



Deer Management

2025-2026 Strategic Update

August 4, 2025





DEER MANAGEMENT UPDATE

This presentation reflects the dedication and thoughtful input of many individuals and organizations.

Special thanks to:

Mayor Justin Berns, Police Chief Dan Grispino, the Cities of South Euclid and Shaker Heights, Geoff Westerfield from ODNR, County Council Representative Sunny Simon, and several deer management professionals whose participation in numerous meetings and discussions made this evening's presentation possible.

Presented by: Tina Turick, City Administrator
August 4, 2025



Why We're Here:

- To update City Council and the community on our current deer management activities/discussions
- Follow up on our commitment to review the feasibility of sterilization
- Review of our Statistics and Residential Survey Results
- Outline how we can responsibly manage deer within the State approved tools



Why Deer Management Matters and The Impact of Overpopulation

Survey results show **79% of our residents prefer a reduction** in the local deer population, indicating a strong public desire for management efforts. Notably, the top four concerns identified by our citizens closely align with the documented impacts of deer overpopulation in communities. These include:



Deer Vehicle Collisions



Garden & Landscape Destruction



Heightened Risk of Disease Transmission

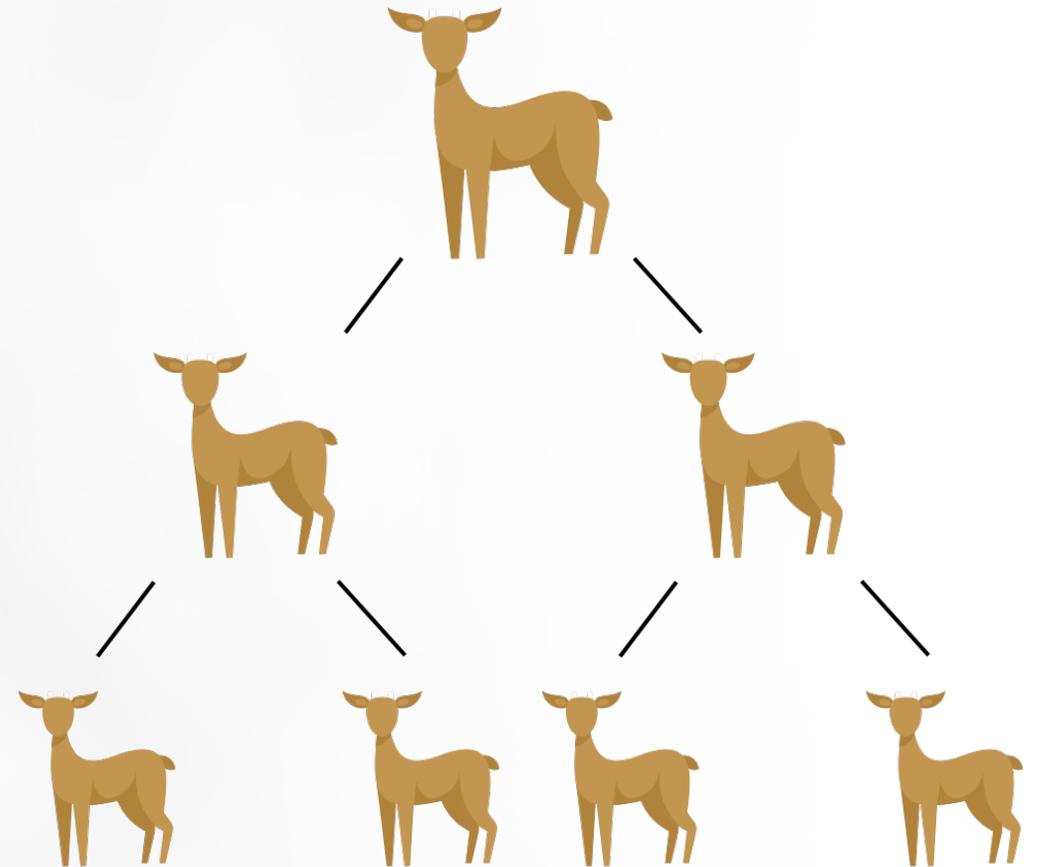


Ecological Damage to Parks & Habitats

What's The Problem

Due to high reproductive rates, about **one-third of the deer population must be removed** each year to maintain current numbers, significantly more is needed to achieve a population decline.

- Lifespan: 10–14 years
- Key factors affecting lifespan:
 - Natural Predators (Beachwood - Very Few)
 - Hunting (Not Permitted in Beachwood)
- Reproduction: **1–3 fawns**/year starting at 1.5 years old

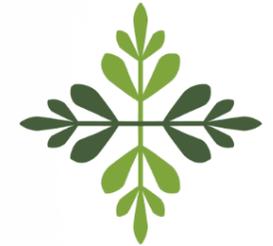


What We Did and What We Learned

Program Overview: Precision Wildlife Led Efforts last year

90 deer harvested across both Beachwood & Shaker Heights

- **Nearly all** breeding-age females were pregnant



**SHAKER
HEIGHTS**

Key Challenges Faced



Locations:
Limited access to viable bait sites.



Smart Deer:
More cautious, elusive and harder to hunt after repeated exposure to culling activities.



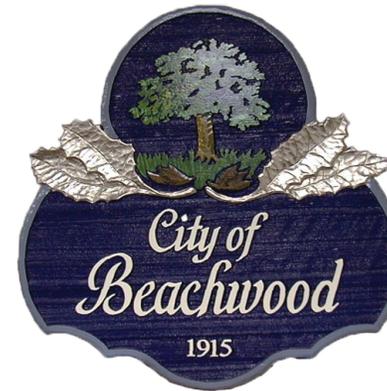
City Setting:
Densely populated neighborhoods.



What We've Achieved So Far

3 Years of Deer Management Efforts In Partnership with Shaker Heights

Deer Safely Culled	230
Pounds of Venison Donated	9,000+
Total Meals from Donations	36,500 *



What We Learned About Sterilization

Treated Doe

=

0 fawns

per year

- Sterilized deer **cannot reproduce**
- Population reduction over time – fewer births = natural decline
- Works Best in Densely Populated Areas Where it is more difficult to Cull – Northern part of our City
- Treated deer **live out natural lifespan** (10–14 years)
 - Can still contribute to land and garden destruction; and
 - Remain a Risk for Vehicle Collisions
- Must be combined with a culling program – sterilization alone is not approved by the State

Note: A single healthy female deer (doe) can produce up to **15 fawns in her lifetime**, assuming she starts breeding at 2 and lives to about 10 years.

What Our Residents Are Saying (Survey Data)

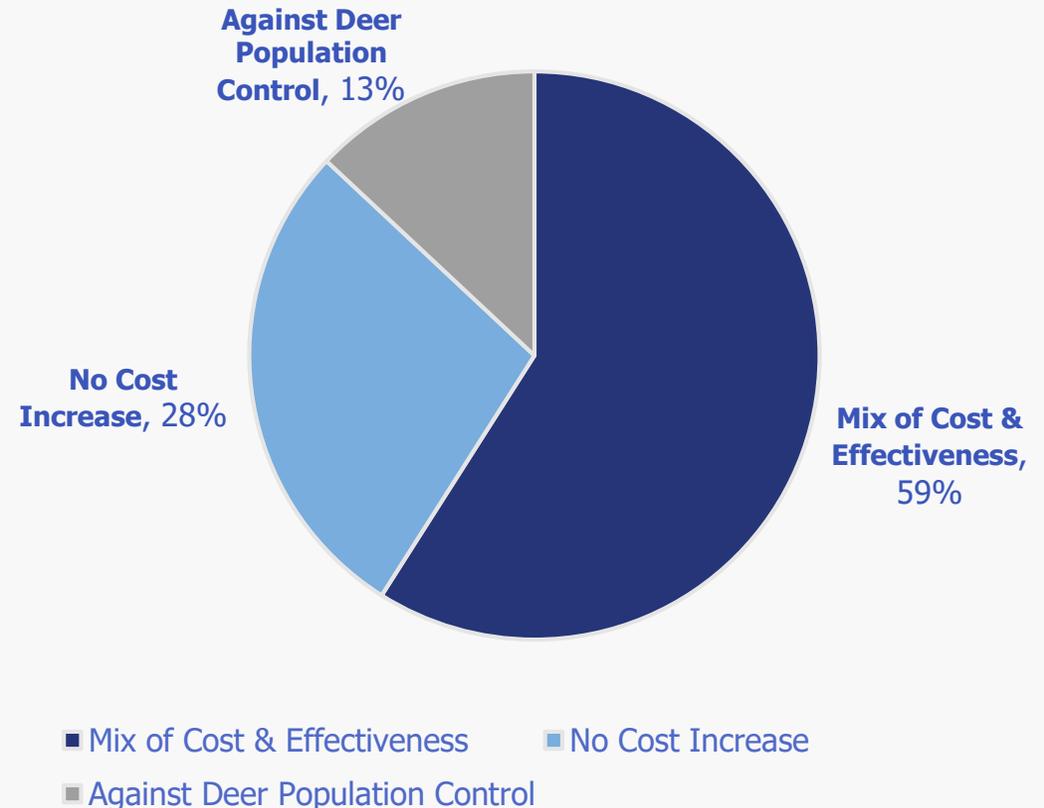
Resident Survey Key Findings (2025)

- **79%** want deer population managed/reduced
- Safety, Disease, and Property Damage are top concerns
- **59%** support a mixed approach (culling and sterilization)
- **34%** prefer immediate results (culling)
- **21%** prefer long-term solutions (sterilization)
- **36%** open to both, depending on cost
- Only 9% want no action
- Residents are seeing progress, but they also want more visible results and long-term stability. This sentiment is primarily in the north end of town where culling efforts are difficult.

Public opinion is clear: our residents want action, and they support a balanced, cost-conscious approach.

Survey Questions Represented Below:

Considering the cost factors, which of the following do you prefer?



What's Changing About our Residential Survey Next Year

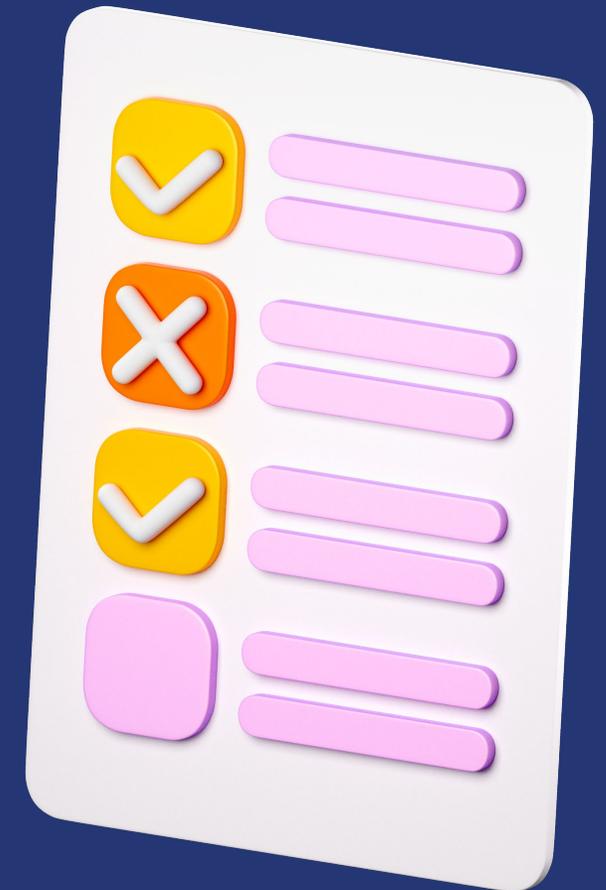
Effective next season, **ODNR will require cities**, including Beachwood, to use **UrbanDIRT** (Urban Deer Issues Reporting Tool). The Tool was developed by the Division of Wildlife with support from Ohio State University.

Key Advantages for Beachwood:

- **Standardized statewide questions** for apples-to-apples comparison with other cities.
- **Mapping dashboard** pinpoints where deer issues are occurring — within Beachwood and neighboring cities.
- Beachwood will be able to add Beachwood specific questions (sterilization for example).

How It Works:

- Similar to our current approach, there will be a survey **link or QR code** which can be shared easily with residents.
- **Up to 2 responses per address per year** to ensure balanced input.





What the Deer Data Shows

MONTH	YEAR	PUBLIC WORKS DEAD DEER PICK UPS	POLICE DEPARTMENT CALLS	PW COUNTED
January	2025	1	3	-1
February	2025	1	1	-1
March	2025	1	3	-1
April	2025	0	0	
May	2025	3	7	
June	2025	5	8	-3
		11	22	-6

To date from January – June 2025 is 27 (combined total)

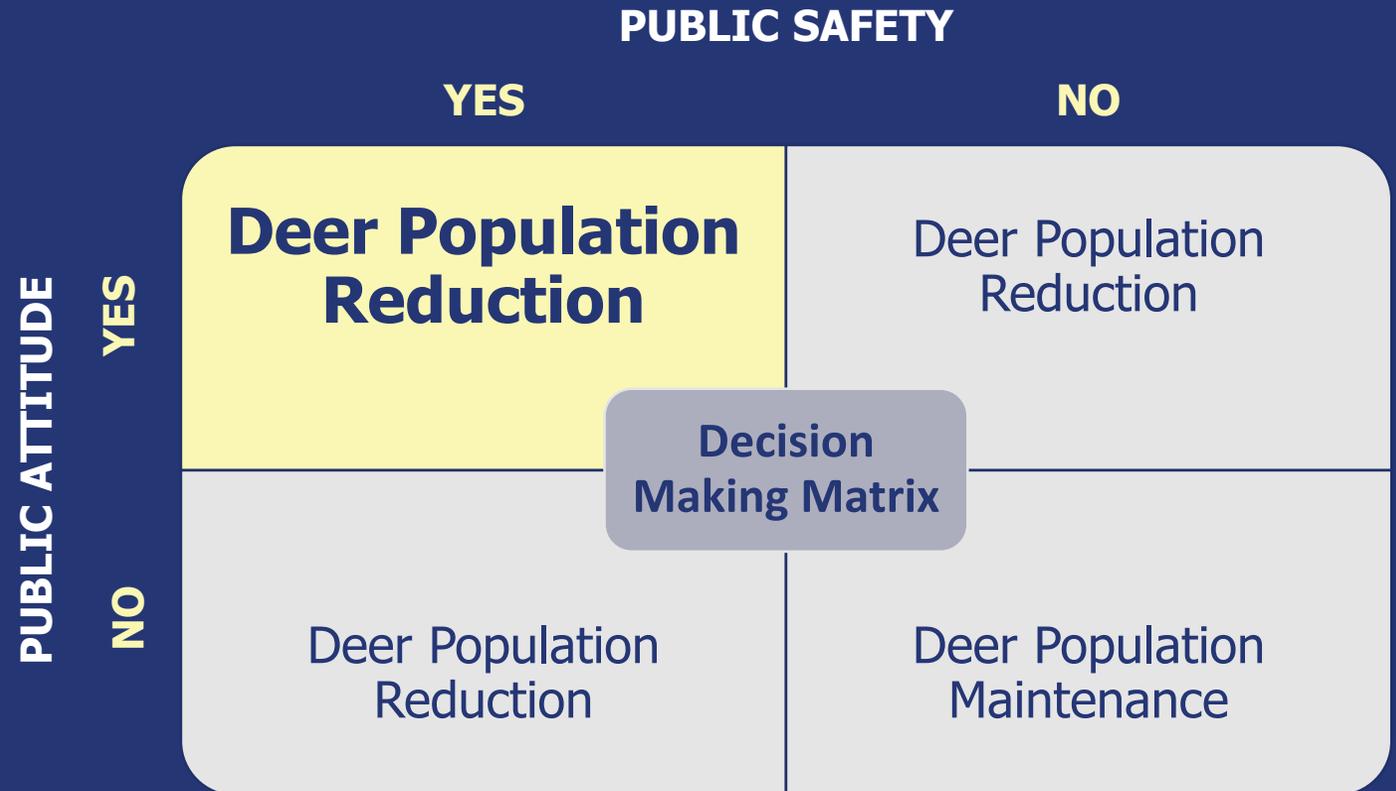
The number of dead deer pickups/vehicle accidents supports continued population reduction. Statistically, October/November is the peak time for these accidents to occur.

When is Action Justified – Decision Making Matrix

Decisions are Data Driven

- Are deer/vehicle accidents above our carrying capacity?
 - YES – 27 so far this year
- Do 55% of our residents want to see us manage/reduce deer?
 - YES – 79% of residents support this action

We are well past both thresholds in our official matrix. The data demands action.



This model is outlined in our Deer Management Plan and helps determine whether population reduction or maintenance techniques are appropriate for deer management.



What If We Do Nothing?

Deer Management is a long-term commitment.

- Without continued management, population rebounds quickly due to:
 - High reproductive rates (1-3 fawns per doe annually)
 - Improved conditions (less competition, more food)
- In 2-3 years, deer numbers could return to pre-cull levels or higher

Staying on the course protects that investment and ensures our efforts deliver lasting results. It is far cheaper and easier to maintain control than to re-establish it.

How do we Move Forward - Recommendation

We Listen to Our Residents:

Community sentiment clearly supports continued population reduction.

- 79% of residents want action
- 59% support a cost-effective combined approach

We Listen to the Data:

Dead Deer Pickups and Vehicle Collisions support continued population reduction.

- We have not met the desired level

Our Recommendation – Blended Solution:

- Continue targeted culling for immediate population control (partner with Shaker Heights)
- Add sterilization as a management tool to slow future growth (in possible partnership with South Euclid and Shaker Heights)
- Monitor outcomes, costs, and resident feedback



This dual approach respects community values, protects public safety, and promotes ecological sustainability

What are the Benefits of a Combined Approach



Immediate Relief

Culling continues to provide immediate, short-term population reduction.



Long-Term Control

Sterilization prevents future births.

Note: Sterilizing just 40 does can prevent the birth of up to 600 fawns over her lifetime (10 years)



Regional Collaboration

Opportunity for shared resources, funding and operational coordination across neighboring communities.

What a Combined Program Could Cost 2025/2026

Scenario	Culled Deer	Cost (\$1,150/deer)	Sterilized Deer*	Sterilization Cost	Total Cost
Culling Only	70	\$80,500	N/A	N/A	\$80,500
Culling + 1 Sterilization Night	70	\$80,500	15-20	~\$30,000 (\$20K + \$10K)	~\$110,500
Culling + 2 Sterilization Nights	70	\$80,500	30-40	~\$50,000	~\$130,500
Culling + 3 Sterilization Nights	70	\$80,500	45-60	~\$70,000	~\$150,500

Due to the complexities of coordinating with multiple cities and entities, final cost estimates are not yet available. We expect to provide actual figures in early September when the full management proposal is presented to City Council for approval.

The figures shared today are preliminary estimates based on current planning assumptions and are detailed more fully on the next slide.

* Price is based on outing not actual deer treated. Deer denoted is an estimate and not a guarantee

What's Our Recommendation - Summary

Component	Details
Recommended Approach	Combined: Culling + Sterilization
Proposed Budget	\$140,000 (City of Beachwood)
Additional Funding	County funding to be pursued – Sterilization only to help offset costs
Culling Plan	~70 deer (in collaboration with Shaker Heights)
Sterilization Plan	~15–40 deer (Depending on the number of days operated in Beachwood, Shaker and South Euclid) sharing mobilization with 2-3 cities. *Shaker and Beachwood are still exploring this option.

- The proposed numbers for both culling and sterilization are currently preliminary estimates. Each year, the City submits a formal deer management request to the State, which is reviewed based on:
 - Our past program performance
 - Current budget
 - Local deer population data and historical stats
- Final approval and numbers are determined in coordination with the State to ensure the most effective and appropriate plan for the community.





CITY OF *Beachwood*

What's Next?

We will continue working closely with the City of Shaker Heights, The City of South Euclid, State and County Officials, and well as our Deer Management Professionals to finalize proposals and cost estimates.

Our goal is to bring a comprehensive recommendation to City Council for consideration in September.

Questions & Discussion