



## SHAKER HEIGHTS

**Wildlife Task Force  
Via Zoom Due to COVID-19  
Public Health Emergency  
Wednesday, August 26, 2020, 8:00 a.m.**

For the safety of staff and residents, in-person attendance is not permitted. Join the Zoom meeting online as a viewer or listener from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device at <https://zoom.us/j/95534233158?pwd=OTVaYWYvYTItRmFKNUJTQTVqOURNUT09>, Password: **33553400**; Description: Wildlife Task Force; or join by phone at 833-548-0282 (toll free); Webinar ID: **955 3423 3158**, Password: **33553400**. International numbers available at <https://zoom.us/u/ahwKbeuA>.

1. Review of 2019-2020 Results and Recommendations

Documents:

[END OF CULLING SH 2020 FINAL 4.PDF](#)

2. 2020 Questionnaire Results Versus 2019 Results

Documents:

[2020 DEER QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY.PDF](#)  
[2019 DEER QUESTINNAIRE SUMMARY.PDF](#)

3. Discussion of Recommendation for 2020/2021 Culling Program

*To request an accommodation for a person with a disability, call the City's ADA Coordinator at 216-491-1440, or Ohio Relay Service at 711 for TTY users.*



SHAKER  
HEIGHTS

**City of Shaker Heights**  
**End of Season Deer Management Culling Report**

March 31, 2020

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## **Executive Summary**

The City of Shaker Heights contracted with Precision Wildlife Management LTD (Precision Wildlife) to manage the deer population in Shaker Heights. The Shaker Heights Wildlife Task Force Committee recommended Precision Wildlife harvest deer in the City using sharp shooters. Shaker Heights City Council, Law Department, Finance Department and the Honorable Mayor David Weiss approved the contract. A detailed deer management plan was submitted to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife. The ODNR reviewed the plan and authorized the City of Shaker Heights to harvest 40 deer under Deer Damage Control Permit #5334. The Honorable Mayor David Weiss approved moving forward with a private property pilot plan. The Shaker Heights Wildlife Task Force developed private property protocols and the plan was implemented.

The Precision Wildlife team started harvesting deer on January 03, 2020, and finished on March 25, 2020. A final total of 40 deer were harvested from the city. As a result of the culling efforts, over 1,881 pounds of venison were donated to the Cleveland Food Bank and the St. Vincent DePaul Food Bank with a current market value of over \$20,000.00. (Estimated value based on Amazon ground venison priced at \$11.15/pound)

The Precision Wildlife team demonstrated the ability to safely and humanely harvest 40 deer in a suburban environment. Despite the challenges presented, we were able to accomplish this task discreetly with no known complaints.

This report briefly summarizes the culling effort, the challenges faced, and the characteristics of deer harvested during the winter of 2019-2020. We have also included future recommendations.

## **Deer Management**

Harvesting of deer was carried out from January 3, 2020 through March 25, 2020. The Precision Wildlife Team primarily culled Monday through Thursday. These days were selected due to increased pedestrian traffic on Friday, Saturday and Sunday in the areas near the bait sites. As the season progressed and challenges arose, Precision Wildlife extended culling hours overnight and early morning on Fridays and Saturdays.

Deer were observed on trail cameras and in person throughout the City. Multiple residents indicated that deer were taking up residence in their back yard. Multiple residents called the Shaker Heights Police Department and Precision Wildlife indicating that they had deer in their yard and neighborhood. Deer were not coming to bait on a regular basis and were observed on private property specifically in back yards.

## **Private Property Pilot Program**

The Precision Team was given permission to harvest deer on private property as a pilot program. The City provided Precision with the names of residents that were interested in private property culling. Precision contacted the interested residents. The Precision Team conducted site surveys throughout Shaker Heights on the City owned land as well as private property looking for deer activity, as well as surveying the topography and assessing pedestrian and vehicle traffic and proximity to homes and streets. Areas were identified where the risks involved with harvesting deer could be managed. The private property sites were selected based on interest of the resident, safety, discrete location, deer activity and efficiency.

There were neighborhoods that reported deer in their yard and requested an assessment from Precision. The residents property were small parcels, surrounded by fences, and close neighbors. The chances of a resident seeing Precision harvest a deer were significantly increased. Precision completed a detailed assessment of the area, speaking with multiple residents, walking in back yards and checking angles. Because of the tight quarters, Precision would have to locate a garage, rooftop or tree to set up a stand to engage deer in a very precise manner and at a specific location. Being in tight quarters, near fences, on small parcels increases risk. Once a deer was engaged the other deer would move. (Uneducated deer will react to a deer being engaged and usually run 15 to 40 yards and stop) In tight quarters follow up engagements would not be likely due to safety concerns. In addition, because of the tight quarters the ability to stealthily approach the deer would be difficult. This would necessitate Precision to get into position prior to deer arriving. This would cause Precision to be on location for a significant amount of time, waiting for deer to arrive, with the potential to harvest one deer at a time. This would necessitate interrupting the resident during the middle of the night and at odd hours. Precision was not comfortable with the increased risks, a resident seeing a harvest and the increased amount of time spent on location interrupting the resident and neighbors at odd hours.

Private bait locations were selected after a site assessment and extensive conversations with the residents and a written permission/City liability waiver was signed. The Wildlife Task Force protocols for culling on private property were followed (Ohio State law requires written permission from the landowner to harvest deer on their property). Adjacent residents to the locations selected were contacted.

The private property sites selected were in areas of two acres or more, offered multiple engagement opportunities safely, surrounded by trees and shrubs, easily accessible at odd hours without interrupting the resident or neighbors, and in years past had deer regularly visiting. In addition the private property sites selected provided the opportunity for Precision to be notified via trail camera that deer were on location and approach stealthily, engage multiple deer and remove them without drawing attention.

Trail cameras were set up on both private and public sites and Precision started baiting. Precision set up bait locations, on City property sites and private property sites.

Many variables affect deer movements; weather, coyotes, food sources, vehicles, pedestrian traffic, dogs, dominate male deer (bucks) and hunting pressure. After harvesting deer for the past four years at the same two City bait sites, the deer have been avoiding these locations. The deer that do visit are extremely wary and the days of harvesting multiple deer at once are much fewer. Once the first deer is harvested, the other deer vacate the area. The deer have also started acting like deer in the wild instead of City deer, especially when they observe a Precision Wildlife vehicle or team member. This is not unusual with the deer management program being in its fourth season. This is also a positive sign as deer will be less likely to get close to humans. Acquiring the right private property locations is critical to the continued success of the program.

This year 22.5% of the deer harvested were harvested on the private property bait sites.

All of the owners of the private property bait locations that were utilized are willing to be involved in the program next year. One particular resident was extremely appreciative of the impact Precision made in harvesting deer on their property.

It is critical to the success of the deer management program to locate new bait sites with uneducated deer. Additional private property locations acquired will reduce over hunting the same areas. Appropriate locations can be inconspicuous and increase the ability to impact uneducated deer.

## **Scope and Need for Action**

The Wildlife Task Force recommended that culling continue in the 2019/2020 winter season. As a result, 40 deer were harvested during the 2020 season.

This year's deer questionnaire results continue to identify that our residents are concerned about the current deer population in the City of Shaker Heights.

The top concerns according to the 2019 deer survey were damage to landscape and garden plants, transmission of (Lyme) disease, damage to the parks' ecosystems due to over browsing, aggressive behavior toward humans and deer vehicle accidents.

In the 2019 questionnaire, 62.24% of the residents stated they would like to see a decrease in the deer population. 51% of the residents noticed a change in the deer last year (less) in their neighborhoods. It appears that the deer management program has had a perceived reduction in deer.

65.96% of the residents surveyed in 2018 had concerns about deer in Shaker Heights. 63.7% of residents surveyed would like to see a decrease in deer in Shaker Heights. In 2016, 73.2% of the residents surveyed wanted to see a decrease in deer in Shaker Heights.

The City's deer management plan is working in the area that deer have been harvested. We have impacted the deer population specifically in management Unit #3 (Shaker Blvd. median strip between Green Road and Sulgrave near the Beachwood Line). There has been an 11% decrease in the number of residents surveyed that want to see a decrease in the deer herd since the survey started in 2016. The Precision Wildlife team has spoken to more than 35 residents in the area and all have said they have seen a reduction in the number of deer in their yards in the past year.

Deer vehicle accidents have increased. In 2018, there were 2 reported accidents. In 2019, there were 6 reported accidents. Additionally, in 2018 there were 29 deceased deer picked up by the Service Yard. In 2019, there were 36 deceased deer picked up by the service yard. The majority of the deceased deer picked up are due to unreported accidents.

The Shaker Police do an excellent job of targeting speeders. As a result, deer are struck at slower speeds and when there is a deer vehicle collision the deer does not always expire right away. Usually the deer is injured and has a reduction in mobility and suffers infection from the trauma site. Some deer are able to survive however many suffer from infection and expire. The Precision Wildlife Team euthanized two deer that had an infection. Once the deer were harvested, it was apparent that the deer had gangrene and were unfit for human consumption and both were discarded. Precision also observed three additional injured deer that looked to be hit by cars.

We did not see any indication that deer suffered from epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) that was seen two years ago.

One of the goals of the deer management program is to be able to observe a noticeable increase in the vegetation as determined by the Nature Centers controlled plant survey. The Nature Centers controlled plant survey was to be evaluated annually. Unfortunately, the plant survey could not be conducted this year and we did not receive any results. The Nature Center has advised us that they will be participating in the controlled plant survey this year and will keep us updated.

Progress has been made, however in order to move toward the City's deer management goals we must first reduce the deer population to a level that significantly decreases new generational population throughout the City. Eventually this will lead to a more stabilized population that decreases the number of deer accidents and deer damages to residential and commercial properties and addresses the resident's concerns.

The white-tailed deer population currently exceeds the community's social carrying capacity as indicated by residents. Currently no other bordering City is involved in deer management.

The Precision Team saw deer every day they were in the City, with good numbers of deer throughout the City, predominately in backyards. (See Figures 1-4)

In order to be effective, we must acquire the proper private property bait locations to increase the odds of contacting uneducated, less pressured deer.



**Figure 1.** *Buck in backyard near Canoe Club*



**Figure 2.** *Buck Rub on Shaker Tow Path*



**Figure 3.** *Bucks at Courtland and South Park*



**Figure 4.** *Deer in Backyard*

## **Methods**

Baiting was initiated on City owned and private property sites. The Precision Wildlife team baited for approximately two weeks in December prior to culling. Deer were observed on camera and predominately antlered male deer (bucks) were visiting the sites with no specific pattern.

The private property sites were located in areas that showed good deer sign during past years. The deer that were visiting the bait sites were mostly antlered male deer (bucks). The cameras indicated that deer were not visiting bait sites on a regular basis. The Precision Team observed a significantly higher number of coyotes than last year both on camera as well as in person near those sites. Coyotes did not appear to attack healthy deer however they did affect deer movement. Once coyotes were observed in an area deer did not visit that area for over a couple of hours and sometimes days. Coyotes did their best to stay away from humans and were observed eating corn and small rodents. Precision had observed deer following a specific pattern in those areas in previous years. Other variables that may have affected the deer patterns were weather, acorn crop, pedestrian and vehicle traffic, and deer being wary of Precision.

After a month of heavy baiting, some of the private property and City sites were discarded. Precision started with several bait sites and within a month was down to hunting the same areas that have been hunted for three previous years with the exception of the private property spot.

The Precision Wildlife Team focused on the same areas, finding it difficult to pattern deer. Instead, deer visited the bait areas sporadically and rarely were found to be in herds near the bait areas. The precision marksmen saw a significant number of deer on a regular basis in residents' yards. Precision tried utilizing apples, berry corn, and even a mineral block to attract the deer.

Deer were observed daily in backyards, feeding on acorns and browse. Deer tracks were found throughout the City and were specifically observed indicating that the deer were moving from residents' backyards and occasionally traveling through City property. This caused Precision to change tactics and remain mobile. Precision was unable to determine when the deer were moving and were forced to spend a significant amount of time driving in search of deer at all hours of the day and night.

Within the first day of harvesting it was clear the deer had become well educated from last year and were significantly more wary. The Precision Team noticed that deer were not at all relaxed and they would bob their heads up and down, not remaining in one spot for extended time periods. As a result, the Precision Team engaged deer at greater distances than usual. This caused them to engage deer from a variety of shooting positions and vantage points. Precision predominantly engaged deer from the roof of a truck. From this elevated position they were able to safely and humanely harvest deer. On occasion they located high ground positions and engaged deer from the ground utilizing the topography to safely and humanely harvest deer.

Precision remained mobile and searched for deer daily throughout the City near City property. Precision was able to harvest 40 deer safely and humanely and finished harvesting on March 25, 2020. Precision was harvesting the majority of deer in ones and twos.

The Precision Team was operating on the move and in tight quarters. Deer were engaged in and around the bait sites from distances ranging from 20 yards to 70 yards. Precision passed on over 125 engagement opportunities due to branches obstructing the target, people being too close, deer on the move, or the target not being in front of a proper backstop.

Prior to arriving at the sites, Precision contacted the officer in charge of the shift and notified officers that they were conducting operations. Signs were posted that read as follows: WARNING, Deer Management Area, DO NOT ENTER Shaker Heights Police 216-491-1234. The Signs were bright yellow and affixed to a doll rod placed in an orange traffic safety cone (Figure 5).



**Figure 5.** *Deer Management Signs*

Temperatures were unseasonably warm throughout the season with a few cold/snow periods mixed in. High winds were also a factor this year with wind gusts in the upper 30's and 40's.

Precision spoke to many residents this year on the paths and in the parks. Precision did its best not to impact the residents hiking, running and enjoyment of the park. All but two residents were supportive of the culling effort. Precision listened to the many deer stories from Shaker residents as well as University Heights and Beachwood residents using the path. Precision would receive reports on deer activity throughout the City from the contacts. Precision received reports that there were deer observed daily in the backyards on Shaker Blvd. by residents.

The amount of pedestrian traffic became problematic as residents run and walk their dogs even at 0300 hours in the morning. The pandemic increased pedestrian traffic on the trails and parks significantly.

**Percentage of Deer Harvested at Each Location**

The harvest breakdown is as follows:

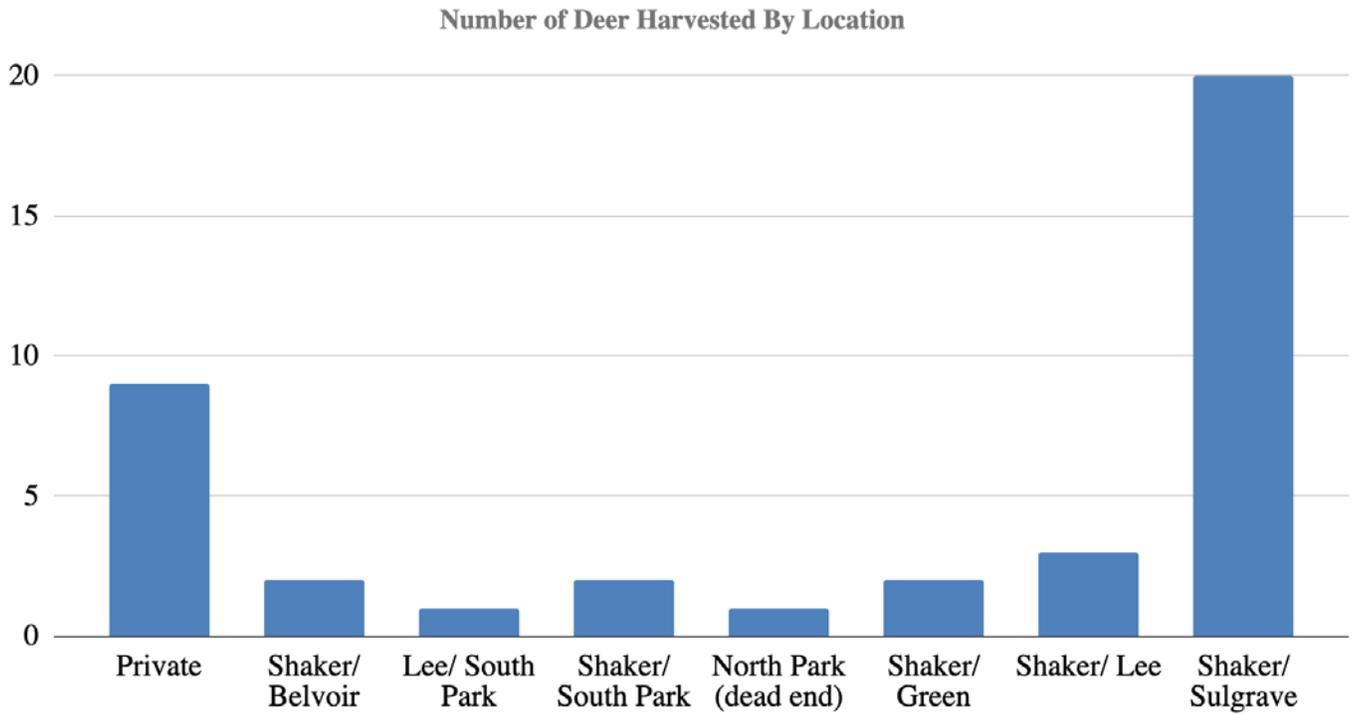
- Shaker / Belvoir                    2 deer or 5%                    (Unit #3)
- Shaker / Belvoir                    2 deer or 5%                    (Unit #3)
- (Private)                                9 deer or 22.5%                (Unit #2)
- Lee / South Park                    1 deer or 2.5%                (Unit #3)
- Shaker / South Park                2 deer or 5%                    (Unit #2)
- North Park (dead end)            1 deer or 2.5%                (Unit #2)
- Shaker / Green                      2 deer or 5%                    (Unit #3)
- Shaker / Lee                         3 deer or 7.5%                (Unit #4)
- Shaker / Sulgrave                 20 deer or 50%                (Unit #3)

62.5% of deer were harvested in Unit #3 which is 83 acres in size, with the majority of deer harvested in the far eastern portion. The RTA tracks run through the middle of the western three quarters of the unit.

7.5% of the deer were harvested in Unit #4, which is primarily private property with the average parcel size being .52 acres. The unit contains 210 parcels larger than 1 acre. Two golf courses are within this unit: Shaker Heights Country Club and Canterbury Country Club (Canterbury CC is also within Beachwood city limits). Unit 4 also encompasses Southerly Park, the Nature Center as well as the large wooded area on our most North Eastern border.

30% was harvested in Unit #2. Unit #2 is 65 acres in size predominately owned by the City of Shaker Heights as part of the Parklands.

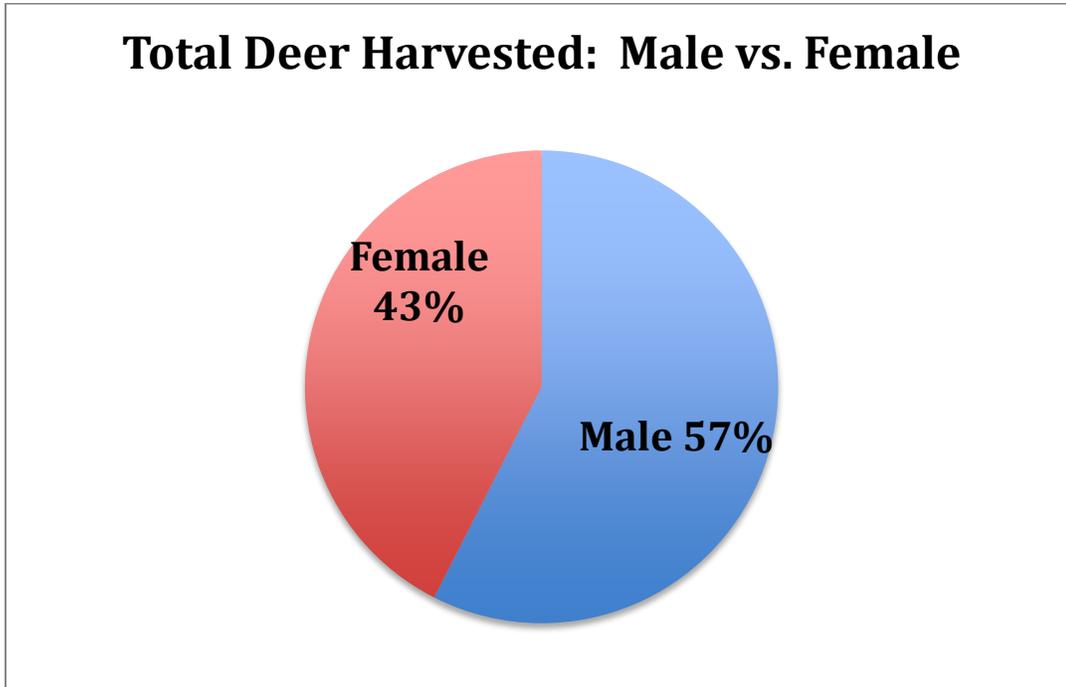
**Graph 1.** *Number of Harvested Deer by Location*



## Demographics of Harvested Deer

- 23 (57%) of the deer harvested were males (buck)
- 17 (43%) were females (doe)

**Chart 1:** *Male vs. Female*



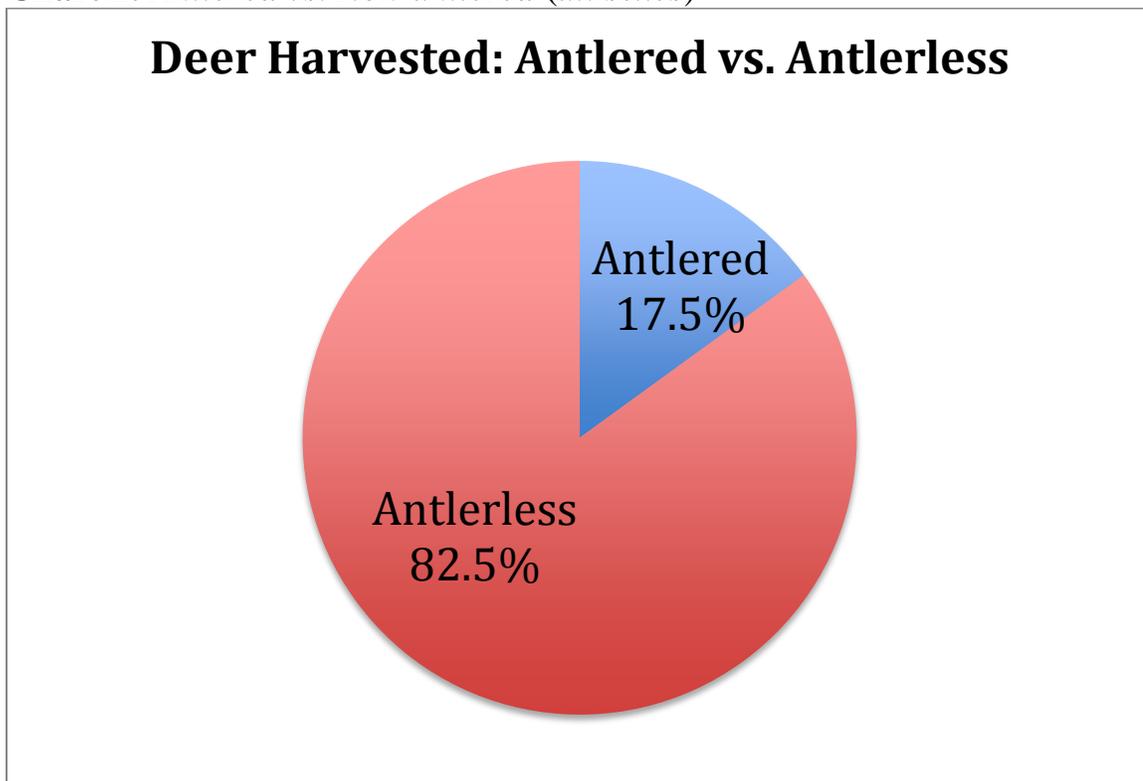
Of the 40 deer harvested, 7 were antlered bucks (17.5%), 33 were antlerless deer (82.5%).

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources defines antlered and antlerless deer as follows:

*“Antlerless deer include deer without antlers, and deer with antlers less than 3 inches in length.”*

*“Antlered deer are deer with at least one antler 3 inches or longer in length”*

**Chart 2:** *Antlered vs. Non-antlered (all sexes)*



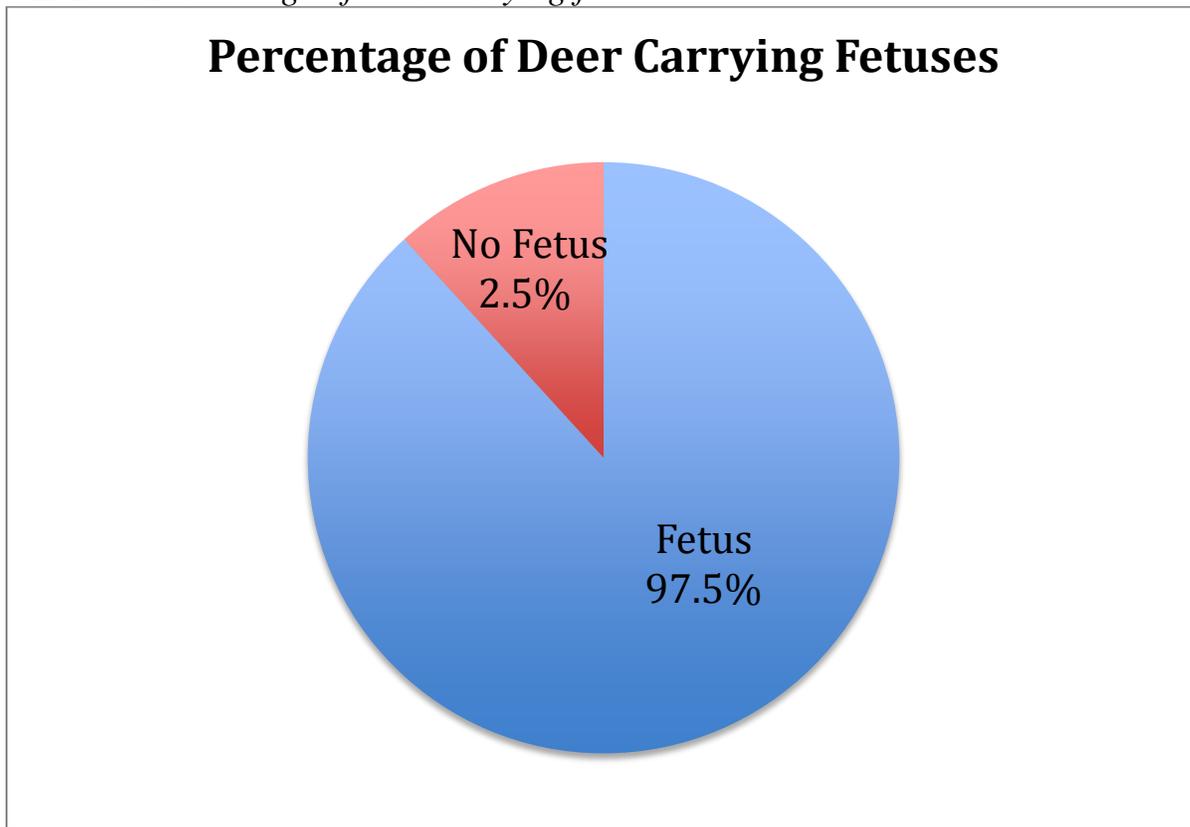
Of the 17 female deer harvested, 16 (97.5%) were carrying fetuses.

Of the 17 female deer harvested, 1 (2.5%) was not carrying fetuses.

Out of the total of 17 female deer harvested, there were 31 fetuses.

Out of the total of 17 female deer harvested the average number of fetuses was 2.3 per female.

**Chart 3.** *Percentage of deer carrying fetuses*



Out of the 40 deer harvested:

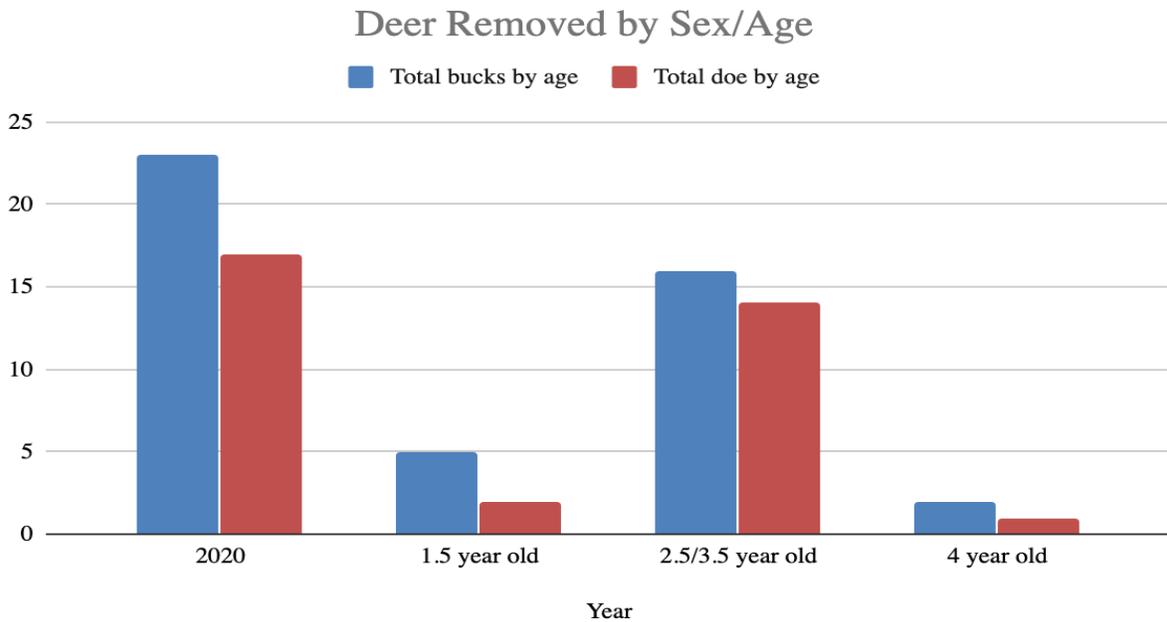
**23 male (Bucks) deer harvested**

- 21.7% bucks were 1.5 years of age
- 69.6% bucks were 2.5 to 3.5 years of age
- 8.7% bucks were 4 years of age or older

**17 female (Does) deer harvested**

- 11.8% of does were 1.5 years of age
- 82.4% of does were 2.5 to 3.5 years of age
- 5.9% of does were 4 years of age or older

**Graph 2. Age of Harvested Deer**



## **2019 - 2020 Season – Critical Analysis**

### **Deer Management**

Precision Wildlife appreciates the opportunity to work with the City of Shaker Heights. Deer Management is an important issue and it is clear that the Shaker residents are concerned about the social carrying capacity of deer being exceeded in Shaker Heights based on the deer survey, calls to the Mayor's office, and stories told to the Precision Team on the trail. Left unmanaged, deer populations will continue to increase, and conflict with human beings will be inevitable. Deer management can be an emotional issue with strong opinions on both sides. The Shaker Wildlife Task Force understands the need for a long-term deer management program and they have selected sharpshooting as the most effective and humane technique for managing deer in Shaker Heights.

The Precision Wildlife team understands the importance of professionalism, need for a specific skill set, and need to be discrete while operating in an unforgiving environment.

The Precision team had a late start to the 2019/2020 season. In order to manage the risks associated with deer management in a suburban environment and meet the goals of the program, strategic planning and implementation are critical. Contacting interested residents, conducting safety assessments, contacting neighbors, explaining the program, readying the bait site, setting up cameras, and baiting, are labor intensive and require lead-time to be conducted professionally.

The deer management program would benefit from increased lead-time in obtaining a signed contract prior to November.

### **Baiting/Sites**

Finding locations to bait that are safe, discrete, have ease of access, and have multiple deer visiting is critical to the success of the culling program. Once a site has been selected, it is important not to overuse that site, as the deer are then reluctant to visit. An ideal site location for Shaker Heights is one that Precision can bait, harvest and extract deer discretely out of the eye of the public. Over the last four years it has been difficult to locate these types of sites. There have been multiple instances of resident interference and prime bait/harvest locations could not be accessed.

The majority of City property is within a park or along a trail, with a significant amount of pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Even in areas that are wooded and not in the park, people regularly walk their dogs, bike, and cross country ski. Having bait sites on City property exponentially increases the opportunity for a resident to see the Precision Team deployed with a scoped rifle or a deer being harvested. The Precision Team has worked diligently at being discrete. Multiple times the Precision Team chose not to engage a deer because a resident potentially would see the team be deployed with a scoped rifle or potentially witness a deer harvest.

The private property pilot program was a success. All participants are willing to participate next year. The ability to access private property will potentially increase our impact in other management units and provide the ability to be more discrete in most cases. The most effective private bait sites are safe, discrete, easy access to remove the carcass, and have multiple deer visiting regularly. The Shaker deer have adapted to the deer management program and have changed their patterns and behaviors. Precision's recommendation would be to allow Precision to contact residents that have prime potential sites and ask if they are interested in participating in the program. It is important to have multiple productive bait sites that can be rotated and not over hunted.

## **Conclusion**

Deer management is a complex issue requiring a multi-faceted approach. Residents have very different opinions about the presence of deer. Some view increased interaction between deer and humans as favorable; others view it as problematic. The sharp shooting option the Wildlife Task Force has recommended has proven to be safe, humane, and efficient. We will continue to explore additional options and come up with responsible recommendations that suit the unique needs of our community.

Due to the limitations of bait locations, more educated and wary deer, as well as the amount of vehicle/pedestrian traffic in the area of City property, the Precision Team had to increase the amount of time spent attempting to intercept deer discreetly. The deer management program has been a success in the areas where we have been able harvest deer. As a result, Precision increased its time spent in the city. With the increase in time spent, the chances of residents potentially seeing the Precision Team with a scoped rifle or harvesting or extracting a deer increased significantly. Additionally, with the season being elongated, there is an increased chance of warmer weather, which needs to be taken into account with the processing of venison.

The Precision Team saw good numbers of deer throughout the season. Reports from officers and employees as well as photos from the trail cameras indicate that there are significant amounts of deer in the area. Reports indicate that the large majority of the deer have been seen in backyards and along the roadway. Shaker Heights needs to continue to explore the option of allowing Precision to speak to residents about harvesting deer on their property.

Precision has observed a significant amount of deer in Cleveland Heights, Beachwood, Highland Hills, and University Heights. A regional or task force approach to deer management should continue to be pursued. In Shaker, prior to the program, the deer population was growing in excess of 35% each year. It is only a matter of time that the surrounding cities will have a deer problem affecting their residents.

Season four has come to a conclusion and we have certainly impacted the deer numbers where we have been able to harvest. As the program continues and the deer become more educated it will become more labor intensive to harvest numbers of deer. The deer will be harder to engage

and the more restrictions placed on locations and tactics will become problematic. More time will need to be spent actually hunting deer. It will become increasingly important to increase the number of productive bait locations as not to overharvest the same areas and increase the odds of multiple harvesting opportunities.

It is difficult to accurately predict the exact number of deer in Shaker Heights. Whereas the Precision Team are not wildlife biologists, however, the deer that they observed appeared healthy. The deer observed were not starving. Shaker Heights provides ideal habitats for deer by providing ample food, water and cover. Instead of looking at the number of deer per square mile, modern deer management looks at trends and the *effects* of deer overabundance, such as deer health, ecosystem health and deer-human conflicts.

When it comes to urban deer, wildlife biologists often advise that instead of asking how many deer an urban environment could biologically support, the more salient task is assessing how many deer a community finds acceptable - the social carrying capacity.

### **Recommendations for 2021**

- **Continue with Precision Wildlife Management LTD**
- **Pursue locating private property culling opportunities and make it easy for the residents to be involved in the program**
- **Continue to locate and intercept deer throughout the City**
- **Coordinate with the Nature Center on the plant survey**

### **Thank you**

Precision Wildlife Management LTD would like to thank the City of Shaker Heights for providing us with the opportunity to serve you. We appreciate the confidence and trust you have shown us and we will continue to do our best to honor it. A special thank you to Chief DeMuth for coordinating with Precision and being the single point of contact for the City. Thank you again for a successful season and the opportunity to serve the fine residents of Shaker Heights.

The Precision Wildlife Team

## 2020 Deer Questionnaire Results

1. How would you describe the deer population in the City of Shaker Heights?		
Overabundant	88	37.77%
Abundant	62	26.61%
Few	23	9.87%
Very Few	12	5.15%
Just Right	39	16.74%
Uncertain	9	3.86%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>233</b>	

2. What neighborhood to you live in?		
Boulevard	34	14.59%
Fernway	31	13.30%
Lomond	28	12.02%
Ludlow	5	2.15%
Malvern	28	12.02%
Mercer	51	21.89%
Moreland	7	7.78%
Onaway	24	45.28%
Sussex	25	10.73%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>233</b>	

3. How would you describe the deer population in your neighborhood?		
Overabundant	90	38.63%
Abundant	53	22.75%
Few	33	14.16%
Very few	18	7.73%
Just right	33	14.16%
Uncertain	6	2.58%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>233</b>	

4. Have you noticed a change in the number of deer in your neighborhood compared to last year?		
Yes	113	48.50%
No	120	51.50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>233</b>	

4A. If yes, what kind of change?		
Less	53	46.90%
More	60	53.10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	

5. Do you have concerns about deer in the City of Shaker Heights		
Yes	154	66.09%
No	79	33.91%
<b>Total</b>	<b>233</b>	

5. If you have concerns about deer in the City of Shaker Heights, please indicate those concerns (check all that apply).	
Damage to landscape and garden plants	140
Transmission of diseases	105
Damage to park ecosystems by over-browsing of native forag	85
Decline in deer health due to overpopulation	57
Aggressive behavior toward humans	53
Aggressive behavior toward pets	31
Hit a deer with my vehicle	9
Almost hit a deer with my vehicle	57
Other	18

5. If other, please explain.
See Comments

6. In the future, what would you like to see happen with the number of deer in Shaker Heights?		
Slight increase	23	9.87%
Moderate increase	15	6.44%
Substantial increase	6	2.58%
Slight decrease	22	9.44%
Moderate decrease	46	19.74%
Substantial decrease	93	39.91%
Stay the same (not asked)		0.00%
Uncertain	28	12.02%
Total	233	

7. The City culls deer on both public and private property, would you want your property to be considered for deer culling for the 2021 season?		
Yes, contact me using information shared at the end of this survey	59	25.32%
No	174	74.68%
Total	233	

8. In what years have you taken this questionnaire (check all that apply)?	
This is my first year	112
2016	28
2017	37
2018	54
2019	86

9. Please add any additional comments about deer.
See Comments

**2020 Deer Questionnaire - Question 5**

**5. If other, please specify:**

1	Coyotes follow the deer. If we eliminate the deer, maybe the coyotes will leave.
2	Damage to ...plants in yards due to over abundance , and not enough to forage for in woodland areas.
3	Deer attracting coyotes
4	Defecation and urination on lawn
5	Do they attract coyotes (as prey)?
6	Eating my front planting in groups everyday. I have a fenced in back yard garden but they walk up my drive , eat the edges,go next door
7	Having birth in neighborhood back yards
8	I am concerned how much money the city is wasting on shooting deer.
9	I have young grandchildren, I want them to feel free to play in the back yard without fear of deer. I have seen the deer sitting in our neighbor's sandbox where my grandchildren are allowed to play. We have also seen deer dung in the sandbox.
10	I live on Chagrin Blvd. It is very dangerous for the animal & drivers to have them crossing this heavily trafficked area..
11	I'm concerned about the deer.
12	My dog goes nuts when they're in the yard and I'm afraid he'll break a window if this happens when I'm not home and possibly injure himself
13	Seeing as many as 7 deer together running down my street
14	They are not afraid of people. concern about children in the yard playing.
15	Traffic issues
16	wandering around in yard and in front of side door have to shoo them away
17	We have a very small back yard and there were two living in the back corner for the winter even as we would chase them away.

**2020 Deer Questionnaire - Question 9**

**10. Please add any additional comments about deer:**

1	It's too bad you have to kill them.
2	Clarification for Q#8: I know I've done this questionnaire before, but I can't remember in what year(s). Clarification for Q#7: Culling on my property is not practical. The deer use it as a pass-through and feeding ground and then leave.
3	Damage to our garden beds is extensive thanks to deer eating our plants and sleeping on top of plants. They devour or crush plants, bushes, flowers. Very expensive to maintain landscaping which has become a money pit.
4	Deer are not the only animals that have become a nuisance in Shaker Heights.
5	Deer carry disease, are overpopulated and create a hazard on the roads.
6	Deer never really hang out for long on my property, so there would be no reason to try and cull them here.
7	Doe with fawn in my backyard. Deer are tops of my lavender bulbs for the first time this year. Deer do not respond to my efforts to shoo them away.
8	Don't kill them!!
9	Don't believe culling can safely take place in Fernway due to small lot sizes and many children in the area.
10	Eight years ago we would have 8 deer camped out on our front lawn. Now we see one or two a day, just walking through, no problem. It is a pleasure to see them in small numbers. I think you have done a great job. Perhaps I could start planting flowers instead of just ferns.
11	Find something more creative to do with the abundance of deer. Please don't kill them. I am more upset with people who let their dogs off a leash in the park.
12	Herd is smaller. Usually have 3-4 does accompanied by one or two bucks. Lately (since January) have two regular does.
13	Humans are the problem; not deer.
14	I am in full support of calling as many as possible.
15	I am very heartbroken at the absence of deer in my neighborhood. I am devastated at the culling and am ashamed for my city. We took their land, moved them out and now we kill them. Shame on us. I appreciate wildlife and feel it is only right that we live together.
16	I certainly see effects of the deer in my yard( eaten plants, scat), but since I am working I don't see them that often. Earlier in late winter I would see sometimes 5+ walk through eating things. Earlier this year one remained around my house for several days --looking ill--then I found it dead, lying along the side of my neighbor' house.
17	I do not know the method used in culling. Our houses are close & there is no wooded area close by. I feel badly for the deer & their lack of food in the city, but they are a nuisance & danger in densely populated areas.
18	I don't doubt that some residents have concerns, but my concern is more to do with the approach you're taking - essentially giving a no-bid contract to a former city employee and then letting them enter private yards. It seems shady and unsafe.
19	I don't remember which years I completed the survey.
20	I don't support the city killing them.
21	I enjoy having deer visit me on my property. They do no more plant damage, probably even less, than the chipmunk metropolis under my patio, and they're more respectful and better behaved.
22	I enjoy the deer and like to see them in the neighborhood. Please let the deer live and thrive!!!
23	I grew up in Pepper Pike. We just moved to Shaker and I see way more deer here. This was surprising. I see them easily weekly and they are very comfortable around humans. Much more so than in Pepper Pike. They walk right down our street, they drop fawns right in front of our house for hours. Never saw that in Pepper Pike. My concern is around safety as far as cars, the fact that they eat my plants and may spread disease.
24	I have 5 in my yard area
25	I have 5-7 deer sitting in my yard on any given day in all seasons. The deer walk up and down the street at all hours. They have destroyed all our trees, bushes, flowers, and other mature plantings. I don't believe the city will do anything about this at all. The deer are increasing unabated in the backyards and median strip and if any sort of culling has been done in the last few years, it has been of no help at all in our neighborhood. Someday, someone will be seriously hurt in a car v deer encounter and everyone will offer thoughts and prayers...
26	I have been to many city council meetings regarding this matter. I believe this survey and any discussion is just for show. City council has hired a former Shaker cop and, I believe, promised him that our tax payer dollars would support him in this venture. The deer are no more a problem than the countless other wildlife eating some old biddies tulips. I am extremely disappointed that while you go through the motions, you really have no intention of reconsidering this unnecessary practice.
27	I have complained to the city on many occasions. Not only have I received substantial damage to my property they have been a real threat when grazing in my yard and I can't get out of my car because they won't move! I'm sure it doesn't help that my neighbor feeds them! Please help. It's exhausting to be applying deterrents of all kinds winter and summer and they really do not help.
28	I have lived in my home since November 2012. I do not recall if I answered this questionnaire before - I do not believe I've ever seen it but the deer regularly sleep in my yard. This year they have almost come up to me in daylight in my backyard. I am older and live alone - I am slightly scared at times and would appreciate a more aggressive culling.
29	I like having 5 deer around. They are beautiful reminders of nature and eat my day lilies so I don't have to be bothered dead heading them
30	I like the deer. They are beautiful. They eat some vegetation, but we're learning how to curb it. The deer are one of my favorite parts of living in my neighborhood, where we moved almost 4 years ago.
31	I live in the residential area surrounding Thornton Park. If the deer population could be controlled that wanders this neighborhood between Canterbury Country Club, Thornton Park and Highland Cemetery....that would be fantastic!!!
32	I live on Lomond by Chagrin. Deer come to my condo and eat my tulips! I use spray to keep them away, but deer don't belong in my neighborhood.

**2020 Deer Questionnaire - Question 9**

**10. Please add any additional comments about deer:**

33	I love deer!!! Do not take them away! "Abundant" and "just right" are mutually exclusive options to describe the deer population on this form, but an abundant population is just right for me.
34	I love the abundance of animals and nature in Shaker Heights. It's one of the things that makes this a beautiful place to live. However, I think the deer population is out of proportion, partly due to lack of predators and partly due to humans developing & building in their habitat. However, I think it would be better for all if there were fewer deer in residential areas.
35	I love the deer and welcome them on my property.
36	i only recall seeing a couple of deer in my area this year.
37	I rarely see deer anymore. I'm not a fan of shooting deer, but apparently I'm in the minority. We used to live in Solon. They love to shoot deer there too.
38	I really enjoy seeing deer and don't think there is a need to cull them at all.
39	I saw many more deer living in Cleveland Heights, and do enjoy seeing them. This is my first year in Shaker
40	I see them infrequently near my gardens and around my house because they must come at dawn and dusk or at night when people are not present.
41	I spoke with someone from the service department and was informed that culling could not be done in this neighborhood due to the closeness of the homes. But the deer are just as bad as in this area as the are on the other side of Lee Road. The home next door to me has a vacant lot where the doe's have their babies and each year they return to the area.
42	I strongly oppose the deer culling program. Over populating and over building have destroyed the natural habitat of our deer. We need to learn to coexist!!!!
43	I think deer are bedding down in my flower beds. They have also scraped the bark off several trees in my garden.
44	I think it is an exorbitant waste of tax dollars to cull the deer in Shaker Heights and I would prefer to see the funds diverted to either managing the excessive speeding and reckless driving on local streets including mine, (Fairmount Blvd.) which are far bigger nuisances and dangers to all of our residents. Or I would prefer the city to stop converting green space into additional unnecessary housing lots, then maybe the deer and local wildlife could have a refuge. Why isn't Shaker Heights using non-lethal management methods? I am appalled that the city has decided to resort to such barbaric abhorrent means, the deer cull is the one thing I hate most about the city of Shaker Heights even more than the tax rate!
45	I think over the last few years there has been a slight decrease in the number of deer but not so much in just the last year. There are still too many though. I do think culling is a good idea especially since the meat is donated to food banks.
46	I was attacked a few years ago on my property. I am now petrified to pull weeds or sit on my patio
47	I was nearly in a cycling accident with deer on Shaker Boulevard, and have serious concerns about my safety while biking along that road.
48	I'm all for the culling program, but I think we've taken the deer population too low now.
49	I'm not very concerned about deer one way or the other. That said, I wouldn't mind my tulips coming up without those devils eating them..
50	I'm very torn about this survey every year. I love that our neighborhoods are park-like in nature to the extent the deer are comfortable here. The thought of culling makes me sad. On the other hand, I see them limping probably having been struck...they are destructive to the plants we invest in and care for. Our vegetarian animal-loving daughter would be traumatized knowing that deer were being killed with intention,
51	In >28 years of residence, presence of deer has gone from rare event to very routine with multiple sightings per week (or weekly evidence of deer, e.g., hoof prints, scat or eaten foliage). Also very concerned about the increased presence of what appears to be coyote: I do not recall any sightings in 2018; just one backyard sighting in 2019; already two sightings in to date in 2020 (May 29).
52	In years past I have had groups of deer pass through and bed down in my backyard. This year I have seen tracks of deer passing through my yard though in small numbers but none bedding down in the yard.
53	It is so special seeing them. We need more.
54	It is unfair to the population to chase them out of their natural habitat with development, kill their natural predators, then allow them to populate until they get sick/hungry.
55	just a matter of time until someone is killed in an MVA hitting a deer. It is really unsafe and out of control. please don't wait for this to happen to take action.
56	Large and small walk down North Park and onto yards all year. In increasing numbers. Sometimes group of 3 or 4
57	Leave the deer alone
58	Make some chili out of them. Seriously.
59	My yard is Way too small to have deer culling on it, 50' x 150' lot, even though we had two deer living behind a bush last winter. It is mostly house, garage, and driveway with a sliver of lawn in the back. Too small to have deer living there as well. There were a group of 9 deer numerous times on the front lawn of our house during the winter.
60	No. 7. My home is not sufficiently close enough to woodland area NOR large enough to be considered for culling. However, if I had a large property, that lent itself to culling, I'd likely be okay with a safe culling. Frankly, I think a better way to keep the herds down a bit would be by contraception of some sort. No. 8. I don't keep track of what years I may have responded to a questionnaire. I'd could only guess that it was perhaps once! Also, when we moved here in 1987, there was no apparent deer issue. An occasional stray one here was very unusual until ...about 2015 or so. Ok. Let's talk about coyotes!

**2020 Deer Questionnaire - Question 9**

**10. Please add any additional comments about deer:**

61	none
62	Our property is not home to deer and they have generally stopped walking through because we are using non-toxic deer repellent.
63	Please find other means of controlling the deer other than culling.
64	Please stop wasting our money (taxes) and resources (money) on killing the deer. There are so many other ways that the money could be used to benefit the city. Mayor and Council....stop wasting the money we entrust to you.
65	<p>Southeast Shaker sees a lot of deer coming in from the cemetery off Northfield Road. We have the additional challenge of being a tightly-packed neighborhood, where it would be impossible for a sharpshooter to cull deer. Has the city continued to try and work with the village Highland Hills and the City of Warrensville Heights to address this? I understand that deer forage in a certain circular pattern in different areas of the city.</p> <p>We've seen deer in the late afternoon walking across the Shaker Family Center, down Scottsdale, and near Lomond School. We didn't start to see noticeable deer behavior until Lifetime Fitness and Harvard Road were starting to develop. Since then, the deer problem has skyrocketed. Please find a way to support SE Shaker.</p>
66	Stop culling deer.
67	STOP KILLING THE DEER
68	The city can easily utilize the capabilities of some citizens to cull the herd with archery weapons on properties with adequate size. This can save the city the thousands it spends each year on the program. Such a program can be easily regulated and restricted to those that can prove capabilities and access to public and private properties offering distance from homes and people. Offering the contract year over year to the same good ol' boy network of retired policemen barely justifies the outcome of the program. We need a culling of the herd, but we're paying for a skill set that can be found within the community for free.
69	The deer are getting more and more aggressive. They won't move even when I knock on the windows or doors to scare them away. I had to invest in nearly \$200 in a Deer No-No product just to protect my plants, which the deer see as dessert.
70	the deer come in a group of three these days. ate up whatever I plant in the garden or just sit on top of the plants and left their dropping on the grass. Very discouraging.
71	The deer continue to destroy plants on my property. As I have said before, all it takes is one deer during one visit to cause significant damage to property. Reducing the number of deer is not sufficient. Deer should not be allowed in urban areas. The deer population in Shaker must be eliminated, not just reduced! This is even more important as the deer are carriers of ticks, which can cause Lyme disease. Shaker must continue its deer elimination program every year. What really is needed is a joint program with Beachwood and other suburbs to have a regional approach to the problem. Please keep working on this continuing problem.
72	The deer population appears to have increased and become wider spread in Shaker Heights in the past year. Deer are unafraid to meander across the RTA tracks and roads and to approach humans. I would appreciate any measures the city can take to reduce the deer population and its threat to suburban residents' safety and health. My property is not large enough to be eligible for culling, but if in the city's efforts to "cull" deer throughout the city deer are found on my property, they are welcome to take whatever actions are necessary.
73	The Lomond neighborhood and many others are too populated to cull deer. Have all other options besides direct culling been investigated?
74	The Shaker program has merits. However until a coordinated program can be developed with neighboring communities our program won't please the community. Deer don't realize when they are crossing from Shaker to Beachwood.
75	There have been a couple of occasions when deer have gotten very close to me in my yard and around the Shaker Median Trail. They don't seem to be scared of humans. I did see someone try to feed a deer about a year ago near the trail.
76	There is no place for deer to actually live in residential areas. Not good for them. Not good for us.
77	There seem definitely to be fewer in our neighborhood (across from Horseshoe Lake Park) than in prior years, and I personally like the quantity I am seeing -- enough to be lovely but not too many. There is no question that deer in Shaker means Lyme disease in Shaker, but that was inevitable. We must keep an eye out for wasting disease in our deer population, but things seem to be in a good place right now.
78	They are a menace.
79	They are beautiful and impressive animals.
80	They cause early morning dog barking in the Fernway neighborhood. They defecate on my front lawn which I must pick up regularly. They bring coyotes into the neighborhood which threaten small pets.
81	They have become increasingly unafraid of humans or vehicles.
82	They run from my ward and neighbors across shaker blvd stopping traffic but since the construction on other roads is sending us unfamiliar drivers it is even more dangerous
83	This is a terrible measure of opinion. You should really get someone to help you create a valid tool to gauge resident opinions.
84	This is ridiculous. Culling 40 deer a year does nothing. I pay some of the highest taxes in Ohio, I don't have kids in school system, I live in a landmark house I impeccably maintain, inside and out, the deer do thousands of dollars of damage to me, and the city does virtually nothing. Look at the deer population of Ohio in 1975 and the population today. They have UNNATURALLY become a hazard to our health and well being, and frankly, if the city continues to Cowtow to a vocal minority I question whether continuing my family's three generations of living in this city makes sense. There are other communities who value their residen
85	We have had to abandon all our favorite landscape plants and flowers due to this deer presence. They eventually learn to jump any fence permitted by code. We are very unhappy with the new normal created by having deer in the city.

2020 Deer Questionnaire - Question 9

10. Please add any additional comments about deer:

86

We just moved here from Idaho. We lived 6 miles out in the country in the mountains, in the woods. There are more deer here than we had in the Idaho woods! They are destructive and eat everything. I can't have a veggie garden and am extremely restricted on flowers. They carry Lyme disease here (which they didn't in Idaho). I worry about contracting it. I also worry that they will transmit diseases to our dog. In my view deer are not urban animals and the environment here with no natural predators, is not appropriate for large numbers of deer.

87

We so enjoy watch the deer and other nature in our yard

88

Why would we kill deer? They don't hurt anyone. Just because they eat your flowers? I don't get it!!

89

You know the deer are getting desperate when we now find them eating hostas in small Fernway gardens. When they are in a small Fernway yard, it's too close for comfort when I'm walking my dog on the sidewalk.

You are welcome to come to my yard anytime, but I don't know when they are likely to appear.  
Thanks!

## 2019 Deer Questionnaire Results

1. How would you describe the deer population in the City of Shaker Heights?		
Overabundant	93	40.09%
Abundant	71	30.60%
Few	11	4.74%
Very Few	4	1.72%
Just Right	45	19.40%
Uncertain	8	3.45%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>232</b>	

2. What neighborhood do you live in?		
Boulevard	26	11.21%
Fernway	21	9.05%
Lomond	27	11.64%
Ludlow	5	2.16%
Malvern	19	8.19%
Mercer	76	32.76%
Moreland	2	2.20%
Onaway	32	52.46%
Sussex	24	10.34%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>232</b>	

3. How would you describe the deer population in your neighborhood?		
Overabundant	91	39.22%
Abundant	61	26.29%
Few	30	12.93%
Very few	16	6.90%
Just right	27	11.64%
Uncertain	7	3.02%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>232</b>	

4. Have you noticed a change in the number of deer in your neighborhood compared to last year?		
Yes	119	51.29%
No	113	48.71%
<b>Total</b>	<b>232</b>	

4A. If yes, what kind of change?		
Less	61	52.59%
More	55	47.41%
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	

5. Do you have concerns about deer in the City of Shaker Heights		
Yes	157	67.67%
No	75	32.33%
Total	232	

5. If you have concerns about deer in the City of Shaker Heights, please indicate those concerns (check all that apply).		
Damage to landscape and garden plants	140	
Transmission of diseases	98	
Damage to park ecosystems by over-browsing of native forag	86	
Decline in deer health due to overpopulation	59	
Aggressive behavior toward humans	57	
Aggressive behavior toward pets	43	
Hit a deer with my vehicle	10	
Almost hit a deer with my vehicle	54	
Other	17	

5. If other, please explain.		
See Comments		

6. In the future, what would you like to see happen with the number of deer in Shaker Heights?		
Slight increase	22	9.48%
Moderate increase	6	2.59%
Substantial increase	2	0.86%
Slight decrease	25	10.78%
Moderate decrease	61	26.29%
Substantial decrease	82	35.34%
Stay the same (not asked)	0	0.00%
Uncertain	34	14.66%
Total	232	

7. Do you support deer culling on private property?		
Yes	151	65.09%
No	81	34.91%
Total	232	

8. If the City culls deer on private property, would you want your property included?		
Yes, contact me using information shared at the end of this survey	94	40.52%
No	138	59.48%
Total	232	

9. In what years have you taken this questionnaire (check all that apply)?	
This is my first year	120
2016	111
2017	8
2018	54
2016 & 2017	19
2016 & 2018	1
2017 & 2018	26
2016, 2017, 2018	19

10. Please add any additional comments about deer.
See Comments

**2019 Deer Questionnaire - Question 5B**

**5. If other, please specify:**

1	Decline in hunting in rural areas among younger generation. This contributes toward pushing the population into city areas.
2	deer consume fruits and vegetables growing on out property
3	Deer ticks in the grass - Lime disease/pets
4	Fear of hitting a deer
5	Freaking ticks & Lyme disease! !!!!
6	Frequently in both front and backyard. Deer waste is also problemati
7	Greater potential for traffic accidents
8	I have encountered a buck at my back door and I am afraid to walk out to my car.
9	I haven't hit or come close to hitting a deer with my car but this is always a concern.
10	I'm concerned about the killing of deer! Why is that NOT an option for this question?
11	I'm concerned FOR the deer. We've taken over their space and should learn to live with them peacefully.
12	possibility of cars hitting deer
13	Start a ranch for deer and use the meat for hungry people
14	they just ate all my lilies and roses in bloom, and a neighbor's too - they are out and about day and night - fearless
15	Traffic accidents caused by deer
16	Traffic dangers, to deer and to people
17	Unpredictability of deer when cycling.

**2019 Deer Questionnaire - Question 10**

**10. Please add any additional comments about deer:**

1	I have a secluded backyard and the deer love to sleep there overnight. I would love to see a fence installed on my property to protect it, but unfortunately itâ€™s too expensive. I have a balcony that overlooks my backyard that would be perfect for either bow and arrow or shotgun attempt to cull the deer. My backyard is full of feces and I cannot let my grandchildren play back theRe. Culling 40 deer is not substantial and does not address the deer population.Itâ€™s the governmentâ€™s obligation to protect its citizens. We are the higher species, not the deer.
2	I love them but I have given up on gardening because they eat everything. When we first moved in (2007) this was not the case for a few years, but gradually they just became more numerous and voracious. I've been really menaced by deer as well, chased aggressively.
3	they are such gentle animals and we do not mind the few we have. One was in our yard this week eating the birdseed.
4	#SaveTheDeer2019
5	Also make available any natural sprays for residents to use such as "Wolf Urine" scent.
6	Because we have children walking to school and playing outside I do not feel that it is safe or appropriate for culling on private property.
7	Beside shooting what other way can we remove the deer without killing? We spent over \$1,000. a deer to kill them. Can they be rounded up and taken to a farm and raised for food?
8	City resources can be better utilized in other areas. The deer are not a problem in Shaker. Shaker has very serious problems and issues including mismanagement of funds from the city and mismanagement and loss of control of the school district. The deer are NOT a problem. I wish this much time and effort could be dedicated to addressing the city's real issues.
9	Culling needs to continue. We have a very small yard and deer are there every week, all year long.
10	Deer are pretty much the least of my concerns...as in, if I made a list of concerns about living in Shaker Heights or life in general, they would be at the bottom of it. I certainly would not advocate killing them, on public or private property.
11	Deer simply don't belong in the city. It's not a good place for them to live and it is a nuisance and possible health hazard for humans. I didn't offer my yard for marksmen to use for culling because my neighbors would be upset with me.
12	Deer walk up Fernway Rd from the golf course almost daily now. They snack in my yard and garden at the corner of Grenway and Fernway regularly eating hosta, tulips, and daylilies by the dozens. To add insult to injury early-rising neighbors have spotted 3-5 deer sleeping on my front lawn at dawn. The damage in my yard has increased dramatically in the last two years. Please help.
13	Due to deer we have basically abandoned any plantings in our front yard. The back yard is completely fenced which is the only reason things survive. We used to grow a lot of flowers but have given up due to the deer. They know now that they have no natural predators but soon even more dangerous animals will be coming in from the rural areas after them (and us). A considerable reduction is needed for the safety of all.
14	Fernway properties are too small for safe culling in my opinion.
15	Have never seen deer in our yard
16	Hunting deer on private property in Shaker Heights OH is outrageous. Highly opposed.
17	I am more concerned about the coyotes than deer. I had a dog taken off of my property and can no longer allow my dogs out off of leash.
18	I am not certain of the years I have answered the survey. We rent our home, but if I owned it, I would allow culling on my property.
19	I am not seeing deer in my yard since mid-April, but had substantial damage showing they'd been here a lot over the winter, plus a lot of sightings all winter. Would be fine with culling in my yard but don't think you'll find deer here right now--that could change as we've had deer for about five years all spring and summer and a lot in winter.
20	I am very against culling of the deer (on public or private property)
21	I believe there should be a balance but unfortunately my yard is not only a breeding ground but the landscaping has been damaged over the years. We now spray for deer continually all summer and plant only plants that they are not attracted too.
22	I canâ€™t recall if I have filled this form out in the past. If I answered incorrectly I apologize. I actually have my property professionally sprayed and that still does not detract the deer. I am more than happy, and my neighbor as well (Henry Doll), would offer our property for the marksmen without hesitation! If there is anything we could do to assist the city in this regard please do not hesitate to let me know. Thank you very much!

**2019 Deer Questionnaire - Question 10**

**10. Please add any additional comments about deer:**

23	I do not believe in killing off the deer population. The city should be exploring other ways to control. We have encroached on all their habitat, now it's time to live and let live!!! If you are bothered by the destruction of plant-life, fence it in.
24	I do not support the culling of deer;
25	I dont know the answer but killing them is NOT the answer. Round them up and take them somewhere, but please dont kill them.
26	I don't own my home so as much as I might want, I can't include my residence for culling
27	I enjoy seeing deer on my morning runs!
28	I feel sad for the deer.
29	I have a small herd in my back yard. They eat my yard plant.
30	I like the deer but I understand the need to keep the habitat in balance.
31	I live in a "high rise" condo so my answers may not be as appropriate/pertinent as single home owners.
32	I love nature and enjoy wildlife. I just want things in balance. It's natural for deer to protect their young and themselves. That has created problems when walking a dog, enjoying my back yard, etc.
33	I love seeing the few deer in my neighborhood and would like to see more. They're beautiful creatures who deserve to live their lives without being hunted.
34	I love the wild life particularly the deer. hate that you are killing them. they're lovely and so tamed, we coexist
35	I love to see the deer and have no problem having them on my property. They add personality to the city.
36	I personally have no issues with the deer. They are a welcome creature in the neighborhood and it does not seem like there is overpopulation. I think people worry too much about them eating plants and such. If that is the case, create garden fencing or barriers. Leave the deer in peace.
37	I see a few in the neighborhood. Not a problem. I have a 1/4 acre lot with a fenced back yard, so deer do not jump my fence. So the only possible culling would be in the front yard. With small lots on the street, I don't think it would be safe to have marksmen shooting deer in the front yards! But I see no problem with careful culling strategies for the community.
38	I see less deer so status is fine on Braemar Fernway. I used to see so many more.
39	I see more deer in Shaker Heights and the surrounding area than I see at my actual deer camp in the Allegheny National Forest in PA. Our big concern is the constant destruction of vegetation on our property and the noticable increase in visable ticks in our neighborhood over the last 5yrs.
40	I see occasional dear in my neighbourhood but they do not bother me. I rather like seeing them.
41	I strongly oppose culling on private property.
42	I think my property is fairly useless for deer culling (middle of block, fences in back yard) but offering consent in the spirit of community solidarity. The deer usually hit my neighbors down the street near Belvoir.
43	I think there may be a few more this year than last, that I have seen. I suspect there are too many, but don't really know the numbers to comment
44	I think this is a big waste of money, and I don't like the appearance of awarding a former employee involved with the process with a lucrative contract. It all seems a little incestuous.
45	I work very hard to maintain an attractive garden that is an asset to the neighborhood, and I receive compliments and thanks from passers by. Although I have tried a number of deer repellents, the damage that my plants sustain is frustrating. A family of five deer can munch through a lot of roses and greenery in a short visit.
46	I would be ok with private property culling if you could ensure firearms/darts/bows precautions are considered. I don't think our block with .25/.3 acre lots can support safe culling, unless you plan to use other means.
47	I would like to let the deer be as much as possible. I love them and they never cause any trouble, even though they were abundant in my yard before the culling
48	I've had very little problem and Live right by the nature center.
49	If a marksman is on the property, I am concerned about the safety of humans and pets on my, and surrounding property. I'm not a fan of firearms because bullets are indiscriminate. Is it possible to use a bow and arrow, or some other form of culling device to control the animals in a way that will not affect humans? My adult son was visiting and took his small dog on a walk in the neighborhood. A mother doe displayed aggressive behavior toward my son (and the dog), while following them to our home. They were followed about one half of a mile, causing my son to even jog a bit to get away from the animal. This was quite unsettling for my family, particularly when my son did nothing to provoke the doe. Not only are the deer becoming more numerous, they are becoming more aggressive.

**2019 Deer Questionnaire - Question 10**

**10. Please add any additional comments about deer:**

50	I'm not against all deer; I've lived in the country and enjoy them. But they're overpopulated to the point of damaging habitat for other animals and plants. And deer have become so accustomed to being unharmed that I fear problems may get worse -- that people will assume they're tame, approach them and be harmed. Or they wander more through the streets, including some of the main thoroughfares.
51	It is a great relief to have fewer deer in our yard destroying our plants and soiling our yard.
52	It seems like many things that "government" undertakes in Shaker Hts. is overkill. I have lived in this home since 1974 & a previous home in the Ludlow area beginning in 1966. Every time the city undertakes a project, especially if a grant or "free" money is gotten wind of, you guys jump on the band wagon, stomping on citizens' rights & wishes. We had to mobilize the citizenry when a \$900,000+- grant was available to built a road through our woods around the Nature Center and around Lower Lake. We filmed a documentary, got lots of resident lawyers to help and fought off this takeover. My profession is a documentary filmmaker for television local & national. I made the film on Ludlow that ended up being used by the Ford Foundation and others to show how we integrated peacefully when we got the neighbors involved. I moved hrrr from Bay Village so my kids could grow up in an integrated school setting. Now we have a noisy group screaming about "too many deer" This is nonsense. We live across from a wooded area, and we have taken the deer's natural living area from them. You know what a real problem is? The speeders on our street! This and many other streets don't get patrolled like they used to. Those cut-through drivers govthru here easily over 50mph many times. That is so much more dangerous than a few deer!! Wake up! Do what is right for a diminishing natural world. Leave some dirt or chip-covered paths on which to walk. Stop trying to pave and control every inch of space!
53	It seems to me that the deer population was at its highest a few years ago (maybe 3 or 4). It's been better since then but seemed to rise a little again this year.
54	It's hard to answer your question about culling on private property until we know how successful deer culling has been YTD. Have you met your population reduction goals? If not, how far off are you?
55	I've had aggressive does during fawning season in my neighborhood; been chased up a street before while walking my dog due to inadvertently approaching a fawn.
56	Live on Winslow Rd. More deer have been seen or damage done by deer than ever before: more so, late spring.
57	Most concerned about their impact on traffic safety and health effects such as Lyme disease.
58	Mostly worried about ticks
59	My main concerns are accidents with vehicles and the disappearance of the understory of plants.
60	My neighborhood and the others that are highly populated should not be included in the marksman culling it is too risky. However, I do support private property culling on the larger properties with the owner's permission.
61	My property is only an eighth of an acre; if it were larger I would be fine with having deer culled on it. As it is, the deer do come into my yard, look threatening, and eat plants.
62	My property is very small and may not be appropriate for culling
63	My yard is so small that hunting it would be difficult and dangerous to the children in the neighborhood but I would support hunting in shaker country club and all parks.
64	Not a fan. Please do something. Their droppings have made my dogs sick which costs me money and is upsetting. They are constantly in our front yards on Scottsdale and they have no fear.
65	Not sure when I answered questionnaire. Very aggressive persistent anti-deer /rabbit spraying, systemic Repellex, etc The heavy and frequent rains removed the rain resistant repellent. Deer have been foraging despite thi.
66	Please get rid of them. They eat my plants. I am worried about driving near them. I have heard story about deer attacking pets when feeling threatened.
67	Shaker Country Club would probably allow access and there are always deer there.
68	Suggest you leave the deer alone and concentrate on tax reduction
69	The amount of deer is definitely down, for which I'm glad and grateful. We still see anywhere from 1 to 4 deer about every other day in or neighborhood and yard.
70	The culling program is fine but there needs to be a coordinated effort with Beachwood cleveland Heights and University Hts or it's not going to be successful. The culling does little to help the Mercer neighborhood.
71	The deer are dangerous and destructive. Please see this issue as critical to resident health and safety.
72	The deer are harmless and gentle creatures. They don't hurt anyone or any other animals. I would like to see Shaker forbid residents from letting their cats outside. Cats kill birds in huge numbers and they don't stay on their own property. They go into the yards of neighbors who do not want them.

**2019 Deer Questionnaire - Question 10**

**10. Please add any additional comments about deer:**

73	the deer are starving and they are a health and safety hazard to residents
74	The deer are used to humans and are almost friendly. I love them. Please leave them alone.
75	The deer have taken the joy out of gardening. They have eaten my flowers, shrubs and vegetables. I don't like all of their poo in my yard either.
76	The deer live here because we are a safe community. They do not pose a risk to our health or safety. There are many plants to add to your garden that deer do not eat, if garden foraging is the problem.
77	The extensive damage deer have caused to our landscaping and fear of injury to our grandchildren often playing in our yard caused us to erect an expensive 6 foot fence in our backyard last summer. We reluctantly did this only after years of continual spraying and planting supposedly deer-resistant shrubs and trees failed to significantly limit the deer in our yard. This new fence added to other fencing already in place in our back yard and has protected our back yard. But the deer still roam in our front yard. The city's deer culling program has helped because we see fewer deer. But there are still far too many, and we've recently seen deer bedding (and eating plants) in our unfenced, wooded side yard.
78	The meat should be made available to residents
79	The number of deer in my yard significantly decreased over the winter months, but they came back in the spring. Not uncommon to have 4 to 5 deer in my yard eating everything but the weeds. It is as if they know what I paid for and are just screwing with me. :)
80	the overpopulation is hazardous to everyone....cull cull cull!
81	There are a lot of deer on this east side of town, in our neighborhood. Please cull the deer on the east side of town. They are multiplying every year and are in our yard daily.
82	There are now multiple babies with their moms. They are aggressive
83	There is a migratory route that deer take in my Sussex neighborhood. They bed down in backyards and graze on Scottsdale and Townley, Stoer and along Norwood. I am sure of at least these streets because I see the same deer frequently and have also had comments from neighbors. I have had to chase them from my front and back yards on a frequent basis.
84	They are everywhere! They have not invaded our back yard specifically but are visible nearly daily on the street
85	They come in groups and it seems that they come regularly for a while and then stop for a while.
86	They eat every flower I plant and the plants are supposed to be "deer resistant" • No way! They eat everything!
87	They keep returning to my yards, back and front, eat shrubbery, plants especially in bloom, are a menace, carry ticks, do not respect boundaries so it's hopeless, please get on the ball - they are in my yards year around - from February on. I don't have a dog/cat or a gate on my driveway - and they have jumped over a 4-5' fence. I have a professionally designed backyard that is badly affected by their constant visits, day and night. Please help.... It is getting worse every year!
88	Today a deer was eating plants in my yard only 3 feet from my living room window. I no longer plant only a few vegetables (kale, herbs, etc) because it takes too much effort to protect them from deer.
89	unsure which years I completed deer culling survey.
90	We continue to have way too many deer on our property. In spite of spraying our plants with anti-deer spray, we continue to have many of our flowers and plants destroyed by the deer. I planted about 7 flowering plants in a row in our backyard about 10 years ago and never saw a single flower until this year! Every year the deer ate every bud! This summer for the first time we saw two flowers, but we should be seeing dozens of them. All the other buds were eaten by the deer. There needs to be continual culling in our area, by the border between Shaker and Beachwood. Because of the explosion of disease-causing ticks that ride on the white-tailed deer, there is an especially urgent need to cull the deer from Shaker and other communities. As I think I mentioned in a prior survey, I met a Shaker resident who became very ill with Lyme Disease, which she received from a tick bite on the lower US campus. Please continue to cull as many deer as you can. It is unfortunate that the state puts a limit on the number each year. Deer do not belong in an urban community.  Unless it is explained further, I do not support culling on private property. It seems it would not be safe for the residents in my area. Maybe it would work in an area of larger properties. Instead, I think the city should attempt to get the neighboring cities to participate in a joint effort to cull the deer. Many of the deer in our neighborhood come over from Beachwood. Thank you!
91	We currently do not have any deer on our private property
92	We frequently see large groups of deer, up to 9 or 10, coming off the golf course and walking across parkland toward our house. There are also 2 bucks that we saw together frequently. We have a hard time keeping them away from our plants.
93	We have deer in our garden all the long winter and they are ruining the landscape in every season!

**2019 Deer Questionnaire - Question 10**

**10. Please add any additional comments about deer:**

94	We live at 23450 Shaker Blvd, across from the Median Park and not far from one of the sites where deer are culled. For quite a while both before and after this year's culling, we had seen a significant decrease in the deer population. However, in the last few weeks, the deer population appears to be again increasing significantly.
95	We live right off Warrensville Center Road on Lytle. A herd of 3-4 deer stay every evening on one property on our street. We see up to 8 deer on a given evening or early morning. While I realize that Warrensville Heights and Highland Hills need to be a part of the solution, I don't see how sharpshooting only in North Shaker benefits Southeast Shaker Heights. We continue to see increases in our neighborhood.  While I am for culling, I don't think the smaller properties of our neighborhood would qualify for culling. What else can be done? These animals seem to be migrating from the development near I-271,
96	We need to learn to live in harmony with wildlife, including deer. No need to kill deer in Shaker.
97	We rarely see deer on Shaker Blvd anymore. It is much better for us at the current level.
98	We support the City of Shaker's proactive deer reduction program. A noticeable difference over last year.
99	We will be moving before long, so I can't say how the next owners would feel about culling. The deer are lovely in many ways, but they are too many for their brown good as well as ours.
100	Were there really that many issues with deer that we need to shoot them? They were here first and we took their land. It seems a bit cruel to kill them.
101	We've seen a substantial increase in deer population feces, eating foliage & flowers...on our property. Thanks
102	When we moved here 7 years ago, we had so many deer it was years before a tulip bloomed -- there were all nibbled on by deer. Then last summer for the first time, tulips made it into bloom. have no idea how that correlates with the city's culling efforts, but despite a slight increase this year, there are far fewer deer than when we moved to Shaker.
103	With the continued development of forested land, the deer need habitat. People who want lush surroundings need to accept the presence of the creatures it attracts.
104	You are welcome to come on my property to cull deer, but I live at the corner of Lomond and Chagrin and I don't think there's enough land there for your project. But the deer ate my tulips this year, so they do show up for that.