 are not available “due to weather.”<sup>14</sup>

## Rochester Hills, MI Deer Cull

Based on information from a phone call with Rochester Hills, MI Natural Resources Director Matt Einheuser: In 2009, after the highest year yet of deer-vehicle collisions, the City of Rochester Hills planned to do a culling with the help of sharpshooters from the sharpshooters in the Sherriff Department. The cull was safe and everything went well. Protersters against the cull travelled from out-of-state to dissuade the deer from travelling to the cull area. Twenty deer had

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.deerdefendersofohio.org/shaker-hts>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.rochesterhills.org/DocumentCenter/View/8606>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.rochesterhills.org/DocumentCenter/View/8607>

been culled when protesters had the program put on hold by the City Council. One of the 20 deer had run a little ways off, still in the park, and was videotaped by a protestor. They have not had a cull since, though if the number of deer-vehicle collisions rise over 200 in a year, the City's Deer Management Advisory Committee would re-visit culling and other population-management efforts.

## **APPENDIX: Proposed follow-up question**

You have been provided with this follow-up question to the 2018 Beachwood Resident Deer Survey because your answer to the question “Should the City of Beachwood participate in a deer-culling effort?” was “Unsure.”

We are hoping for as many firm Yes or No answers as possible. As such, here is additional educational information on the topic:

- According to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources: No drug or fertility-control product has been proven effective for deer in an open (migratory) population. These only work for deer in closed populations: fenced pens, islands, etc. There is not a contraceptive (birth-control) product that would effectively control Beachwood’s deer population, because deer-fertility control methods must be administered in a controlled setting.
- According to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources: Surgical sterilization of deer is invasive, can lead to infections that cause the animal to suffer, and can cost upward of \$2,500 per animal. Post-surgery follow-ups are very difficult to accomplish in open (migratory) deer populations.
- According to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources: Sterilization does not provide a short-term solution to deer/vehicle accidents or landscape/garden damage.
- Beachwood is exploring the possibility that culled deer are processed so that the resultant venison would be donated to a local food bank.

Given the information provided above, please answer the following question:

**Should the City of Beachwood participate in a deer-culling effort? (answers provided in alphabetical order)**

Drop Down to Answer

No

Unsure

Yes

Yes, only if the venison is donated to a food bank