

**BEACHWOOD CITY COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING AGENDA  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023, 6:30 PM  
at BEACHWOOD CITY HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM A,  
25325 Fairmount Boulevard, Beachwood, Ohio 44122**

Mike Burkons  
Alec Isaacson  
Barbara Bellin Janovitz  
Joshua Mintz  
Danielle Shoykhet  
Eric Synenberg  
June Taylor

Agenda Items

1. Mayor's Report
2. Discussion regarding Deer Management
3. Any other matters coming before the Committee of the Whole

###

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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

September 26, 2023 @ 6:30 PM

# COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

## ADMINISTRATION

Justin Berns, Mayor  
Tina Turick, City Administrator  
Kate McLaughlin, Police Chief  
Chris Arrietta, Public Works Director  
Larry Heiser, Finance Director

## MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

Alec Isaacson, Council President  
Eric Synenberg, Council Vice President

Mike Burkons  
Barbara Bellin Janovitz  
Joshua Mintz  
Danielle Shoykhet  
June Taylor

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BEACHWOOD STUDIES

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# DEER COURT STUDIES IN BEACHWOOD

- Aerial Infrared Deer Count Study – 2014
  - The City of Beachwood participated in an aerial infrared Deer Count study. The report based on the data obtained was published in January of 2015. The report indicates that IR imaging conditions were very good during the three flights.
    - It was estimated that Beachwood had 157 Deer at that time
- In 2021, we entered into a contract with USDA Wildlife Services to perform a deer count in Beachwood
  - The study estimated approximately 111 – 148 deer in Beachwood
  - 45% North of Fairmount
  - 16% Between Fairmount and South Woodland
  - 39% South of South Woodland



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DEER MANAGEMENT

WEBPAGE

# DEDICATED WEBPAGE

- The City of Beachwood has a webpage dedicated to the transparent dissemination of deer management information.
- Safety is a central element to the planning and active management of the program.
- The following can be found on the webpage
  - Deer Management Plan
  - Deer Count Studies
  - Residential Surveys
  - Public Meetings
  - PowerPoint Presentations
  - Safety Protocols; and
  - Frequently asked Questions (FAQ)



[www.beachwoodohio.com](http://www.beachwoodohio.com)

Departments

Public Works

Deer

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DEER MANAGEMENT

RECAP



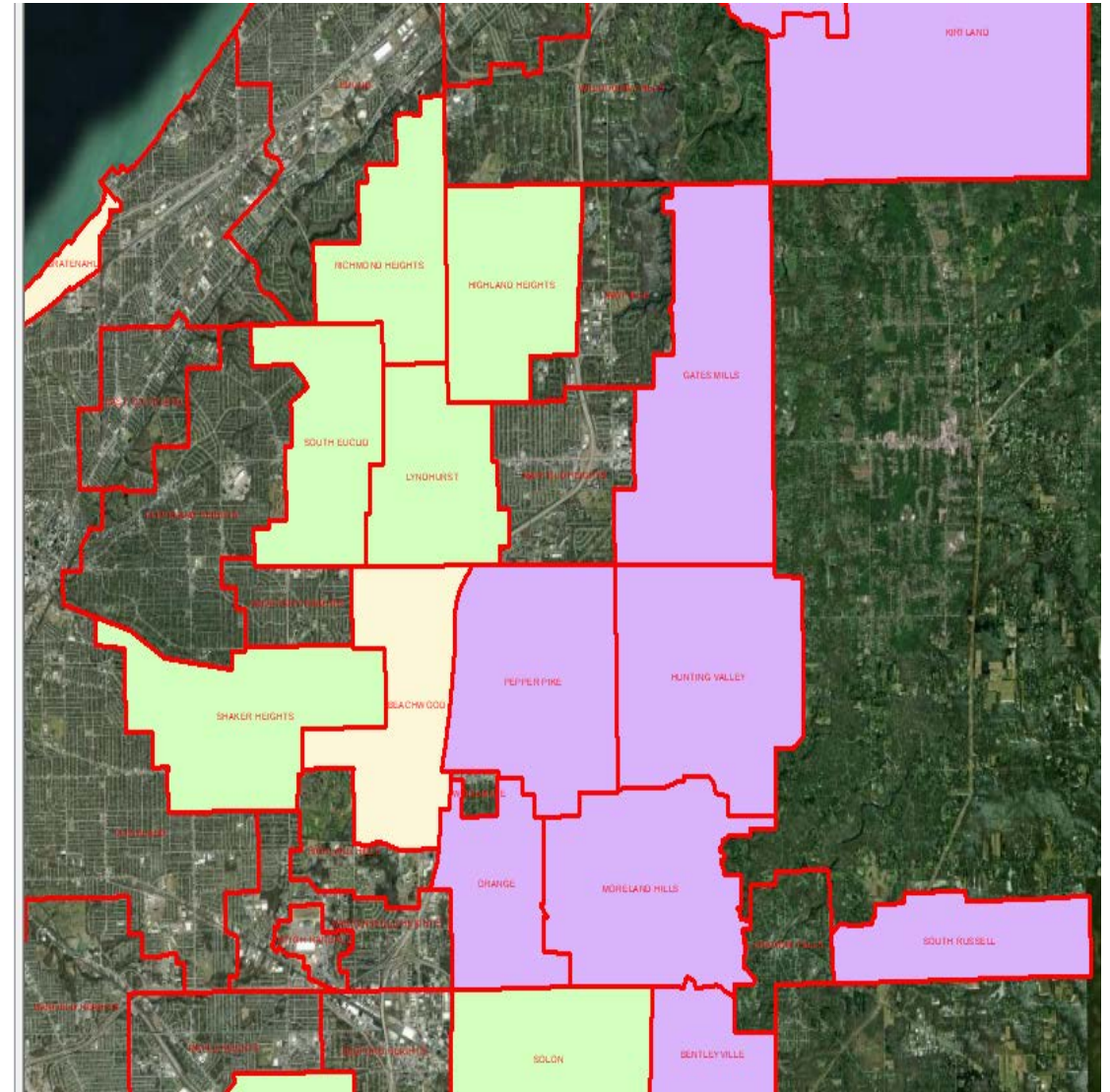
# DEER MANGEMENT

- Per the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, growth is estimated at about 25% of the population if nothing is done to manage deer.
  - Each doe has approximately 2 fawns annually.
- Deer are not static – they are not bound by city lines - this is one reason why a regional approach to deer management is essential.
- Fortunately for us, all but two of our surrounding cities already manage deer.
- The Cities of Beachwood and Shaker Heights are having continued discussions with our neighboring communities to see how they may partner with us as it relates to deer management.

# COMMUNITIES NEAR BEACHWOOD WITH A DEER-MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

- Highland Hills and University Heights are the only cities adjacent to Beachwood who currently do not have a Deer-Management Program.
- Approximately 29 communities in Cuyahoga County have a Deer- Management Program (nearly 50%)

Municipality
Bentleyville
Gates Mills
Highland Heights
Hunting Valley
Lyndhurst
Orange Village
Richmond Heights
Pepper Pike
Shaker Heights
Solon
South Euclid



Color Legend:

Beachwood

Purple - Hunting Permit (Bow)

Green - Sharp Shooting

# DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN

## PURPOSE

- The purpose of a Deer Management Plan is to annually assess the impact of deer in the City of Beachwood. The plan will assist the administration in determining whether to act.

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# DECISION MAKING PROCESS

In conjunction with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, our deer management plan has determined a formula for identifying when deer management techniques should be implemented. The formula is based on the percentage of concerns raised by our residents and the public safety data received by our Public Works department.

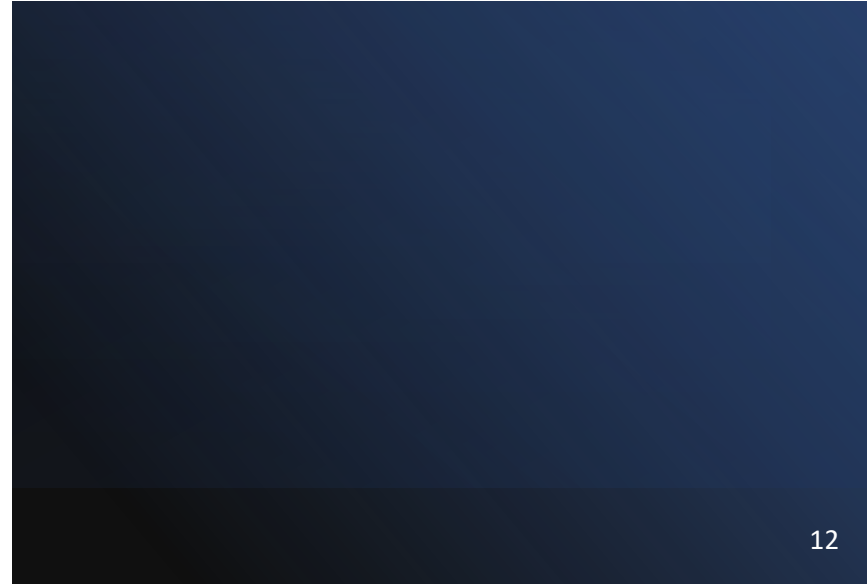
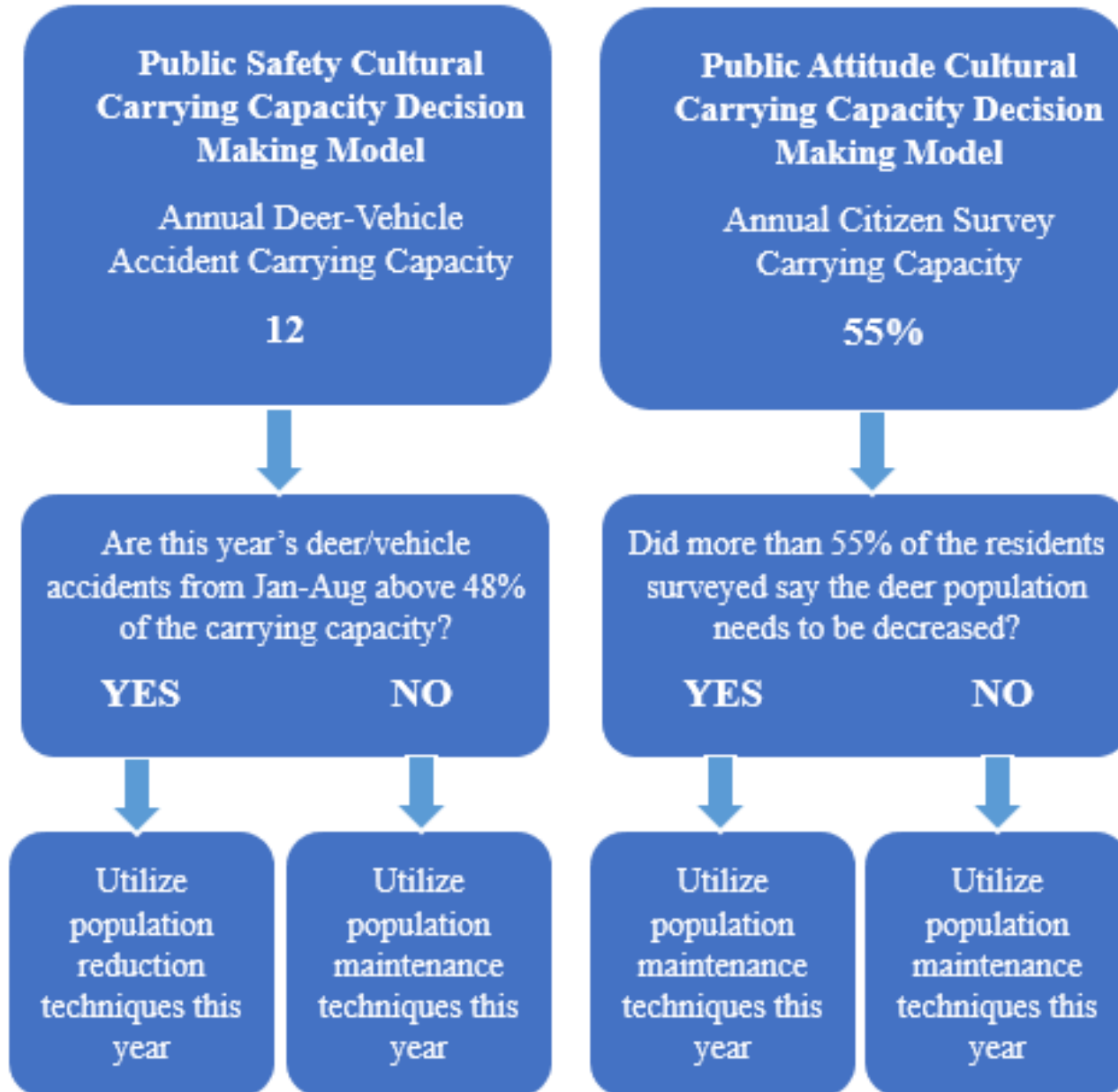
Public Attitude (Survey)

Public Safety (Statistics)

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# DECISION MAKING MATRIX



# DEER MANAGEMENT

- Deer Management is a long-term commitment.
- If left unmanaged, the deer herd presents an increased risk of:
  - Deer/vehicle accidents
  - Plant damage
  - Negative ecosystem impact and
  - Conflict with pets and people
  - Decreased herd Health
  - Disease

# MAINTAINING A HEALTHY HERD

There is a maximum number of animals that an areas native and cultivated resources can support without degradation to the animal's health and environment over an extended time.

The City of Beachwood has only done management for one year. After consultation with ODNR, with effective management, we believe that around year 5 – our program would be at the maintenance level. A good indicator would be once our pickups are between 10-12.

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# MANAGEMENT METHODS

- Do Nothing
  - Does not stop growth
- Let Nature Take its Course
  - The landscape has changed, there are no longer predatory animals to naturally control the deer population
- Population Management

Note: Deer are edge animals and are drawn to neighborhoods with defined streets and edges.

They are attracted to food sources that are provided by our landscape and gardens.



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ODNR PROGRAM  
OVERVIEW

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# ROLE OF THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (ODNR)

ODNR;

- Provides technical consultation for deer management programs to meet desired goals.
- Assists with creating deer management plans for the city.
- Reviews annual requests for deer removals and issue permits allowing for urban deer management.
- Oversees the state regulatory aspects of permit adherence and other state wildlife regulations as they pertain to urban deer management.
- Helps to maintain communication between urban deer management programs.

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# ODNR MEETING – JUNE

Geoffrey Westerfield invited representatives from the Cities in Northeast Ohio and several park districts who are managing deer to obtain program feedback.

Approximately 35 people were in attendance including Beachwood, Shaker Heights and Jim Mariano from Precision Wildlife.

It was noted that Cleveland and Columbus have the longest standing programs.

In our area, Solon has the longest running program.

ODNR is working on data collection guidelines so that everyone is collecting data in the same manner.

It was very interesting to hear from other cities as well as the major park districts regarding their program, hearing about what works well and the challenges they are facing.

Many have hunting programs, and most are having difficulty with the cost of processing and are beginning to have call outs for deer.

The logo for the City of Beachwood features the words "CITY OF" in a small, blue, sans-serif font above the word "Beachwood" in a large, blue, cursive script font.

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CITY OF MENTOR  
PROGRAM

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# MENTOR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- I spoke to the City of Mentor (Mr. Throckmorton) at length in June of this year to obtain information about their urban deer program.
- Mentor is 28 square miles (Beachwood 5.25).
- Their deer management program combines bow hunting and targeted removal (about 50/50).
- They started in 2013 initially their goals was to remove as many deer as possible and now their goal is to maintain a healthy herd.
- Mentor removes about 90-100 deer per year – just to maintain current levels.

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# MENTOR PROGRAM SUCCESS

- Eight years in, Mentor is viewed as one of the most successful in the state of Ohio and serves as a model for urban deer management programs throughout the region.
- They have been successful in
  - Decreasing Deer/Vehicle accidents
  - Increasing Biodiversity in their parks
  - Improving deer herd health; and
  - Giving back to the community by donating venison to the local food bank.

All things Beachwood intends to accomplish with our deer management program.

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2023 SURVEY RESULTS

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# SURVEY PROMOTION

- The 2023 Deer Management survey was hosted digitally on the city's website and promoted to residents.
- The survey opened April 4, 2023, and closed the morning of May 30, 2023.
- The survey was promoted
  - In the May edition of *The Beachwood Buzz* with a QR code which reaches all households
  - Via email to residents twice who are subscribed to city news through the Beachwood Elist,
  - On Social media on multiple occasions on the city's Facebook page.
  - Was displayed through a homepage banner at BeachwoodOhio.com for the duration of the survey.
  - Those without the capability to complete the survey digitally were encouraged to call the Mayor's Office to complete their survey by phone.

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# SURVEY RESULTS

- 60% of the responses were from the North End of Town
- 67% of respondents indicated that the deer were over abundant or abundant
- 69% Believed there were more deer or the same number of deer as before the program
- 67% have concerns about deer
  - 72% cited damage to property
  - 46% cited concern over disease
  - 30% cited concerns over damage to ecosystem
- 68% would like to see fewer deer; and
- 72% would like to see the City continue our deer management efforts

# SURVEY SAMPLE /STATISTICAL REPRESENTATION

- **Confidence Level** - the probability that your sample accurately reflects the attitudes of the population. It tells you how sure you can be that the true percentage of the population who would pick an answer lies within the confidence interval/margin of error. The 95% confidence level means you can be 95% certain; the 99% confidence level means you can be 99% certain. (Most researchers use the 95% confidence level.)  
(<https://www.surveysystem.com/sscalc.htm>)
- Also: “What a 95 percent confidence level is saying is that if the poll or survey were repeated over and over again, the results would match the results from the actual population 95 percent of the time.”  
(<http://www.statisticshowto.com/confidence-level/>)
- **Margin of Error** – The range that a populations’ response may deviate from the samples.
- According to Zoho and Polefish, an acceptable standard used by survey researchers is a **95% confidence level with a 4-8% margin of error**

**With 336 valid responses, the 2023 Beachwood Resident Deer Survey achieved a 95% confidence level with a 5% margin of error.**

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**BEACHWOOD STATS**

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# BEACHWOOD STATS

The statistics used for the decision-making model include data from our Public Works Department

Year	Dead Deer Pick Ups – Usually the result of unreported deer/vehicle accidents
2020	27
2021	28
2022	36
2023 through July	19

Please Note: Even with a deer management program – we still saw a statistical increase – the increase would have likely been higher if not for a program.



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2023

BENEFIT/IMPLICATIONS

# BENEFIT/IMPLICATIONS OF DEER MANAGEMENT

## BENEFITS OF A CONTINUED DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Being in alignment with constituents' safety and damage concerns.
- Helps stabilize the deer population to:
  - Reduce deer/vehicle accidents
  - Reduce damage to landscape/property
  - Reduce damage to the eco system
  - Reduce risks of deer/citizen (pet) conflicts.

## IMPLICATIONS OF NOT MANAGING DEER

- Deer will continue to multiply (each doe has about 2 fawns per year).
- Deer management must be viewed as a long-term commitment. Stopping or doing nothing simply sees the problem return and get worse.



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2022/2023 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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# SHAKER/BEACHWOOD 2022/2023 SEASON

The Cities of Shaker Heights and Beachwood demonstrated noteworthy leadership in taking an unprecedented collaborative approach to deer management. I believe all of you received copies of the detailed report, these are the highlights.

## Results:

- The Precision Wildlife Team started harvesting deer on December 19, 2022, and finished on January 14, 2023. A total of 70 deer were harvested from both cities.
- Through the deer management program 2,800 pounds of venison was donated to the St. Vincent DePaul Food Bank. The lean ground venison provided an estimated 11,000 meals for people in need.
- The Precision Wildlife team demonstrated the ability to harvest 70 deer safely and humanely in a suburban environment. Despite the challenges presented, we did our best to accomplish this task discreetly.
- Most of the constituents in both cities did not even know that deer had been harvested. Only one minor complaint
- The first deer management season was an overall success.

PRESENTED BY JIM MARIANO,  
PRECISION WILDLIFE  
MANGEMENT.

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SAFETY

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# SAFETY FIRST

- Owner and former Shaker Heights police officer James Mariano will handle the tactical work, along with his team. He was a SWAT precision marksman prior to becoming a SWAT commander.

**Safety is our number one priority and our program with Precision Wildlife is set around safety.**

- Precision Wildlife demonstrated the ability to harvest deer safely and humanely.
- He and his team train year-round and do a safety assessment on every site every time.

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PRECISION WILDLIFE  
PROPOSAL

# 2023 PROPOSAL – DEER MANAGEMENT

The City of Beachwood and Shaker Heights received a joint proposal from Precision Wildlife for Deer Management for the 2023/2024 Season.

The terms are similar to last years and call for the agreement to commence on November 1, 2023, and end on March 31, 2024, or sooner if the numbers are met before then.

Based on our data, ODNR and Precision Wildlife believe that our objective should be for the removal of 70 white tailed deer (both Cities combined).

The proposal calls for each City to pay \$70,000 and allows for an additional deer if both Cities agree

The cost for additional deer is \$20,000 in 10 deer increments - totaling no more than 30 additional deer.

Beachwood's portion would be no more than \$30,000.



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**BUDGET/PROCESS**

# BUDGET

When we began the program last year, it was with the understanding that deer management would be a long-term commitment.

## Last Year (removed 70 White Tail Deer)

Budgeted \$80,000

Paid \$60,000

## This Year

Budgeting \$100,000

Proposal is \$70,000

To remove 70 white tail deer

With the possibility of an additional \$30,000

To remove an additional 30 deer

It should be noted that costs have risen significantly:

Processing is up 70%

Corn prices for bait have increased over 40%

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**CLOSING REMARKS**

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# MAYOR BERNS CLOSING REMARKS

- The overabundance of deer is a national problem.
- The management of deer must be viewed as a long-term commitment.
- Doing nothing, does not stop the growth.
  - Each doe has about 2 fawns annually.
  - Deer are estimated to increase by 25% annually.
- There are no longer predatory animals to naturally control the deer population.
- Deer are edge animals and are drawn to neighborhoods with defined streets and edges.
- They are also drawn to the food sources our landscaping and gardens provide.
- Deer will eat anything when they are hungry including repellants used to deter deer.
- We recommend we continue our deer management program for the 2023/2024 season in partnership with Shaker Heights and engage the professional services of Precision Wildlife.

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# TEAM CLOSING REMARKS

- Kate McLaughlin, Police Chief
- Chris Arrietta, Public Works Director
- Larry Heiser, Finance Director
- James Mariano, Precision Wildlife Management.

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DISCUSSION/REVIEW

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# HISTORY OF DEER IN OHIO

- 1882 Deer are an attraction at the zoo
- 1904 Deer extricated from Ohio (zero deer)
- 1917 Cleveland Metroparks Established
- 1930 Deer return to Ohio
- 1941 Article about the excitement of the first deer track
- 1967 Article about the excitement of deer in all reservations
- 1997 Request permission from the State to remove deer
- 2008 Allegany white paper said we can only make a difference in the deer population if it is done regionally
- 2012 Cover of Time Magazine – Deer Management is a National Issue
- 2013 Mentor Starts their Deer Management Program
- 2016 Shaker Starts their Deer Management Program
- 2022 Beachwood Starts its Deer Management Program

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