

Agenda

Environmental Concerns Committee

City of Kalamazoo



Wednesday, December 18, 2024 **4:30 PM**
City Commission Chambers – 241 West South Street

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

B. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

(Action: Motion to approve the agenda)

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of the minutes from the Environmental Concerns Committee meeting on November 20, 2024 **(Action: Motion to approve)**
 - a. Copy of November minutes

D. COMMUNICATIONS

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. City of Kalamazoo Urban Deer Report
2. Presentation from Don Poppe from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Bird friendly building design discussion
2. Status of member who missed more than three meetings in 2024

H. REPORTS

1. Natural Features Protection Review Board
 2. Air and Water Quality Report
 3. Wildlife and Natural Resource Protection
 4. Planning Commission
 5. Tree Committee
 6. Asylum Lake Policy & Management Council
 7. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
 8. Kalamazoo River Watershed Council
 9. Odor Task Force
2. Waste Subcommittee

I. ADJOURNMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 20TH 2024, MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair, Sharon Dever; Tressa Greshak, David DeBack, Rachel Jondle, Stephen Romenelli, Damaris Potter and Justin Sanders

ABSENT: David Benac, Vice-Chair; Bobby Glasser, Robb Liekis, Thomas Dewhirst,

STAFF: Carrie Soule (recording secretary)

OTHERS: Justin Gish

ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm.

ASSURANCE OF LIVE STREAMING (Facebook/YouTube)

Recording/Streaming of the meeting was confirmed, with community members joining via a link posted on the City's Facebook page.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (11/20/2024)

Chair Dever asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the November 20th, 2024, meeting.

Committee Member made a motion to approve the Agenda and was supported. With a voice vote the motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES for 10/16/2024

Chair Dever asked the Committee Members if there were any changes to the October 16th, 2024 meeting minutes.

Committee Member made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes and was supported. With a voice vote the motion was approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Alexa finished her term and we have a new member, Destiny in the Sustainability department.

News/Educational Items:

COMMENTS BY OTHERS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Dever asked if there were any comments on the phones. There were no callers.

ONGOING BUSINESS

1. Discussion of future status of member who missed more than three meetings.

Bylaws state the committee assesses after 3 absences, Officers can decide/vote but Associate members can have their voices heard but will not be able to vote. To be reinstated you would need to go in front of City Commission. After the first of the year we will all be on the same page and keep the 3 absences rule, which will then go to a vote. The co-Chair is not at the meeting to vote so wait until the December meeting.

An attendance policy motion assesses a person's position after 3 absences to see if they want to step down to an Associate position if they think it might still be an issue or removal.

2. Discussion of 2025 officer positions to be voted on in January 2025.

Chair Sharon Dever will be stepping down as chair, looking for a replacement. Will be voted on in January meeting by ballot for any open positions.

BIRD-FRIENDLY WINDOW DESIGN

Chair Sharon read through all requirements that were supplied to the committee for reference and approval to take to City Commission for vote.

Seems Expensive the way it's written, needs to be simplified. Need discussion with contractors, homeowners and/or stakeholders with more input. Need to ask more questions and have Gail attend to discuss in more depth. Will want Historic District also involved, need to table until next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Imagine Kalamazoo 2035-Meeting on the Go** discussion with Damaris Potter presenting, answering questions about changes, challenges, and happy and healthy City within the last 10 years. Each member were asked 5 questions to take back to the IK 2035 Committee.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Natural Features Protection (NFP) Review Board– Mr. Glasser – No Update

Air and Water Quality – Mr. Glasser - No Update

Wildlife and Natural Resource Protection – Ms. Greshak – No Update

City of Kalamazoo Planning Commission – Ms. Jondle – Presenting CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) for next year concerning construction, roads, replacing water lines is in the works.

Tree Committee – Mr. DeWhirst – No Update

Asylum Lake Policy & Management Council – Ms. Dever – Need someone to be a liaison starting beginning of year, once a month, interest from David DeBack volunteered. Wrapped up the Education of the Swamp water project, other parts still ongoing.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board – Mr. Liekis – Open Position with Robb leaving Board, 7pm start times on meetings.

Kalamazoo River Watershed Council – Mr. Benac – No Update

Wellhead Protection Program Committee – Quarterly - Jean Talanda

Odor Task Force – Quarterly – Mr. Benac – No Update

Waste – Stephen Romenelli - October 1.7758 tons of recyclables, 4437 pounds of electronics, leaf collection starts November 4th – December 20th, December 28th and January 25th will be Electronic events; more information to follow.

CHECK PHONE LINES: No phone calls

COMMENTS: Kennedy Williams; Non-profit public scholarship for Environmental clean-up, Institute of public scholarship, Housing Insecurity issues that have been being talked about (homeless). Working on permit's for Gull Road, Brownfield site. Cost that comes with it is the environmental cleanup, working on for 3 years with an advisory committee to get input from housing insecurity candidates and connect them with resources. Already through Site plan and waiting on funding, hoping to break ground this summer.

Rita Chandler (Institute of Public Scholarship) Following a bike path and it was a dead-end and into railroad tracks. Downtown Ambassadors in the neighborhood associations are able to clean-up other neighborhoods as well. Centralized resource hub for needs to educate and help with housing, food, car repairs, environmental, events, etc. Place to submit information after a forum?

Imagine Kalamazoo meetings/website, who do we contact for IK2035.

The forum is upcoming December 10th for IK2035 and you can submit through their site, also there is a survey you can check out.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.



2024 Urban Deer Work in Kalamazoo

PRESENTED BY JUSTIN
GISH

Background Information

Concerns about urban deer is split between departments

- 311, Public Services, CPED, CMO, City Commission

Urban deer plan overseen by CPED

- Working through the “Addressing the Urban Deer Population in Kalamazoo” Ad Hoc Report.

Natural World Summit was held in May 2024

- Began public conversation with the DNR.

Elevated Deer to the Environmental Concerns Committee

- Provide transparency, involve the public and commission appointed boards.

Budget request will be made in 2025 for funds in 2026

- Funds will be used to conduct a deer population survey

Ad Hoc Report

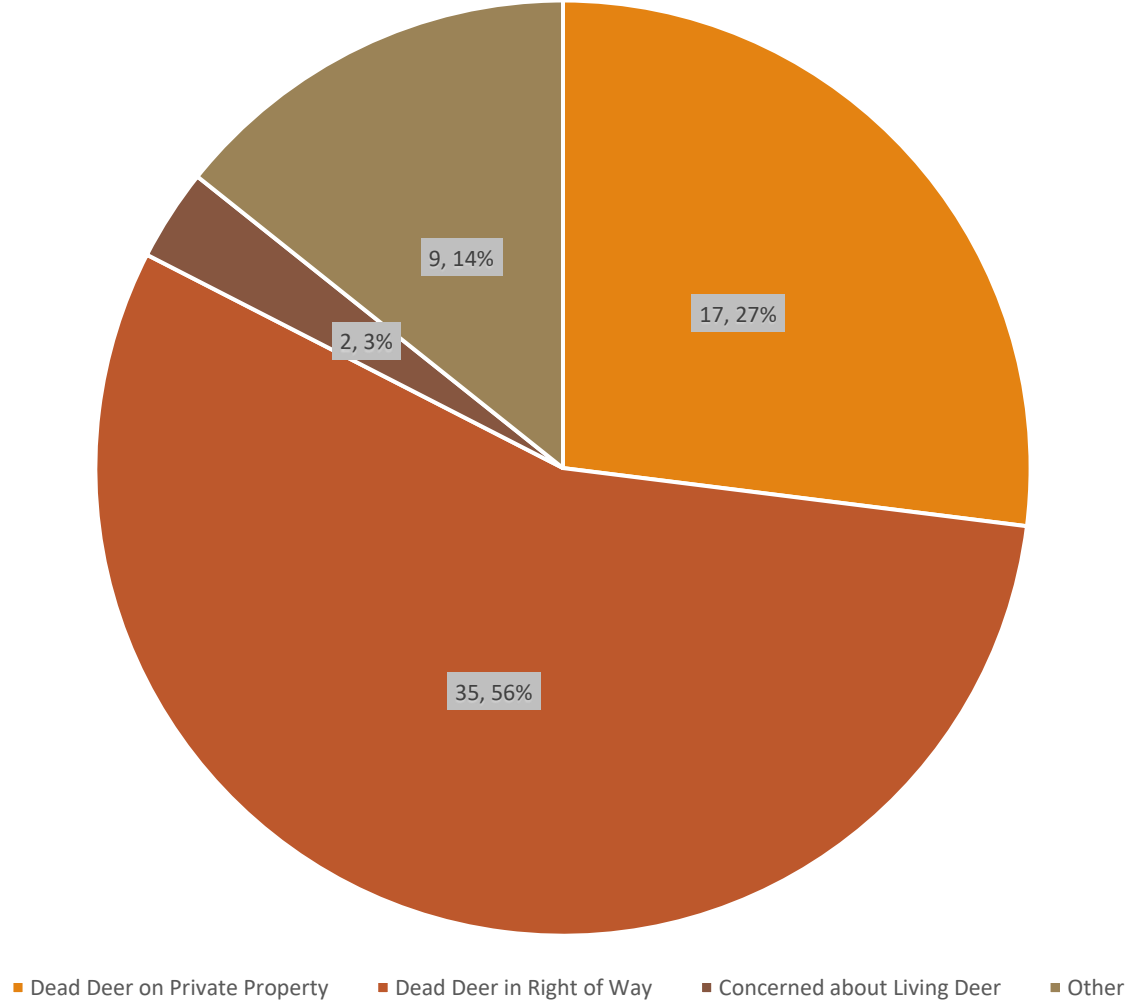
Phase 1

- Deer resources on City's website and education
 - <https://www.kalamazoocity.org/Community/Sustainability-Our-Environment/Urban-Deer-in-Kalamazoo>
 - Natural World Event
 - Press Release
 - Deer car collisions, decrease speed of vehicle, aware of rut, do not feed
- Deer carcass removal program
 - Program ran out of funds in 2023 and no funds were allocated in 2024
- Modified fence ordinance
 - Additional three feet of enclosure material can be added to fences (up to ten feet)
- Don't feed deer
 - Residents who feed deer can be reported to Michigan Conservation Officers

Phase 2

- Further City-led Research
 - Funding will be asked for to complete a population study to determine how many deer are in the City of Kalamazoo.
- City-led Deer Management Plan

311 Calls About Deer
63 Total Calls in 2024



Urban Deer Management



Chad Stewart, Deer, Elk, and Moose Management Specialist
Michigan Natural Resources Commission
March 9, 2023

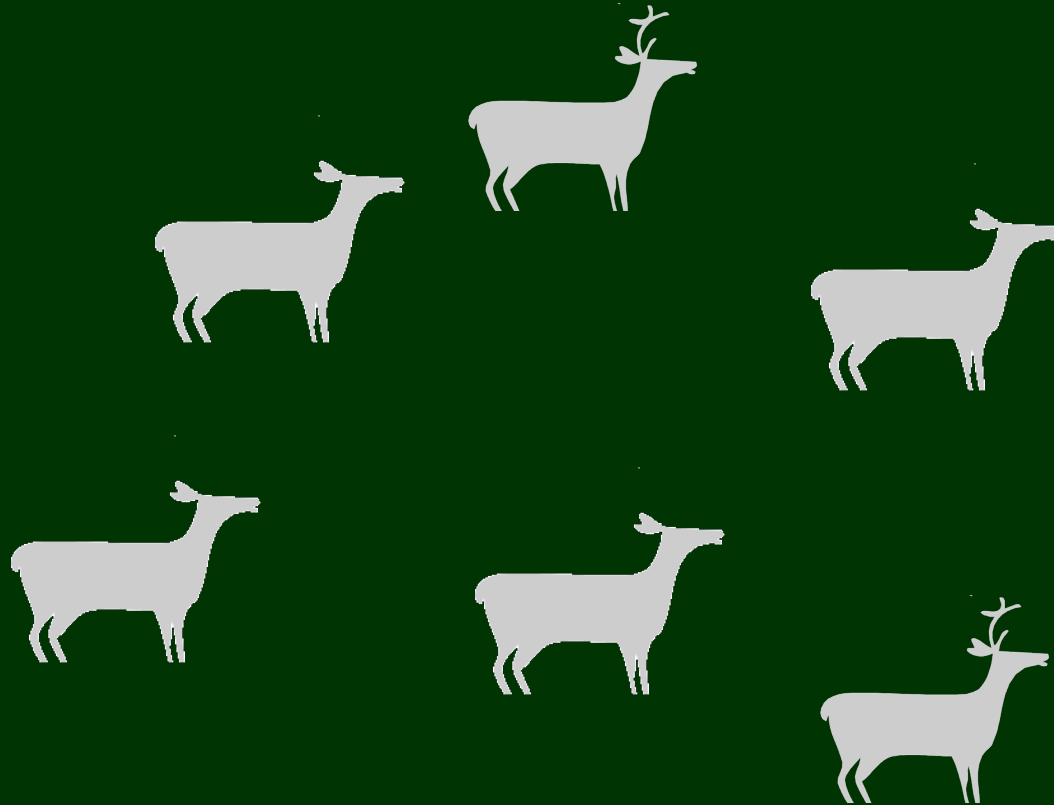


Characteristics of Urban Deer

- Typically see high survival rates
 - 87% in Carbondale, IL (Storm et al 2010), 82% in Chicago, IL (Etter et al 2002), >72% in Bloomington, MN (Grund 2011)
- Typically see smaller home ranges in suburban and urban locales
 - Resource needs being met across a smaller area
- Maintenance of high reproductivity
 - Reported as high as 1.8 fawns/adult doe
 - No reproductive senescence



The George Reserve, Year 1



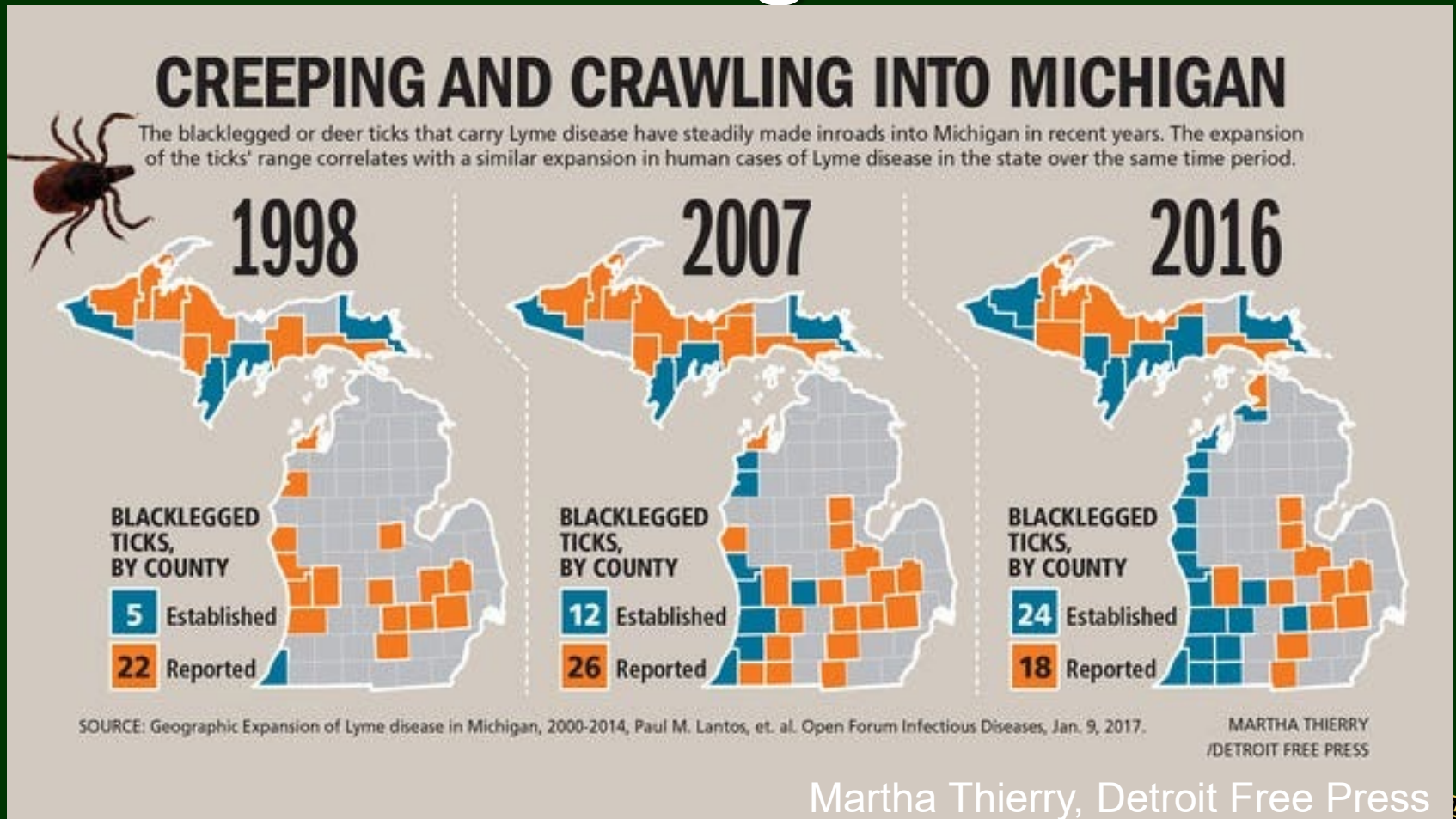
The George Reserve, Year 7



Urban Deer Management IS Conflict Management



Lyme Disease Distribution in Michigan

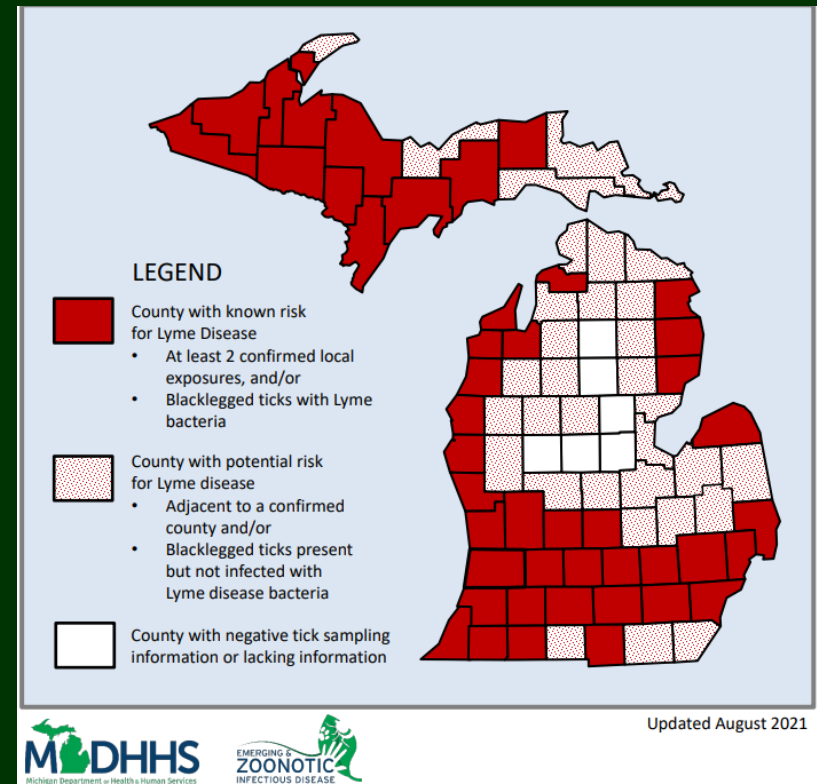


Martha Thierry, Detroit Free Press

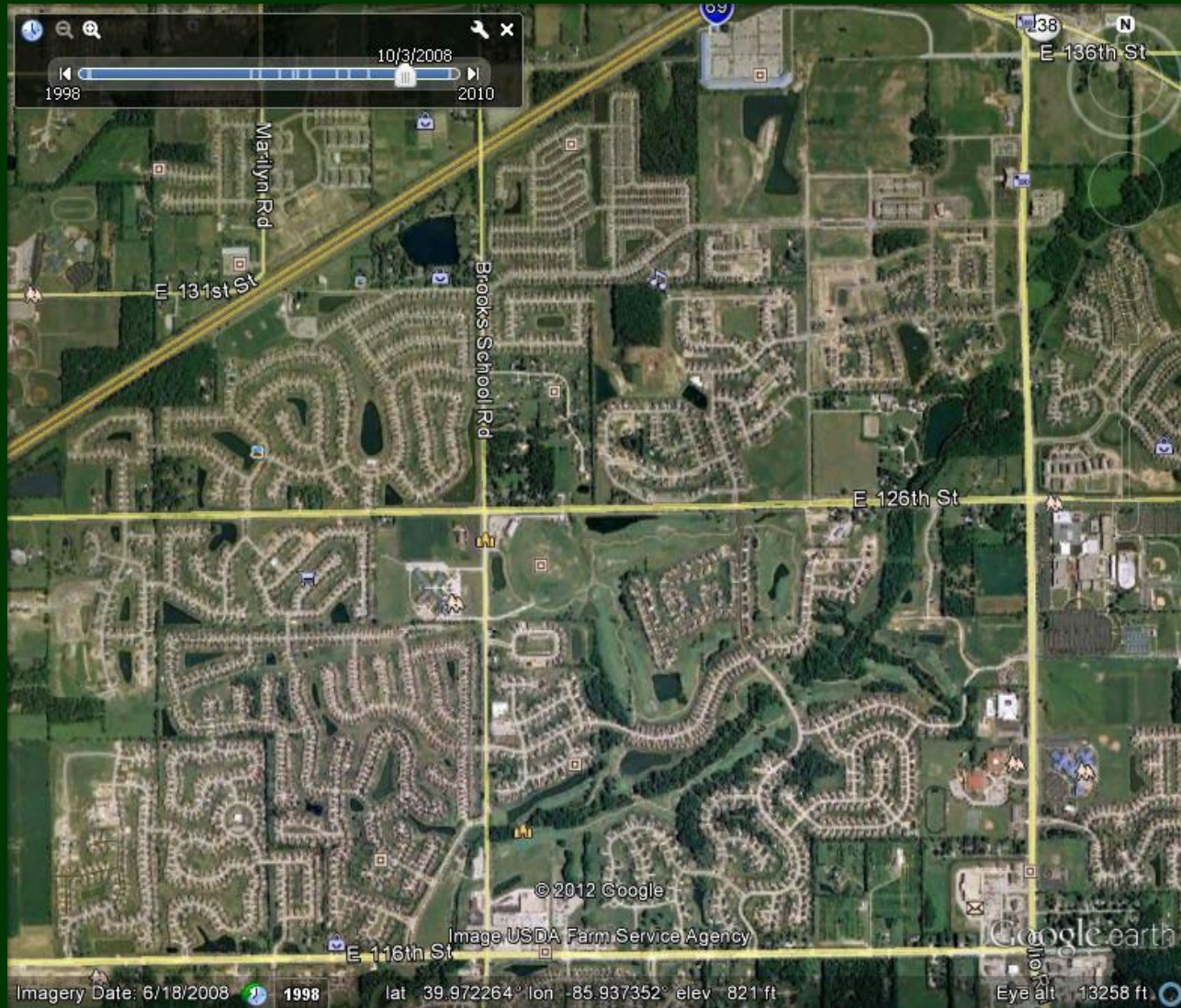


Lyme Disease

- Inverse relationship between Lyme disease and small mammal predators (Levi et al 2012)
- Human cases declined with reduction in deer density (Kilpatrick et al 2014)



Landscape Changes



1999

2008

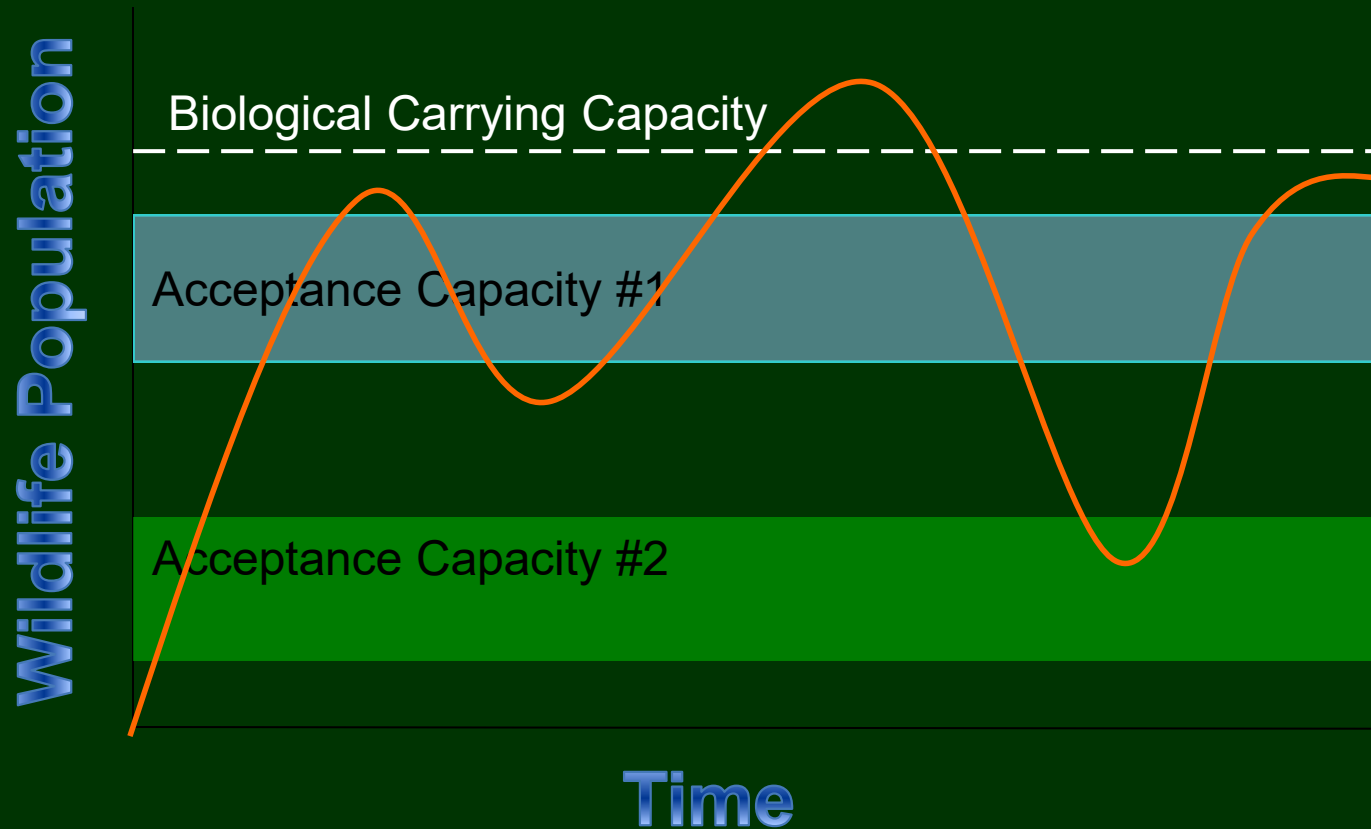


Carrying Capacity

- Biological
- Social



Measures of Capacity for Wildlife

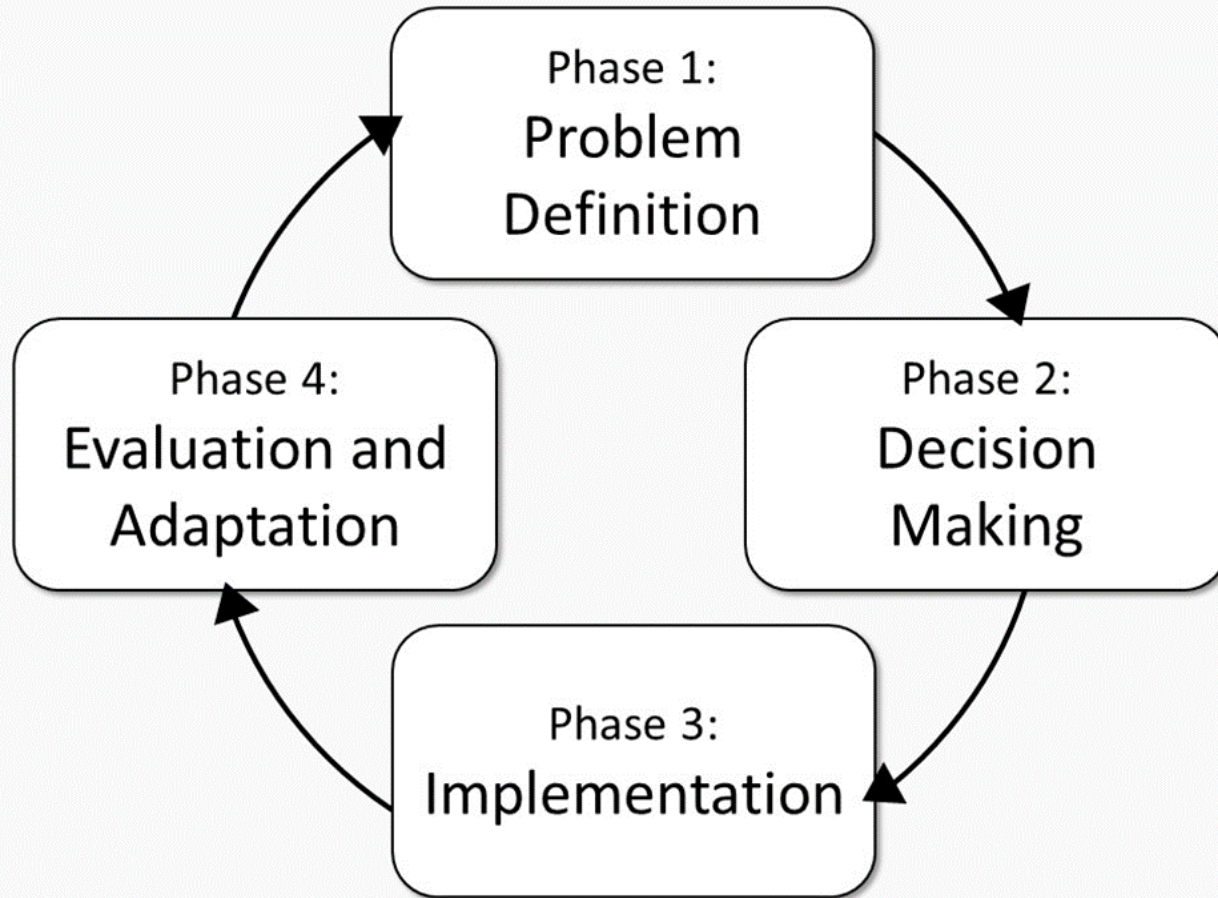


Urban Deer Conflict Policy and Procedures

- Emphasize the harvest of deer during existing hunting seasons using legal methods
- Provide assistance and information with the use of lethal and non-lethal methods to reduce conflicts
- Maintain a permitting system to quickly resolve hazardous situations
- Provide guidance to landowners to resolve conflicts through a clearly defined process

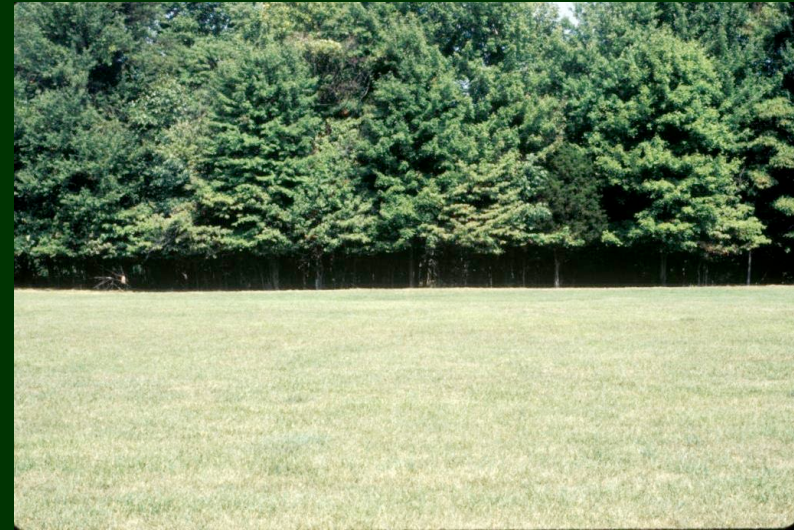


Community Based Deer Management



Management Options

- No Action or Response
 - Pros
 - A compromise?
 - Inexpensive
 - Cons
 - Some will view as “inaction”
 - Continued degradation of habitat and conflicts



Management Options

- Nonlethal Options
 - Pros
 - Can exclude deer from problem areas
 - Relatively inexpensive
 - Cons
 - Requires maintenance
 - No guarantees
 - Does not solve community wide problem



Management Options

- Hunting

- Pros

- Inexpensive to communities
 - Can provide economic stimulus
 - Supported by most individuals

- Cons

- Some types of hunting (i.e. trophy) not supported
 - Local concerns regarding hunting in a community
 - Access issues



Management Options

- Sharpshooting
 - Pros
 - Reduces deer population quickly
 - Safe
 - Cons
 - Expensive
 - Controversial



Management Options

• Trap and Relocate/Remove

– Pros

- No projectile fired
- Removes deer from difficult areas

– Cons

- High stress to deer
- Expensive
- Relocation not allowed in Michigan



Management Options

- Reintroduce Predators
 - Pros
 - Opportunity to return historical species
 - Cons
 - Socially unacceptable
 - Expensive
 - Complicated interactions requires study



Management Options

- Contraception

- Pros

- Doesn't fire lethal projectile
 - Prevents future fawns from being born

- Cons

- Expensive
 - Doesn't remove deer which may be the problem
 - Nearly impossible to achieve results in free-ranging deer herds



Contraceptive Drugs

- Gonacon and Zonastat
 - Both federally registered pesticides through the EPA
- Both require boosters
- Neither registered for use in Michigan (MDARD)

Management Options

- Sterilization
 - Pros
 - Doesn't fire a lethal projectile
 - Prevents fawns from being born permanently
 - Cons
 - Expensive
 - Doesn't remove deer which may be problem
 - Difficult to achieve results



Ann Arbor Deer Management



YEAR FOUR SUMMARY REPORT

2019-20 Deer Research Program

Ann Arbor, Michigan

26 May 2020

Submitted by

Dr. Anthony J. DeNicola
White Buffalo Inc.

From 2017-2020:
78 deer sterilized
432 deer lethally removed

Estimated 47% reduction in South Study Area
Estimated 60% reduction in North Study Area



Melanie Maxwell, The Ann Arbor News



Individual Deer in Distress

- Most instances resolve themselves
- Section 324.40111c of NREPA:
 - A person other than the department shall not take game using a tranquilizer propelled from a bow or firearm



Meridian Township

- Deer hunt history
 - Began an archery hunt in 2011
 - Supplemented with police cull in 2020
 - Currently have >80% community support for deer management
 - Declining deer-vehicle collision trends
- Last year ~8,000lbs venison donated



Oakland County Community Deer Coalition

- Goal is to develop a regional deer management plan
- Working collaboratively with SEMCOG
- Survey administered to citizens of Oakland County to gauge attitudes towards deer

Oakland County communities addressing deer overpopulation with new survey



Photo by: SCRPIS

By: Jenn Schanz

Posted at 5:56 AM, Sep 30, 2022 and last updated 10:00 AM, Sep 30, 2022

(WXYZ) — Up through November 11, leaders in several Oakland County communities are asking for the public's input; about deer.

OAKLAND COUNTY

Community input sought on Oakland County deer population



Mark Hicks

The Detroit News

Published 11:15 p.m. ET Sept. 13, 2022



Think close encounters with deer have become too much of a problem lately in Oakland County? Officials want to hear from you.



Thank You

www.michigan.gov/deer

