



Council Work Session
City of Dublin
5555 Perimeter Drive, Dublin, Ohio 43017
2026-04-20 18:00 - 2026-04-20 20:00 EDT

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To: Members of Dublin City Council
From: Megan D. O'Callaghan, P.E., City Manager
Date: April 14, 2026
Initiated By: Michael E. Barker, Deputy City Manager
Emily Goliver, Operations Administrator/Sustainability
Re: Deer Management

Background

Deer population management in Dublin has been the subject of ongoing discussion, monitoring, and research over the past several years, informing the analysis and recommendations outlined below. The Community Services Advisory Committee (CSAC) has been studying deer management in Dublin since February 2022, including the review and recommendation of the Outdoor Feed Ordinance in 2023 and ongoing collaboration with experts, Staff and regional partners. CSAC presented a comprehensive report to City Council at its March 9, 2026, meeting. The report included an outline of all that the Committee has learned about deer management and potential next steps for consideration.

A population assessment conducted by students at the Ohio State University School of Environment and Natural Resources in 2023 indicated an estimated 50-85 deer per square mile in Dublin. CSAC also reviewed deer management approaches in the region, including Worthington, Columbus, Marysville, New Albany and Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks. Based on the multi-year comprehensive review of options, CSAC found that non-lethal methods have limited impacts. Feeding bans, which are already in place, do not reduce the existing population, while relocation and fertility control are generally considered ineffective at reducing a population and are either illegal or impractical as a solution for Dublin. Lethal management options, particularly targeted removal, are identified as the most effective means of reducing deer populations.

Survey results from 2023 to 2026 show growing public concern and support for management, with 59% of respondents favoring intervention and 60% supporting the use of public funds to manage the deer population. Resident experiences are mixed, but the majority perceive an increasing deer population, with key concerns including public safety, aggressive behavior, deer-vehicle collisions and property damage. Support for lethal management methods is split with 49% in favor, 33% opposed and 18% neutral. Since the 2026 survey closed, the City has heard from an additional ten residents, of which nine were supportive of managing the population.

The CSAC report, which is included in Council's packet for reference, provided program goals for consideration and implementation considerations. If Council chooses to proceed with a management program, recommended next steps include coordination with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services Wildlife Services, defining measurable goals, identifying target areas and implementing a public information campaign to ensure transparency and community understanding. Should a lethal program be desired, the USDA recommends aligning the number of

deer removed with Worthington's (100-125) due to staffing availability and other components related to the feasibility of removing deer, including weather considerations.

Local subject matter experts from The Ohio State University School of Environment and Natural Resources (SENR), Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks (Metro Parks) will attend the April 20 Work Session to serve as an additional resource as Council continues discussions regarding potential deer management options for Dublin.

Recommendation

Staff is seeking feedback from Council on the following questions.

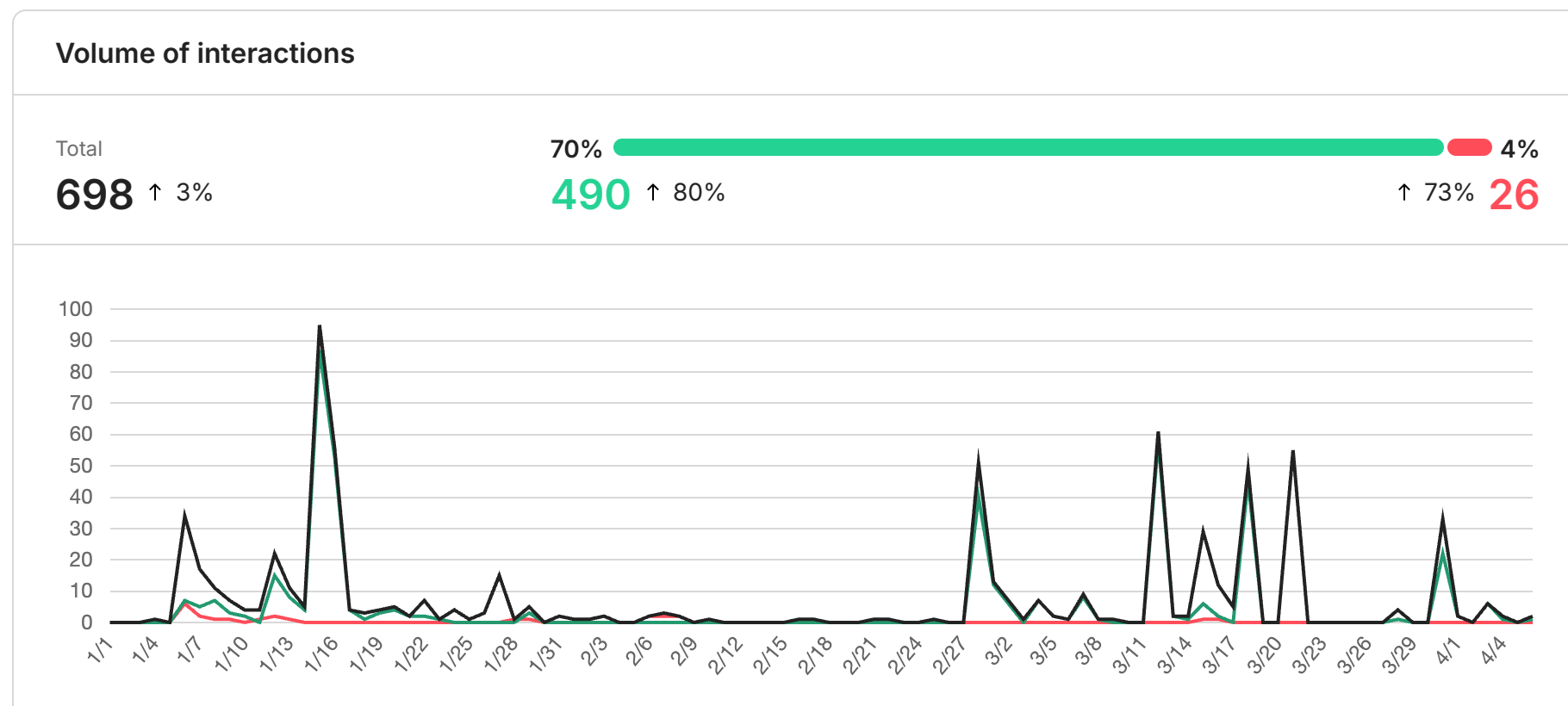
1. Does Council wish to proceed with a lethal management program and direct Staff to begin contract negotiations with the USDA at the May 11 Council meeting?
2. Is Council supportive of the goals identified in the CSAC report?
3. Does Council support initiating a program this upcoming winter?
4. Is Council supportive of staff contracting with Dark Horizon Drones to conduct a citywide deer population index survey? This would serve as a baseline population estimate.
5. Is there any additional information Council requires to inform a decision?

Should Council desire to move forward with a lethal management program, this topic will be brought forward as an Other Item at the May 11 City Council meeting with a funding proposal and requesting direction to enter into contract negotiations with the USDA. Staff anticipates that an authorizing Resolution would be presented to Council for approval at a meeting soon after. This would also include a request for Council to approve the funding for the program.

Deer Population Management Conversation Summary

Conversation snapshot

The volume and sentiment of the organic resident feedback, as measured by totaling the interactions across local channels and classifying each as positive, negative or neutral using Zencity AI.



Main Takeaways

Listen data for **Deer Population Management** from **January 1–April 6, 2026**, conversation volume is driven primarily by **social media posts**, with comparatively small volumes in **local media** and **direct channels (311/issues)**. Social content is predominantly **positive** in the aggregated sentiment totals.

Insights

- **Social media dominates the signal:** Social posts account for the vast majority of total interactions in this topic during the period, so overall sentiment is largely shaped by social conversation rather than news or 311.
- **Sentiment is skewed positive in social:** Positive sentiment interactions substantially outweigh neutral and negative within social posts for this topic in the selected timeframe.
- **News and direct channels are low-volume and neutral-leaning:** Both local media and issues show only neutral sentiment interactions in the aggregated results for this period.

Supporting Data

The table below shows interactions and sentiment totals by source type for Deer Population Management (Jan 1–Apr 6, 2026).

Source type	Total interactions	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Social media (posts)	672	490	156	26
Local media	12	0	12	0
Direct channels (issues/311)	14	0	14	0

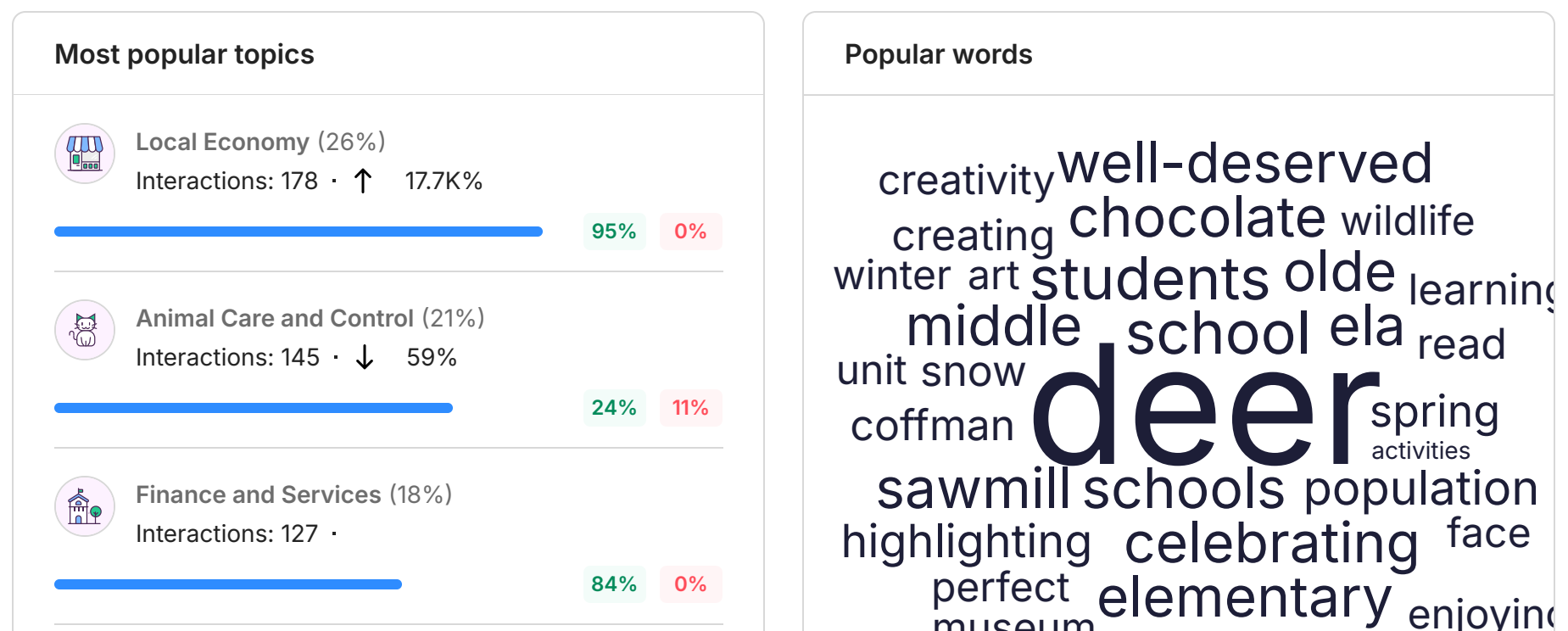
Most of the conversation (57%) occurred on unofficial channels, led by **visitdublinohio** (42% of the unofficial discourse).

Conversations were predominantly positive in sentiment, with almost no negativity (70% positive vs. 4% negative).

Comments made up a notable portion of engagements with the topic of Deer Population Management, suggesting residents desire to participate in the conversation. Other engagements mainly consisted of Likes, Love emojis and Haha emojis.

What are residents talking about

Most popular topics and words



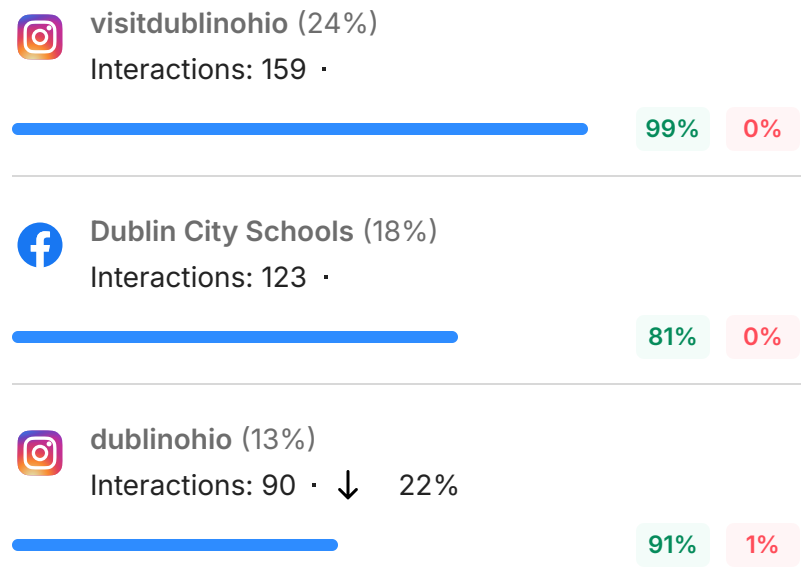
Where the conversation is happening

Most popular channels and sources

Channel breakdown




Source breakdown







Top Stories


Interactions: 177 12% 2%

 **The Columbus Dispatch** Post
Jan 12, 2026

Dublin has been considering what to do about the city's deer population for several years. The city's survey comes amid deer culling in Worthington. See link below bit.ly/4pAHWv9


  17  1  49



Impressions: 3,603 | Interactions: 72 29% 17%

 **City of Dublin, Jackie Adler** ✓ Post
Jan 6, 2026


Have you seen deer in Dublin?
We want to hear from you. 🦌


The City of Dublin is seeking to understand residents' attitudes toward and the impact of the local whit...





 10  61

Interactions: 40 0% 5%


 **Wyndham Village** Post
Mar 15, 2026

 Wyndham Village

New resident here.
I've seen a number of deer in the neighborhood. Does anyone have good strategies for keeping them out of a garden?



 5  58

Views: 996 | Interactions: 35 77% 0%

 **City of Dublin, Ohio USA - LinkedIn** ✓ Post
Jan 16, 2026

Welcome to Dublin Download, our new video series to keep you up to date on all things Dublin! 🗣️ 🍀

Join public information officers Robyn Gray and Jackie Adler to get the inside scoop. From new council members to our deer population updates, Dublin Download is your key to staying in the loop....

 33  1

Views: 490 | Interactions: 9

89% 0%



City of Dublin, Ohio USA - LinkedIn

Jan 15, 2026



Post

Welcome to Dublin Download, our new video series to keep you up to date on all things Dublin! 🗣️ 🍀

Join public information officers Robyn Gray and Jackie Adler to get the inside scoop. From new council members to our deer population updates, Dublin Download is your key to staying in the loop....

👍 7 ➦ 1

Impressions: 812 | Interactions: 6

67% 0%



@DublinOhio

Jan 15, 2026



Tweet

Welcome to #DublinDownload, our new video series to keep you up to date on all things Dublin! 🗣️ 🍀

Join public information officers Robyn Gray and Jackie Adler to get the inside scoop. From new council members to our deer population, our first Dublin Download is full of news pic.x.com/JZCPeyRzOR

❤️ 3 ↻ 1 💬 1



To: Members of Dublin City Council
From: Members of the Community Services Advisory Committee
Date: March 3, 2026
Re: CSAC Report – Deer Management

Background

The Community Services Advisory Committee (CSAC) has been discussing deer management since February 2022, beginning with a general overview of the City’s wildlife management program. Since then, the Committee has reviewed the topic at its February 14, 2023, June 13, 2023, September 12, 2023, and October 10, 2023 meetings. At the October 10, 2023, meeting, the Committee recommended that City Council amend the City’s Code of Ordinances to include a prohibition on outdoor feeding of wild animals or animals running at large. Ordinance 47-23 was adopted at the November 27, 2023, City Council meeting and amended via Ordinance 05-24 at the April 22, 2024, meeting to remove a reference to feral cats.

City Council referred this topic back to CSAC for continued evaluation as regional conditions evolved at its October 21, 2024, meeting. CSAC received a presentation on statewide deer management strategies at its November 25, 2024, meeting, presented by representatives of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). Following that presentation, City staff members presented updated data and new information on regional programs, including the City of Worthington’s program, at its February 11, 2025, meeting. The Committee recommended that the City of Dublin continue to monitor the regional landscape of deer management programs and provide CSAC with updates when new information becomes available. This recommendation was supported by City Council at its May 5, 2025, meeting.

In furtherance of this commitment, City Staff provided an update to CSAC at its January 14, 2026, meeting. City Staff updated the Committee on benchmarking, data, aggressive deer, outdoor feed ordinance enforcement and collected feedback from CSAC members. City Staff presented responses to additional questions that the Committee had at its Jan. 14 meeting, along with survey results and some additional information to provide context at CSAC’s February 10, 2026, meeting. CSAC also discussed the topic with local experts from the Ohio State University School of Environment and Natural Resources (SENR) and Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks (Metro Parks).

Throughout CSAC’s engagement with deer management, the Committee reviewed:

- Presentations from experts, including ODNR, SENR and Metro Parks
- Dublin-specific data on deer populations, resident inquiries, deer-vehicle collisions and aggressive deer encounters
- Resident survey results from 2023 and 2026

- Benchmarking information from statewide and regional communities, including the City of Worthington, Metro Parks, Marysville, Gahanna and New Albany

Dublin-Specific Data and Trends

Based on research conducted in partnership with The Ohio State University in May 2023, Dublin’s deer density was estimated at approximately 50–85 deer per square mile. A standard urban deer population is typically cited as 20–25 deer per square mile. While this suggests that Dublin’s population exceeds biological benchmarks, ODNR has advised that Dublin is not currently at biological carrying capacity, given the absence of widespread disease, starvation, or a sustained rise in severe deer-vehicle accidents.

However, ODNR has characterized Dublin as being near or at sociological carrying capacity, meaning that resident tolerance for deer presence may be strained even if other indicators do not yet suggest the population is at biological carrying capacity.

Resident Inquiries and Complaints

Deer-related inquiries are highly seasonal, increasing in late spring and early summer during fawning season. Common concerns include landscape damage, defensive does, canine-deer interactions and questions about fawns bedding in yards. The City received 37 documented deer-related inquiries in 2023, 24 in 2024 and 22 in 2025. Since the GoDublin app launched in 2019, 67 inquiries have been submitted through the app.

Aggressive Deer Incidents

In 2025, the City received approximately 20 reports of dogs attacked by deer and 35 reports of deer stalking or chasing behavior. This is a significant increase from the three reports received in 2023 and four in 2024. This data is limited to reported cases. Incidents can happen without being reported to the City. Based on the survey results, at least 120 residents reported that a deer attacked, stomped, kicked, gored, head-butted, charged, or otherwise injured a pet. There were four references to a pet being killed by an interaction with a deer and 45 distinct references to deer chasing and/or stalking people.

The incidents reported to the City were concentrated in several neighborhoods and were largely associated with the fawning season. Current response protocols involve police monitoring and coordination with ODNR when available, with City staff also exploring removal services for specific aggressive deer.

Deer-Vehicle Collisions and Deer Mortality Data

Deer-vehicle collision data shows year-to-year variability but no sustained upward trend. Recent years have generally reflected low numbers of collisions and low injury severity. Similarly, the number of deer dispatched due to catastrophic injuries has remained relatively consistent. The Dublin Police Department dispatched 21 deer in 2025, as opposed to 19 dispatched in 2024.

Year	Number of Collisions	# Resulting in Minor Damage	# Resulting in Significant Damage	# of Collisions Resulting in Injury
2015	11	10	1	2
2016	13	10	3	0

2017	13	11	2	2
2018	10	10	0	0
2019	10	8	2	2
2020	21	19	2	5
2021	12	8	4	1
2022	11	8	3	1
2023	7	6	1	1
2024	11	11	0	0
2025	6	4	2	0

Another data point CSAC reviewed is the number of dead deer the Department of Public Service has picked up. City Staff created a [map](#) to identify hot spots and track the total number of dead deer reported year-over-year. Prior to late 2022, the GoDublin app did not specify whether a dead animal pick-up request was for a deer. Data from 2021 and 2022 were compiled by filtering service request comments for those that mention “deer.” This specification was added to better track trends. Since 2023, the number of dead deer picked up has increased by about 10 per year.

The City is working to establish a population index, consistent with work conducted in Worthington. The Dublin Police Department conducted a drone survey using thermal imaging to count deer in specific zones. These zones were selected based on where Staff receive the most calls from residents, where dead deer are picked up and where the City has received reports of aggressive deer encounters. Replicating this population index annually can serve as a data point to determine if the population is declining. For example, when Metro Parks was having difficulty finding deer for its targeted removal program in 2025, an aerial survey confirmed that there were significantly fewer deer in Glacier Ridge than had previously been counted, indicating that the program was successfully reducing the population.

Enforcement of the Outdoor Feed Ordinance

Since City Council’s adoption of Ordinance 47-23, which prohibits the outdoor feeding of wild animals or animals running at large, members of the City’s Nature Education staff have proactively informed and engaged residents regarding the purpose and objectives of this legislation. The Nature Education staff distributed informational materials concerning Responsible Bird Feeding to 44 residents and issued educational letters to 14 residents, six of whom received an additional follow-up educational letter. Furthermore, the Nature Education staff provided consultation to 36 residents seeking to better understand the code changes enacted by the ordinance.

In 2025, there were three cases initiated by Code Enforcement Officers following violations of Code Section 91.12 that remained unresolved by residents despite the proactive provision of educational information by Nature Education staff. All three cases were dismissed, and no residents were fined after achieving voluntary compliance.

The first instance involved a resident with multiple hanging bird feeders, various trough-style feeders, a bin-style gravity corn feeder for deer mounted on a tree, and kiddie pools with ramps designed for ducks. Following the issuance of a citation and the scheduling of an arraignment, the resident agreed to remove all feeders and the improvised ponds for 30 days to modify deer and waterfowl feeding behavior, with a plan to gradually reintroduce limited hanging feeders. This

measure was deemed acceptable, and consequently, Code Enforcement Officers recommended dismissing the charges. The second case involved a resident who possessed multiple hanging bird feeders between their home and an adjacent home, creating a pathway for deer to potentially travel out of the open space and further into a neighborhood. The case was resolved and closed following the relocation of feeders to a landscaped area near an adjacent ravine and installing a drop catcher on the single remaining bird feeder near the resident's home. The third case that required Code Enforcement Officer attention involved a resident with numerous hanging feeders, a trough-style feeder, and a kiddie pool, but the primary concern was other code violations unrelated to outdoor feeding. The resident addressed the outdoor feeding violations immediately following contact by Code Enforcement Officers, and the property is being monitored through the Spring to ensure feeding patterns are altered.

Regional Benchmarking and Peer Community Approaches

Worthington, Ohio

The City of Worthington has served as a key benchmarking point for CSAC's review. Worthington City Council voted unanimously at its January 21, 2025, meeting to direct Worthington staff to implement a deer management program consistent with the recommendation of the Deer Task Force, including targeted removal and an archery hunting program.

Worthington will likely conduct a targeted removal program for the next several years before considering an archery program. The targeted removal operations will primarily take place on City-owned properties. Private properties are also eligible to host a removal operation. Private property owners can submit their property for evaluation by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services Wildlife Services (APHIS-WS), which will determine whether it is appropriate for use. The City recently sent letters to all property owners within 200 feet of each approved site to notify them of upcoming operations.

The City of Worthington worked with ODNR to obtain permits, listing APHIS-WS as a sub-permittee. APHIS-WS set up bait stations at the removal sites. Removal activities will be conducted from Jan. 1 – March 31, 2026, with a goal of removing up to 100 deer. If 100 deer have been removed before funds have been expended, and based on APHIS-WS availability, an additional 25 deer may be removed.

The City of Worthington Police Department will have officers on overtime to monitor the surrounding areas of the removal operations and assist with clearing them. Worthington's Service and Engineering Department crews working overtime will be responsible for field dressing the harvested deer, including entrail removal.

APHIS-WS will collect data (weight, age, sex, etc.) on the deer and then deliver them to the City of Worthington's maintenance building for field dressing. APHIS-WS will provide a refrigerated truck to store the deer meat. They will return the next day to transfer the meat to the Pickaway Correctional Institution. All meat processed there will be donated to local food pantries, with priority given to the Worthington Resource Pantry.

It could take several overnight operations to reach Worthington's goal removal number. The total contract with APHIS-WS is \$56,831.32. Worthington staff does not anticipate accounting for the

overtime costs associated with police and maintenance staffing as part of the total program cost. The City will pay the Ohio Penal Industries \$130 per deer for meat to be processed into two-pound ground venison packages. Worthington will coordinate the distribution of the packaged venison to food banks.

As part of the Worthington Deer Task Force’s work, Worthington received 5,118 responses from Worthington residents across its two surveys, both conducted in 2024. The survey results showed that 71% of residents would like to see a decreasing deer population and 74.9% were supportive of using public funds to address the issue. When asked about specific lethal management strategies, 73% of respondents supported or strongly supported a targeted removal program using professional sharpshooters.

The Worthington Police Department conducted a drone thermal-imaging count and spotlight survey to determine how many deer were in specific areas around the city. This method can be duplicated in Dublin. By establishing an initial deer count at a specific location, the City can track program success by conducting drone surveys annually to determine whether the deer population in that location is decreasing.

Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks

Metro Parks has employed targeted removal and controlled hunting since the 1990s as part of its broader ecological management strategy. The program is framed around biodiversity protection and habitat health rather than nuisance control. At nearby Glacier Ridge Metro Park, deer management is considered essential to prevent over-browsing, habitat degradation and long-term ecological instability. Targeted removal typically takes place overnight from late October to late January. Data on annual targeted removals and aerial population counts from Metro Parks’ 2025-2035 Deer Management Plan are available below. The plan states that the acceptable population range at Glacier Ridge Metro Park, following targeted removal operations, is 40-60 deer.

Targeted Removal Totals - Glacier Ridge					
2021	2022	2023	2024	Average	
53	54	43	66	54	
Annual Aerial Count - Glacier Ridge					
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Average
110	69	81	65	33	72

City of Columbus

The City of Columbus conducted a deer survey from June through August 2025, collecting 3,151 valid responses. The survey, which is not statistically valid, was analyzed by capstone students from Ohio State. A substantial number of respondents were Clintonville residents, who will likely be most impacted by deer migration caused by Worthington’s program. The survey responses indicate that 71.7% of respondents reported that deer numbers in their neighborhood have increased over the past three years, and 70.2% indicated that they would like to see the population decrease. There was 57% support for professional targeted removal and 61% support for an archery program. The City of Columbus hosted a community conversation to explore different deer management approaches with subject matter experts on February 19, 2026.

Other Central Ohio Communities

New Albany, Marysville and Gahanna have used or explored urban hunting or targeted lethal management with varying structures and levels of formality. Some programs emphasize police oversight and designated discharge zones, while others rely on volunteer or permit-based hunting models. Reported outcomes generally indicate reductions in deer-vehicle collisions and landscape damage, with minimal public safety incidents when programs are tightly controlled.

Management Options Reviewed by CSAC

Non-Lethal Management Options

CSAC reviewed several non-lethal strategies, including those listed below. Based on CSAC's review and discussions with ODNR, non-lethal strategies may be effective in reducing population increase, but don't impact current populations. Additionally, some non-lethal strategies are not permissible unless accompanied by a lethal program.

- Outdoor feeding prohibition, which has already been implemented in Dublin
- Relocation, which is illegal in Ohio under Ohio Revised Code Chapter 1531 and associated with a high mortality rate and disease risk
- Birth Control
 - Surgical Sterilization: Limited effectiveness on an open herd and not proven to be effective in reducing the existing population
 - Contraceptives: Limited effectiveness on an open herd, significant complexities caused by the need for boosters and not proven to be effective in reducing the existing population

Lethal Management Options

Lethal management strategies reviewed include targeted removal by professionals and regulated archery programs. These options are used by peer communities and supported by ODNR when data indicates a need.

- Targeted Removal: The City contracts with trained professionals at APHIS-WS. APHIS-WS strategically selects removal sites, in partnership with the police department, based on safety considerations and areas with higher deer concentrations. Operations are conducted overnight with safety as the top priority. This is the quickest way to effectively reduce the deer population.
 - Dublin can establish a call-out list for locals to pick up the whole deer, eliminating the need for field dressing, or potentially hire APHIS-WS to field dress the deer, depending on their staffing availability
 - Deer meat can be donated to local food pantries after being processed
- Archery Hunting Program: Less effective at quickly reducing the population. The direct cost of an archery program is lower, as it relies on volunteer hunters, but it requires more staff

time to establish and oversee. The Dublin Police Department would provide oversight to an archery program, including conducting an archery proficiency and safety test and establishing standards for where/when activities can be conducted. An archery program can be implemented as a long-term, cost-effective management tool to complement a targeted removal program.

Potential pros of a lethal management program:

- Direct and measurable reduction in deer population
 - Potentially reduces all types of human-deer conflicts, including deer/vehicle collisions and landscape damage
- Proven effectiveness in peer communities
- Ability to target specific areas of the city
- Processed venison can support local food pantries

Potential cons of a lethal management program:

- Potential negative public reaction and ethical concerns from residents
- Financial costs associated with contractors, oversight and any staffing needs (ex. Dublin Police Department costs associated with supporting the safety on any operations)
- Long-term commitment. Once a program is started, it must be maintained.

Analysis of Survey Results

May 2023

The first time City of Dublin residents were surveyed on this topic was May 2023. Staff partnered with the Ohio State University's (OSU) School of Environment and Natural Resources to conduct research during the weeks of May 9 through May 26, 2023. The purpose of this work was to establish a population estimate of the deer herd within the City of Dublin. The survey team conducted a field study during the week of May 15, which included road sightings and camera-trap surveys, assessed vegetation for signs of deer, and created a citizen survey to gather data on the community's attitudes towards deer. The week-long community-wide survey received 297 responses. Public sentiment was split on whether the white-tailed deer population in Dublin is increasing and needs to be managed. The 2023 survey results are below.

How would you describe your experience with white-tailed deer in the City of Dublin?	
Negative	74
Neutral	73
Positive	150

Do you think the white-tailed deer population in Dublin is increasing and needs to be managed?	
The white-tailed deer population is increasing and should be managed	150
There is no need to manage the white-tailed deer herd in Dublin	147

Have you seen a white-tailed deer on your property?	
No	17
Yes	219

Do you think there are too many white-tailed deer an acceptable number, or too little number in Dublin, Ohio?	
Acceptable amount of white-tailed deer	163
Too little white-tailed deer	8
Too many white-tailed deer	126

What negative experiences have you or a member of your household had with white-tailed deer in Dublin?	
Deer/vehicle collision or almost collision	29
Lyme’s Disease from Deer Tick	2
Other	47
Plant/Property Damage	219

January 2026

To better understand Dublin residents’ attitudes toward and the impact of the local white-tailed deer population, and to track changes in sentiment since May 2023, a second survey was launched on Jan. 6 and remained open through at least Jan. 30. This survey was developed to closely align with Worthington’s surveys. A total of 3,656 responses were collected. With approximately 33,838 adult residents in Dublin, this represents a statistically valid response rate. The Committee reviewed responses to each survey question as of Feb. 3 at its February 10, 2026, meeting. A summary of the responses, including the sentiment change from the questions asked in 2023, is included below. The data is visually displayed in Exhibit A.

Overall Experience and Perceived Population Trends

Resident experiences with deer were mixed. About 40% of respondents described their experience as positive, 38% as negative and 22% as neutral. However, 55% of respondents believe there are too many deer in Dublin, while 41% feel the current number is acceptable. A small fraction (4%) believes there are too few deer.

Sixty percent of respondents reported that the number of deer in their neighborhood has increased over the past three years, compared to 34% who believe the population has remained stable and fewer than 6% who observed a decrease. This indicates a perception of population growth, even in the absence of clear biological indicators of overpopulation.

Impacts and Experiences with Deer

The most common negative experience reported was plant and property damage, cited by 49% of survey takers. Deer-vehicle collisions or near misses were reported by 14% of respondents. Most respondents (93%) indicated that no one in their household had experienced a deer-related injury to people or pets.

Level of Concern

The issue of public safety was cited as most concerning to 38% of survey takers, while 33% were slightly concerned and 29% were not concerned. The cost of administering a program was most concerning to 19% of respondents, while 81% were slightly concerned (44%) or not concerned (37%). Finally, the individual welfare of deer was selected as the most concerning by 34% of survey takers, while 36% were not concerned and 30% were slightly concerned.

Support for Management

When asked directly whether the deer population should be managed, 59% of respondents said the population is increasing and should be managed, while 41% said there is no need for intervention. Regarding public funds used to address the deer presence in Dublin, 60% supported it, while 40% did not. Support for using lethal methods to regulate the local deer population was 49% in favor, 33% opposed, and 18% neutral.

2023 to 2026

A comparison of the 2023 and 2026 surveys is presented visually below and in Exhibit A. Notably, the sentiment regarding population management has increased from 50% in 2023 to 59% in 2026.



Narrative Response Summary

The survey offered residents the opportunity to share open-ended comments. Across the narrative responses, residents describe their interactions with deer. The primary themes are public safety concerns, pet injuries and deaths, aggressive deer behavior, vehicle collisions, and property damage. Most narrative responses express negative sentiment towards the current herd population, with about 25-30 expressing opposition to lethal management due to ethical concerns.

Approximately 135 of the narrative responses refer to aggressive deer. This includes charging, stomping, kicking and acting territorially around humans and pets. About 45 references to humans being chased, knocked down, charged at or injured (either by a deer or as a result of fleeing from a deer) by a deer. Nearly 105 responses mention concerns with road safety, including repeated

near-misses and confirmed deer-vehicle collisions. Just over 150 responses mention concerns with deer destroying landscaping and the financial implications for replacing damaged gardens. About 80 respondents expressed concern about overpopulation, often calling on the City to act. Other concerns mentioned included Lyme disease and general health.

Public Education and Information

Dublin Nature Education Programming

The City of Dublin has leveraged comprehensive nature education programming to help residents coexist with wildlife for decades, including having a dedicated employee to lead the program. Dublin has prohibited the feeding of waterfowl citywide since 2003 and the feeding of wildlife in City parks since 2013, with education serving as a foundational component of enforcement. Deer-related outreach has expanded in recent years, particularly following the adoption of the 2023 Outdoor Feed Ordinance. Educational efforts have included targeted neighborhood mailings in areas with feeding violations, articles in *Dublin Life Magazine*, a video series and podcast featuring the Nature Education Coordinator, informational materials distributed at programs and events, presentations at Neighborhood Leadership Meetings, social media outreach, and inclusion in the Dublin News Now newsletter. Seasonal messaging also helps residents understand deer behavior, including the fawning season and increased movement at dusk during the fall.

Worthington Deer Task Force

The Worthington Deer Task Force, in partnership with Ohio State University students, conducted a community survey in the spring of 2024 to assess resident attitudes toward deer, perceived impacts, preferred management approaches, and areas of concern. The survey also revealed several prevalent misconceptions. To address these and better inform the public, the Task Force hosted two educational sessions focused on deer ecology and management strategies. The first session, held in July 2024 and titled "*Deer 101: How We Got Here, Understanding the Basics to Inform Management Decisions*," featured Jonathon Cepek, Wildlife Ecologist with Cleveland Metroparks. The second session, held in September 2024, "*Deer Management Options & Choosing the Right Path*," was led by Geoff Westerfield, Assistant Wildlife Management Supervisor with ODNR. Mr. Westerfield provided the same presentation to CSAC at its November 25, 2024, meeting.

Both sessions were recorded and made available on the City's website. The Task Force launched its second survey in the fall of 2024. According to Greg Hitzhusen, a member of the Worthington Deer Task Force and a professor at Ohio State, the second survey results indicated that the education sessions helped dispel some misinformation evident at the first meeting.

Program Goals for Consideration

Given that Dublin is not at its biological carrying capacity, there is no exact science to determining how many deer should be removed each year. Rather, it depends on the social tolerance and is evaluated annually based on the results. The decision on how many to remove each year is made based on what is feasible and realistic in an urban area. Measuring the success of a lethal management program depends on the community's tolerance for deer and which factors are deemed important metrics. In other words, the number taken each year is driven by the program's goals and what is feasible, as determined in partnership with APHIS-WS.

Once a lethal program begins, residents will experience deer differently, as their behavior will change. According to APHIS-WS, deer will begin to ignore bait traps in a park after a few removal operations. Additionally, it becomes more difficult to remove deer after a few years of a reduction program because they learn to avoid areas and become less brazen. The number of years required for a lethal program to reach maintenance levels depends on the number of deer taken during the initial reduction efforts. These numbers are determined annually based on what helps the program achieve its goals.

It is important to acknowledge that white-tailed deer will remain a permanent presence in Dublin, regardless of the effectiveness of a management program. The goal is not to eliminate deer entirely, which is not possible in an open space like Dublin. Rather, the goal is to meet the community's tolerance for their presence. It will be impossible to eliminate landscape/property damage. A reasonable population is one that minimizes negative impact.

Should City Council determine that a lethal deer management program is appropriate to address community concerns, establishing clear and measurable goals would be critical to designing the program, evaluating its effectiveness and communicating with residents. The following potential goals are provided for consideration.

1. Reduce aggressive deer encounters

Public safety is the City's number one priority. One potential goal would be to reduce incidents of aggressive deer behavior, particularly those involving people and pets. Survey responses and service request data indicate increased reports of deer charging, stalking, and attacking pets in recent years. In addition to removal services for specific aggressive deer, a lethal management program can aim to reduce negative and unsafe encounters between residents and deer. This can be tracked by continuing to document aggressive deer reports and encouraging residents to report any aggressive deer encounters to ensure data is accurate. Additionally, conducting a community survey every few years can track changes in the number of aggressive deer encounters reported via the survey.

2. Reduce deer/vehicle collisions or almost collisions

Another goal related to public safety is reducing collisions or near-misses. The City can track all calls for service related to car collisions involving deer, not just those that produce a crash report. Since not all collisions are reported to the Dublin Police Department, the City can also monitor the number of dead deer picked up, particularly along roadways. A function can be added to Cityworks for the GoDublin crew to record any dead deer pick-ups along the side of the road. A community survey conducted every few years can also be used to track any changes in the percentage of deer-related vehicle safety concerns.

3. Limit property and landscape damage

The most reported experience residents have with deer is property and landscape damage. By conducting a community survey every few years, the City can track this data point. A successful program would result in a lower percentage of residents reporting deer-related damage to their gardens than in the January 2026 survey.

4. Reduce the number of resident complaints

The City will continue to track inquiries related to landscape damage, reports of negative deer interactions and questions regarding fawn bedding in residents' yards. A successful program will see a reduction in the total number of these complaints received annually.

City Staff can continue educating residents on deer-resistant plants, repellents, hazing and other tools to promote a successful coexistence of humans and deer.

5. Reduce the annual number of dead deer pick-ups

Using existing data and continuing to track the number of dead deer picked up by Public Service crews can be used as a measure of success for a lethal program. If the overall population in Dublin declines, the number of dead deer pick-ups will decrease. This saves the City time and money, enabling the GoDublin crew to focus on other important priorities.

6. Reduce the deer population, as informed by an annual population index

Given that estimating deer population is challenging, the City can conduct an annual population index using thermal-imaging drones. This would include using drone technology from the Dublin Police Department to estimate the number of deer in specific areas of the city. Drone imaging can be used to count deer in these areas before implementing a lethal program. The same methods can be repeated annually to track any population changes after implementation. This is not a foolproof method for tracking population changes, as numerous factors can influence deer congregation in a given area, but it can be used as an additional metric when determining success.

Implementation Considerations

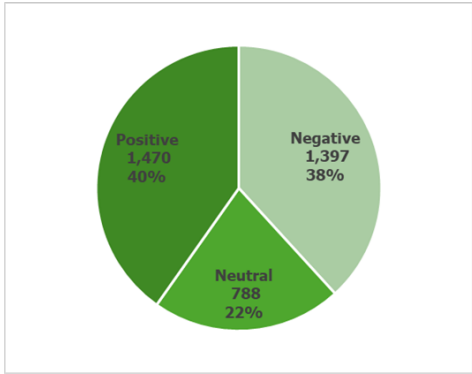
Should City Council wish to advance a lethal management program, City Staff would begin working with APHIS-WS to identify areas within the city suitable for a removal operation. Safety considerations analyzed include an adequate backstop (berm, wooded backdrop, downward shooting angle, etc.), the ability to control access to the property and an appropriate distance from homes. Additionally, based on the program goals and available APHIS-WS staffing, Staff would determine the total targeted number of deer for the first year. If APHIS-WS can provide staffing to support field dressing of the deer, the City could hire them to conduct this work. Alternatively, Staff can work to establish a call-out list for residents to either take the deer whole or assist with field dressing needs. All of this information would be determined as part of the contract development process with APHIS-WS, which would be approved by City Council.

CSAC was particularly interested in hearing about the public education component that was deployed by Worthington. This included public education sessions and informational graphics to correct public misconceptions about deer management. If lethal management is determined to be the most appropriate option, a comprehensive public education campaign could be deployed to help keep residents informed. The Ohio Community Wildlife Cooperative, of which the City of Dublin is a part, is planning to host a workshop on white-tailed deer management in Dublin this April. This educational session, "Urban Deer 101: Biology, Impacts, and Management Strategies," will be hosted by third-party subject matter experts and held at the Dublin Community Recreation Center from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8.

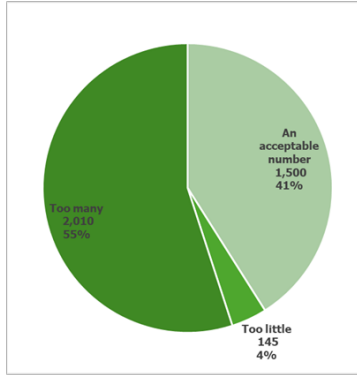
Exhibit A – Survey Results

Experiences

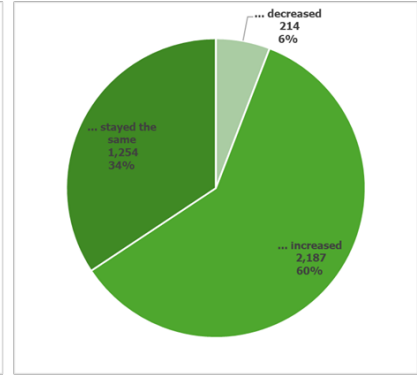
1) How would you describe your experience with white-tailed deer in the city of Dublin?



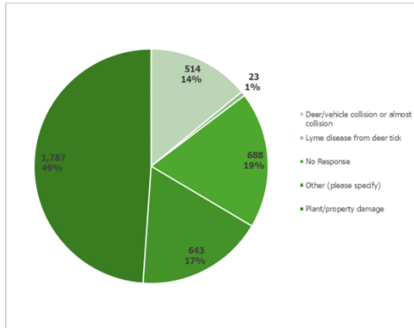
2) Do you think there are too many, an acceptable number, or too little number of deer in Dublin?



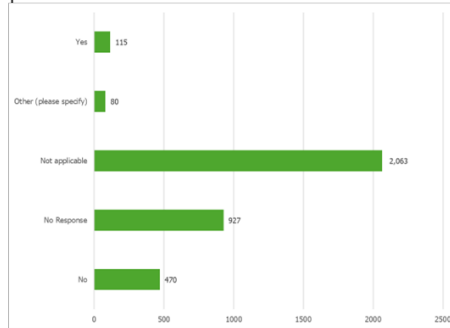
3) What changes, if any, have you noticed in the deer population in your neighborhood in the last three years? The number of deer in my neighborhood has...



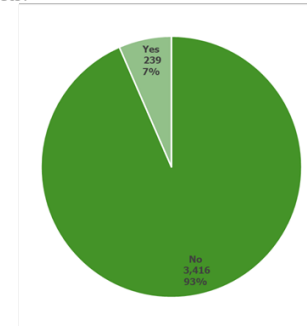
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6) If you answered deer/vehicle collision or almost collision: Did you report the collision to police?

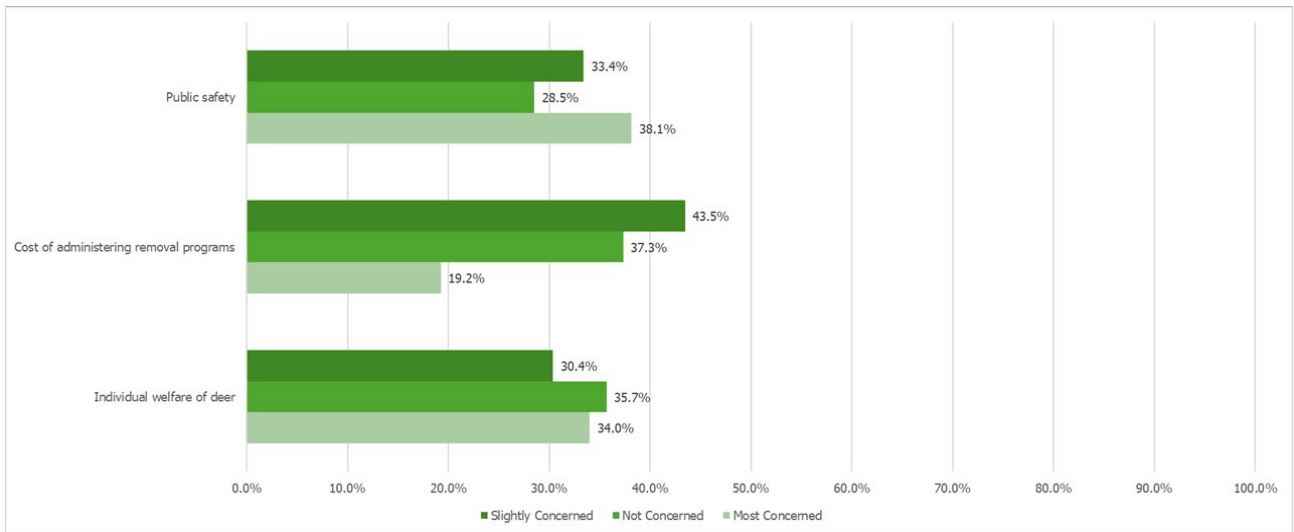


7) In the past three years, has anyone in your household been involved in an incident with deer in Dublin that caused injury to people or pets?



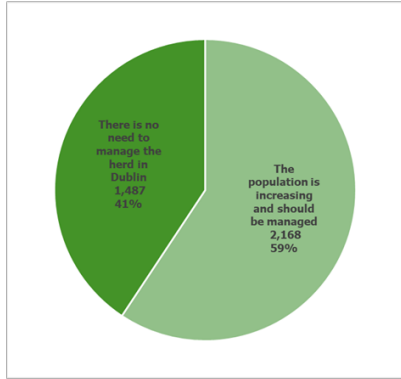
Level of Concern

11) How concerned are you about the following issues with deer removal programs?

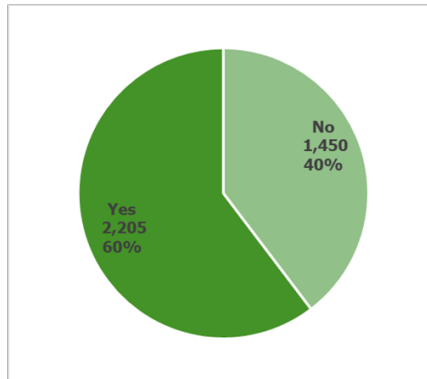


Management

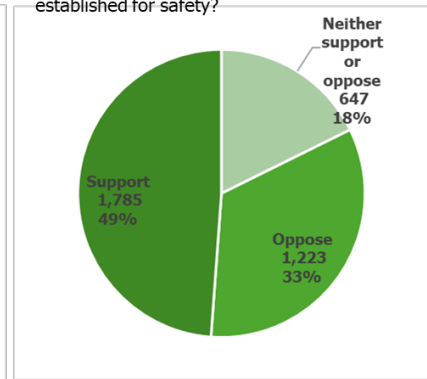
4) Do you think the deer population in Dublin should be managed?



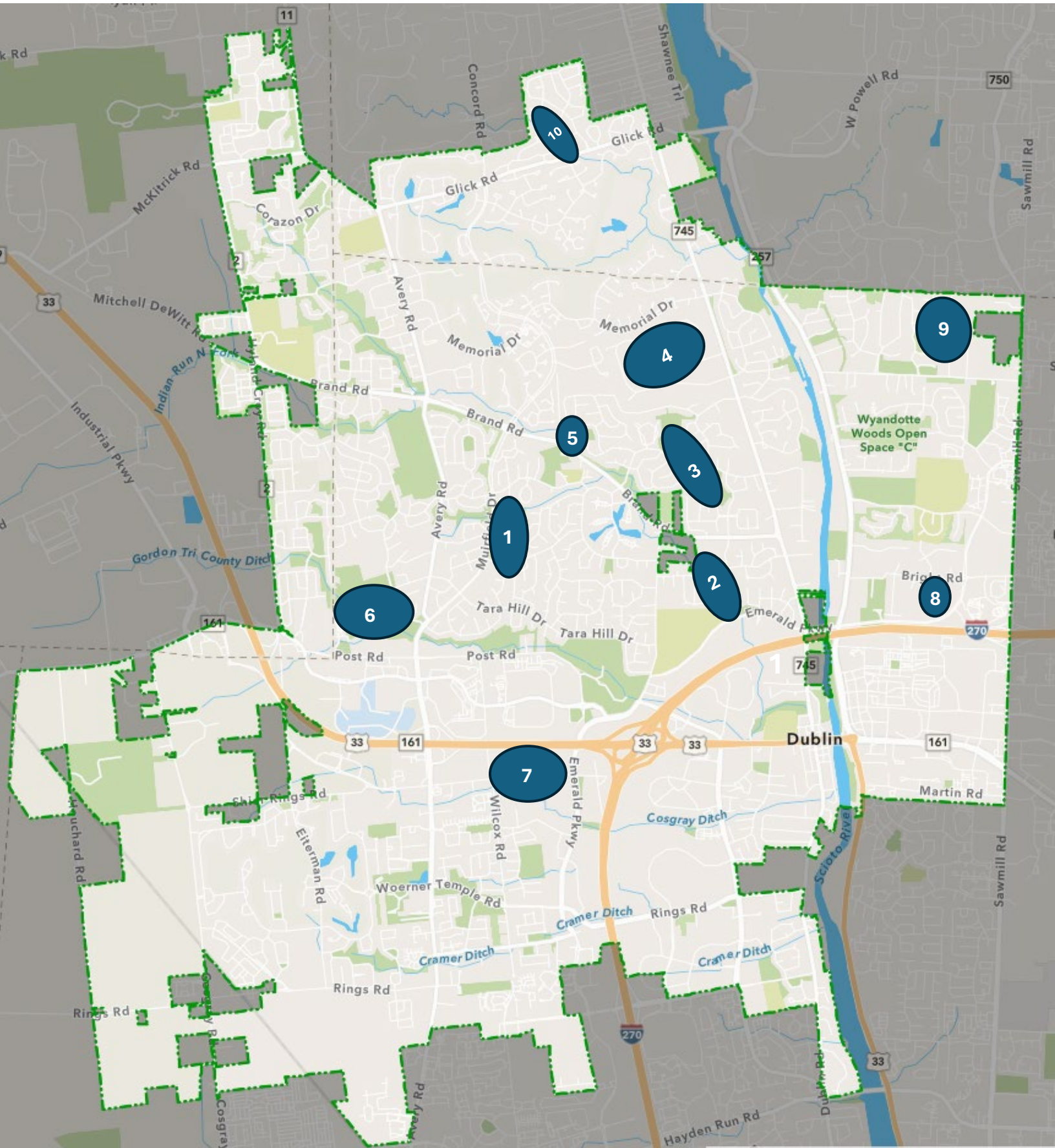
9) Do you feel that public funds should be used to address the deer presence in the City of Dublin?



10) As the City of Dublin explores potential deer management options, what is your opinion about the use of lethal methods to regulate the local deer population, assuming regulations are established for safety?



Population Index – Drone Survey Zones



Zone 1



Zone 2



Zone 3



Zone 4



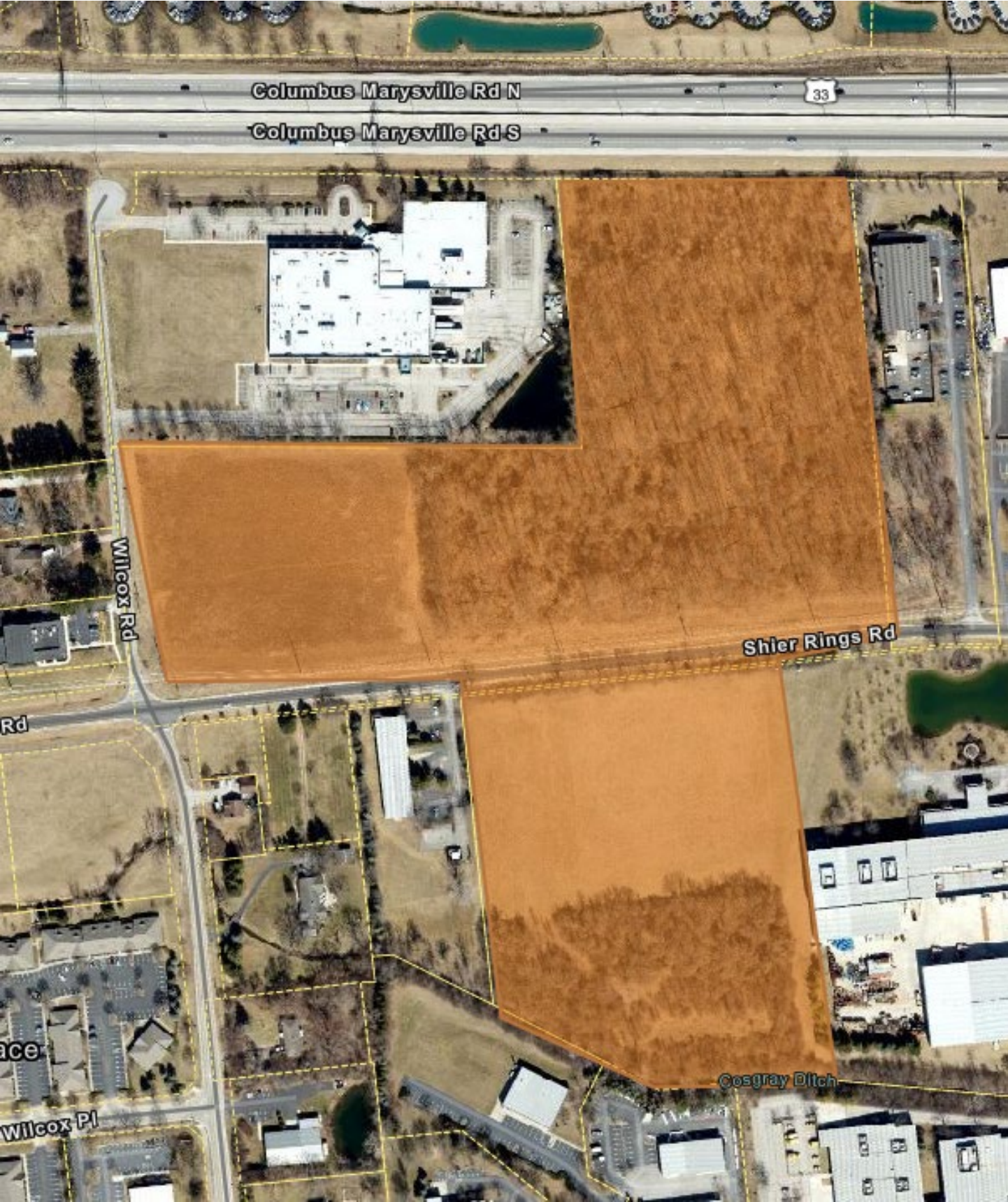
Zone 5



Zone 6



Zone 7



Zone 8



Zone 9



Zone 10



CSAC REPORT – DEER MANAGEMENT

March 9, 2026

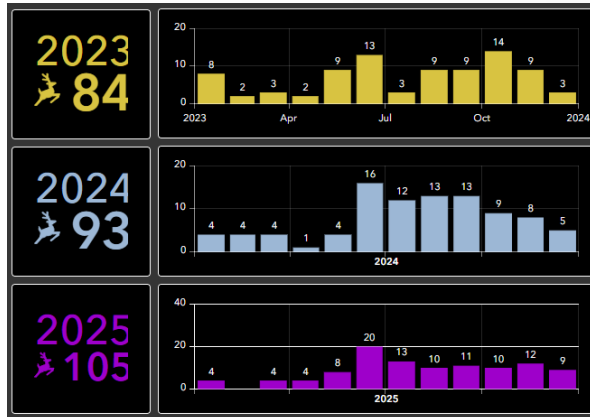
Background

- Ongoing conversation since Feb. 2022
- Ordinance 47-23 was adopted by City Council at the Nov. 27, 2023 meeting
- ODNR presented to CSAC at the Nov. 25, 2024 CSAC meeting
- CSAC discussion at the February 11, 2025 meeting
 - CSAC recommended that City Staff continue to monitor the regional landscape surrounding deer management programs
 - Staff committed to providing CSAC with updates when there is new information to share
 - City Council supported this recommendation at its May 5, 2025 meeting
- Data and benchmarking update at the Jan. 14, 2026 CSAC meeting
- February 10, 2026, review of the survey results and discussion with experts from Ohio State and Metro Parks

Dublin-specific data and trends

Year	Number of Collisions	# Resulting in Minor Damage	# Resulting in Significant Damage	# of Collisions Resulting in Injury
2015	11	10	1	2
2016	13	10	3	0
2017	13	11	2	2
2018	10	10	0	0
2019	10	8	2	2
2020	21	19	2	5
2021	12	8	4	1
2022	11	8	3	1
2023	7	6	1	1
2024	11	11	0	0
2025	6	4	2	0

- 50-85 deer per square mile
- Documented inquiries/complaints
 - 37 in 2023 ; 24 in 2024 ; 22 in 2025
- Aggressive deer
 - 20 reports of dog attacks and 35 reports of stalking/chasing in 2025
 - 3 reports in 2023; 4 in 2024
- Deer-Vehicle Collisions and Deer Mortality Data
- Outdoor Feed Ordinance Enforcement
 - Responsible bird feeding: 44 residents
 - Educational letters: 14 residents
 - Follow-up letters: 6
 - Code Enforcement involvement: 3 (all cases resolved and dismissed with no fines)



Regional Benchmarking and Peer Community Approaches



- Worthington Surveys
 - Received 5,118 responses between two surveys conducted in 2024
 - 71% of residents support decreasing the population
 - 74.9% support using public funds to address the issue
 - 73% supported or strongly supported a targeted removal program using professional sharpshooters
- Worthington City Council voted unanimously at its January 21, 2025 meeting to direct staff to implement a deer management program, including targeted removal and an archery hunting program
- Letters were sent to all property owners within 200 feet of each approved removal site
- Conducted from January – February and removed 100 deer
- Worthington staff worked overtime to support the efforts
- Deer meat field dressed by Worthington staff and delivered to the Pickaway Correctional Institution. Processed meat delivered to local food pantries
- USDA contract removal cost is \$56,831.32; \$130 per deer to be processed by OPI

Regional Benchmarking and Peer Community Approaches

Targeted Removal Totals - Glacier Ridge					
2021	2022	2023	2024	Average	
53	54	43	66	54	
Annual Aerial Count - Glacier Ridge					
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Average
110	69	81	65	33	72

Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks

- 1994 – Targeted Removal Program begins to address deer population management
- 2021 – Glacier Ridge added to Targeted Removal Program

City of Columbus

- June – August 2025 survey
 - 3,151 valid responses
 - Nearly 72% indicated deer numbers in their neighborhood had increased in 3 yrs
 - 70% would like to see the population decrease
 - 57% support for professional removal, 61% support for archery

Other Central Ohio Communities

- New Albany & Marysville hunting programs
- Gahanna had a program for years; considering re-launching it

Management Options – Non-Lethal

- Outdoor feeding prohibition (adopted by Dublin in 2023)
- Relocation program
 - ORC Chapter 1531: it is currently illegal to trap and relocate deer in Ohio
 - Causes potentially lethal levels of stress and can lead to disease spread
- Birth Control: surgical sterilization and contraceptives
 - Generally, only approved for research purposes
 - Limited effectiveness in an open herd
 - Do not reduce the existing population
 - Extends the lifespan of does

Management Options –Lethal



- Targeted removal
 - The City contracts with trained professionals
 - Professionals, in partnership with DPD, select removal sites
 - Operations conducted overnight
 - Quickest way to reduce the population
 - Deer can be picked up whole or field dressed and sent for processing
 - Processed venison can be donated to local food pantries
- Archery
 - Lower direct cost; high staff involvement
 - Oversight and permitting by DPD
 - Less effective at quickly reducing a population
 - Long-term, cost-effective management tool to complement a targeted removal program

Lethal Management – Pros & Cons

Pros

- Direct and measurable reduction in deer population
- Proven effectiveness in peer communities
- Ability to target specific areas of the city
- Processed venison can support local food pantries

Cons

- Potential negative public reaction and ethical concerns from residents
- Financial costs associated with contractors, oversight and staffing support
- Long-term commitment

Analysis of Survey Results – May 2023

- Partnership with OSU SENR students
- 297 responses

How would you describe your experience with white-tailed deer in the City of Dublin?	
Negative	74
Neutral	73
Positive	150

Do you think the white-tailed deer population in Dublin is increasing and needs to be managed?	
The white-tailed deer population is increasing and should be managed	150
There is no need to manage the white-tailed deer herd in Dublin	147

Have you seen a white-tailed deer on your property?	
No	17
Yes	219

Do you think there are too many white-tailed deer an acceptable number, or too little number in Dublin, Ohio?	
Acceptable amount of white-tailed deer	163
Too little white-tailed deer	8
Too many white-tailed deer	126

What negative experiences have you or a member of your household had with white-tailed deer in Dublin?	
Deer/vehicle collision or almost collision	29
Lyme's Disease from Deer Tick	2
Other	47
Plant/Property Damage	219

Analysis of Survey Results – January 2026



What's Your Take on Dublin's Deer?

The City of Dublin is seeking to understand residents' attitudes toward and the impact of the local white-tailed deer population. This survey will collect community input about deer-related experiences, safety concerns and opinions on potential management approaches.



6555 Shier Rings Road
Dublin, Ohio 43016



Survey results will be used to:

- Guide the City's deer management
- Support data-driven decisions
- Prioritize safety



Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/TellDublinDeer to take the survey.

1*****5-DIGIT 43017

Current Resident
4554 Larimer St Apt 201
Dublin, OH 43017-0020

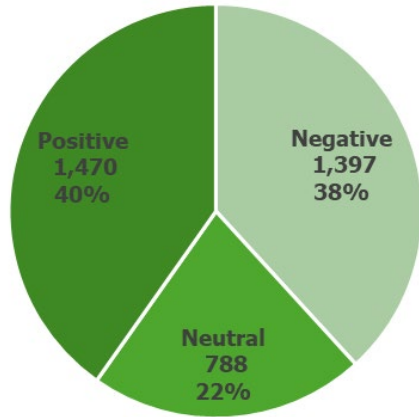


- Second survey launched on Jan. 6
- 3,656 responses
- Social Media
 - Nextdoor – 72 interactions
 - Instagram – 90 interactions
 - Facebook – 57 interactions
- Direct mailer – sent to 18,729 addresses
 - QR code scanned 1,676 times
- Dublin Download
- Dublin News Now Newsletter
- Weekly HOA Leadership Newsletter
- Columbus Dispatch

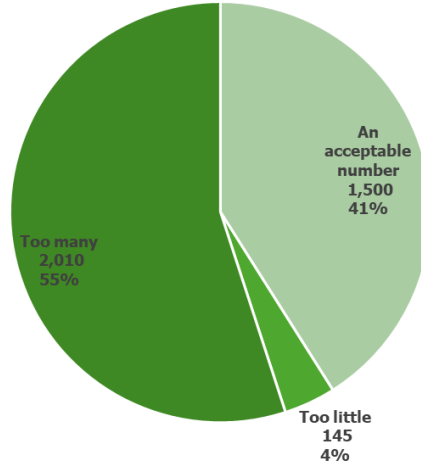


Analysis of Survey Results – Overall Experience

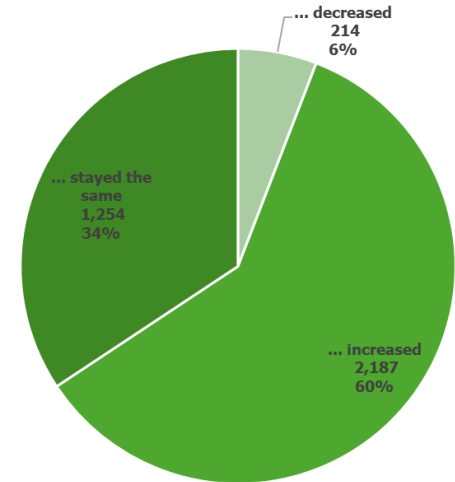
1) How would you describe your experience with white-tailed deer in the city of Dublin?



2) Do you think there are too many, an acceptable number, or too little number of deer in Dublin?

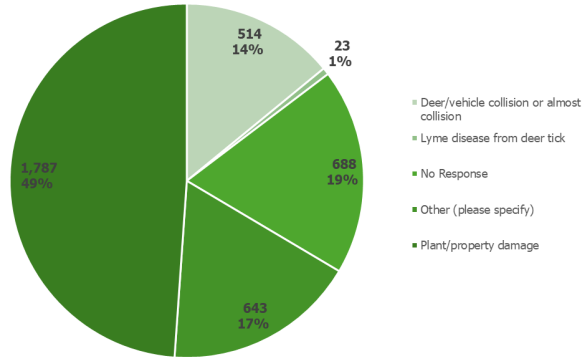


3) What changes, if any, have you noticed in the deer population in your neighborhood in the last three years? The number of deer in my neighborhood has...

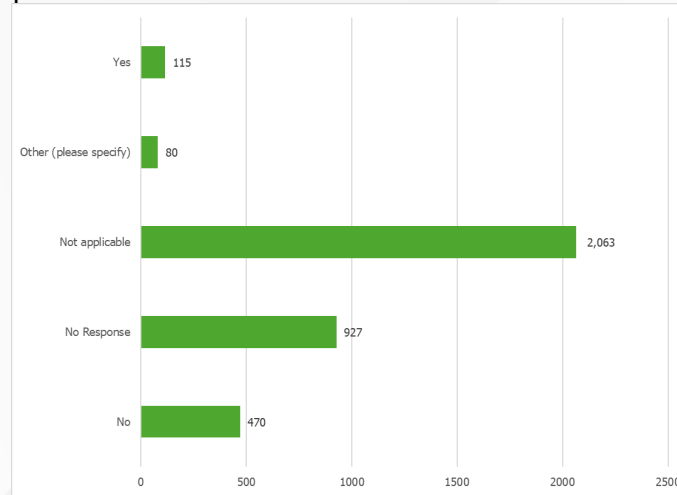


Analysis of Survey Results – Impacts and Experiences with Deer

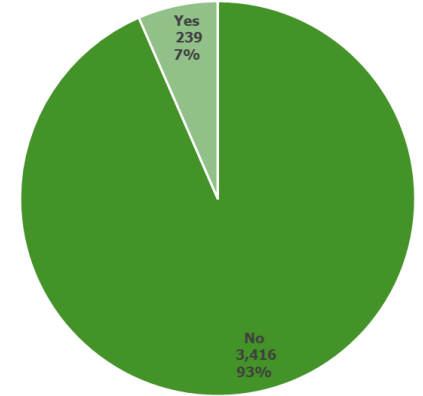
5) What negative experiences, if any, have you or a member of your household had with deer?



6) If you answered deer/vehicle collision or almost collision: Did you report the collision to police?

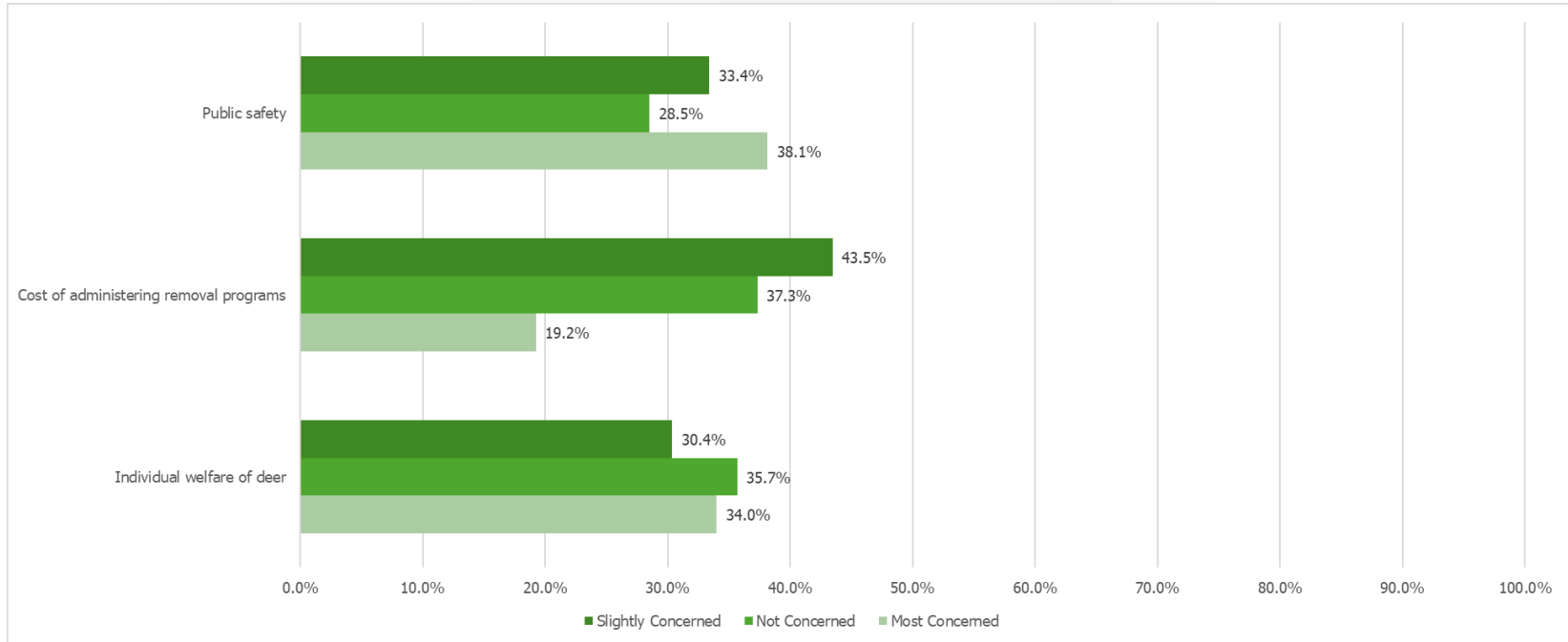


7) In the past three years, has anyone in your household been involved in an incident with deer in Dublin that caused injury to people or pets?



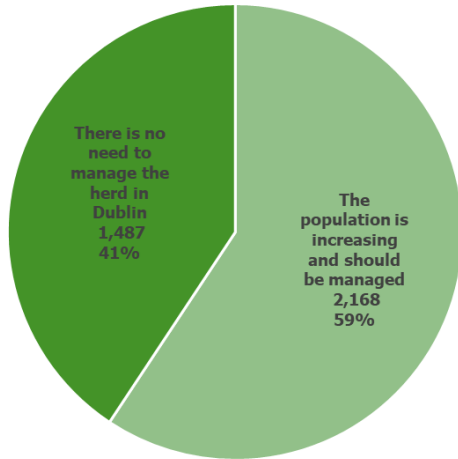
Analysis of Survey Results – Level of Concern

11) How concerned are you about the following issues with deer removal programs?

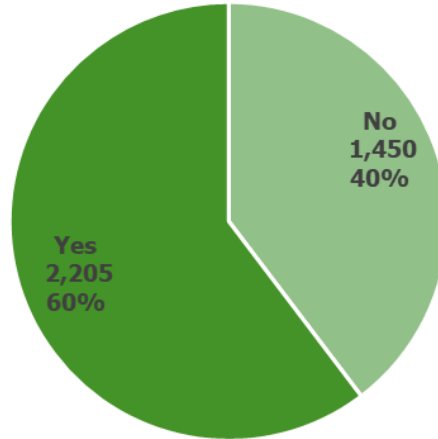


Analysis of Survey Results – Support for Management

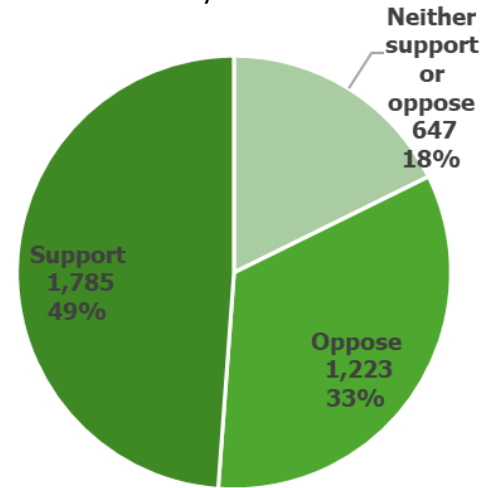
4) Do you think the deer population in Dublin should be managed?



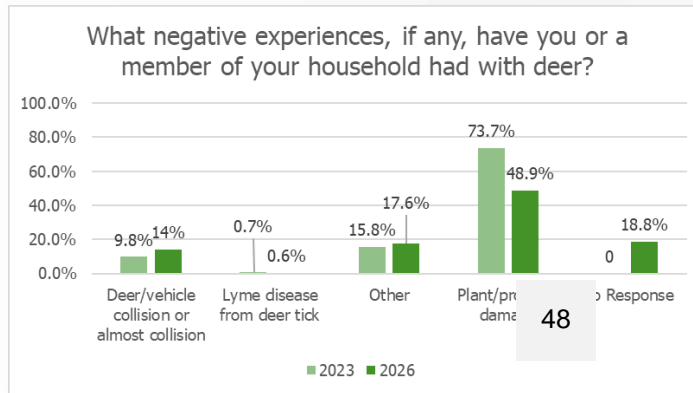
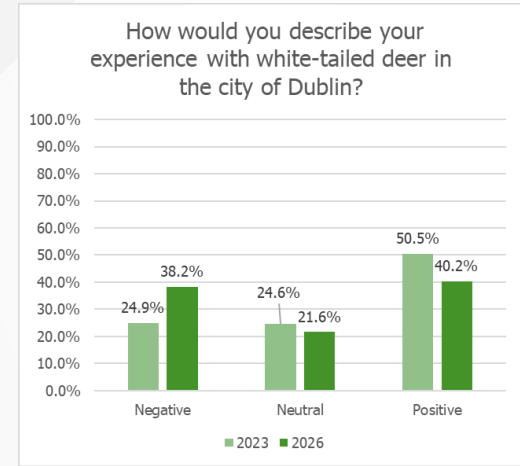
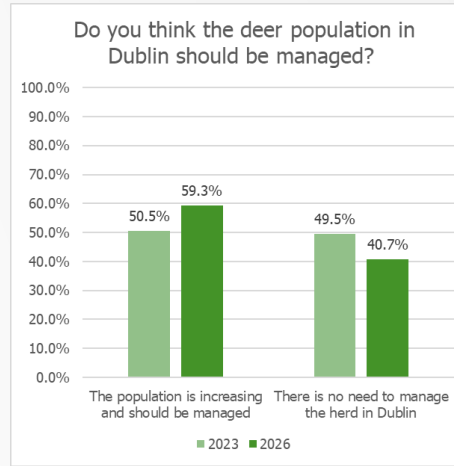
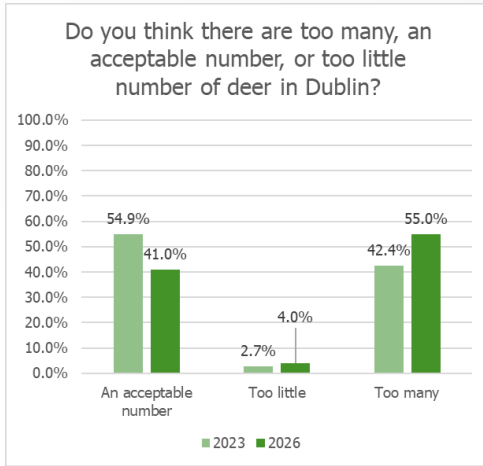
9) Do you feel that public funds should be used to address the deer presence in the City of Dublin?



10) As the City of Dublin explores potential deer management options, what is your opinion about the use of lethal methods to regulate the local deer population, assuming regulations are established for safety?

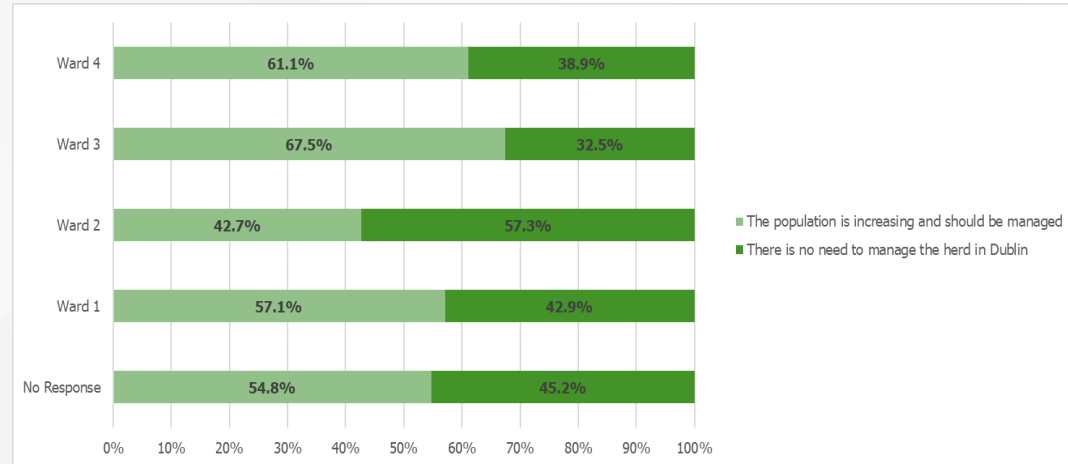
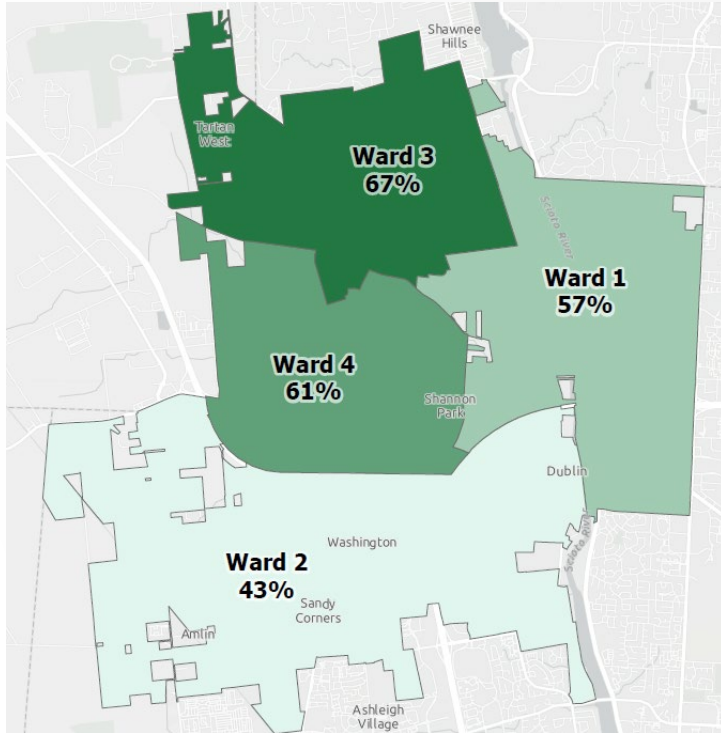


Analysis of Survey Results – 2023 to 2026



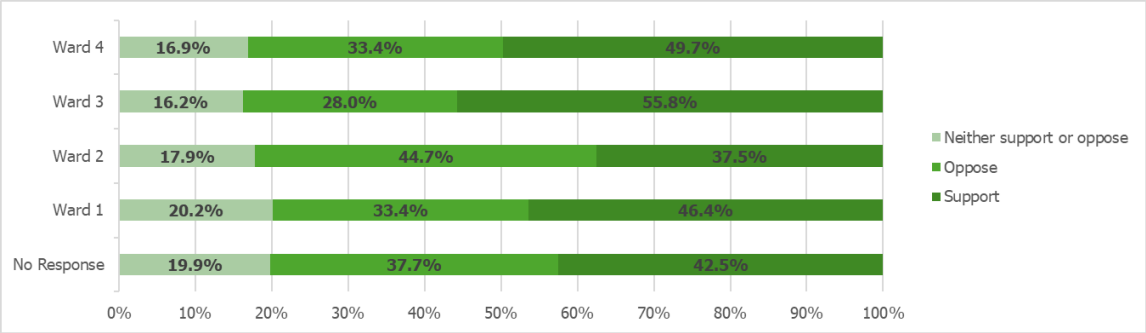
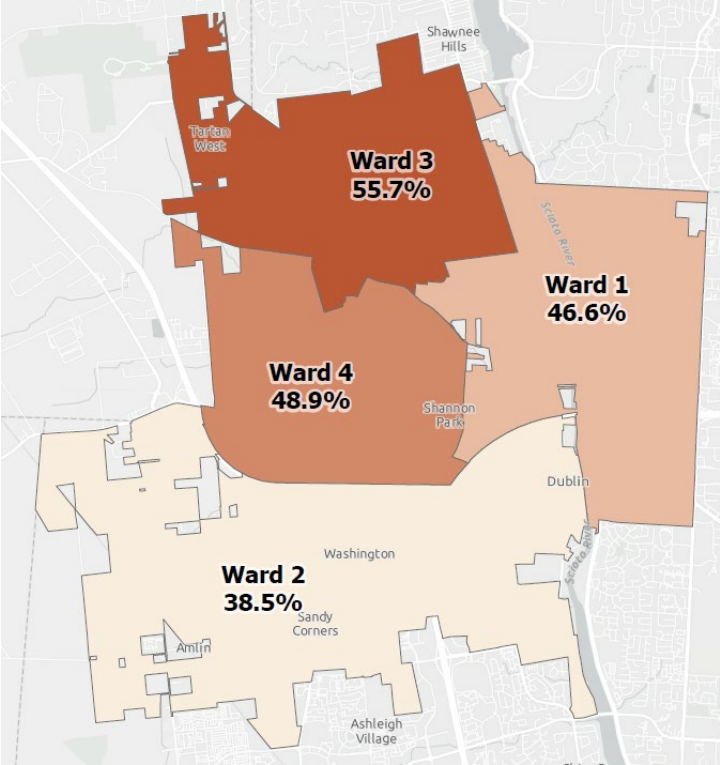
Council Ward Map

"Do you think the population in Dublin should be managed?"



Council Ward Map

“As the City of Dublin explores potential deer management options, what is your opinion about the use of lethal methods to regulate the local deer population, assuming regulations are established for safety?”



Analysis of Survey Results – Narrative Responses



- Primary themes: public safety concerns, pet injuries and deaths, aggressive deer behavior, vehicle collisions and property damage
- Approx. 135 references of aggressive deer
 - Charging, stomping, kicking and acting territorially around humans and pets
- About 45 references to humans being chased, knocked down, charged at or injured by a deer
- Nearly 105 references to road safety
- Just over 150 references to landscape damage and its financial impact
- About 80 references to overpopulation

Public Education and Information

Dublin Nature Education Programming

- Prohibition on feeding waterfowl since 2003 & wild animals in City parks since 2013
- Comprehensive public education campaign to share why it's harmful to feed wild animals
 - Targeted mailings
 - Dublin Life Magazine article
 - Dublin's Backyard with Barbara
 - Link Ahead podcast
 - Information at events/programs
 - Presentation at Neighborhood Leadership Meetings
 - Social media outreach
 - Dublin News Now



Public Education and Information

Worthington Deer Task Force

- Spring 2024 survey identified prevalent misconceptions
- Task Force hosted two educational sessions
 - “Deer 101: How We Got Here, Understanding the Basics to Inform Management Decisions” with a Cleveland Metroparks wildlife ecologist
 - “Deer Management Options & Choosing the Right Path” with Geoff Westerfield, Assistant Wildlife Management Supervisor
- Sessions were recorded and made publicly available
- Fall 2024 survey results indicated that the education sessions helped to dispel misinformation



Choosing the Right Path & Deer Management Options

Geoff Westerfield

Assistant Wildlife Management Supervisor



Program Goals for Consideration

1. Reduce aggressive deer encounters
2. Reduce deer/vehicle collisions or almost collisions
3. Limit property and landscape damage
4. Reduce the number of resident complaints
5. Reduce the annual number of dead deer pick-ups
6. Reduce the deer population, as informed by an annual population index



Implementation Considerations



- A. Begin working with Wildlife Services
 - a) Identify suitable locations for removal operations
 - i. Adequate backstop
 - ii. Ability to control access to the property
 - iii. Appropriate distance from homes
 - b) Establish a targeted number of deer to be removed in Year 1
 - c) Determine staffing availability to have WS field dress deer
 - i. Alternatively, establish a call-out list for resident to either take whole deer or assist with field dressing needs
 - d) City Council contract approval
- B. Launch a public information campaign
 - a) Informational graphics
 - b) Public education sessions
 - a) Ohio Community Wildlife Cooperative workshop in April at the DCRC

Drone Population Index

Zone	Description	# of Deer Observed
1	Scottish Corners Park	7
2	Woods of Indian Run	11
3	Brandon Park	14
4	River Forest Neighborhood	17
5	Bristol Commons Park	3
6	M.L. Red Trabue Nature Reserve	6
7	Shier Rings Rd. / Wilcox Rd. area	5
8	Ferris Wright / SE corner of Bright Rd./Emerald Pkwy	4
9	Trails End Dr. & Glenree Pl.	16
10	Glick Road pool/tennis court	9



DEER MANAGEMENT

April 20, 2026

57

Sustainable | Connected | Resilient

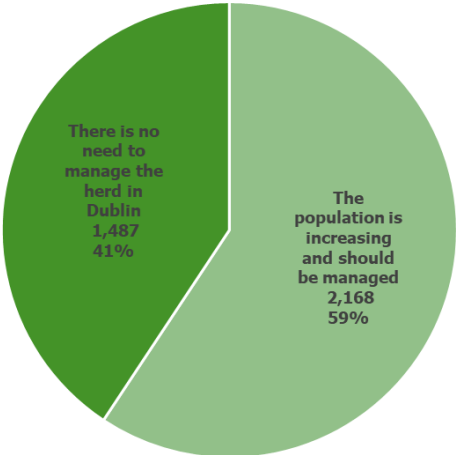


Background

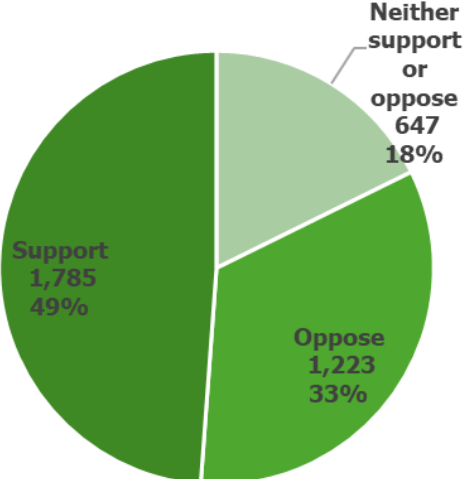
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- March 9, 2026, comprehensive report from CSAC to City Council

Overview

4) Do you think the deer population in Dublin should be managed?



10) As the City of Dublin explores potential deer management options, what is your opinion about the use of lethal methods to regulate the local deer population, assuming regulations are established for safety?



- **Worthington:** USDA contract removal cost is \$56,831.32; \$130 per deer to be processed by OPI
 - Removed 100 deer
- Dublin survey launched on Jan. 6; open for approx. 7 weeks
 - 3,656 responses
 - Ten contacts since the survey; nine support management



Management Options – Non-Lethal

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- Relocation program
 - ORC Chapter 1531: it is currently illegal to trap and relocate deer in Ohio
 - Causes potentially lethal levels of stress and can lead to disease spread
- Birth Control: surgical sterilization and contraceptives
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 - Less effective at quickly reducing a population
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Lethal Management – Pros & Cons

Pros

- Direct and measurable reduction in deer population
- Proven effectiveness in peer communities
- Ability to target specific areas of the city
- Processed venison can support local food pantries

Cons

- Potential negative public reaction and ethical concerns from residents
- Financial costs associated with contractors, oversight and staffing support
- Long-term commitment

Drone Population Index

Zone	Description	# of Deer Observed
1	Scottish Corners Park	7
2	Woods of Indian Run	11
3	Brandon Park	14
4	River Forest Neighborhood	17
5	Bristol Commons Park	3
6	M.L. Red Trabue Nature Reserve	6
7	Shier Rings Rd. / Wilcox Rd. area	5
8	Ferris Wright / SE corner of Bright Rd./Emerald Pkwy	4
9	Trails End Dr. & Glenree Pl.	16
10	Glick Road pool/tennis court	9



Citywide Deer Population Index Survey



- Dark Horizon Drone proposal
- Worked with Metro Parks in March & Upper Arlington in April
- Aerial thermal drone operations
- Population estimate over 4 days, covering all 16,220 acres of Dublin
- Total project cost: \$24,508



SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT INTRODUCTIONS

1. Gary Comer, Ohio Department of Natural Resources
2. Kevin Kasnyik, Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks
3. Greg Hitzhusen, Ohio State University

Program Goals for Consideration

1. Reduce aggressive deer encounters
2. Reduce deer/vehicle collisions or almost collisions
3. Limit property and landscape damage
4. Reduce the number of resident complaints
5. Reduce the annual number of dead deer pick-ups
6. Reduce the deer population, as informed by an annual population index



Implementation Considerations



- A. Begin working with USDA
 - a) Contract negotiations
 - b) Define measurable goals
 - c) Identify locations
- B. City Council Resolution authorizing an agreement
- C. Launch a public information campaign

Recommendation

Staff is seeking feedback from Council on the following questions.

1. Does Council wish to proceed with a lethal management program and direct Staff to begin contract negotiations with the USDA at the May 11 Council meeting?
2. Is Council supportive of the goals identified in the CSAC report?
3. Does Council support initiating a program this upcoming winter?
4. Is Council supportive of staff contracting with Dark Horizon Drones to conduct a citywide deer population index survey? This would serve as a baseline population estimate.
5. Is there any additional information Council requires to inform a decision?