

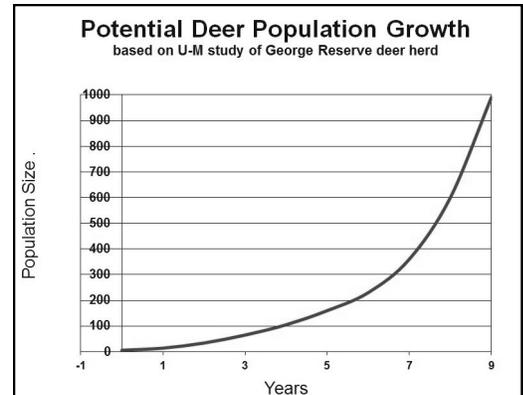
I. Deer in Ann Arbor: What's the Problem?

Deer Biology + No Predators + No Hunting in the City + A Good Habitat = Local Deer Population Doubles Every Other Year

Deer are appearing in larger numbers throughout the City and in neighborhoods where they were rarely or never seen.

Deer are a threat to the rest of the natural environment when allowed to reproduce without limit.

- A doe eats 10 lbs. of live greenery a day; a buck eats 20 lbs.
- Bucks destroy trees by "rubbing" the bark with their antlers.
- Deer "poop" renders some residential yards not usable.
- Deer are seriously damaging neighborhood landscaping: trees, shrubs and more.
- Over-abundant deer disrupt the natural balance of parks and woodlands, significantly reduce the diversity of plant and animal species.
- Deer destroy wildflowers and eliminate habitat for songbirds and pollinators.
- Deer prevent forest regeneration. They consume oak and other seedlings.
- Deer interfere with efforts to establish community gardens, to grow food locally and sustainably, and to promote native plant species and rain gardens.

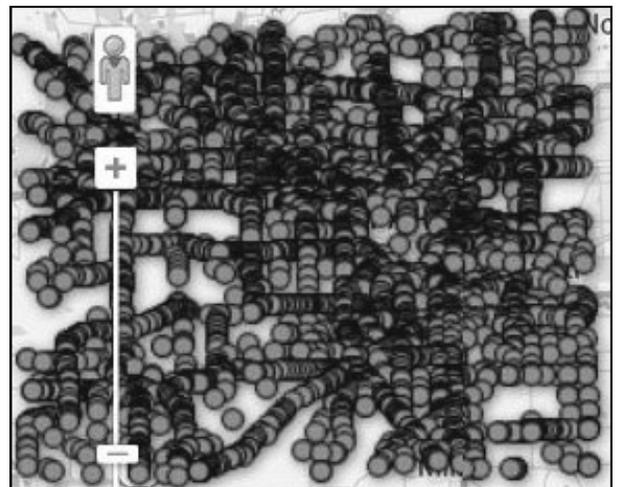


Over-abundant deer threaten human health and safety.

- **Deer-vehicle crashes** now occur everywhere around the city, not at just a few deer crossings.
- **Lyme disease**, a dangerous and debilitating health challenge, is advancing toward Washtenaw County from western Michigan. Deer population exceeding ten per square mile supports Lyme disease by providing a host for the deer tick in a stage of the tick's life cycle. The tick carries the bacterial disease.

There are **dollar costs and costs in pain and suffering inflicted by over-abundant deer**, and these costs will rise as the population increases unchecked. Doing nothing is not free of cost.

- **Ann Arbor already has suffered hundreds of thousands of dollars** in damage to landscape plantings and parks.
- **Property values drop** as trees and bushes are destroyed and replacement species are restricted to what deer won't eat.
- **Deer-vehicle crashes** generate painful injuries to people and deer and drive up health and auto insurance premiums. A typical crash generates a \$4,000 repair bill. **1,058 deer-vehicle collisions** were reported in Washtenaw County in 2013.



Ann Arbor Chronicle and michigantrafficroadcrashfacts.org
Deer-car crashes in Washtenaw Co. 2004-2013.

II. Deer in Ann Arbor: What's the Remedy?

Doing nothing is not an option and will only delay a decision while the deer population continues to grow. While non-lethal options seem attractive, they are not feasible. They are not legal, not viable in an open population of deer, difficult to implement, and/or prohibitively expensive.

Based on the recommendations of the carefully researched Cornell University Study¹ and the experience of hundreds of other communities, park agencies, and natural area managers in Michigan and across the country, Washtenaw Citizens for Ecological Balance recommend that the City of Ann Arbor establish an ongoing Wildlife Management Program and proceed to cull deer beginning Fall 2015.

Cornell's key overall conclusion was this: "...there is no peer-reviewed, published evidence to suggest that use of nonlethal methods alone can reduce deer populations to target levels."

Method: We recommend Ann Arbor cull 250 deer (or 50% of the deer population, pending the aerial survey results) beginning this coming fall and winter. We recommend using sharpshooters (with rifles, bows, or crossbows) at bait piles, with the initial emphasis on does to reduce the number of breeding females. In subsequent years, as the deer population is reduced, fewer deer would need to be culled and costs would decrease.

Goal: The City of Ann Arbor should reduce the deer population in our natural areas and our neighborhoods and meet the following metrics every year:

- 1. Complaints to the city about deer damage will decline substantially.**
- 2. Indicator species (e.g. trillium and oak) in test plots will begin to thrive in our natural areas.**
- 3. Deer-vehicle collisions in Ann Arbor will decline significantly.**
- 4. Deer density will be kept low enough to make it unlikely that tick-borne diseases become established here.**

Other Recommendations: We recommend that the City ban the feeding of deer, and we recommend the City add a "Report a Deer Problem" category to the A2 Fix It website.

For extensive documentation on all areas of deer biology and management, see <http://wc4eb.org>

Washtenaw Citizens for Ecological Balance

To sign up for mailings, see the bottom of our homepage at <http://wc4eb.org>

¹ *Boulanger, J. R., P. D. Curtis, B. Blossey. (2014) An integrated approach for managing white-tailed deer in suburban environments: the Cornell University Study. Cornell University Cooperative Extension and the Northeast Wildlife Damage Research and Outreach Cooperative. Includes "A Deer Manager's Toolbox." See http://wildlifecontrol.info/deer/Documents/IDRM_12-5-2014.pdf*