

## **Ann Arbor Deer Management Plan – Objectives**

### **PROBLEM:**

- Deer browsing is adversely impacting beyond the tolerance level of a portion of the City's residents, the bio-diversity and sustainability of plants/animals/insects in the City's natural areas.
- Deer browsing is adversely impacting beyond the tolerance level of a portion of the City's residents, the residential and commercial gardens/ landscaping on private land.
- The number of deer/vehicle accidents averaged 62 over the past five years versus 41 over the five years before that.
- Chronic wasting disease in deer is present in Michigan, though not in or presently near Ann Arbor.
- A segment of the City's residents has a higher tolerance for deer, views them in a positive light, and is advocating for a change in the deer management program that includes non-lethal methods, education, and/or no action all.

### **LONG-TERM PLAN:**

The goal of the City's Deer Management Program is to have a sustainable deer population at a level acceptable to the overall City population. To do this, the City will regularly collect data about deer and publish it on the City's website. Each data measure will have an established level (or range) which would, if exceeded, result in staff calling together citizen representatives to discuss. No City action (lethal or sterilization) is presumed to be necessary. The purpose of the discussion with the citizen representatives is to make a recommendation if 1. additional information is needed 2. if the existing data justifies any action or 3. if an action is deemed necessary, what is the appropriate action (ie. education, sterilization, lethal, other) and where. This plan/process is being implemented to establish a clear, transparent, and collaborative expectation for any future City Deer Management program in advance of Council consideration.

### **MEASURES OF SUCCESS:**

#### **Overall Program:**

- Number of firearm related injuries associated with the deer management program is 0.
- Total number of deer/vehicle crashes reduced to 40 per year, and percent of vehicle crashes involving deer reported in the legal boundaries of the City of Ann Arbor reduced to 1.3%, assuming no major changes in total vehicle crashes.
- Reduce deer browse damage in the City's natural areas to a sustainable range of 15% to 30%, as measured by NatureWrite's field study. This measure will be regularly re-visited to reflect the latest information available.
- Maintain community-based education program about the role of deer in the local ecology and identify options for residents to manage potential deer impacts on their private property.
- Community acceptance of herd impact - when 75% of surveyed residents in a Ward respond that damage to their landscape or garden plants is at an acceptable level on

private lands. Recognizing there will be variability of this measure over time, a trend towards 75% is desired.

- Community acceptance of deer management program - when 75% of surveyed residents in a Ward respond that the City's strategy of managing the deer population is acceptable. Recognizing there will be variability of this measure over time, a trend towards 75% is desired.

## **2018 PROGRAM SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

### **MEASURES OF SUCCESS:**

#### **Educational Program & Public Right-of-Way Improvements:**

- Review the City's "Fencing" ordinance and existing deer signage locations. Recommend and implement changes and improvements.
- Develop and publish an expanded deer education component to the City's deer management website, including a deer resistance gardening campaign.
- Develop an interactive information/mapping tool.
- Create and hold a public forum designed to address questions related to the City's deer management program
- Establish an on-going education program.

#### **Non-lethal (Sterilization) Program:**

- Obtain an amended permit from MDNR for a deer sterilization program.
- Ensure sterilization of at least 95% of the does in the original research areas #1 & #2 (estimated additional 15-26 does).
- Sterilize at least 95% of the does in an additional zone (estimated additional 14-25), such that the total estimated sterilizations for all three zones are estimated to be 40.
- Mortality rate associated with sterilization less than 2%.
- Investigate with University of Michigan if there are appropriate locations for sterilization.
- Obtain a written update on the scientific results to-date on the sterilization efforts.

#### **Lethal Program:**

- Number of firearm related injuries associated with cull activities is 0.
- Number of deer removed is 250 – 350.
- Acceptable level of park closures remains at 75% or above.
- Coordinate with University of Michigan to increase the number of available locations for the deer management program.