



SHAKER HEIGHTS

Wildlife Task Force Via Zoom July 7 at 11:00 am

This meeting is being held remotely (Zoom) pursuant to Chapters 113 and 115 of the Codified Ordinances and Resolution 22-29.

Join the Zoom meeting as a viewer or listener from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83271768028>

Meeting ID: 832 7176 8028; Pass code 209861.

1. Discussion with South Euclid & White Buffalo on potential deer sterilization

Guests:

1. Tony DeNicola - White Buffalo
2. John Seman - USDA
3. Keith Ari Benjamin - South Euclid

2. 2025 Deer Questionnaire Results Totals

Documents:

[DEER QUESTION RESULTS TOTALS - 2025.PDF](#)

[DEER SURVEY RESULTS TOTALS 2015 - 2025 CHART OF ALL QS.PDF](#)

To request an accommodation for a person with a disability, call the City's ADA Coordinator at 216-491-1440, or Ohio Relay Service at 711 for TTY users.

2025 Deer Questionnaire Results

1. How would you describe the deer population in the City of Shaker Heights?		
Overabundant	57	41.01%
Abundant	41	29.50%
Few	3	2.16%
Very Few	3	2.16%
Just Right	31	22.30%
Uncertain	4	2.88%
TOTAL	139	100.00%

2. What neighborhood do you live in?		
Boulevard	18	12.95%
Fernway	11	7.91%
Lomond	18	12.95%
Ludlow	3	2.16%
Malvern	15	10.79%
Mercer	28	20.14%
Moreland	3	2.16%
Onaway	12	8.63%
Sussex	31	22.30%
TOTAL	139	100.00%

3. How would you describe the deer population in your neighborhood?		
Overabundant	65	46.76%
Abundant	34	24.46%
Few	8	5.76%
Very few	8	5.76%
Just right	24	17.27%
Uncertain	0	0.00%
TOTAL	139	100.00%

4. Have you noticed a change in the number of deer in your neighborhood compared to last year?		
Yes	66	47.48%
No	73	52.52%
Total	139	100.00%

4A. If yes, what kind of change?		
Less	26	18.71%
More	113	81.29%
Total	139	100.00%

5. Do you have concerns about deer in the City of Shaker Heights		
Yes	91	65.47%
No	48	34.53%
Total	139	100.00%

5. If you have concerns about deer in the City of Shaker Heights, please indicate those concerns (check all that apply).

Damage to landscape and garden plants	85
Transmission of diseases	54
Damage to park ecosystems by over-browsing of plants	53
Damage to trees	60
Decline in deer health due to overpopulation	33
Aggressive behavior toward humans	32
Aggressive behavior toward pets	20
Hit a deer with my vehicle	4
Almost hit a deer with my vehicle	48
Other	5

5. If other, please explain.

See Comments

6. In the future, what would you like to see happen with the number of deer in Shaker Heights?

Increase	7	5.04%
Decrease	91	65.47%
Stay the same (not asked)	41	29.50%
Total	139	100.00%

7. The City culls deer on both public and private property, would you want your property to be considered for deer culling for the 2021 season?

Yes, contact me using information shared at the end of this survey	48	34.53%
No	91	65.47%
Total	139	100.00%

8. In what years have you taken this questionnaire (check all that apply)?

This is my first year	64
2016	9
2017	8
2018	10
2019	10
2020	32
2021	26
2022	46
2023	58
2024	41

9. Please add any additional comments about deer.

See Comments

Deer Population by Neighborhood

	Overabundant	Abundant	Few	Very Few	Just Right	Uncertain
Boulevard	11	5	0	0	2	0
Fernway	2	4	2	3	0	0
Lomond	12	1	1	0	4	0
Ludlow	2	0	0	0	1	0
Malvern	8	2	2	1	2	0
Mercer	10	12	1	2	3	0
Moreland	1	2	0	0	0	0
Onaway	6	2	1	2	0	0
Sussex	12	6	1	0	12	0

2025 Deer Questionnaire - Question 5		
5a. If you have concerns about deer in the City of Shaker Heights, please indicate those concerns (check all that apply):		
1	Damage to landscape and garden plants	85
2	Transmission of diseases	54
3	Damage to park ecosystems by over-browsing of plants	54
4	Damage to trees	58
5	Decline in deer health due to overpopulation	33
6	Aggressive behavior toward humans	31
7	Aggressive behavior toward pets	19
8	Hit a deer with my vehicle	4
9	Almost hit a deer with my vehicle	45
	Other	5

9. Please add any additional comments about deer:

Unless the deer are harming humans OR at an unmanageable number- we should leave them alone. I don't like that they eat my flowers, but there are surely worse things in our world today.

We don't mind the deer at all

Love them, one of the reasons my family moved here

I have seen about 3-5 deer come through the front yard multiple evenings in the middle of the night during the course of the winter. At times, they hide behind our cars parked in the rear yard.

I'm not sure how many questionnaires I've done. At least 3 or 4.
I love to garden. Flowers and vegetable. The deer have done a lot of damage over the years. Plants are expensive. I start my own veggies and I've had to purchase a lot of things to protect my plants....at great expense. I'm not happy with all the deer poo everywhere. I can look out and see 6 of them in my small yard. That's crazy. All the years that you have culled them....it's only gotten worse in my neighborhood.

I'm not a fan of shooting deer. I understand the danger for car accidents. I rarely see them anymore and when I do it's typically in Beachwood, but there are fewer there too.

I have taken this questionnaire previously, but certainly have no idea in which of the listed years.
My property is too small to be considered for any deer culling season.

The deer that often come into our front and back yards and have destroyed our ground covering and garden plants come from Southerly Park across S. Park and through the S.Park yard into ours

The deer are EVERYWHERE in Shaker Heights. They eat my plants, sleep in my backyard, and poop all over. I would love to see fewer deer in the neighborhood.

WE need to track the frequency of wasting disease, to make sure our deer stay healthy.

It's ironic that the city that prides itself on being Tree City USA is killing wildlife that depends on those very woodlands for their survival. Whatever nuisance they pose to gardeners and landscapers doesn't justify the wanton slaughter of these magnificent creatures. What's next, killing birds because we don't like where they leave their droppings? We even have an ordinance protecting chipmunks which must be trapped and transported out of Shaker rather than exterminated. As they say you can tell the beneficence of a culture by how it treats its animals. The destruction of our deer population is very poor commentary on our city and should be stopped immediately.

It's absurd that we continue to line the pockets of a former police employee in absurd amounts for so very little actual work.

Please don't kill any deer

It is a bit difficult to gauge the number of deer this early in the spring. While I see them regularly on my walks, the true number will not be known for a few months. Their visits to our yard I expect to become more frequent as our garden blossoms.

I feel terrible about what prompted this survey. We're on their land. Surely, there are more pressing issues?

I don't see the groups of three or four deer resting in our backyard nearly as often as years past.

I have no idea what years I filled this out, but have done it at least once or twice before. We have been at this address since 2017.

This spring the deer seem to be traveling in larger groups. In my neighborhood, I have recently seen a group of four and separately a group of six.

Not sure whether I am seeing the peak number of deer as of early April. If it stays at this level, it's fine. If it goes back up in the spring and summer, then I want to see less.

9. Please add any additional comments about deer:

Unless the deer are harming humans OR at an unmanageable number- we should leave them alone. I don't like that they eat my flowers, but there are surely worse things in our world today.

The City should query South Euclid about the results of their mixed lethal/non-lethal population control approach to see whether this would be appropriate for Shaker Heights as well.

I do not know which years I have taken this survey and I wonder how many participants can accurately answer this question. Your questionnaire should include a "Don't Know" option.

I can't remember all of the years

Deer are very cute and have the right to live in peace. We used to have whole families of deer camp in our back yard and I loved it! Ever since we adopted a dog, deer don't stay in our back yard, but they pass by now and then :-)

Leave the deer alone.

I love the deer and I think they should be protected and not harmed.

I will have at least 4-6 deer hang out in my yard in the late evening or early morning. I think they sleep in my front garden, which damages my plants. I don't want them hunted in my front yard, but across the street from me, in an empty lot, they hang out there too. Maybe cull them over there.

We took away their grazing areas. We should learn to live with them and not cull which is just a word for kill. Encourage them to go to grazing forest type areas by feeding them there so they stay there.

Deer do not cause any harm, with the exception of eating flowers. They aren't causing large accidents, and public safety is not a concern. I've lived (mostly) in Shaker Heights since 1973. I am now nearly 52. As a child, we rarely saw deer here. The Chagrin Highlands were wooded as other surrounding areas. People make a fuss about deer because of deer eat hostas, and other plants. So what? There are plenty of non-toxic sprays. I've heard ridiculous claims about the amount of venison we donate to hunger centers. We could take that \$100K+ (\$1,100 per deer) and donate that money. The amount of food we could actually provide with that money is in excess of 25X.

I used to hunt. Back then, I would have loved, as this former police officer does, a contract handed to me, to sit in a deer stand and have easy targets. AT THE VERY BEST, deer culling MIGHT decrease deer population by 5% in the short term, while most studies show, it increases deer, over time. I encourage you to rethink this. I am sure your money can be spent far more wisely. Literally, taking the \$100K+ and incinerating it, is more productive. While I weep for this former civil servant, whom I have never met, not being able to supplement his income, I can get over it. I hope this isn't taken for sarcasm. Well, it is a bit. Deer culling is insanely stupid. If deer were causing major accidents, in Shaker, or murdering families, then there would be a need for action. This isn't happening. People are causing far more problems. We aren't culling humans. Thanks for your consideration

Thank you for all that the city does do to try to make things better in Shaker.

I have had close encounters with deer in my yard on many occasions, while walking in my neighborhood and while driving close to home, too.

I see groups of 4 and 5 deer at a time. They are in the street and in the yards eating many plants and flowers. Not really sure about the years I filled out the survey

The deer are so destructive to our gardens and trees. I'm planting several native trees this year and I have had to purchase heavy duty galvanized fencing to protect them. The deer would decimate them, if not protected. I am not volunteering to have my yard used to cull deer out of respect for my neighbors, who think the deer are beautiful! They don't belong in the city!!!

Spending too much money on this

This is not a good expenditure of funds

Sharpshooters on medial trail is not safe

There are alternate methods to control population (birth control injections etc)

9. Please add any additional comments about deer:

Unless the deer are harming humans OR at an unmanageable number- we should leave them alone. I don't like that they eat my flowers, but there are surely worse things in our world today.

I understand the migration of the deer population to the residential areas due to the developments on once was their natural habitat. Hopefully area can be reserved for the deer population?

Can more wolves be introduced to the region to naturally take care of the problem?

A sick deer chose our and our neighbor's property to remain in last year.
Last year was the worst ever of the 29 years we have lived in the Sussex neighborhood for deer destruction of plantings.
I am guessing about the date (year) when I previously filled out the questionnaire.

I'm not exactly sure how many times I've completed the deer questionnaire or in which years. I also have our yard sprayed by Good Nature Organic Lawn care so that the deer won't eat the plants and vegetation, but the deer still find us. There were two deer in our yard yesterday and one on Monday.

There is an abandoned house adjacent to my property (17405 S Woodland). It seems to attract a lot of deer due to the overgrowth of vegetation on the property

not sure what year I had previously taken survey,
Please publicize the details of culling - size and location of residential lots and most importantly how the meat is processed and used.

I like the deer. I know they eat flowers, but I like them. It makes the city feel more pastoral. I like watching them and I don't mind shooting them along when they get destructive in my yard.

Landscaping and growing trees is so much more frustrating and costly with the deer. I have a side yard from the city land bank and have only been and to get one tree established in 5 years (over a dozen attempted).

Way too many and they destroy my trees and garden. I have to spend a lot of time spraying my property. I am very concerned about disease transmission. I see injured deer walking around all the time and have seen more ticks around. There are more deer here than where I grew up in Pepper Pike which was surprising. The deer are much more aggressive and I'm concerned about having my small kids outside. I have not seen a decrease in deer at all since we moved here in 2019.

It's costing me a lot of money to have my plants ruined every year. Extremely frustrating and impossible to keep up with.

We spend thousands of dollars on plants and landscaping only for the deer to eat nearly all of it each year. We are always stepping in deer poop clusters too. We need them gone!

The deer population has gotten worse. For the past few years there is a pack of deer that live in our backyard. The mother and her babies stay in the yard, we have taken pictures of a buck that sits in our yard for hours. Everything we have planted even deer resistant and putting up barriers the deer get to it. There is deer feces all over our yard and I don't feel comfortable having our child in the yard and now we have a pet dog to worry about as well. I have almost got hit by deer several times all over Shaker.

There has been a pack on our street of about 2-4 deer for the last few years. This year I have seen this group with as many as 8-12 members. Our neighborhood can't sustain this population. There have been days I haven't been able to leave the house with deer surrounding the house.

We see groups of 4 to 8 deer on a near-daily basis in the Ludlow neighborhood.

We live on Shaker WB just east of Belvoir. There are always deer in our front and back yards gorging on every last plant and bush. And, when not eating, they lie in our beds, killing everything under them. Three hundred pounds of stationary weight for several hours will flatten and kill plants. Deer cost us money and energy. We've offered our lot for culling but have not been accepted.

9. Please add any additional comments about deer:
Unless the deer are harming humans OR at an unmanageable number- we should leave them alone. I don't like that they eat my flowers, but there are surely worse things in our world today.
Seem they're in better control. My property probably useless for harvesting, but volunteering in solidarity with the culling program.
It's getting more difficult to have a small vegetable garden that will benefit me and not the deer. With the new property tax being more than KOLA, having a garden is a way to reduce food costs.
They are an increasing problem on roads as well as eating flora & fauna
There were 5 deer on my lawn last week.
Five deer visited my front yard last week (mid-March) near Warrensville Center Road in Sussex and ate the tulips that were coming up in my front yard. Deer are actively destroying my property, and they are creating a disincentive for me to beautify my property because the plants that I would plant will be destroyed by their grazing. I expect to never see deer on my property based on the location of my property, and the weekly presence of deer grazing in my front and backyard is evidence of overpopulation. I expect to see deer on the neighboring golf courses or nature reserve, but they should not be present on Lytle Road.
I'm not sure what the ideal deer population is per/acre or per/sq. mile, for the specific conditions that exist within our City. Twice this year I've witnessed a herd>10 deer (mostly female) move through the neighborhood. On multiple occasions (after sundown), I passed by a neighbors house that had 3-5 deer lying down on the property. I commonly witness them on the vacant half of a double lot.
In light of the nature center's data on their deer exclusion plot that prove conclusively that there are destroying the native plants in or neighborhood it's important to reduce their numbers way beyond what has been done so far
A week ago, end of March, they ate tulip leaves and some day lily leaves. Now they are eating hosta as well as the tulips and daylilies. Last year, in June they were eating daylily buds and phlox. I walk the entire Sussex neighborhood and see damage in many yards. I know you culled more deer this year, but the remaining deer are still destroying our gardens. thanks for what you are doing to control/limit the damage.
I live at South Park Row across the street from the lower lake and green space. The deer overrun our entire condo property including our inner courtyard and parking area.
Please call me at 216 392-0889 I grew up in New Hampshire in the woods AND NEVER EVER SAW A DEER IN OUR HUGE GARDEN/ LANDSCAPED YARD OF FOUR ACRES
I don't remember which year I completed this in the past. Numbers a little less, but still daily in my yard. Sometimes group of 5.
They have been plentiful in my neighborhood for a number of years now. I used to grow many flowers & my yard was full of blooming plants all summer long. That is no longer true. The deer eat most of the plants & flowers even though I have tried many of the gardening products recommended to be deer resistant. I am also very concerned about ticks. I have had many experiences with ticks when hiking the Buckeye Trail & the diseases carried by ticks via deer are not to be taken lightly. Last year a deer was hit by a car on Chagrin Blvd in front of my house. So they are also a driving hazard. I live at 18504 Chagrin Blvd & there have been recently up to 5 deer in my yard regularly. I think they live a couple of houses away in a back yard. Please HELP!!!!!!
Sick and tired of groups of deer in my yard
Lived in the Lomond neighborhood for almost 3 years and it seems like deer numbers are increasing every year, just a visual count throughout the year.
We call our backyard landscape the deer's salad bar.

9. Please add any additional comments about deer:
Unless the deer are harming humans OR at an unmanageable number- we should leave them alone. I don't like that they eat my flowers, but there are surely worse things in our world today.
We had a great interaction with the City and someone who came and put down a deer that was badly injured and wasn't leaving our property. Thank you for having people that can help with this in a professional way. It would have been something hard to deal with on our own.

Deer Survey Results - Totals 2015 to 2025

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1. How would you describe the deer population in the City of Shaker Heights? Abundant/Overabundant.	0	0	75.22	65.25	70.69	64.38	62.45	68.21	77.86	75.61	70.51
3. How would you describe the deer population in your neighborhood? Abundant/Overabundant.	78.28	63.03	71.74	59.18	65.51	61.38	56.13	61.85	73.28	71.55	71.22
4. Have you noticed a change in the number of deer in your neighborhood compared to last year? Yes.	74.16	70.06	68.70	0	51.29	48.5	47.43	45.09	51.91	45.53	47.48
4A. If yes, what kind of change? Less.**	1.13	2.77	14.35	0	52.59	46.9	60				18.71
5. Do you have concerns about deer in the City of Shaker Heights? Yes.	0.00	0	73.91	65.96	67.67	66.09	60.87	63.58	74.81	68.29	65.47
6. In the future, what would you like to see happen with the number of deer in Shaker Heights? Slight/Moderate/Substantial decrease.	82.77	73.39	69.58	63.70	72.41	69.09	65.61	63.01	70.99	69.11	70.51
7. The City culls deer on both public and private property, would you want your property to be considered for deer culling for the 2022 season? Yes.	0	0	47.39	43.64	40.52	25.32	24.9	26.59	31.3	26.02	34.53
8. In what years have you taken this questionnaire (check all that apply)? This is my first year.	0	0	0	0	120	112	124	72	70	49	64

*Please Note 0 = N/A

** In 2021 (58.97%), 2022 (59.42%), and 2023 (52.63%) residents believed there were MORE deer.

Deer Survey Results - Totals 2015 - 2025

