



CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

Public Safety and Health Committee
October 15, 2024
5:00 PM
City Hall – Executive Conference Room

Signs & Signals, Traffic & Transportation, Health Services, Police & Fire Protection,
Safety Education
Council members

Chair: Jim Posch | Vice Chair: Gail Larson | Member: Craig Cobb

Agenda

- 1) Call to Order/Roll Call**
- 2) Street Safety**
- 3) Deer Management**
 - a. City of Beachwood - Deer Management - 2024 Program Review
- 4) Other**
- 5) Adjourn**



Deer Management

2024 Program Review
September 3, 2024



Establishing A Balanced Deer Population

PROGRAM GOAL

To maintain a healthy and sustainable deer population that supports local ecosystems while minimizing conflicts.

EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT

Helps prevent degradation of deer health and reduces negative impacts such as damage to landscaping, gardens, and the risk of deer related motor vehicle accidents.



Deer Management 101

- **Cultural Carrying Capacity:** Refers to the maximum number of deer that can coexist compatibly with humans.
- **Public Attitudes:** As deer-related issues increase, including deer-related accidents, landscape damage, and pet safety issues, so does the public's desire to reduce the deer population.
- **Annual Survey:** Public attitudes are assessed by an annual survey.
- **Deer Populations:** The Ohio Department of Natural Resources estimates a deer population of about 740,000, according to hunting data. This is has **increased** from 2018 to 2021, when the population was around 680,000.
- **2023–2024 harvest:** Ohio hunters harvested 213,928 white-tailed deer during the last hunting season.

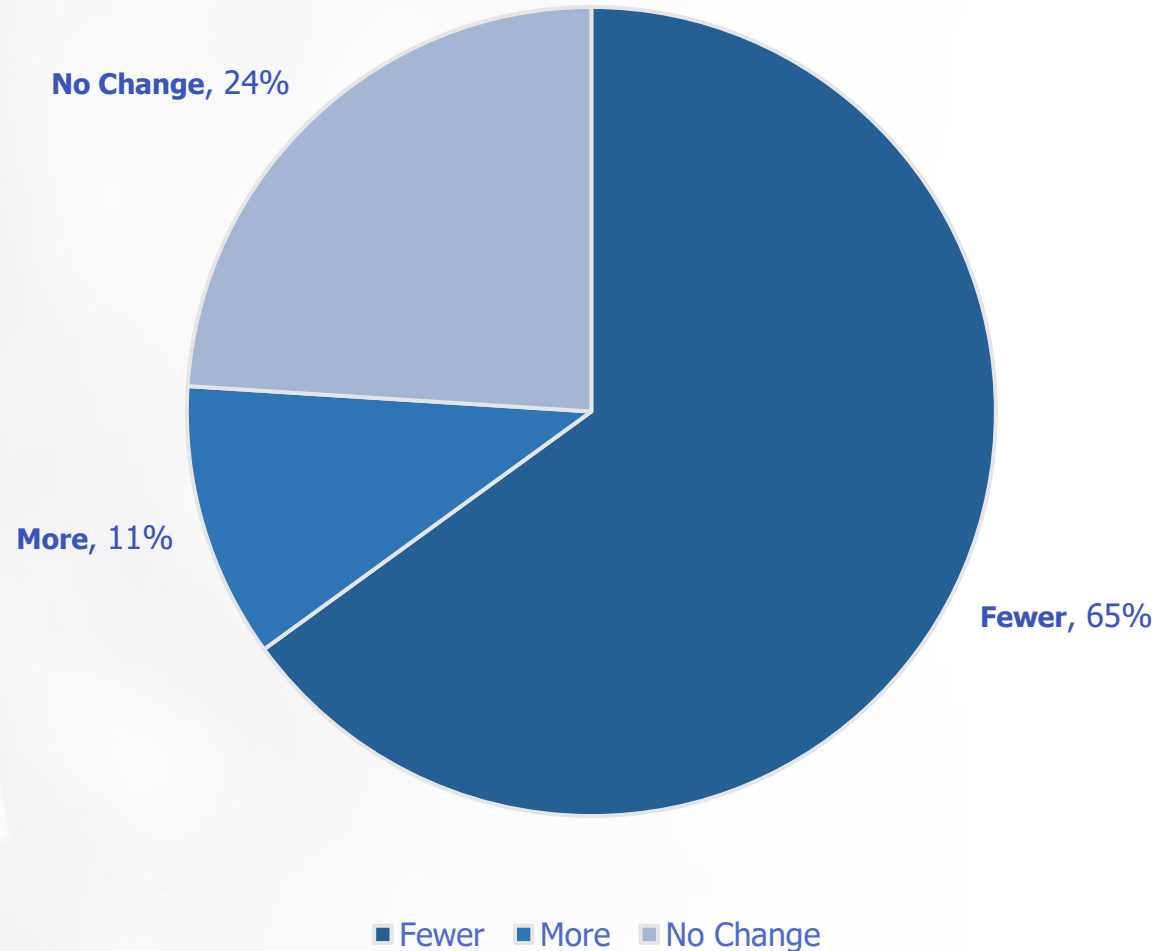
2024 Residential Survey Results

65%

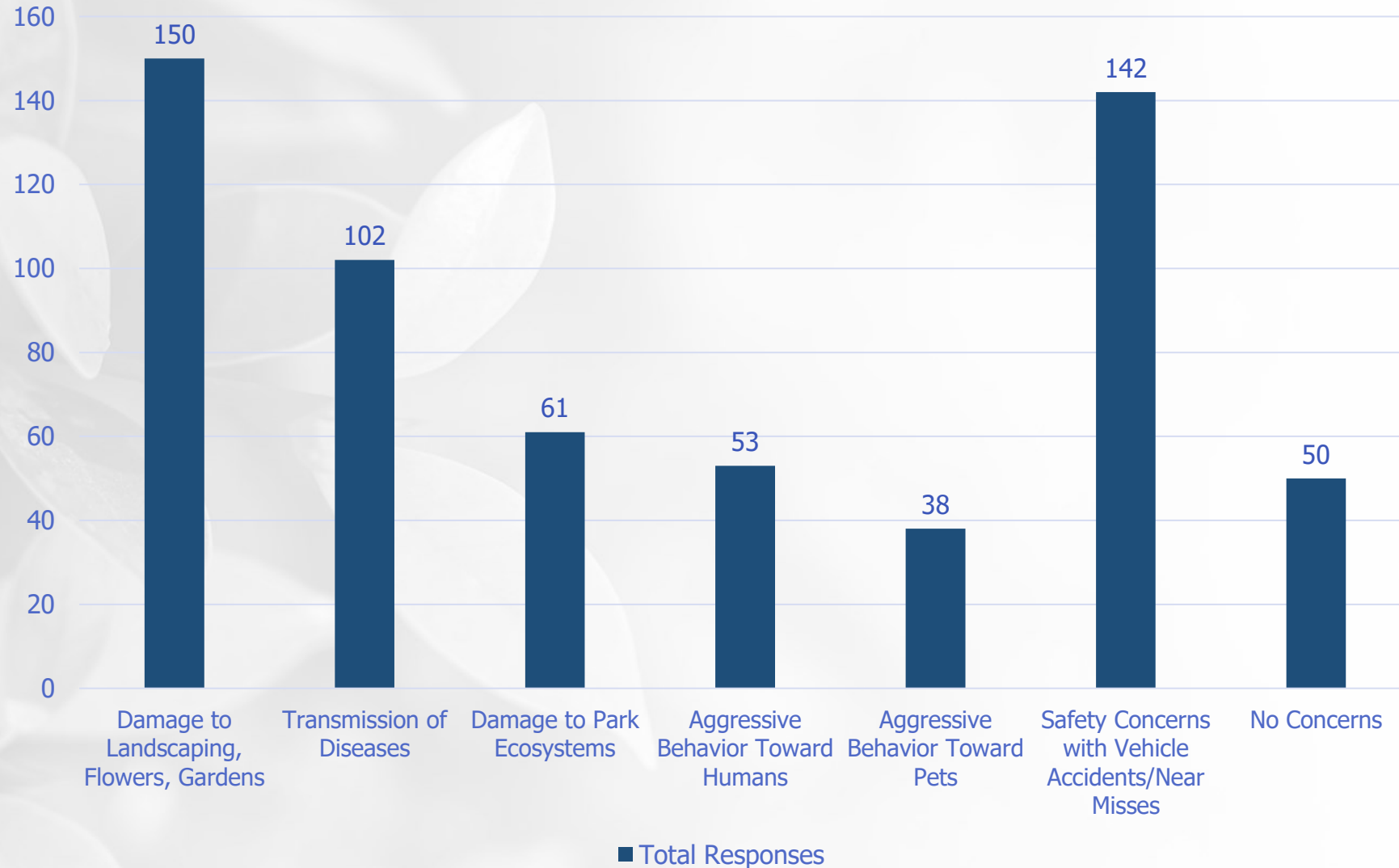
of residents want fewer deer.

Decision Making Matrix: Did more than 60% of residents express a desire to decrease the deer population?

If **yes**, management should continue.



Top Concerns from Residents





Deer-Related Incidents

January 2023-December 2023

Deer Pickups	19
Total Deer-Related Calls	56

August 2023-July 2024

Deer Pickups	20
Total Deer-Related Calls	65

Decision Making Matrix: Is the number of deer pickups in Beachwood above the desired level of 15?

If **yes**, management should continue.

Decision-Making Matrix

Under the guidance of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), our deer management plan was created and included a Decision-Making Matrix

A model based on two fundamental questions:

- 1.) **Public Safety:** Is the number of deer pickups in Beachwood above the desired level of 15?
- 2.) **Public Attitude:** Did more than 60% of residents express a desire to decrease the deer population?

PUBLIC SAFETY: Deer pickups exceed 15.

YES

NO

PUBLIC ATTITUDE: More than 60% In favor of population reduction.

YES

Deer Population Reduction

City of Beachwood:
20 Deer Pickups
65% In Favor of Population Reduction

Deer Population Reduction

Decision Making Matrix

NO

Deer Population Reduction

Deer Population Maintenance

Collaboration = Successful Deer Management

The relationship between Shaker Heights and Beachwood, which is working together to effectively manage deer populations, was recognized with a commendation at this year's Ohio Wildlife Diversity Conference.

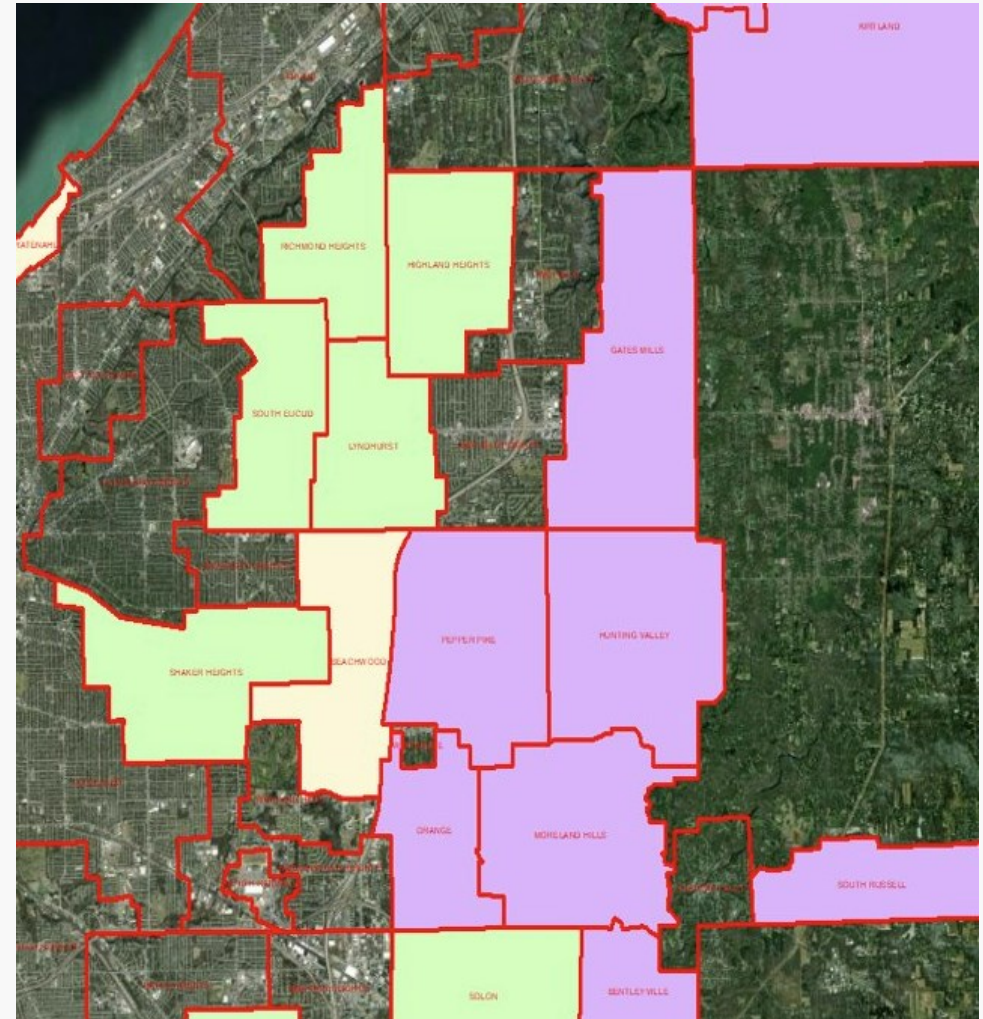


Surrounding Communities:

- South Euclid, Lyndhurst, and the Metroparks System all have deer management programs.
- Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, University Heights, Warrensville Heights, and Highland Hills do not currently have a deer management program. The numbers of deer are increasing in the area, illustrating the need for regional collaboration in deer management.

Map Color Legend:

Light Yellow = Beachwood | Purple = Hunting Permit (Bow) | Green = Sharp Shooting





2023-24 Season Recap

Last year's program made notable strides in balancing the local deer population, enhancing community safety, and supporting those in need through meal donations.

Deer Harvested	70 64% Beachwood 36% Shaker Heights
Pounds of Venison Donated	3,086
Approximate Meals Provided	12,000
Budget	\$100,000
Total Cost	\$70,000

Mayor Berns: Recommendation for 2024-25



- **Matrix-Based Decision:** Based on the decision-making matrix, which includes data on deer-vehicle accidents and the results from the residential survey, we recommend continuing the city's deer management efforts to address resident concerns and maintain public safety.
- **Regional Cooperation:** We continue to discuss expanding collaboration with neighboring communities, including Highland Hills, Orange Village, Warrensville Heights, Cleveland Heights, and University Heights.
- **Annual Review:** Beachwood's deer management plan will continue to be evaluated annually and adjusted accordingly.
- **Budget:** The proposal for 2024 includes harvesting 90 deer for \$103,500 by both Beachwood and Shaker Heights for removal, processing, and venison donation.
- **Recommendation:** Accept the contract from Precision Wildlife. Maintain partnership with Shaker Heights.

Precision Wildlife Management LTD

Who We Are:

- Precision has obtained results for the past 9 years in Shaker Heights and 2 years in Beachwood, meeting its goal of safely, humanely, and discreetly harvesting deer without any significant issues.
- Our team is committed to best practices in deer handling. Team members are required to pass the state law enforcement qualification for scoped rifle.
- Close working relationship with the ODNR, Division of Wildlife.
- One stop shop managing all aspects from start to finish without impacting city resources.





Precision Wildlife & Beachwood

- Based on criteria from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), the goal of a deer management program is to establish a deer population that maximizes recreational opportunity while minimizing conflicts with agriculture, motor travel and personal safety. **A deer management program will not, nor is it intended to, eliminate the deer population.**
- ODNR, Division of Wildlife is the governing body relating to deer management. ODNR relies on the cultural carrying capacity and safety data such as deer pickups and deer/vehicle accidents to determine the number of permits issued.

Precision Wildlife 2024-25 Proposal

Scope of Proposal:

Based on the cultural carrying capacity and past pickup information, we have been granted 90 deer permits this year.

Investment:

\$103,500.00 for each city

The following factors determined the investment increase:

- 29% increase in the number of deer to be harvested.
- The increase will necessitate additional costs and expenses.
- Due to more cities being involved in deer management in Northeast Ohio, the demand for deer processors has substantially increased which has driven up prices.



Precision Wildlife 2024-25 Proposal

- Precision has proven to be a reliable partner that is focused on results and customer service.
- Precision understands the exceptional service that Beachwood and Shaker residents have come to expect.
- Precision understands the sensitive nature of deer management and manages the risks.
- Precision has obtained results in a challenging environment for the past 8 years.
- Precision appreciates the opportunity to earn your business and maintain the excellent reputation of both cities.





CITY OF *Beachwood*

Final Comments

Mayor Justin Berns

Representatives from the City of Shaker
Heights

Beachwood Department Directors

Questions & Discussion