

# Winter 2017 Deer Management Proposal

## **INTRODUCTION:**

- Policy direction already established to implement a lethal plan over 4 years and explore a non-lethal plan if practical and cost effective.
- Staff believes tonight's presentation is a practical plan which may also help build community. Council to decide cost effectiveness.
- Points of emphasis this year:
  - Inclusive
  - Transparent
  - Data Collection
- Plan has 4 elements:
  1. Data Plan
  2. Lethal Plan
  3. Non-lethal (Sterilization) Plan
  4. Educational Program & Public Right-of-Way Improvements

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## **Definition of the Problem:**

- The number of deer is adversely impacting beyond the tolerance level of a portion of the City's residents, the bio-diversity and sustainability of plants/animals/insects in the City's natural areas.
- The number of deer is adversely impacting beyond the tolerance level of a portion of the City's residents, the residential and commercial gardens/landscaping on private land.
- The number of deer/vehicle accidents has increased over the past 5 years.
- Chronic wasting disease in deer is getting closer to Ann Arbor.
- A segment of the City's residents has a higher tolerance for deer, views them in a positive light, and is advocating for a change in the deer management program that includes non-lethal methods or no action all.

# Winter 2017 Deer Management Proposal

## **Data Plan:**

- Defined 14 measures to be gathered covering 6 areas:
  - Safety
  - Impact to vegetation
  - Deer/Human accidents
  - Deer Nuisance
  - Herd size trend & health
  - Community acceptance
- In some cases it will take 3-5 years of collecting data before long-term objectives can be determined.
- Data Plan available on city website: [www.a2gov.org/deermanagement](http://www.a2gov.org/deermanagement).
- Data Dashboard – under construction

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## **Measures of Success (Overall Plan):**

- Number of firearm related injuries associated with the deer management program is 0.
- Number of deer in Ann Arbor with chronic wasting disease is 0.
- Total number of deer/vehicle crashes and percent of vehicle crashes involving deer reported in the legal boundaries of the City of Ann Arbor does not increase.
- MDNR approval of a permit to the City for a non-lethal deer management program in 2017.
- Establish a baseline for measuring the vegetative impact of deer in the City's natural areas and establish ecological goal.
- Implement an education program that increases the community awareness of the role of deer in the local ecology and offers residents options to manage potential deer impacts on their private property.

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## **Measures of Success (Overall Plan): [Continued]**

- Community acceptance of herd impact - when 75% of surveyed residents in a Ward respond that damage to their landscape or garden plants is at an acceptable level on private lands. Recognizing there will be variability of this measure over time, a trend towards 75% is desired.
- Community acceptance of deer management program - when 75% of surveyed residents in a Ward respond that the City's strategy of managing the deer population is acceptable. Recognizing there will be variability of this measure over time, a trend towards 75% is desired.
- Investigate where deer signage is appropriate and implement where possible.

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	<u>2017</u>	<u>Memo:</u>
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Combined Request</u>
		<u>Lethal Only Request</u>
<b><u>Data Collection</u></b>		
Aerial Deer Survey	\$ -	\$ 3,000
Wildlife Monitoring (Vendor costs for tracking/processing data)		10,330
Citizen Survey		20,000
Vegetation Impact Study - Oak Seedlings		17,250
Vegetation Impact Study - Wildflowers		15,750
<b>Subtotal Data Collection</b>		<b>\$ 66,330</b>
<b>Site Visit, Planning, Permitting (incl. travel)</b>		<b>10,840</b>
<b><u>Lethal</u></b>		
Vendor Cost (Prep, sharpshooting, travel, processing)		55,720
City staff time charged - baiting/monitoring		28,000
Materials & Supplies:		
Bait		550
Signs		75
Pickup food donation for local Food Bank		280
<b>Subtotal Lethal</b>	<b>110,000</b>	<b>84,625</b>
<b><u>Non-Lethal</u></b>		
Vendor - Non-lethal (capture, sterilization, supplies, travel)		77,050
City staff time charged - baiting/monitoring		14,000
City - Police staff riding with non-lethal		5,700
<b>Subtotal Non-Lethal</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>96,750</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 145,000</b>	<b>\$ 258,545</b>
Number of Deer Removed		100
Number of Deer Sterilized		40-60

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## **Next Up:**

- Dr. Courteau – Presenting the results of a study on the impacts of deer browsing in Ann Arbor.
- Dr. DeNicola (President, White Buffalo, Inc) – Proposal for lethal and non-lethal (sterilization) plan.