

Shaker Heights Deer Management Plan Timeline

City Council began public discussion about deer in Shaker in 2010 after residents raised concerns about the increasing numbers and the damage caused. Since then, the topic has been addressed as follows:

- Council held public work sessions on the subject in March 2010 and October 2012.
- The City tracked hundreds of resident complaints to both Police and Public Works departments.
- In 2014, a group of eastside suburbs, led by Mayor Leiken, hired Davis Aviation to conduct an aerial infrared deer survey to provide a baseline count of the numbers of deer city-wide.
- In April 2015, The Mayor created a Deer Task Force comprised of Council members and residents.
- The Deer Task Force spent seven months in 2015 studying options for deer management, including review of well-known technical resources and of programs in other cities.
- On September 28, 2015, a press release announced that the task force had created a survey for residents to quantify concerns and collect comments about deer in Shaker.
- On October 1, 2015 a City Facebook post urged residents to take the survey.
- In December 2015, the Task Force report was presented to Council's Safety and Public Works Committee at a public meeting.
- On February 8, 2016, City Council heard a summary of the report and the recommendation for a deer management program. Public comment was solicited and heard.
- Council held two more readings of the ordinance appropriating money to fund the plan on February 22 and March 28. Public comment for these readings was solicited via the City website and its Facebook page.
- Residents report that non-lethal alternatives including habitat modification, unpalatable landscape plantings, and use of repellents are ineffective in reducing damage caused by deer. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources/Division of Wildlife will not authorize non-traditional deer management techniques such as reproductive agents or trap and relocate. The Task Force felt that trapping and euthanasia is not humane, but that sharpshooting by trained, experienced Shaker Heights police officers would be the most humane and successful method to use to manage the deer population in Shaker.
- After considering the report of the task force, public comment at meetings, and the results of the online survey, Council voted to authorize the funding of the deer management program, which includes police sharpshooting of deer on public lands only.

Media coverage:

[Cleveland.com – April 13, 2015](http://www.cleveland.com) (Shaker Heights appoints task force to address deer population)

[Cleveland.com – November 6, 2015](#) (Shaker Heights Deer Task Force reports to City Council in December)

[Newsnet5 – November 13, 2015](#) (Controlling deer population is hot topic in Pepper Pike, several other Northeast Ohio communities)

[Cleveland.com – December 15, 2015](#) (Shaker's Deer Task Force recommends limited lethal measures on public lands in 2017)

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