

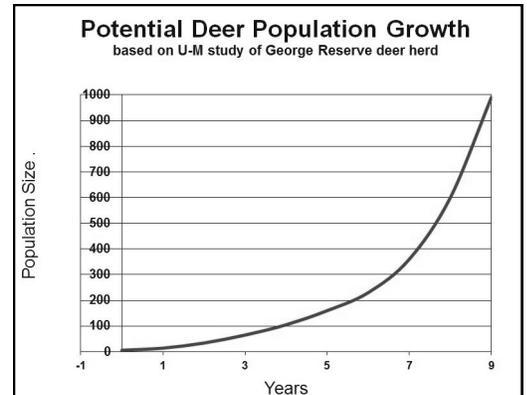
I. Deer in Ann Arbor: What's the Problem?

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.

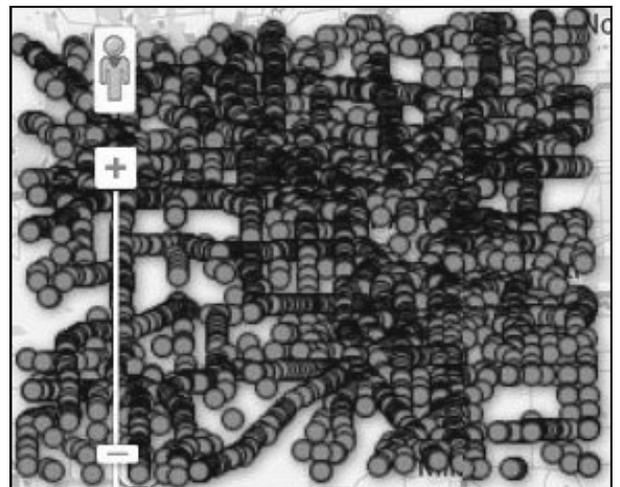


Over-abundant deer threaten human health and safety.

- **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?

Position: Deer roam freely in Ann Arbor, eating green plants, rubbing tree bark, pooping anywhere, wandering in and across the roads, and breeding without limit. **They are uniquely privileged.** City ordinances do not give pets or farm animals such rights. **It is a status extended solely to deer, who have no predators and whose number doubles every other year.**

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 suggests that Ann Arbor proceed to cull deer using sharpshooters over bait, beginning 1 October 2015.

Goal: We suggest Ann Arbor begin with a goal of culling at least 250 deer beginning this coming Fall and Winter with the initial emphasis on does to reduce the number of breeding females. Such a goal could break the population growth curve of deer in some locations and may dent the growth pattern in others. Deer numbers will be higher during initial years until populations are reduced to meet the Goal's Objectives.

Objectives: A well-crafted, ongoing Wildlife Management Program for deer in Ann Arbor will strive, every year, to meet the following metrics:

- 1. Complaints to the city about deer damage will be reduced to a trickle.**
- 2. Test plots of indicator species will begin to thrive in our Natural Areas.**
- 3. Deer-vehicle collisions in Ann Arbor will be significantly reduced.**
- 4. Deer numbers will be kept low enough to make it unlikely that tick-borne diseases become embedded here.**

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

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>