PROJECT INNOVATIONS
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City of Ann Arbor Deer Management Plan Public Meeting #3

April 16, 2015

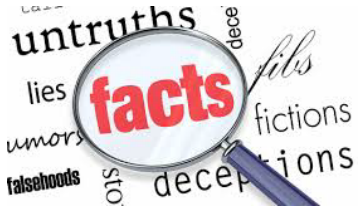
Welcome . . .

Sumedh Bahl
City of Ann Arbor

Tonight's Agenda

- Desired Outcomes
- Team Introduction
- Facilitation Process and Norms
- Draft Project Conclusions with Q&A
- Public Comment

Desired Outcomes



- **Update community on draft conclusions/recommended options**

- **Present flyover data/analysis – accomplished since 2/5 Public Meeting**

- **Listen to public comment**

Meeting will be recorded by CTN and available on the project website.

Team Introduction

- **Lisa Wondrash, City of Ann Arbor, Communication Director**

- **Charlie Fleetham, Project Innovations, Public Engagement Facilitator**

Facilitation Process

1. Will take questions after Mr. Bahl's presentation.
2. Will use comment cards for questions.
3. Will maintain agenda time periods.
4. Will preserve an atmosphere of mutual respect between presenters and audience . . . and stakeholder organizations.
5. Will have public comment for Ann Arbor residents (3 minute limit per speaker).
6. Will have public comment for non-Ann Arbor residents (3 minute limit per speaker).

Project History

2013	**Residents report deer damaging landscape, causing vehicle accidents (Arbor Hills & Green Road/Glazier Way)**
May 5, 2014	**Council resolution to evaluate deer management options**
August 2014	**Staff delivers report: *Deer Management Options***
Aug. 14, 2014	**Council authorizes development of community endorsed Deer Management Plan with Public Engagement**
Oct. 2014	**Using City's procurement process, Project Innovations awarded public engagement contract ($19,860)**

Project History

Nov. 2014: Interviewed stakeholders:			
▪ Ann Arbor Police Chief	▪ Humane Society of Huron Valley	▪ Natural Area Preservation Program Mgr.	▪ Washtenaw Citizens for Ecological Balance
▪ Ann Arbor Parks & Rec Service Mgr.	▪ MDNR	▪ University of Michigan	▪ Washtenaw County Parks Director
Dec. 10, 2014	Conducted Public Meeting #1		
Jan. 2, 2015	Closed A2 Open City Hall Survey (537 responses)		
Jan. 2015	Interviewed additional stakeholder – Citizens for Safe Ann Arbor		

Activities Conducted and Planned

Feb. 5, 2015	Conducted Public Meeting #2
Feb. 10, 2015	Conducted Deer Flyover #1
Mar. 6, 2015	Conducted Deer Flyover #2
March 2015	Reviewed flyover data with stakeholders: MDNR, WC4EB, Citizens for Safe Deer Conflict Management
April 16, 2015	Conduct Public Meeting #3
April 2015	Deliver Deer Management Plan to City Council

Key Questions:

- ✓ **What should be the goals of a deer management program?**
- ✓ **What would be the deer management area?**
- ✓ **What is the preferred deer management method(s)?**

Draft Conclusions:

- **Deer presence in Ann Arbor is Tale of Two Cities.**
- **Significant negative interaction in Wards 1 and 2 caused by overabundance of deer/not so in other wards.**
- **Significant degradation of residential property – including damages and loss of usability.**
- **Significant anxiety regarding deer lack of fear of humans and increasing reports of hostile encounters.**
- **According to the MDNR, a feeding ban will not reduce the population – food is too abundant in Ann Arbor.**

What should be the goals of a deer management program?

1. Significantly reduce negative interactions between deer and humans in Wards 1 and 2.

2. Establish citywide monitoring processes regarding deer/human interactions.

3. Provide deer management materials and educational resources.

What would be the deer management area?

Wards 1 and 2

Options:

1. **A multi-year cull for Wards 1 and 2.**
2. **A non-lethal approach modeled on the Rochester Hills Deer Management Program.**
3. **Hybrid approach**

Option #1: Multi-Year Cull for Wards 1 & 2

- Contract with trained sharpshooter company.
- Zero reported safety incidents.
- Isolate culling area with assistance from police.
- Culling on City owned properties.

Option #1: Multi-Year Cull for Wards 1 & 2

- **No discharge of firearms outside the culling area.**
- **Shots aimed at the ground not towards buildings or air.**
- **Proper notification to citizens.**
- **Winter months.**

Option #1: Cull Cost Estimates

1st year cost: $25,000 - $35,000 (2015 cost)

2nd year onwards cost: $25,000 -$30,000 (2015 cost)

Note: These costs are for culling only. Total cost of deer management program will be higher.

Option #2: Implement Non-Lethal Methods

- Feeding Ban – City Wide
- Educational Program
  - Less attractive plants to deer
  - Deer repellants
  - How to limit property damage/deer vehicle collisions
- Improved signage and roadside deterrents
- Monitoring of deer/vehicle collisions and conduct annual flyovers
- Trigger reconsideration of method if collisions or flyover counts exceed set figures (which are TBD).

Option #2: Non-lethal Estimated Costs

- **Staff = ½ FTE per year - $45K**
- **Improved signage and road side deterrents = $120/sign**

Options #3: Hybrid approach

- **Multi-year cull in Wards 1 and 2.**
- **Feeding ban in City.**
- **Educational Program.**

Goals and Measurement Process

Goal: Significant reduction of deer human negative interactions.

Measured by:

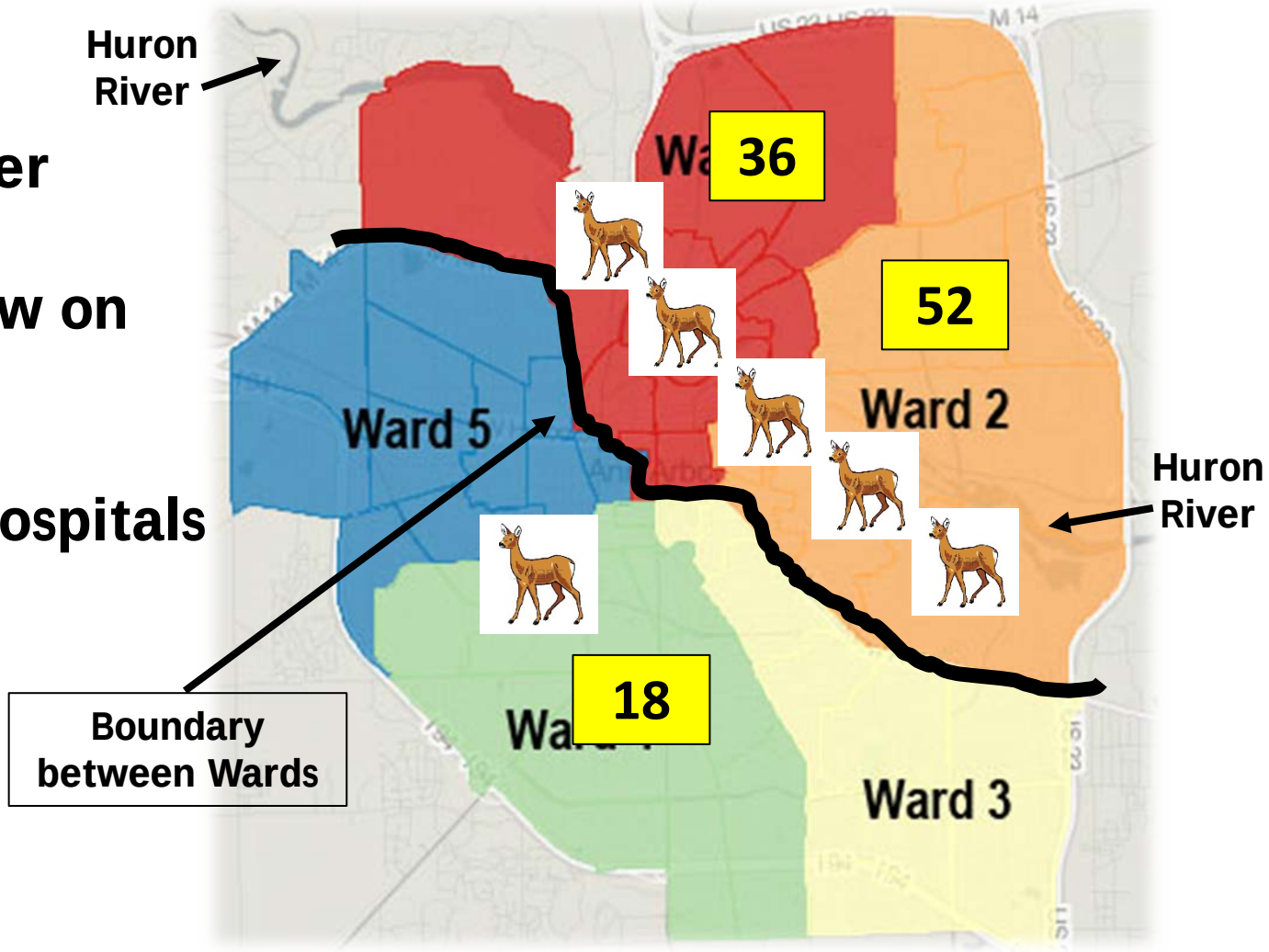
- **Annual A2 Open City Hall Survey**
- **Annual flyover**
- **Assessment of the Impact of deer in natural areas**

Data Presentation / Analysis:

After the Feb 5 Public Meeting, there was enough snow to conduct a flyover.

Deer Count – Flyover #1: Feb. 10, 2015

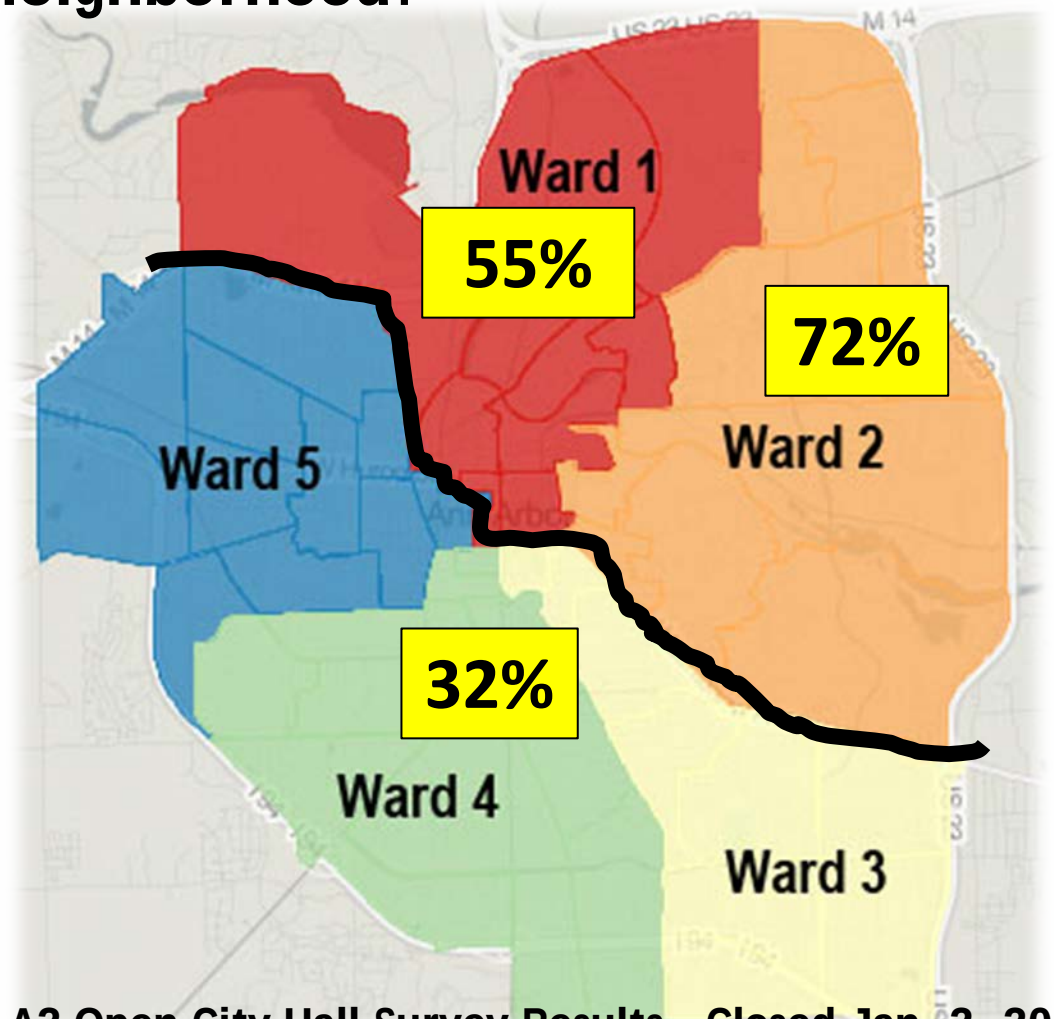
- 116 Total deer
- 3 person crew on helicopter
- Downtown/hospitals /Arboretum excluded



Flyover Analysis

- Survey Data and Public Comment seem to indicate more deer in Wards 1 and 2.
- Does count reflect actual population?
- Tale of Two Cities?

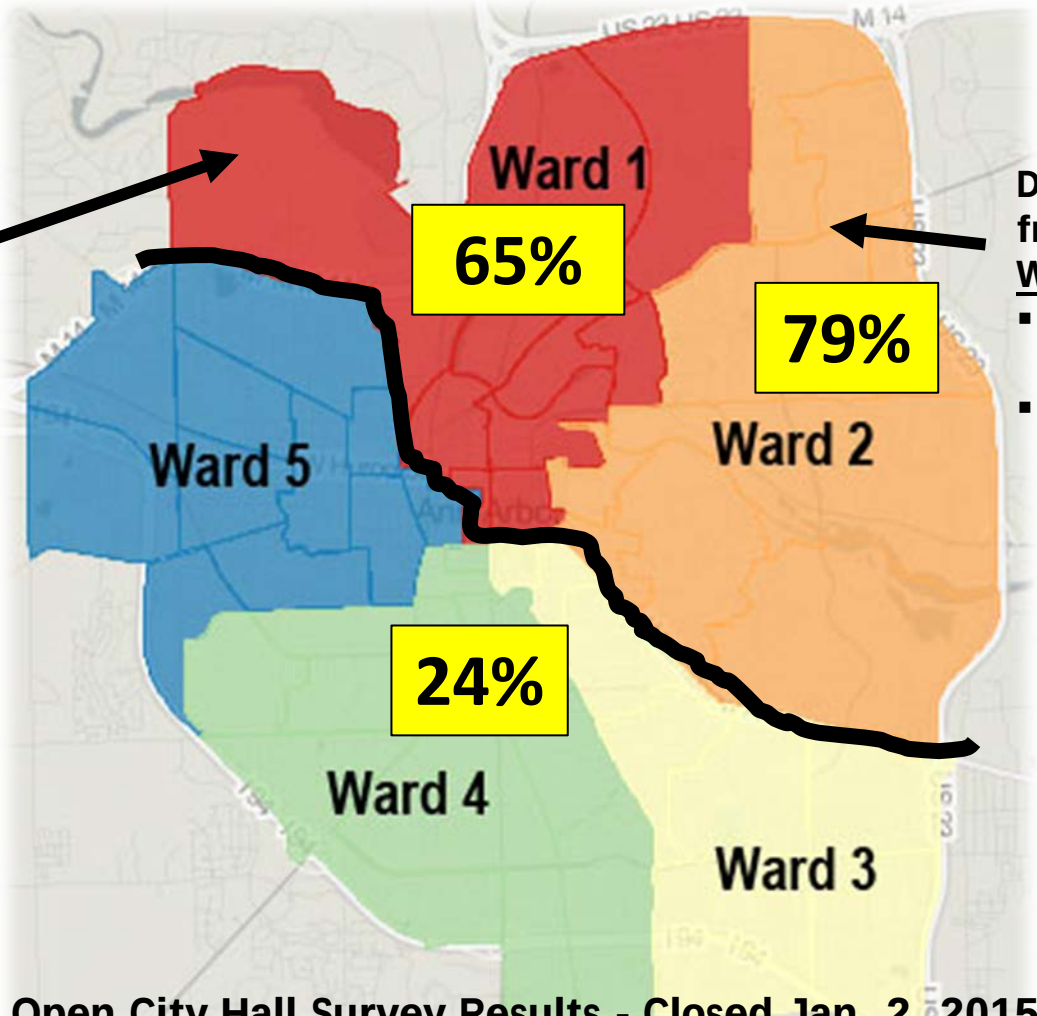
In the past 3 years, have you seen a significant increase of deer in your neighborhood?



A2 Open City Hall Survey Results - Closed Jan. 2, 2015

Has your garden plants or landscape been damaged by deer?

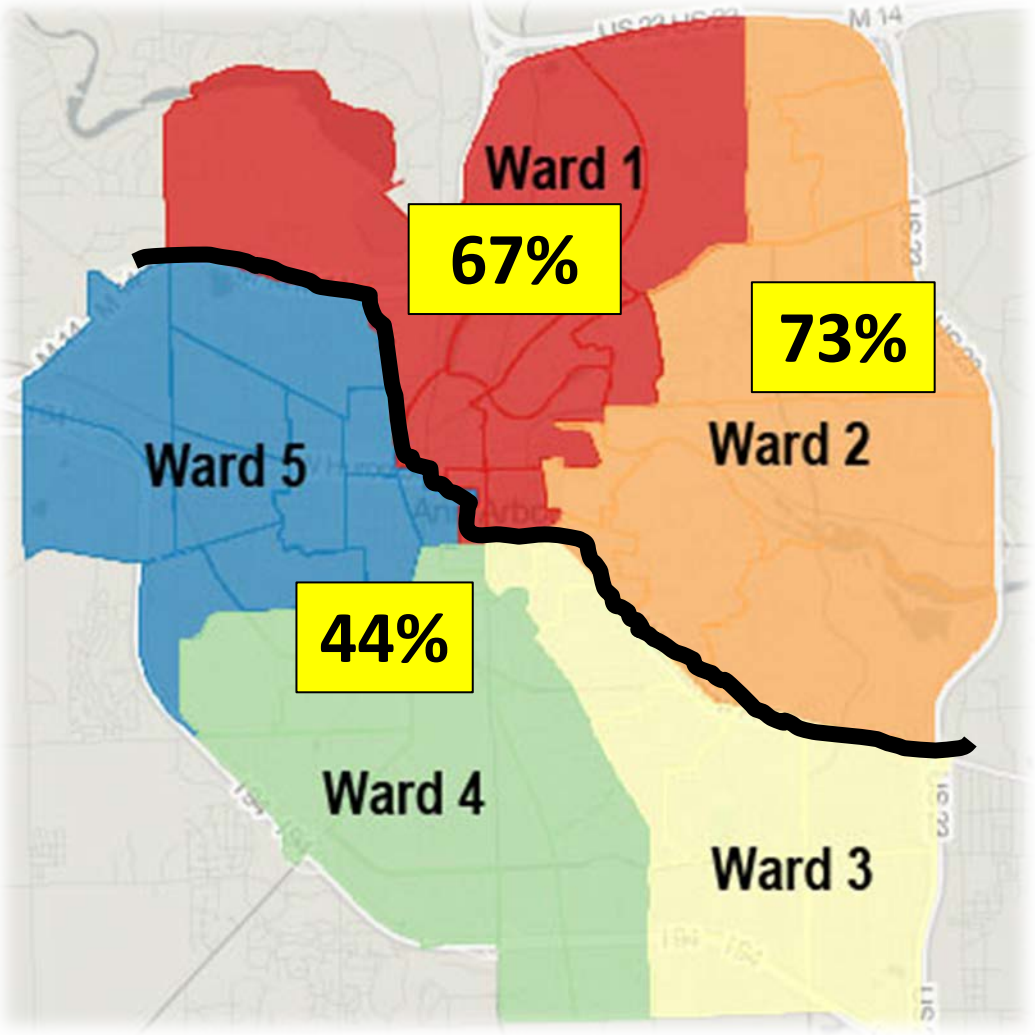
Detailed Comments from Survey:
Ward 1
- 7 people reported property damage
- 8 people reported a disruption in their lives



Detailed Comments from Survey:
Ward 2
- 10 people reported property damage
- 15 people reported disruption in their lives

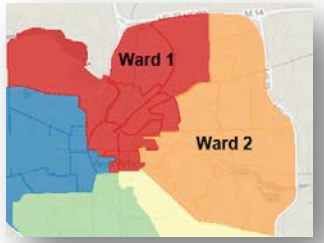
A2 Open City Hall Survey Results - Closed Jan. 2, 2015

Support of Lethal Methods to Reduce Deer Population

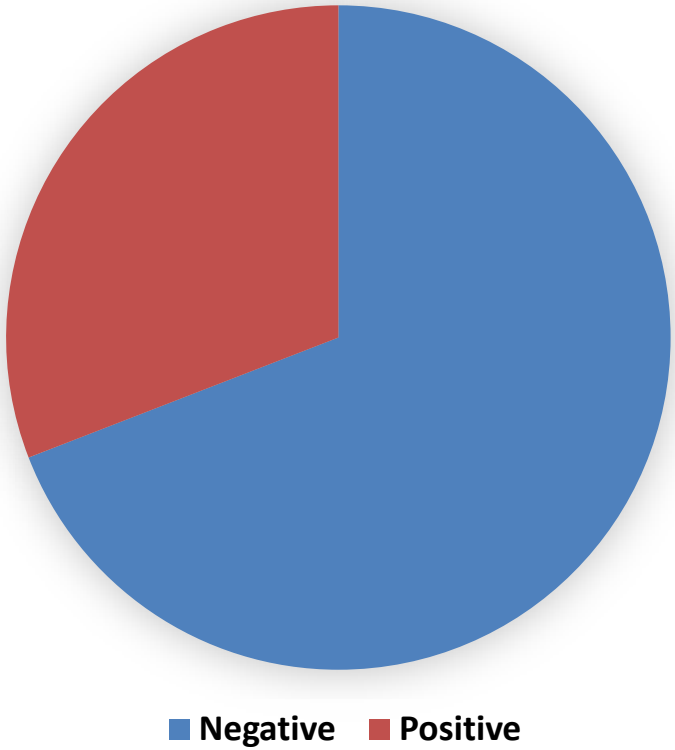


A2 Open City Hall Survey Results - Closed Jan. 2, 2015

Comment Summary from Wards 1 and 2



- ***47 negative comments***
- ***21 positive comments***
- ***68 total comments regarding Interactions on Property***

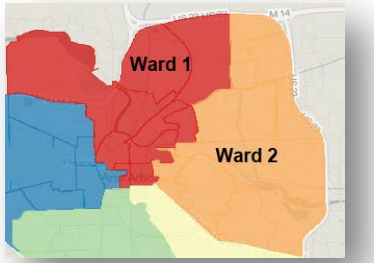


A2 Open City Hall Survey Results – Closed Jan. 2, 2015

Public Comments from Ann Arbor Residents at 12/10/14 and 2/6/15 Meetings

- 23 supported lethal methods
- 5 neutral
- 12 opposed to lethal methods

Sample Positive Survey Comments from Wards 1 and 2



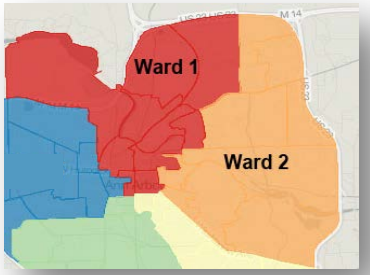
- ***I have adapted to the presence of these lovely creatures. I value them, I enjoy seeing them, and am willing to use fences and deer resistant plantings to co-exist.***

- ***I have gardens and it does not bother me that deer, or other animals, may eat them or destroy them. We all live in the community, humans and animals. We must learn to live together.***

- ***My plants are not sacred. If the deer like them, they are free to enjoy them.***

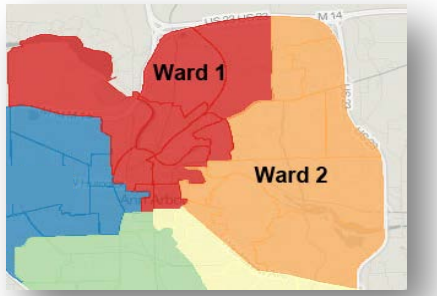
- ***Deer are a natural part of the ecosystem. They create a sense of wonder and make this a great place to raise children.***

Sample Negative Comments from Wards 1 and 2



- ***I chase them off every time I see them, but this is not at all effective. They now have little fear of people.***
- ***I have been going outside when I see them to scare them away. They are not afraid of me at all.***
- ***Every day, I have a near miss car accident. Last night there were four giant deer in my front yard. I have switched all of my plants to deer resistant at great cost and they still eat them because they are starving and mangy looking.***
- ***Why am I paying like $16,000 in property taxes and my kid can't have her friends over to do cartwheels because of the deer feces?***

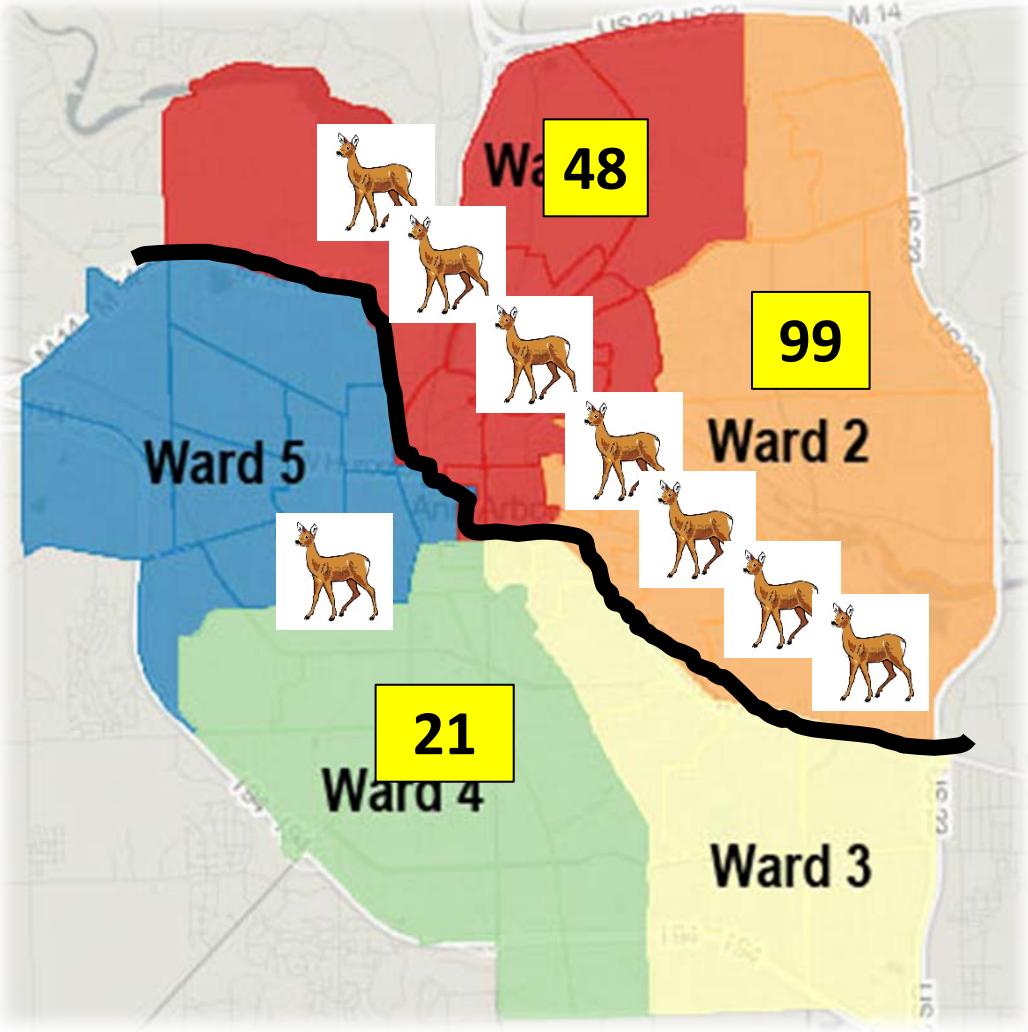
Sample Negative Comments from Wards 1 and 2



- ***They are not afraid of my dog.***
- ***They are so tame that they just stand there, look at you, and only run away when you almost get in their space. They also leave huge piles of poop that we worry is infected with Lyme disease, etc.***
- ***I have been charged twice by deer in my yard/neighborhood.***
- ***We have had 3 deer/car accidents in my family and see many people narrowly avoiding similar accidents daily in this area!***

Deer Count – Flyover #2: Mar. 6, 2015

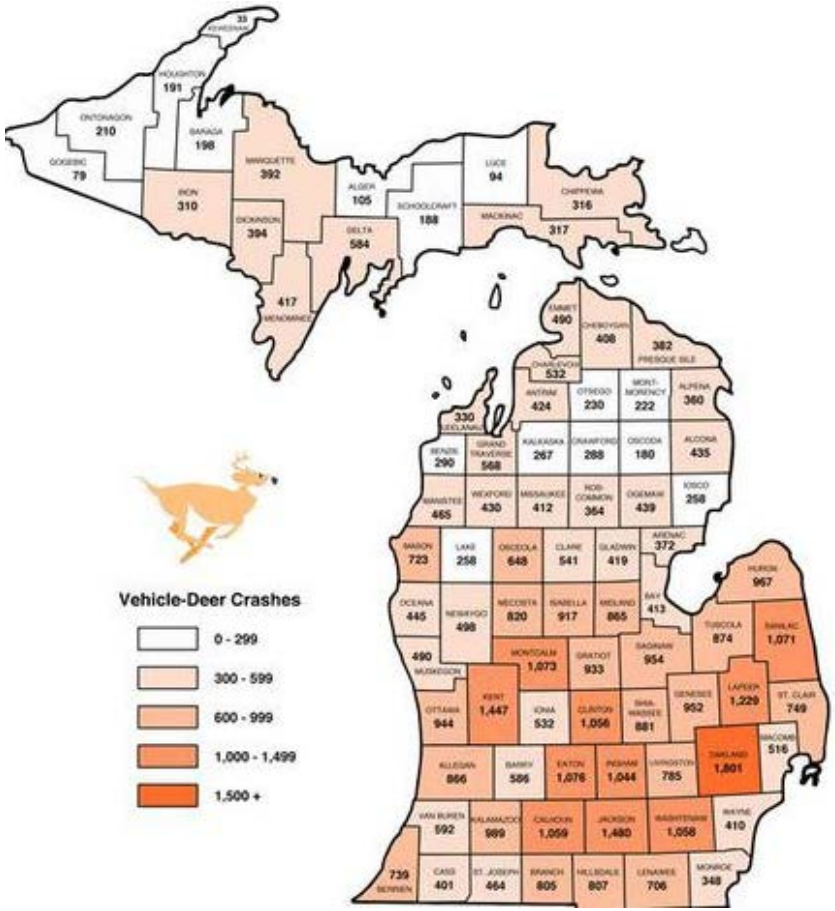
- 168 deer
- 3 person crew on helicopter
- Included Downtown/Arboretum/hospital areas



2013 Michigan Deer Crash Statistics

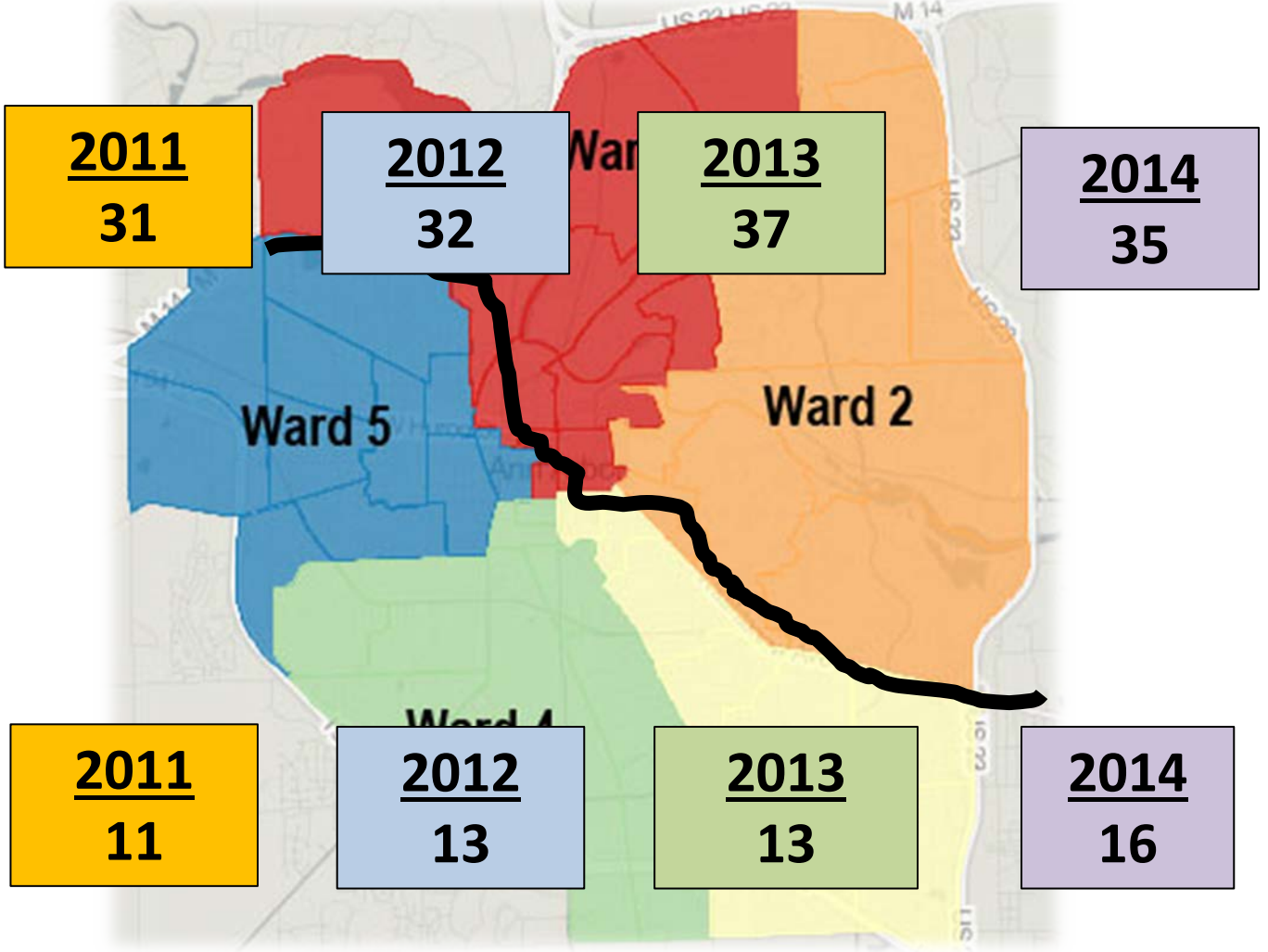
In 2013, there were 49,205 deer vehicle crashes. The top ten counties were:

1. **Oakland County (1,801)**
2. **Jackson (1,071)**
3. **Kent (1,447)**
4. **Lapeer (1,229)**
5. **Eaton (1,076)**
6. **Montcalm (1,073)**
7. **Sanilac (1,071)**
8. **Calhoun (1059)**
9. **Washtenaw (1,058)**
10. **Clinton (1,056)**



Source: www.michigandeercrash.com

Flyover Deer Count – Wards 1,2 vs. 3,4,5
Vehicle Deer Crash Correlation: 2011-2013



What would be the deer management area?

Wards 1 and 2

Options:

1. A multi-year cull for Wards 1 and 2.
2. A non-lethal approach modeled on the Rochester Hills Deer Management approach.
3. Hybrid approach:
   a) Multi-year cull in Wards 1 and 2.
   b) Feeding ban in City.
   c) Educational Program.

What are the next steps?

1. Submit deer management report to Council.
2. Council considers options/makes decision.
3. Staff proceeds according to Council decision.


Public Comment