



Tri-Community Wildlife Committee Agenda

Date: Wednesday, February 5th, 2025

Time: 6:00 p.m.

**City of the Village of Douglas, Michigan/City Hall-Council Chambers
87. W. Center Street, Douglas, Michigan**

Zoom Link Information: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83288430878>

Meeting ID: 832 8843 0878

Committee's Mission Statement: Our mission is to discover appropriate ways to maintain a healthy balance in the wildlife populations of our communities and make recommendations to the City of Douglas, Saugatuck Township, and the City of Saugatuck.

1. Call to Order By Chair

2. Roll Call (Clerk)

3. Approve the Agenda (First, Second, Voice Vote) -Chair

4. Approve the meeting minutes for December 4th, 2024 (First, Second, Voice Vote) - Chair

4. Presentation: Drone Survey Guidance to Study Deer Population in the Tri-Communities- Presented by Saugatuck Township Fire District Chief, Greg Janik

5. New Business:

A. Approve the Saugatuck Township Fire District utilizing a drone to track and assess deer populations in the areas recommended by Don Poppe, MDNR Wildlife Biologist (First, Second, Voice Vote)-Chair

B. Review/Discuss the Deer Survey Results Conducted by the Tri-Communities from December 2024 through January 2025 (Group)

C. Review/Discuss the answers to the questions (from the last meeting) from Don Poppe, MDNR Wildlife Biologist (Group)

D. Commercial Record: Tri-Community Wildlife Committee Printed Letter to the Editor-Receive and File

6. Written Communication (Receive and File)

7. Public Communication (Limited to 3 minutes)

8. Final Committee Comments

9. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Please Note – The City of the Village of Douglas (the “City”) is subject to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of this meeting or the facilities, are requested to contact Laura Kasper, City Clerk, at (269) 857-1438, or clerk@douglasmi.gov to allow the City to make reasonable accommodations for those persons. CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF DOUGLAS, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN



Tri-Community Wildlife Committee Minutes
Wednesday, December 4th, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
City of the Village of Douglas, Michigan/City Hall-Council Chambers
87. W. Center Street, Douglas, Michigan

1. Call to Order: By Neal Seabert

2. Roll Call: By Deputy City Clerk-Dawn Raza

Present: Scott Dean, Tony Schippa, Timothy Smith, David Ignasiak, Tammy Cunion, Neal Seabert, Stacey Aldrich, Beth Ramsson

Absent: David Ignasiak

3. Approval of Agenda

- *Motion by Aldrich, second by Cunnion, to approve the agenda. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.*

4. Approval of the November 12th, 2024, Meeting Minutes

- *Motion by Dean, seconded by Cunnion, to approve the meeting minutes. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.*

5. Presentation by Don Poppe, Wildlife Biologist from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division. Don had several questions that were asked that he will respond to with a follow-up communication.

6. Committee reviewed and discussed the City of Douglas Deer Survey/Amended Survey/Douglas 2023 Survey Results

7. Approval of the survey with recommended changes and start the distribution process once the changes are complete.

- *Motion to approve the survey with recommended changes. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.*

8. Approval of a mission statement for the committee.

- *Motion to approve the first mission statement (of three recommendations). Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.*

9. Review and discuss draft letter to the editor.

10. Approve the letter to the editor communication.

- *Motion to approve the letter to the editor with recommended changes. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.*

11. Approve moving the January 2025 meeting due to the New Year's Day holiday.

- Motion to approve moving the meeting to January 8th, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

12. Written Communication was acknowledged as a receive and file.

9. **Public Comment:** Members of the public were present, comments were made.

10. **Final Committee Member Comments.**

11. Adjournment

- *Motion by Schippa, second by Dean, to adjourn the meeting.*



To: The Tri-Community Wildlife Committee

From: Lisa Nocerini, City Manager, Committee Staff

Date: February 5th, 2025

RE: Recommendations to Track and Assess Deer Using a Drone

The following information was provided by Don Poppe, MDNR Wildlife Biologist, who has made recommendations for using a drone to track and assess deer herds within the Tri-Community area. I have also shared this information with Fire Chief, Greg Janik.

Survey Methodology:

To establish an effective approach, it is recommended to:

Sample Diverse Areas: Select a variety of locations for surveying, including larger green spaces, problem areas, and neighborhoods with high deer populations. Suggested initial sites include:

- Saugatuck
- Private Developments
- Oval Beach/Ox-Bow

Drone Photography: Utilize drone technology to fly transects over these areas, ensuring comprehensive photographic coverage. If feasible, stitch these photos together to count deer post-survey. This approach allows for accurate tracking and reduces in-field variability.

Annual Reassessment: Revisit these sites each year to compare deer counts and establish trends in population changes over time.

Objective: This method aims to create a reliable index of deer population trends. It will also provide a clearer understanding of deer movement patterns, population density, and potential impacts on the community and ecosystem.

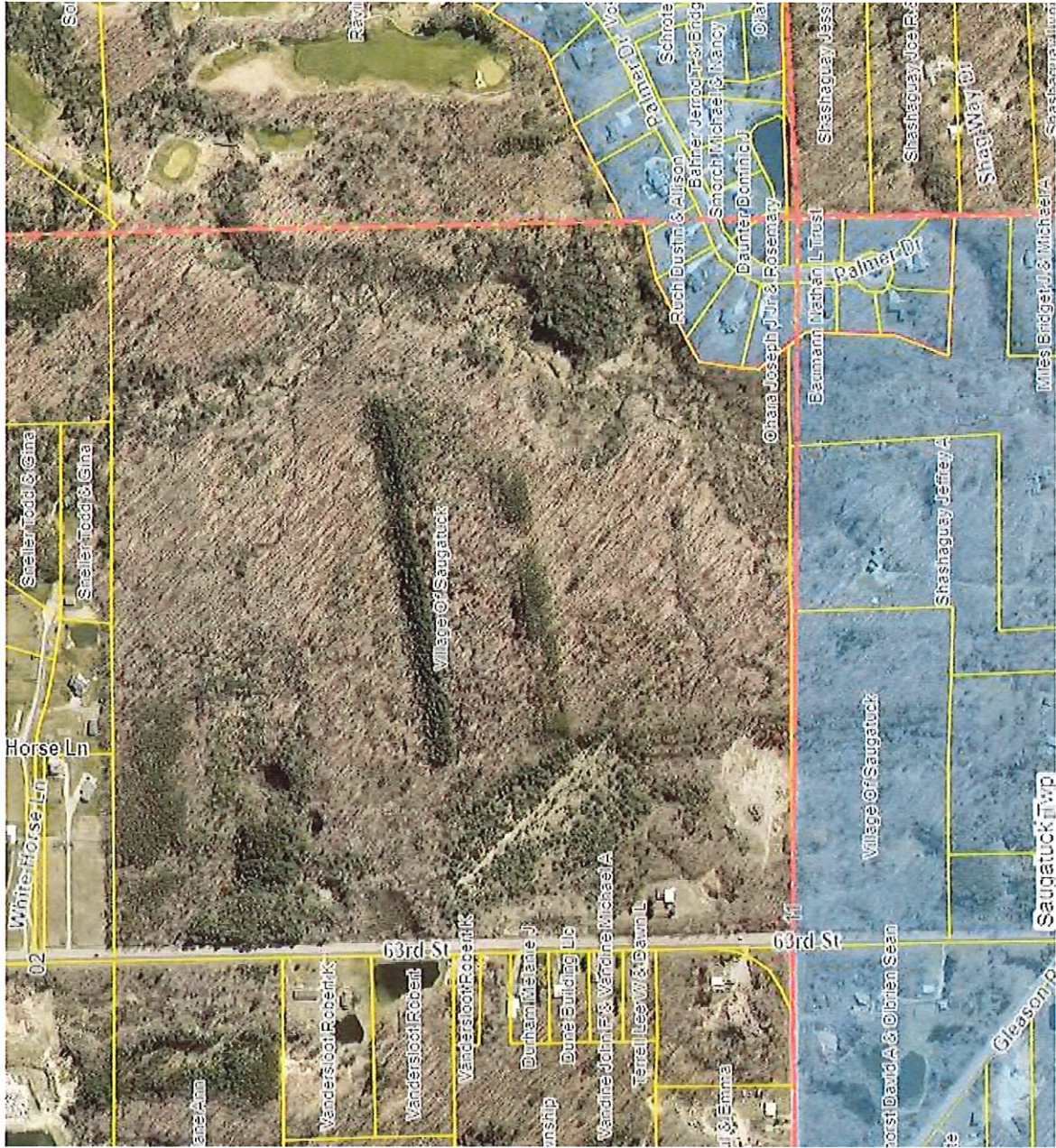
Next Steps:

Confirm the drone's capability to capture and stitch photographs together for analysis.

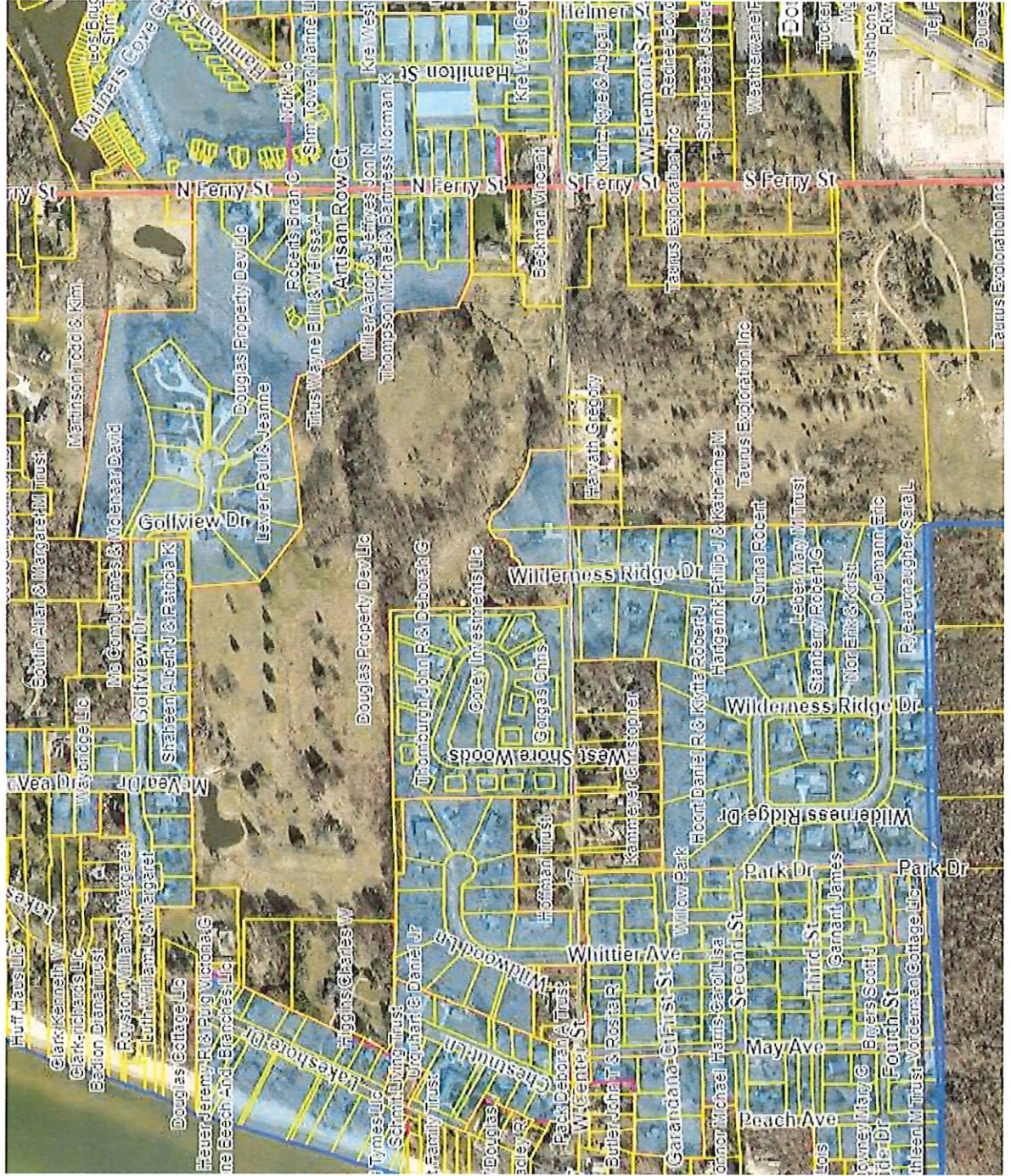
Finalize the list of survey areas and develop a detailed flight plan.

Coordinate with the MDNR for technical guidance and alignment with wildlife management protocols.

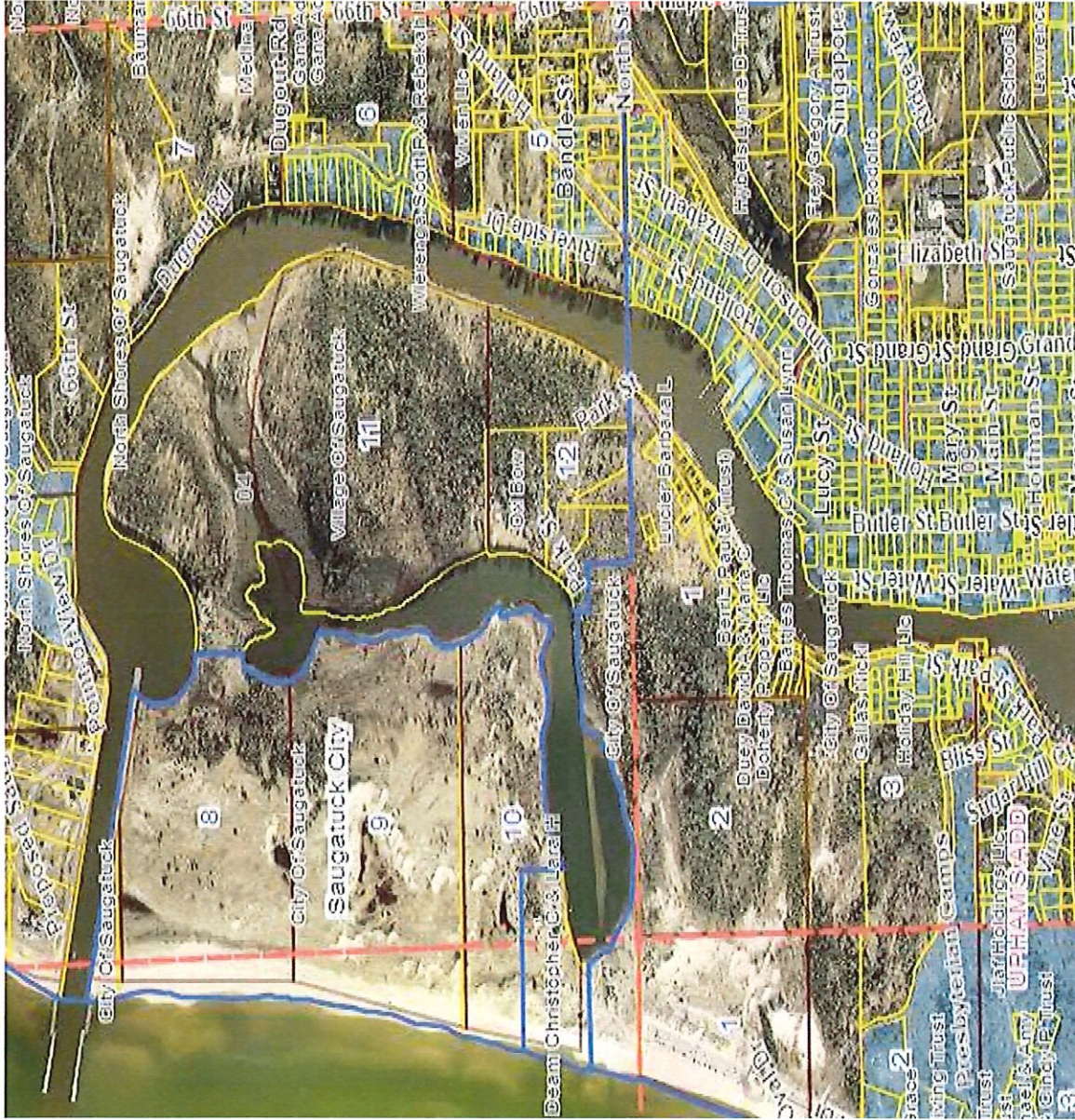
Saugatuck



Private Developments



Oval Beach/Ox-Bow



Responses Overview

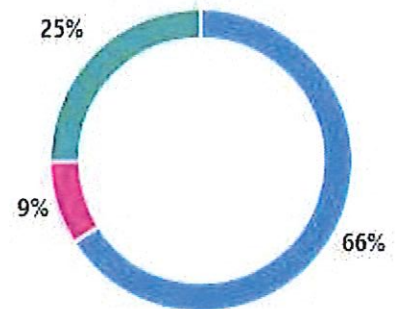
Responses

301



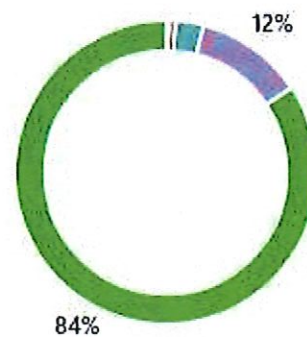
1. Please choose a category that best describes you. (Select all that apply)

- My primary residence is in the City of Douglas. 205
- My workplace is in the City of Douglas. 28
- Neither my primary residence nor my workplace is in the City of Douglas. 78

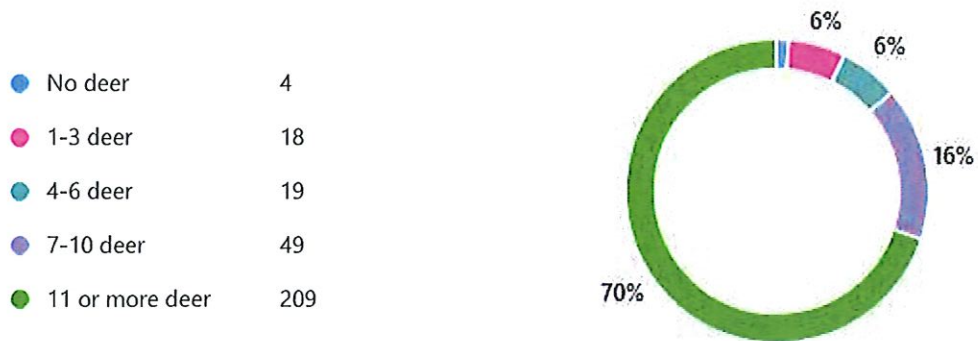


2. How frequently have you seen live deer in Douglas in the past year?

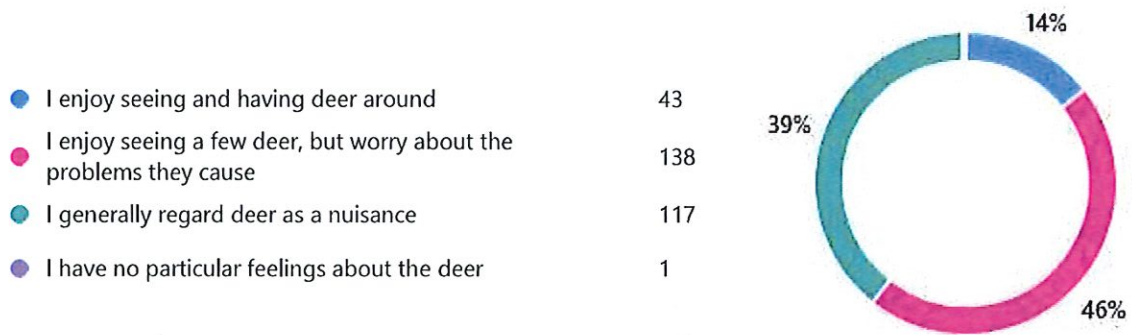
- Never 1
- Rarely 2
- Sometimes 9
- Often 35
- All the time 254



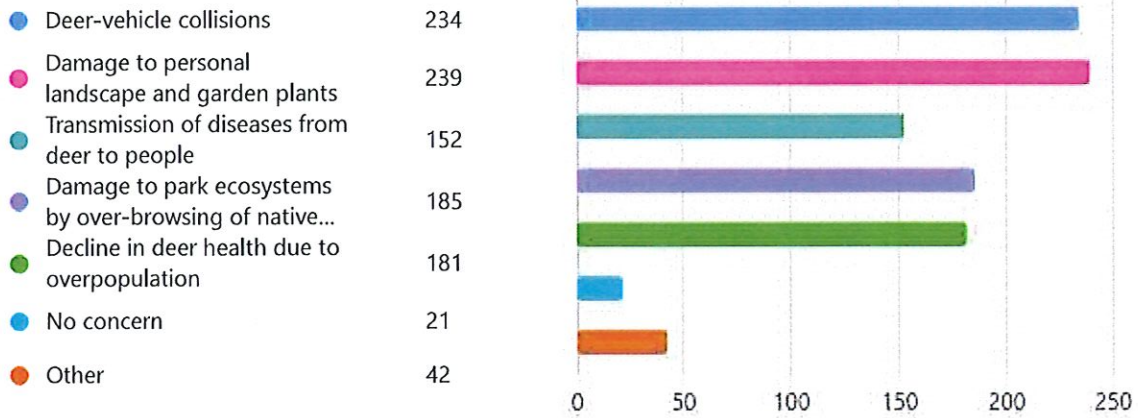
3. How many deer do you see in Douglas in a typical week?



4. Generally, which of the following best describes your feelings about the deer in Douglas?

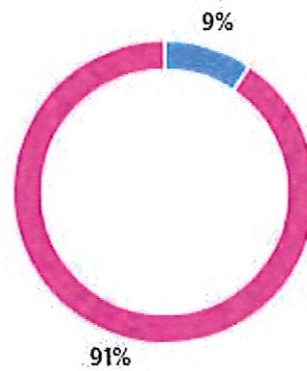


5. Which of the following concerns do you have about deer in Douglas? (Choose all that apply)



6. Have you ever been involved in a car-deer accident in Douglas?

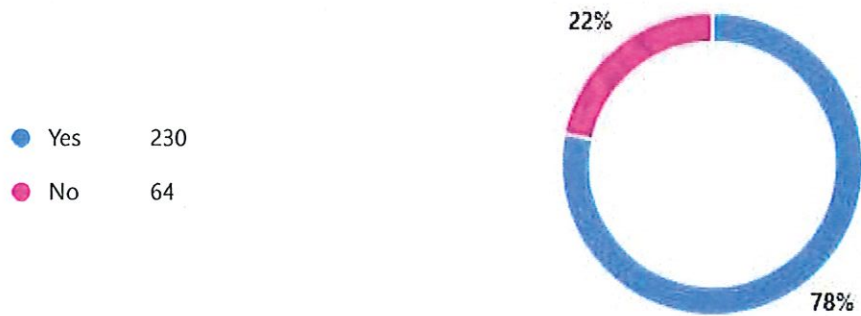
Yes	28
No	268



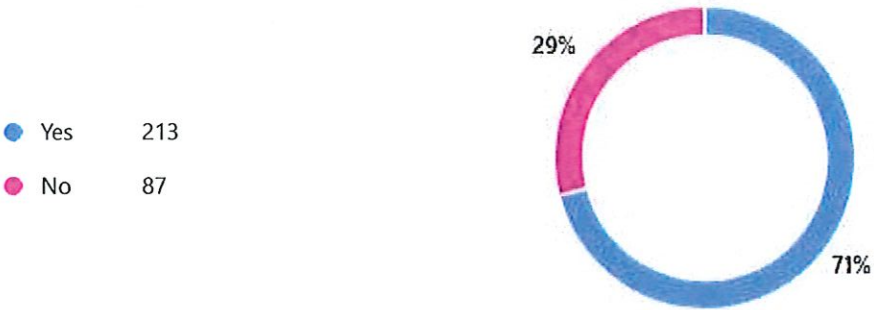
7. Have you been involved in a car-deer accident outside of Douglas?



8. Have you had a deer run in front of you, resulting in a near-miss while driving in Douglas?



9. Have you had a deer run in front of you, resulting in a near-miss while driving outside of Douglas?



10. Have your personal garden plants or landscaping been damaged by deer?



11. Are you aware that feeding deer is illegal in the State of Michigan and subject to fines?



12. If your garden or landscaping have been damaged by deer, do you use any of the following measures to prevent damage? Please rate the effectiveness of the measure(s) you use.

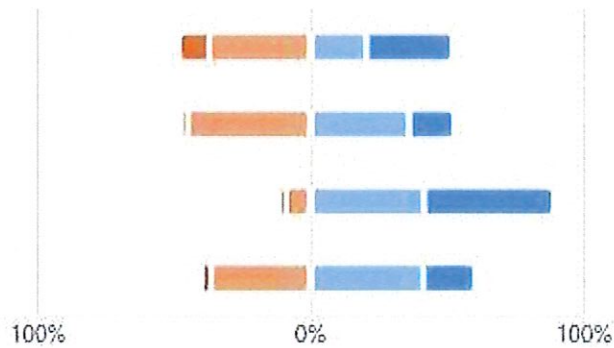
● Highly Effective ● Somewhat Effective ● Not at All ● N/A

Fencing

Odor or taste repellants

Frightening devices (light/noise)

Deer repellent plants



13. How would you rate the following?

● Strongly Support ● Moderately Support ● Do Not Support

Do nothing and let nature take its course

Educate residents on deer resistant landscaping plants

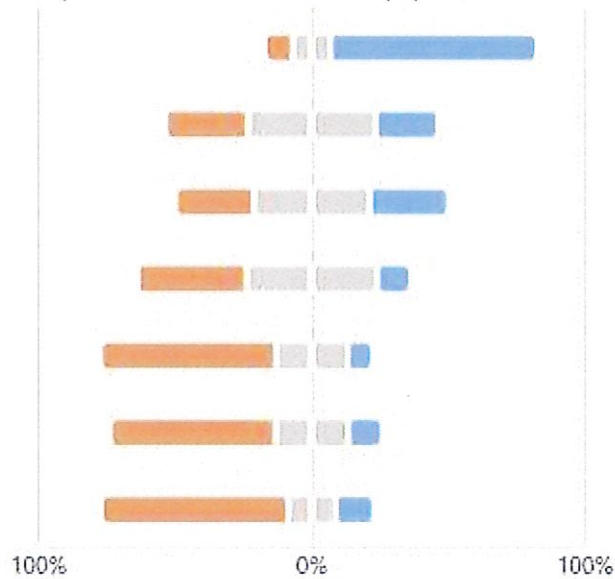
Install signs or reflectors at known deer crossings

Manage roadside vegetation to increase driver visibility

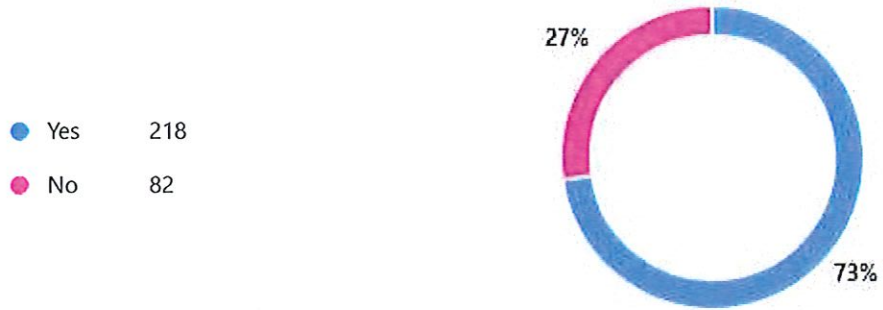
Enforce State regulations prohibiting supplemental feeding of deer by residents

Use non-lethal methods, like birth control, to slow the growth of the deer population

Use lethal methods such as bow-hunting or sharpshooting by a licensed professional to reduce the deer population

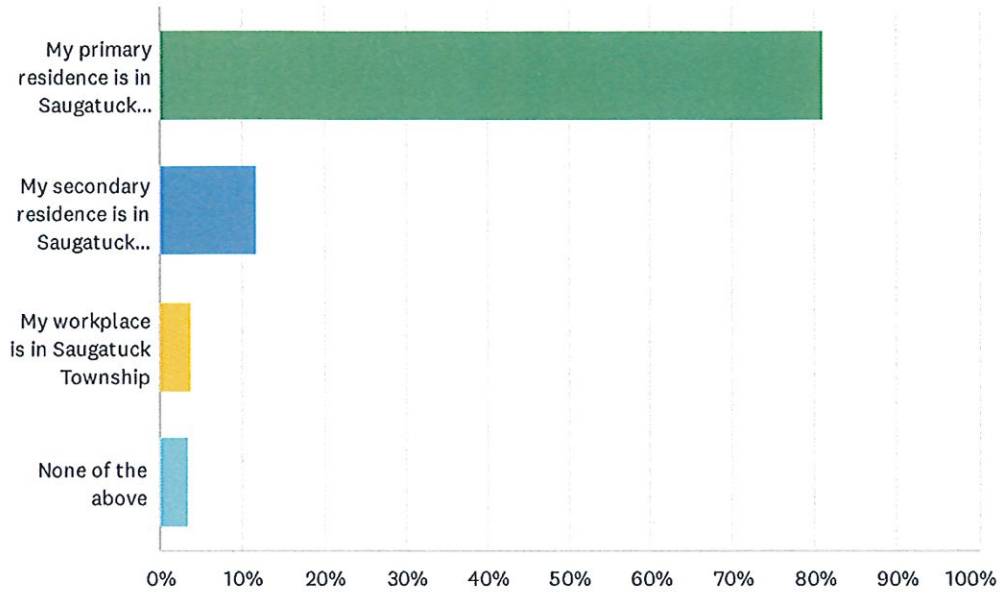


14. Are you aware that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is battling a highly contagious and always fatal disease among the deer herd called Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)?



Q1 Please choose a category that best describes you. (Select all that apply)

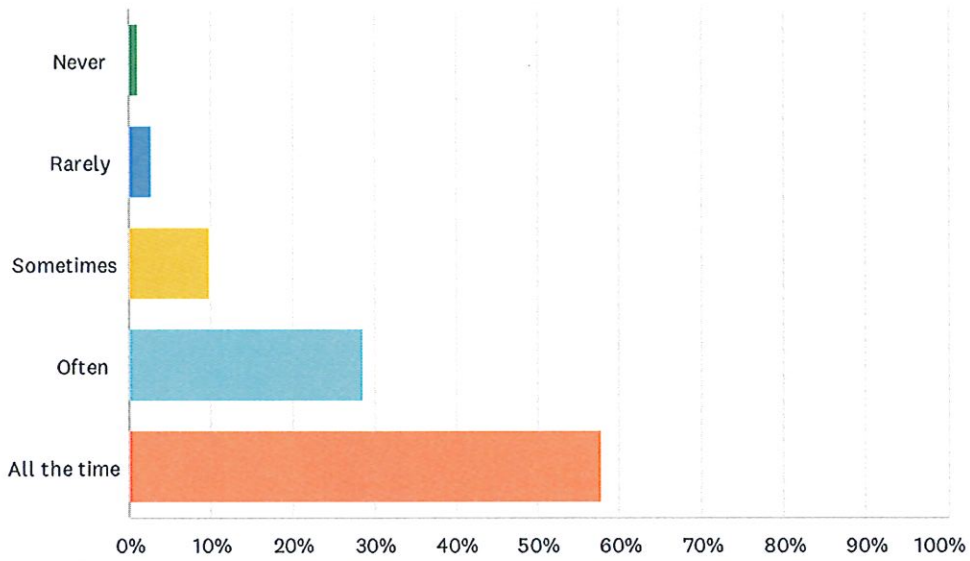
Answered: 180 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
My primary residence is in Saugatuck Township	81.11%	146
My secondary residence is in Saugatuck Township	11.67%	21
My workplace is in Saugatuck Township	3.89%	7
None of the above	3.33%	6
TOTAL		180

Q2 How frequently have you seen live deer in Saugatuck Township in the past year?

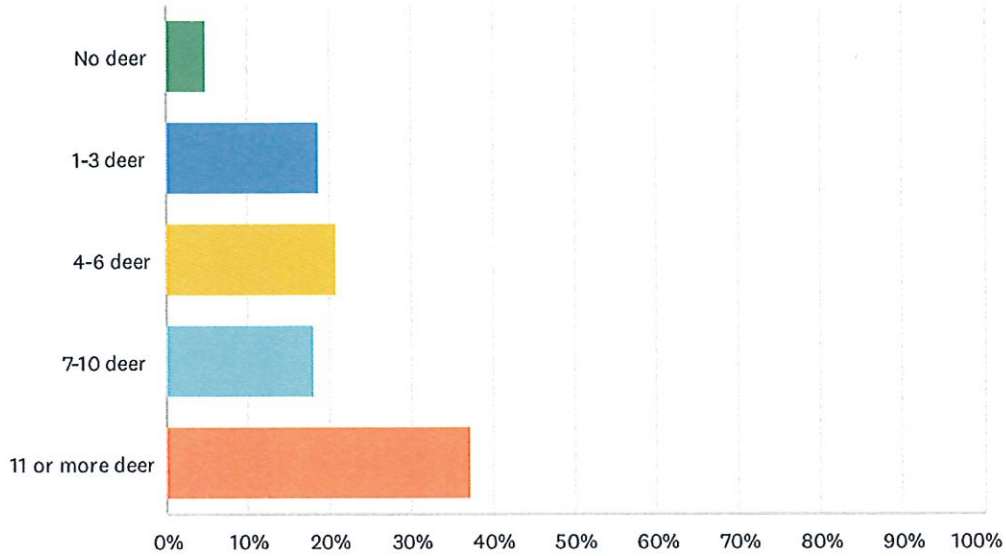
Answered: 182 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Never	1.10%	2
Rarely	2.75%	5
Sometimes	9.89%	18
Often	28.57%	52
All the time	57.69%	105
TOTAL		182

Q3 How many deer do you see in Saugatuck Township in a typical week?

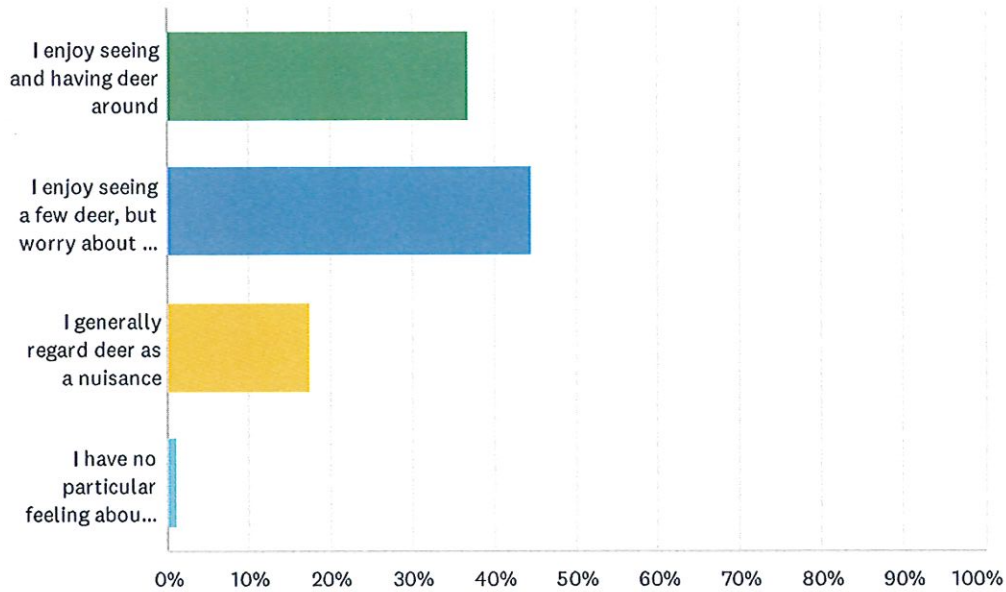
Answered: 182 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No deer	4.95%	9
1-3 deer	18.68%	34
4-6 deer	20.88%	38
7-10 deer	18.13%	33
11 or more deer	37.36%	68
TOTAL		182

Q4 Generally, which of the following best describes your feelings about deer in Saugatuck Township?

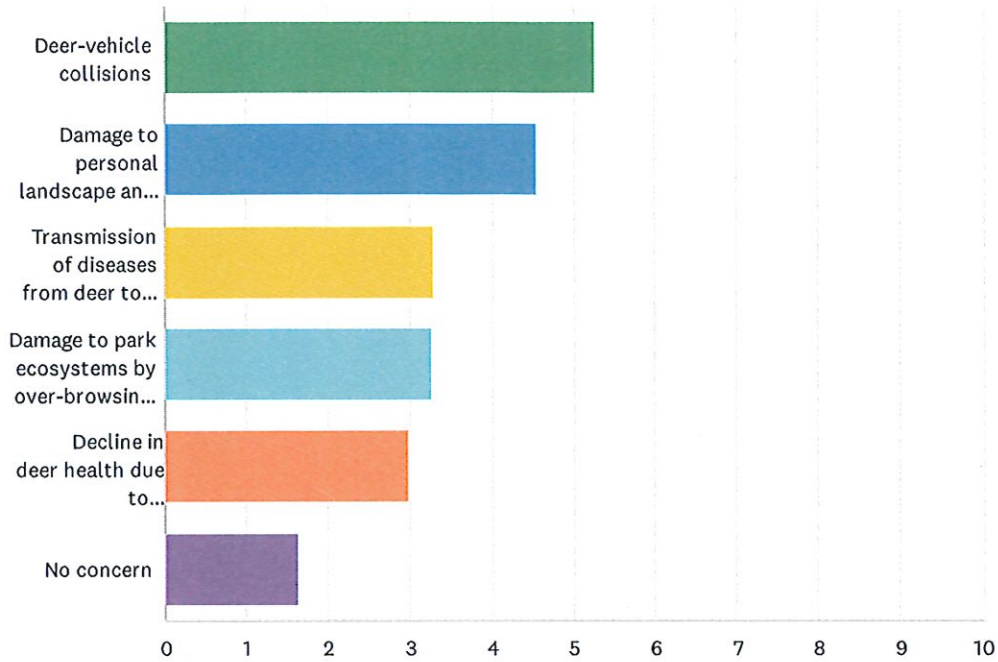
Answered: 182 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I enjoy seeing and having deer around	36.81%	67
I enjoy seeing a few deer, but worry about the problems they cause	44.51%	81
I generally regard deer as a nuisance	17.58%	32
I have no particular feeling about deer	1.10%	2
TOTAL		182

Q5 Which of the following concerns do you have about deer in Saugatuck Township?

Answered: 180 Skipped: 2



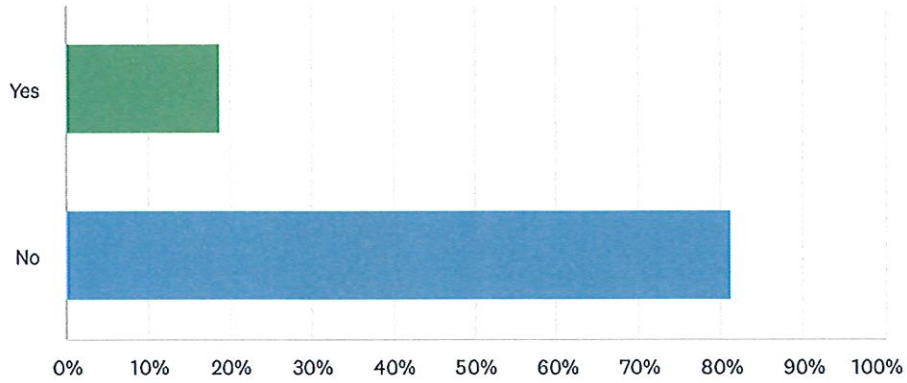
	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL	SCORE
Deer-vehicle collisions	53.89% 97	26.67% 48	12.78% 23	4.44% 8	2.22% 4	0.00% 0	180	5.26
Damage to personal landscape and garden plants	28.89% 52	34.44% 62	15.56% 28	6.67% 12	11.67% 21	2.78% 5	180	4.54
Transmission of diseases from deer to people	3.33% 6	11.67% 21	33.89% 61	21.67% 39	21.11% 38	8.33% 15	180	3.29
Damage to park ecosystems by over-browsing of native forage plants	2.22% 4	10.56% 19	21.67% 39	46.11% 83	16.67% 30	2.78% 5	180	3.27
Decline in deer health due to overpopulation	3.89% 7	14.44% 26	12.22% 22	20.00% 36	45.56% 82	3.89% 7	180	2.99
No concern	7.78% 14	2.22% 4	3.89% 7	1.11% 2	2.78% 5	82.22% 148	180	1.64

Q6 What other concerns do you have about deer in Saugatuck Township?

Answered: 107 Skipped: 75

Q7 Have you ever been involved in a car-deer accident in Saugatuck Township?

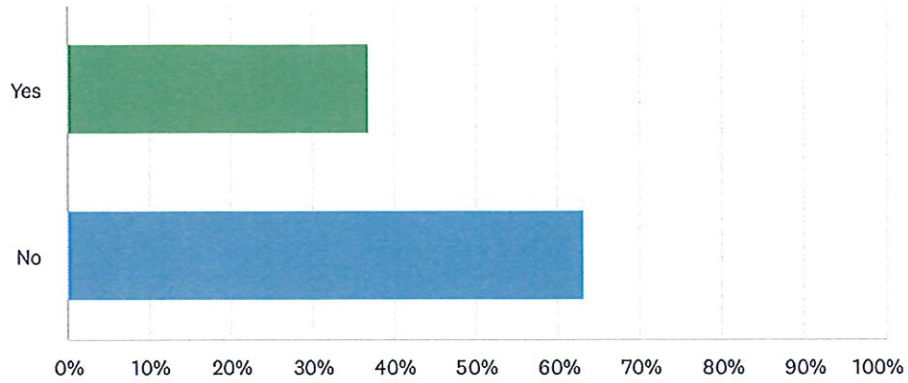
Answered: 182 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	18.68%	34
No	81.32%	148
TOTAL		182

Q8 Have you ever been involved in a car-deer accident outside of Saugatuck Township?

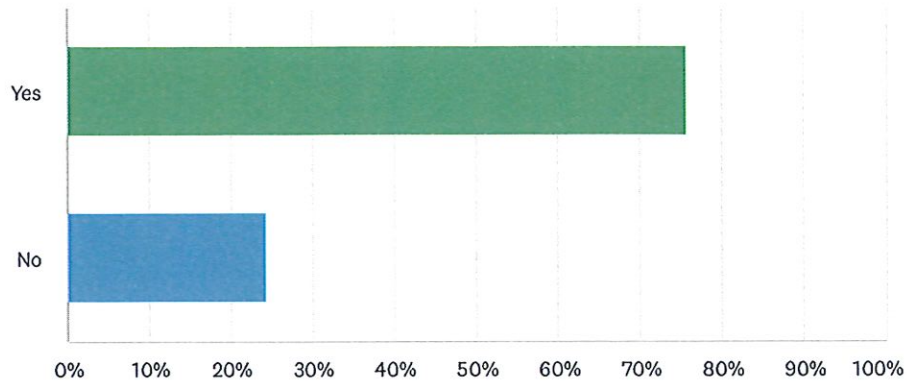
Answered: 182 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	36.81%	67
No	63.19%	115
TOTAL		182

Q9 Have you had a deer run in front of you, resulting in a near-miss while driving in Saugatuck Township?

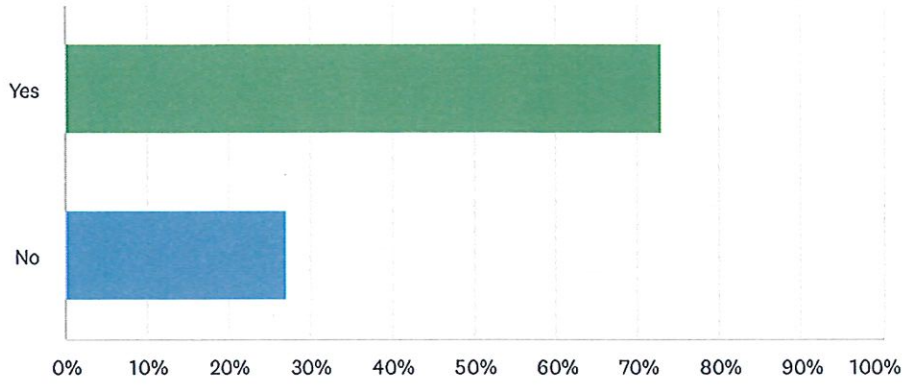
Answered: 181 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	75.69%	137
No	24.31%	44
TOTAL		181

Q10 Have you had a deer run in front of you, resulting in a near-miss while driving outside of Saugatuck Township?

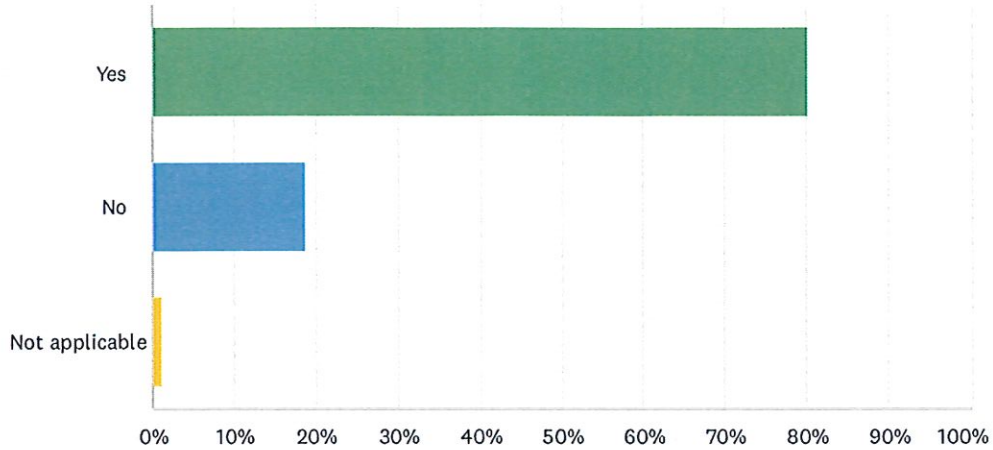
Answered: 181 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	72.93%	132
No	27.07%	49
TOTAL		181

Q11 Have your personal garden plants or landscaping been damaged by deer?

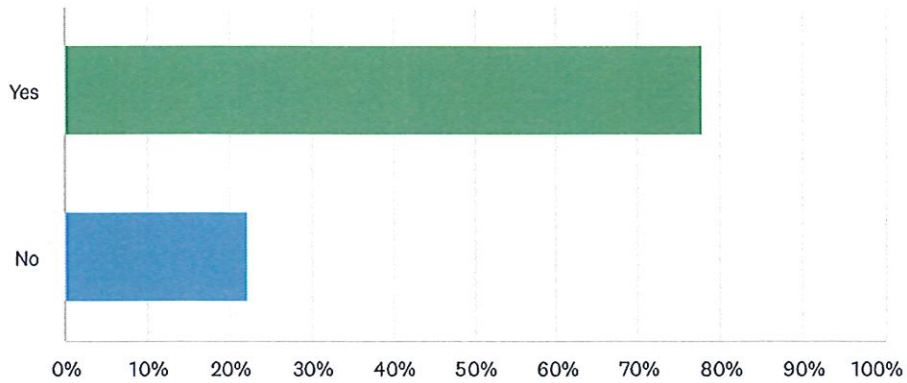
Answered: 181 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	80.11%	145
No	18.78%	34
Not applicable	1.10%	2
TOTAL		181

Q12 Are you aware that feeding deer is illegal in the State of Michigan and subject to fines?

Answered: 181 Skipped: 1

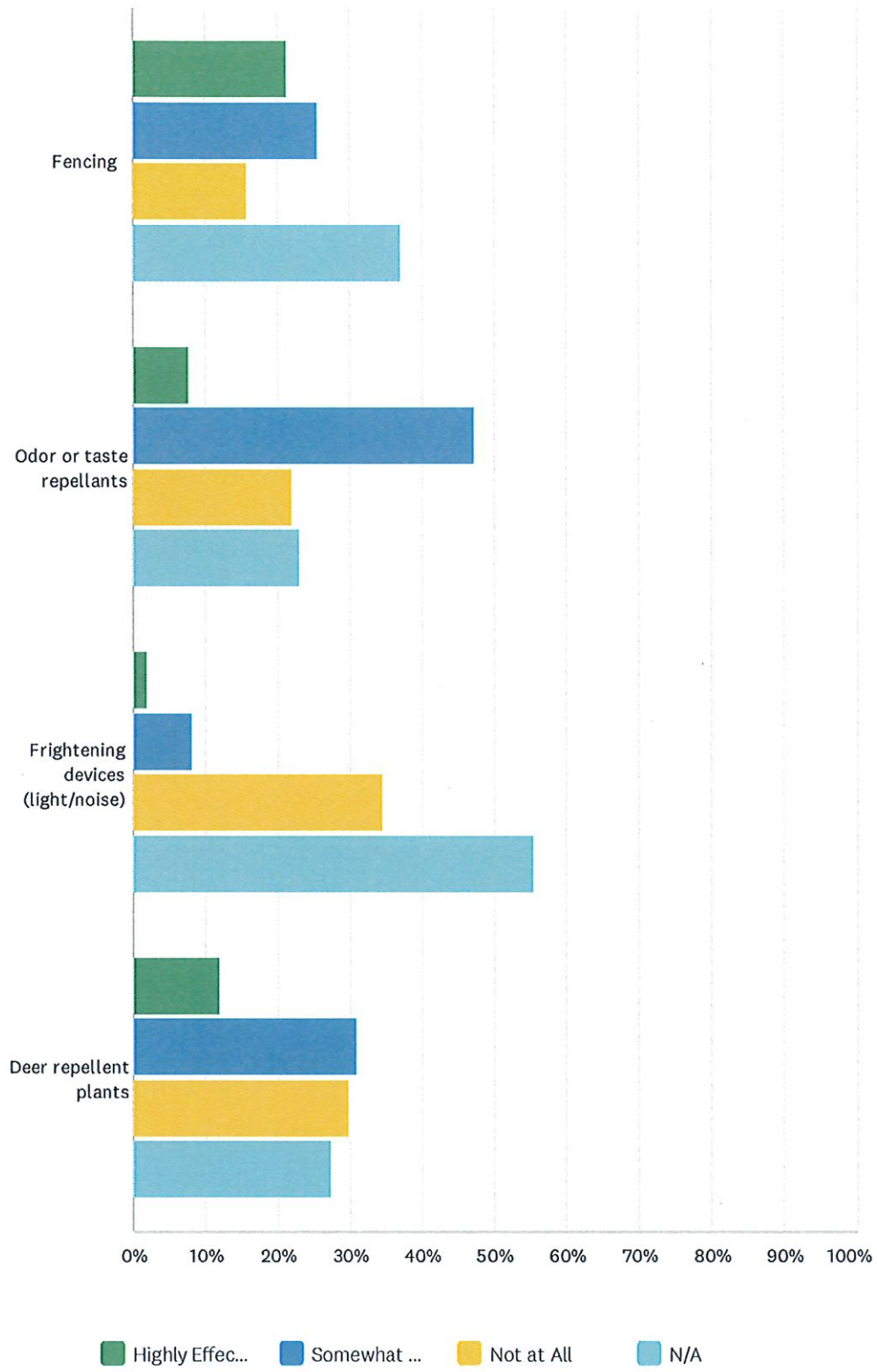


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	77.90%	141
No	22.10%	40
TOTAL		181

Q13 If your garden plants or landscaping have been damaged by deer, do you use any of the following measures to prevent damage? Please rate the effectiveness of the measure(s) you use.

Answered: 177 Skipped: 5

Tri-Community Wildlife Committee Deer Survey 2024-2025

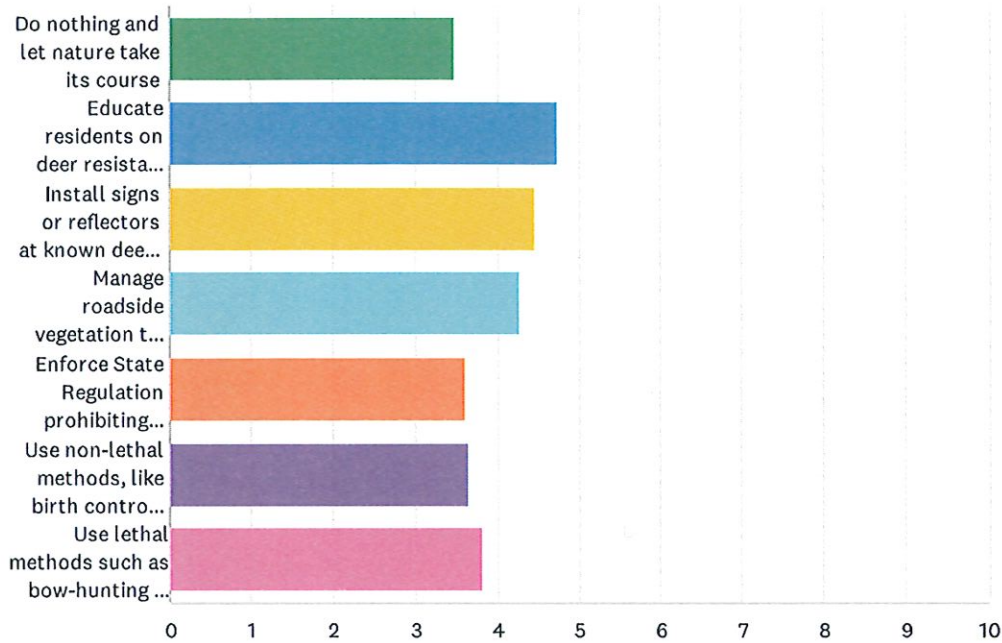


Tri-Community Wildlife Committee Deer Survey 2024-2025

	HIGHLY EFFECTIVE	SOMEWHAT EFFECTIVE	NOT AT ALL	N/A	TOTAL
Fencing	21.34% 35	25.61% 42	15.85% 26	37.20% 61	164
Odor or taste repellants	7.69% 13	47.34% 80	21.89% 37	23.08% 39	169
Frightening devices (light/noise)	1.89% 3	8.18% 13	34.59% 55	55.35% 88	159
Deer repellent plants	11.90% 20	30.95% 52	29.76% 50	27.38% 46	168

Q14 Rank the following courses of action for deer management in order of effectiveness.

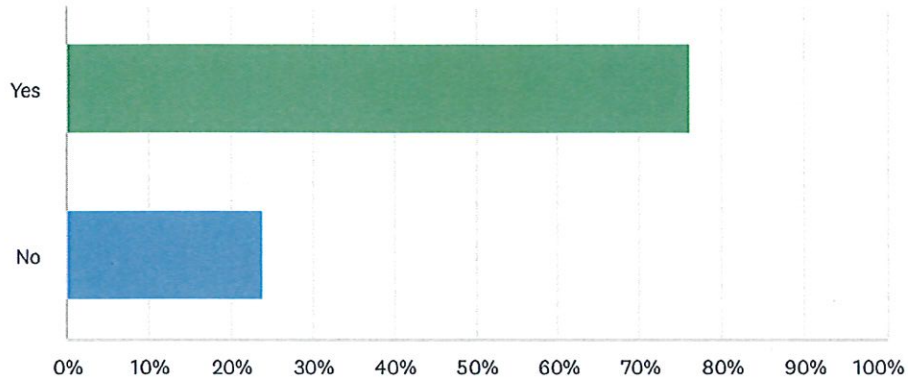
Answered: 176 Skipped: 6



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	TOTAL	SCORE
Do nothing and let nature take its course	19.32% 34	9.09% 16	6.82% 12	10.23% 18	9.09% 16	10.80% 19	34.66% 61	176	3.48
Educate residents on deer resistant landscape plants	14.77% 26	26.70% 47	12.50% 22	21.59% 38	14.20% 25	7.39% 13	2.84% 5	176	4.73
Install signs or reflectors at known deer crossings	9.09% 16	18.18% 32	26.70% 47	16.48% 29	16.48% 29	11.36% 20	1.70% 3	176	4.46
Manage roadside vegetation to increase driver visibility	6.25% 11	12.50% 22	28.98% 51	23.30% 41	15.91% 28	9.66% 17	3.41% 6	176	4.27
Enforce State Regulation prohibiting supplemental feeding of deer by residents	6.25% 11	5.68% 10	14.77% 26	18.75% 33	30.11% 53	18.18% 32	6.25% 11	176	3.60
Use non-lethal methods, like birth control, to slow the growth of the deer population	11.93% 21	21.02% 37	5.11% 9	6.82% 12	9.66% 17	28.41% 50	17.05% 30	176	3.65
Use lethal methods such as bow-hunting or sharpshooting by a licensed professional, to reduce the deer population	32.39% 57	6.82% 12	5.11% 9	2.84% 5	4.55% 8	14.20% 25	34.09% 60	176	3.81

Q15 Are you aware that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is battling a highly contagious and always fatal disease among the deer herd called Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)?

Answered: 180 Skipped: 2

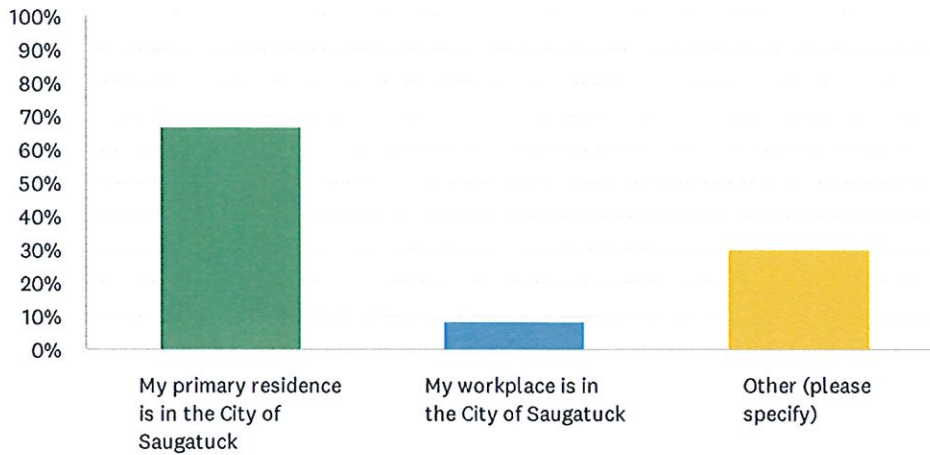


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	76.11%	137
No	23.89%	43
TOTAL		180

Tri-Community Wildlife Committee Deer Survey

Q1 Please choose a category that best describes you. (Select all that apply)

Answered: 167 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
My primary residence is in the City of Saugatuck	67.07%	112
My workplace is in the City of Saugatuck	8.38%	14
Other (please specify)	29.94%	50
Total Respondents: 167		

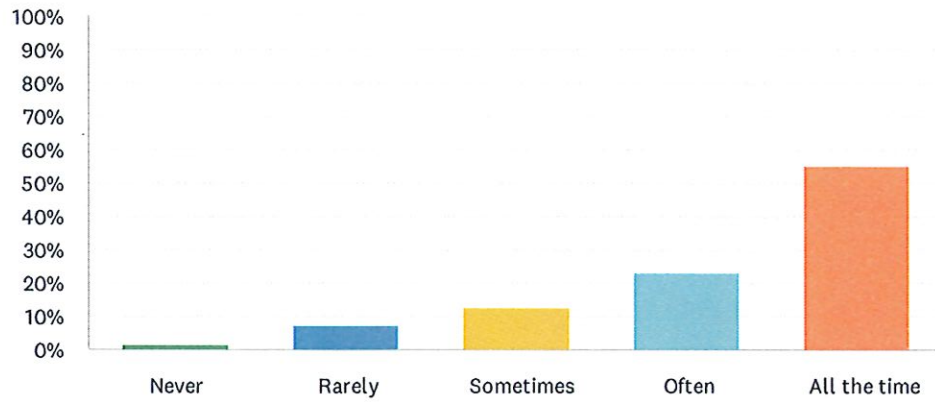
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Second home	1/13/2025 1:54 PM
2	We spend about 6 months out of a year in Saugatuck. We own a house.	1/5/2025 8:45 PM
3	Own home, part time resident, DO NOT rent out	12/29/2024 7:16 PM
4	Primary residence is in Saugatuck Township	12/28/2024 10:07 AM
5	Second home in City of Saugatuck	12/22/2024 3:34 PM
6	Primary residence Douglas	12/21/2024 4:34 PM
7	I live in Douglas and walk through Saugatuck neighborhoods almost every day.	12/20/2024 8:05 PM
8	2nd home	12/19/2024 7:37 PM
9	2nd home City of Saugatuck	12/19/2024 6:44 PM
10	I have a second home there	12/19/2024 5:59 PM
11	My secondary residence is in the City of Saugatuck	12/19/2024 1:44 PM
12	cottage	12/19/2024 1:39 PM
13	Current vacation home in Saugatuck. Plan to move there full-time in two years.	12/19/2024 1:37 PM
14	My second home	12/19/2024 1:18 PM
15	Primary residence in Saugatuck township	12/19/2024 8:50 AM

Tri-Community Wildlife Committee Deer Survey

16	Second home	12/19/2024 5:55 AM
17	I love in saugatuck township but I visit and drive through town almost daily.	12/18/2024 9:33 PM
18	Primary residence is in Saugatuck Township	12/18/2024 12:47 PM
19	My full-time residence and business are both in Douglas	12/18/2024 11:10 AM
20	I live in Douglas	12/18/2024 10:50 AM
21	Summer Residence	12/18/2024 10:31 AM
22	Part time resident	12/18/2024 8:09 AM
23	I own a home in Shorewood which is within the city limits. I live there for 5.5 months every year. I have lived in this home for 78 years.	12/18/2024 7:36 AM
24	Second home in Saugatuck	12/18/2024 6:56 AM
25	Township resident	12/18/2024 6:20 AM
26	Douglas	12/18/2024 6:00 AM
27	We have a vacation home in Saugatuck.	12/18/2024 12:00 AM
28	Live in the township, work in the city of saugatuck	12/17/2024 11:15 PM
29	Township	12/17/2024 10:24 PM
30	Visitor to my parents home in both winter and summer months	12/17/2024 10:06 PM
31	Primary residence in Saugatuck Township	12/17/2024 10:05 PM
32	Weekend cottage owner	12/17/2024 10:00 PM
33	I work in Douglas	12/17/2024 9:48 PM
34	Twshp 2nd home	12/17/2024 9:38 PM
35	Live in saugatuck township, drive through city of saugatuck to get to Douglas, where I work	12/17/2024 9:34 PM
36	Saugatuck Township	12/17/2024 9:30 PM
37	Resident of Saugatuck Township	12/17/2024 9:24 PM
38	Douglas	12/17/2024 9:23 PM
39	Summer home in Saugatuck township	12/17/2024 9:07 PM
40	Residence in Douglas	12/17/2024 8:52 PM
41	My workplace is in the City of Douglas	12/17/2024 7:46 PM
42	I own a house on Park St & live out of state	12/17/2024 5:08 PM
43	Saugatuck township tax payer	12/17/2024 4:47 PM
44	the house and property I own in Sauagtuck is a summer residence	12/17/2024 4:45 PM
45	Visit once a week - live in twp	12/17/2024 4:38 PM
46	Any my work is home based.	12/17/2024 4:35 PM
47	Residence is in Saugatuck township	12/17/2024 4:34 PM
48	Vacation home is in City of Saugatuck	12/17/2024 4:22 PM
49	Just outside city limit	12/17/2024 4:17 PM
50	I own a house in Saugatusck.	12/17/2024 4:16 PM

Q2 How frequently have you seen live deer in the City of Saugatuck in the past year?

Answered: 168 Skipped: 2

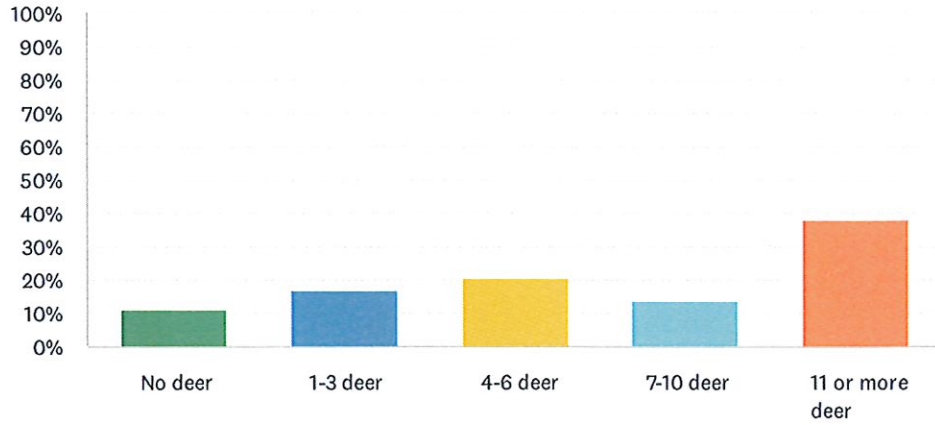


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Never	1.79%	3
Rarely	7.14%	12
Sometimes	12.50%	21
Often	23.21%	39
All the time	55.36%	93
TOTAL		168

Tri-Community Wildlife Committee Deer Survey

Q3 How many deer do you see in the City of Saugatuck in a typical week?

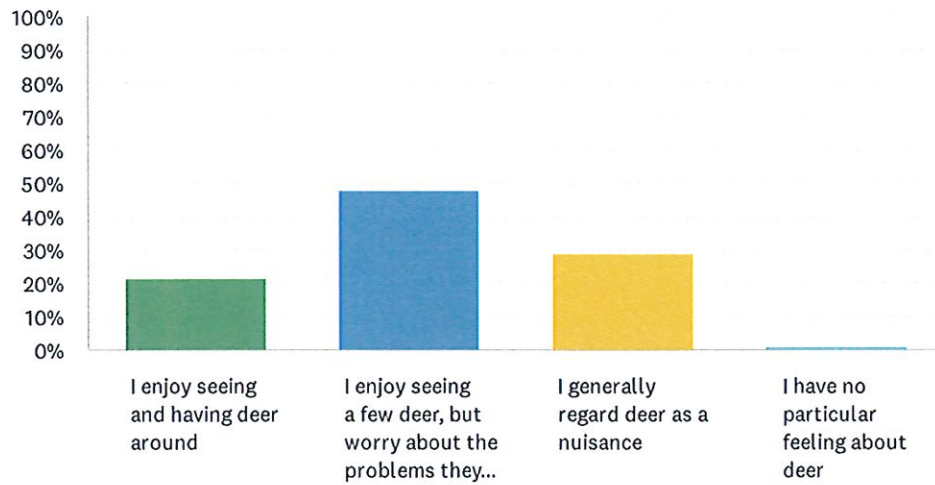
Answered: 166 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No deer	10.84%	18
1-3 deer	16.87%	28
4-6 deer	20.48%	34
7-10 deer	13.86%	23
11 or more deer	37.95%	63
TOTAL		166

Q4 Generally, which of the following best describes your feelings about deer in the City of Saugatuck?

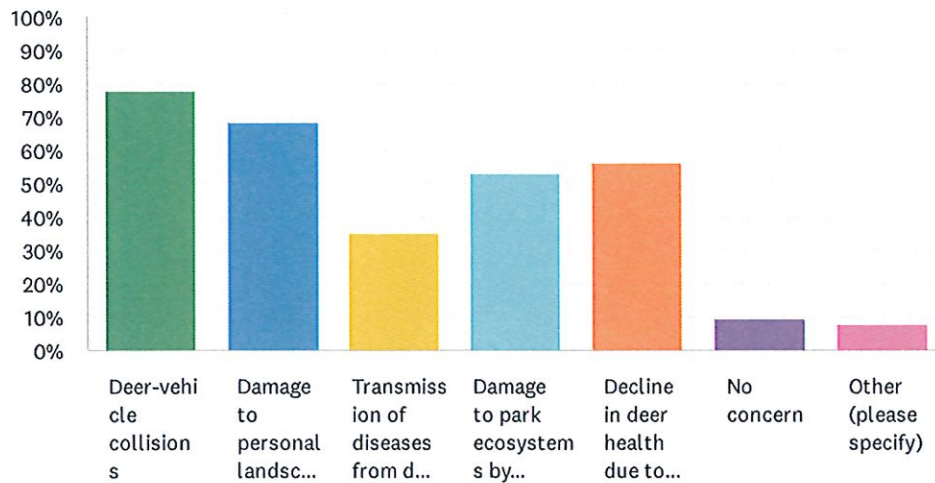
Answered: 165 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I enjoy seeing and having deer around	21.82%	36
I enjoy seeing a few deer, but worry about the problems they cause	47.88%	79
I generally regard deer as a nuisance	29.09%	48
I have no particular feeling about deer	1.21%	2
TOTAL		165

Q5 Which of the following concerns do you have about deer in the City of Saugatuck? (Choose all that apply)

Answered: 167 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Deer-vehicle collisions	77.84% 130
Damage to personal landscape and garden plants	68.26% 114
Transmission of diseases from deer to people	35.33% 59
Damage to park ecosystems by over-browsing of native forage plants	53.29% 89
Decline in deer health due to overpopulation	56.29% 94
No concern	9.58% 16
Other (please specify)	7.78% 13
Total Respondents: 167	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Over the years, I've seen a huge decrease in saplings and wildflowers. Over the past 5 years, 1000's of ferns have just disappeared. There are none left!	1/13/2025 1:54 PM
2	Stop cutting down all the gorgeous trees, you leave them nowhere to live. Saugatuck is a nature town	12/29/2024 7:16 PM
3	I am concerned about the stability of the dunes, years down the road, with all of the low-lying vegetation being eaten by deer. There are very few plants at deer-height or lower that survive the deer in our area. Years from now when the current trees die off, there will be no smaller trees growing up to replace them.	12/19/2024 1:37 PM
4	p	12/18/2024 11:43 PM
5	Starvation and disease (CWD) will be brutal to witness and experience, and not fair to the deer. There are no comments allowed for below in the 'support' section. I would like to know more about the birth control option and more about how the legal methods of control work before full	12/18/2024 2:59 PM

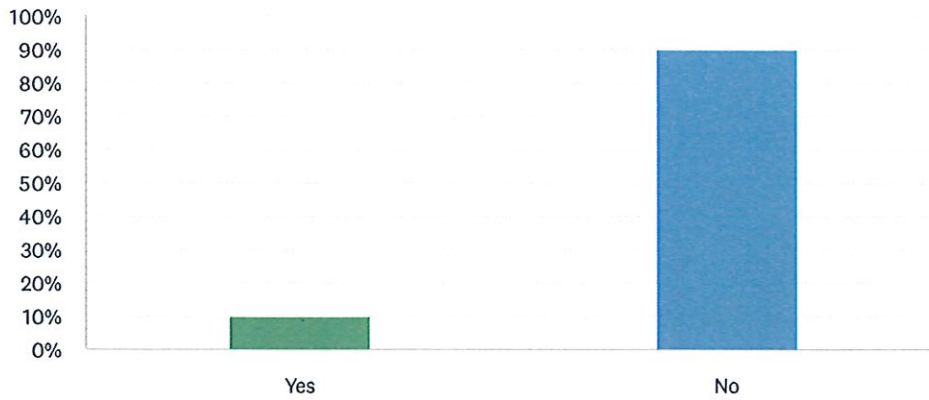
Tri-Community Wildlife Committee Deer Survey

support. Like, when, how, danger to residents, what happens with the carcasses, assurance that a deer is killed and not wounded for a painful death, etc.

6	Decimation of forested land due to elimination of saplings/young tree growth	12/18/2024 11:10 AM
7	Transferring ticks to our dog	12/18/2024 10:31 AM
8	I think we should be considerate of both sides. Unfortunately the deer can't speak on their behalf and therefore we must respect that this area is also their habitat. I have seen where certain animals have been removed or eliminated and it has caused a lot more problems. I mostly only see deer in un inhabited areas. Maybe there is a vaccination or a medication to help stop the CWD. Or find out other ways to help control this disease. I don't remember having this problem 30 years ago. What has changed for these animals to be catching this type of disease?	12/17/2024 9:09 PM
9	Spread of invasive species due to lack of native species as the deer have eaten them all	12/17/2024 9:07 PM
10	Mother nature controls the population through disease' such as CWD or BTB.	12/17/2024 4:35 PM
11	Dear poop all over my yard, which prevents me from letting my dog out	12/17/2024 4:22 PM
12	They have eaten all of our deer resistant plants.	12/17/2024 4:20 PM
13	My front yard is loaded with deer feces. The small deer also have pushed through my aluminum fence and bent the rails.	12/17/2024 4:19 PM

Q6 Have you ever been involved in a car-deer accident in the City of Saugatuck?

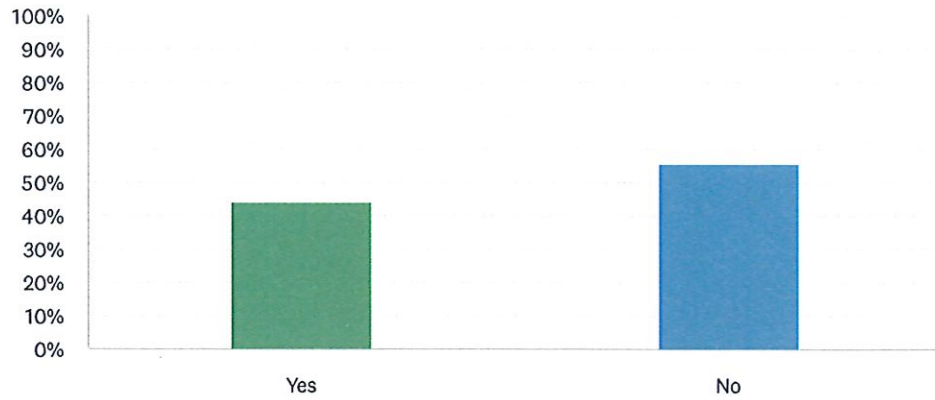
Answered: 166 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	10.24%	17
No	89.76%	149
TOTAL		166

Q7 Have you ever been involved in a car-deer accident outside of your community?

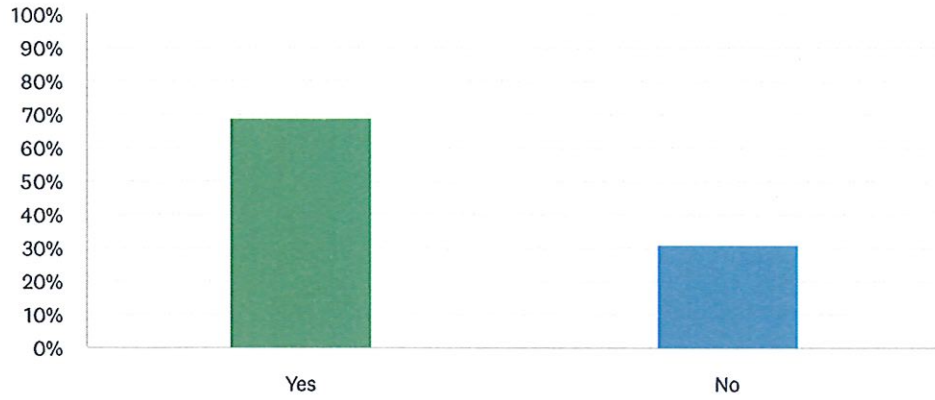
Answered: 165 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	44.24%	73
No	55.76%	92
TOTAL		165

Q8 Have you had a deer run in front of you, resulting in a near-miss while driving in the City of Saugatuck?

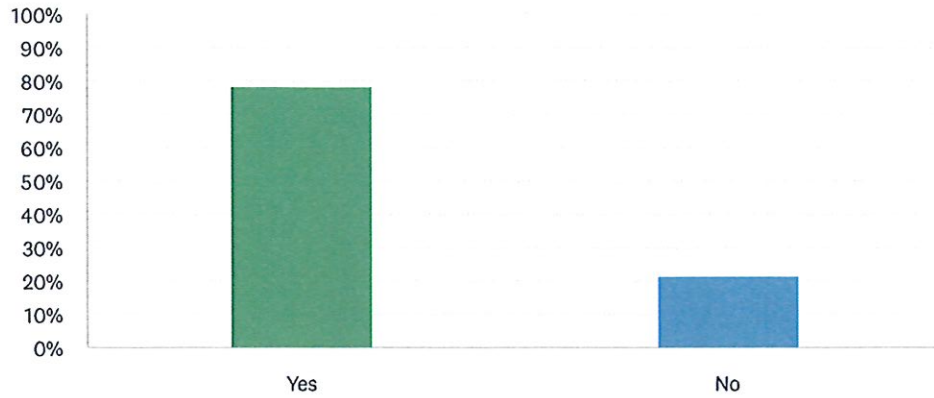
Answered: 167 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	68.86%	115
No	31.14%	52
TOTAL		167

Q9 Have you had a deer run in front of you, resulting in a near-miss while driving outside of your community?

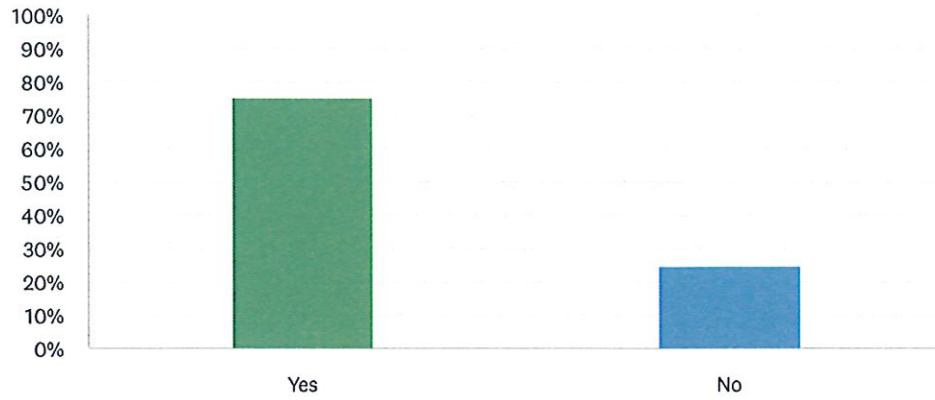
Answered: 167 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	78.44%	131
No	21.56%	36
TOTAL		167

Q10 Have your personal garden plants or landscaping been damaged by deer?

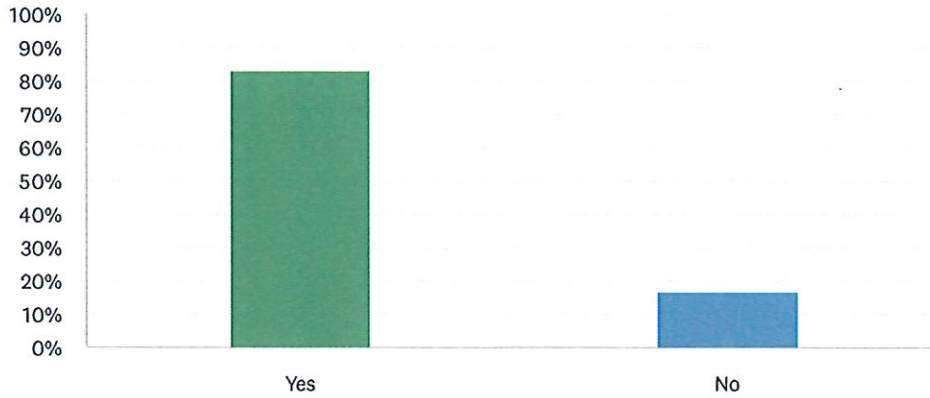
Answered: 167 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	75.45%	126
No	24.55%	41
TOTAL		167

Q11 Are you aware the feeding deer is illegal in the State of Michigan and subject to fines?

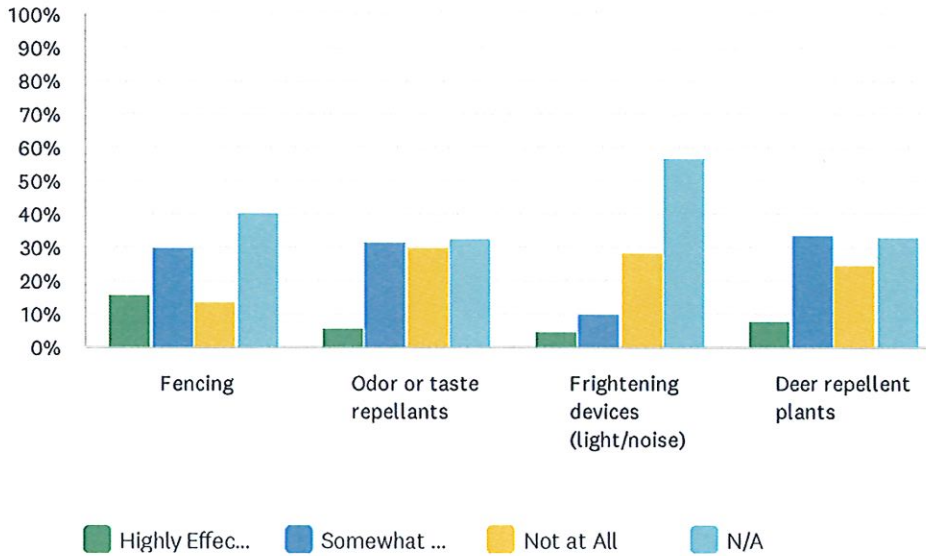
Answered: 170 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	82.94%	141
No	17.06%	29
TOTAL		170

Q12 If your garden plants or landscaping have been damaged by deer, do you use any of the following measures to prevent damage? Please rate the effectiveness of the measure(s) you use.

Answered: 168 Skipped: 2

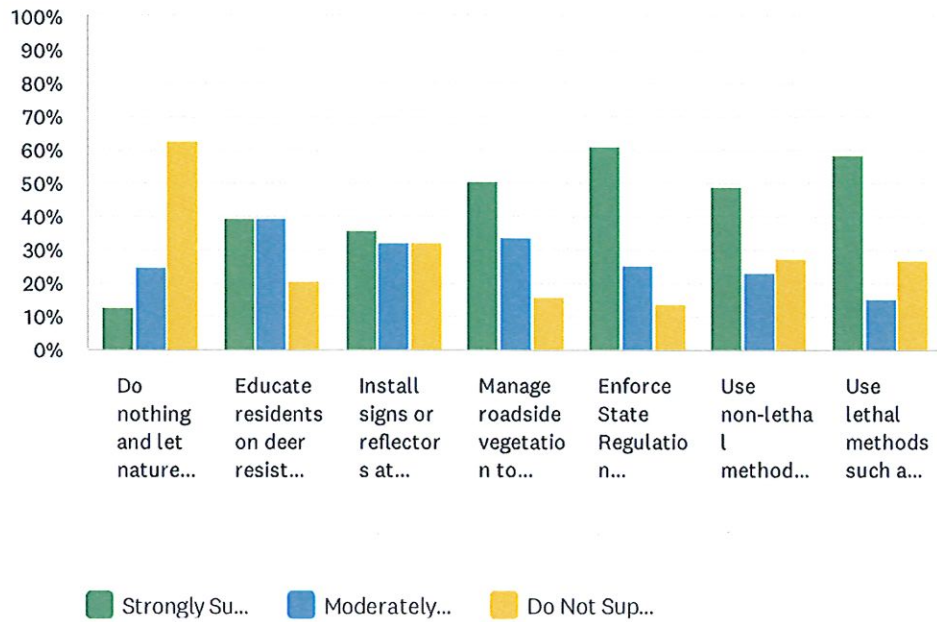


	HIGHLY EFFECTIVE	SOMEWHAT EFFECTIVE	NOT AT ALL	N/A	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Fencing	16.03% 25	30.13% 47	13.46% 21	40.38% 63	156	2.78
Odor or taste repellants	5.56% 9	31.48% 51	30.25% 49	32.72% 53	162	2.90
Frightening devices (light/noise)	4.49% 7	10.26% 16	28.21% 44	57.05% 89	156	3.38
Deer repellent plants	7.88% 13	33.94% 56	24.85% 41	33.33% 55	165	2.84

Tri-Community Wildlife Committee Deer Survey

Q13 How would you rate the following?

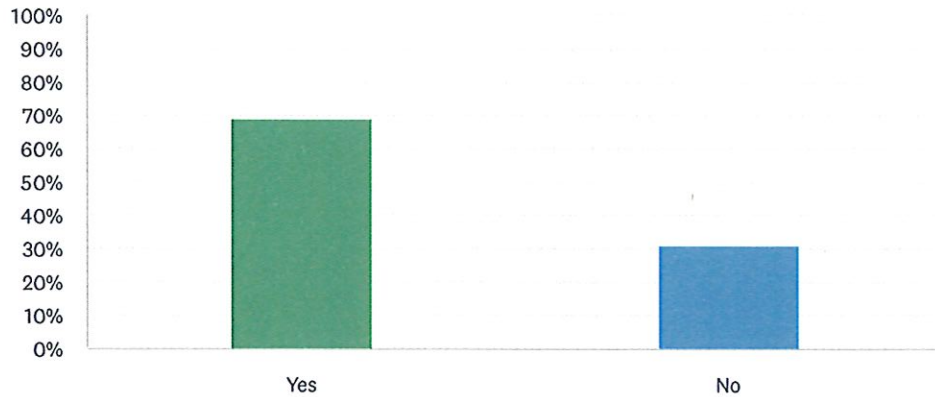
Answered: 170 Skipped: 0



	STRONGLY SUPPORT	MODERATELY SUPPORT	DO NOT SUPPORT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Do nothing and let nature take its course	12.50% 21	25.00% 42	62.50% 105	168	2.50
Educate residents on deer resistant landscape plants	39.64% 67	39.64% 67	20.71% 35	169	1.81
Install signs or reflectors at known deer crossings	35.76% 59	32.12% 53	32.12% 53	165	1.96
Manage roadside vegetation to increase driver visibility	50.61% 83	33.54% 55	15.85% 26	164	1.65
Enforce State Regulation prohibiting supplemental feeding of deer by residents	60.84% 101	25.30% 42	13.86% 23	166	1.53
Use non-lethal methods, like birth control, to slow the growth of the deer population	49.10% 82	23.35% 39	27.54% 46	167	1.78
Use lethal methods such as bow-hunting or sharpshooting by a licensed professional, to reduce the deer population	58.18% 96	15.15% 25	26.67% 44	165	1.68

Q14 Are you aware that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is battling a highly contagious and always fatal disease among the deer herd called Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)?

Answered: 170 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

Yes	68.82%	117
No	31.18%	53
TOTAL		170

City Manager

From: Poppe, Don (DNR) <PoppeD@michigan.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2024 3:49 PM
To: City Manager
Subject: RE: Survey's/Tomorrow

Hello Lisa,

I think this is the last list to answer.

1. Extended antlerless seasons – At this point there is antlerless opportunity starting in September, and now ending in January. That is a huge amount of opportunity, and generally speaking it is just spreading out the harvest. Longer seasons typically result in about the same total harvest, just spread out as hunters don't feel an urgency to get out and get a deer versus a limited 5 day season.
2. Any hunting during open deer seasons just require the hunter(s) to have written permission from the landowner. Anything outside of state regulations for deer hunting would require a special permit from the DNR (i. e. Sharp shooting/culling).
3. There is no "list" for sharp shooters that I can find. We have a list of nearly 500 "Licensed nuisance wildlife control operators", and some portion of them I believe are permitted by the DNR to work with deer... but the best way would be to internet search for "Deer sharp shooting services in Michigan" or similar search terms, several contractors come up.
4. Finally with regard to contraception and sterilization (this is from our Urban Deer Policy), these methods will not be permitted for the following reasons:
 - a. Contracepting or sterilizing deer does not immediately remove deer from a conflict situation.
 - b. • Current research has shown that fertility control can limit deer population growth in fenced areas and islands (Merrill et al 2006, Rutberg and Naugle 2008), but has been ineffective at controlling free-ranging deer herds.
 - c. • Research by Kirkpatrick et al (2011), indicate the challenges in the development and application of vaccine-based wildlife contraceptives are diverse and include differences in efficacy across species, safety of vaccines during pregnancy, the development of novel delivery systems for wild and wary free-ranging animals, and the constraints of certain non-contraceptive effects, such as effects on behavior.
 - d. • Kirkpatrick et. al (2011) also indicated that even when used successfully, challenges remain to improve delivery systems, modify vaccine components to enhance the duration of effectiveness, assure comprehensive safety, develop a sustainable funding base for research, and achieve general social acceptance.
 - e. • A study by Gilman et al (2010) show changes in maternal status imposed by sterilization may act to increase movement and mortality rates among sterilized females, resulting in an increase in deer-vehicle collisions.
5. Most of the citations above are over 10 years old, so I don't know if some of the research on contraception your committee members mentioned contradicts the above statements, but I do know this is still current policy for us. I will inquire more with Lansing to be sure nothing has changed.

Don Poppe

City Manager

From: Poppe, Don (DNR) <PoppeD@michigan.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2024 9:53 AM
To: City Manager
Subject: Ottawa Parks Hunting example

Hello Lisa,

I just became aware of the Hunting Program at Ottawa Parks. It is a much larger scale than you all are working with, however, I think it is a good example of how a municipality might run a hunt program on park properties.

[Hunting on Parks & Recreation Properties - Ottawa County, Michigan](#)

Don

Don Poppe

Wildlife Biologist for Allegan, Kalamazoo, and Van Buren Counties
Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources
Wildlife Division
(989) 965-3333 (call/text)

Allegan State Game Area
4590 118th Avenue
Allegan, MI 49010



[Hunting on Parks & Recreation Properties | Ottawa County, MI](#)

Hunting on Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Properties

1. [Home](#)
2. [Parks](#)
3. [Hunting on Parks & Recreation Properties](#)

Subscribe to Updates

Sign up to receive hunting application reminders via email.

[Sign Up](#)

Rules & Regulations

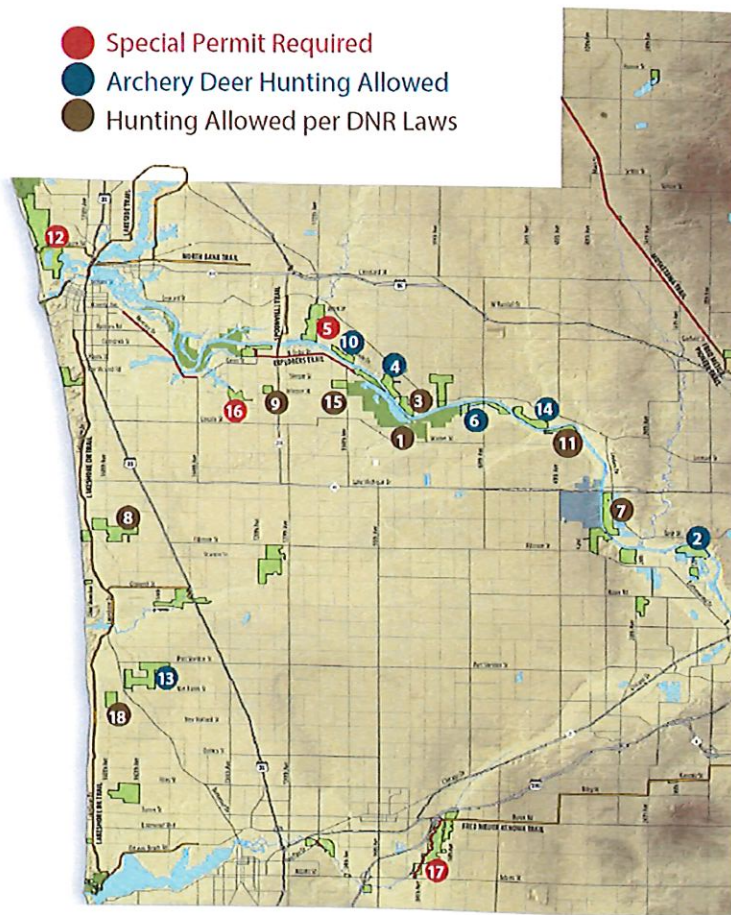
Ottawa County Parks & Recreation offers hunting on over 4,500 acres of selected properties with some restrictions intended to protect hunters and park visitors alike. Before you head out to hunt, please review the rules and permit requirements. Along with the [general park property rules](#), hunters must comply with the following:

- All hunters must follow the laws of the [Michigan Department of Natural Resources](#).
- Trapping is not allowed.
- Target practice or paint ball shooting is not allowed.
- Hunters must maintain a 30-yard distance from property lines. Property lines are marked with red stakes.
- Hunting is not allowed within 450 feet of any occupied building.
- Motorized vehicles are not allowed except in designated parking areas.
- Cutting of trees or branches to create shooting lanes is not allowed.

- Gathering of dead materials found on the ground to construct blinds is not allowed.
- Tree stands and type 1 ground blinds may be used per state laws. All stands or blinds must have identification attached.
- Using bait to attract deer is not allowed.
- Fishing is allowed in designated areas following the laws of the [Michigan Department of Natural Resources](#).

More in Sections 11 & 12 of Ordinance No. 03-2

Properties with Hunting Available



1. Bass River Open Space
2. Bend Area
3. Bur Oak Landing-East

4. Bur Oak Landing-West
5. Crockery Creek Natural Area
6. Eastmanville Bayou
7. Grand River Open Space
8. Hiawatha Forest
9. Johnson Street Forest
10. Jubb Bayou
11. Kuits Bayou
12. North Ottawa Dunes & Ottawa Sands
13. Port Sheldon Natural Area
14. Ripps Bayou
15. Robinson Forest
16. Stearns Creek
17. Upper Macatawa Natural Area
18. Van Buren Street Dunes

Hunting is NOT allowed at:

- Adams Street Landing
- Deer Creek Park
- Connor Bayou
- Eastmanville Farm
- Grand River Park
- Grand River Ravines
- Grose Park
- Hager Park
- Hemlock Crossing
- Historic Ottawa Beach Parks

- Kirk Park
- Musketawa Trail
- North Beach Park
- Paw Paw Park
- Pine Bend
- Olive Shores
- Riverside Park
- Pigeon Creek Park
- Spring Grove Park
- Riley Trails
- Rosy Mound Natural Area
- Tunnel Park

Special Permits

Properties requiring a special permit for hunting include Crockery Creek Natural Area, Upper Macatawa Natural Area, Stearns Creek Park, Stearns Creek North, North Ottawa Dunes, and Ottawa Sands. Lottery drawings are held prior to the hunting periods at each of these sites. Hunters may apply for each of the lotteries, but may submit only one application for each; duplicate entries results in removal from the lottery process. Please click on the plus sign for more information about each hunt and the application link.

Waterfowl Hunting

Crockery Creek Natural Area is also open to waterfowl hunting by **special permit** only. At this time, there is no lottery for this hunt.

[Apply for Waterfowl Hunting Permit](#)

Archery Deer Hunting

Crockery Creek Natural Area, Upper Macatawa Natural Area, and Stearns Creek are open to archery deer hunting each fall by special permit only, during specific periods by lottery-chosen hunters. The parks remain open for hiking, fishing, and other recreational uses during the hunting season. Special hunting rules and regulations are in effect for these hunts; please review before you apply.

Application & Lottery Drawing

The online application will open on August 1, 2024, and must be completed by August 31, 2024. Hunters may only apply once. Hunters whose names appear on more than one application will be disqualified. 10 applicants will be selected for each archery location per season. All applicants will be notified of lottery results by e-mail no later than September 15, 2024. Hunters selected to receive a permit (either season) will be required to do the following:

- Complete and return a liability release form (will be sent by e-mail to those selected).
- Pay the permit fee of \$20 to the parks office.
- Read and agree to follow the rules for the hunt.
- Minors under the age of 18 may not apply for the lottery, however lottery winners may bring one minor hunting with them. Both the permit holder and the minor must have a copy of permit in their possession while hunting.
- Complete a post-season survey. Failure to complete this survey will result in being excluded from the opportunity for a special permit in the future.
- Under Michigan DNR regulations, these sites are considered “public land,” therefore, a hunter must possess a public-land antlerless deer license to take a doe on site.

Apply for a special permit at Crockery Creek, Upper Macatawa, or Stearns Creek Park

Stearns North All Game Hunting

This Special Permit opportunity is for all game hunting per DNR regulations. There are two hunting seasons available on this property. The park will remain open for hiking, fishing, and other recreational uses during the hunting season.

All Game Hunting Season Dates

Fall	October 15, 2024 – January 1, 2025
Spring	April 15, 2025 – May 15, 2025

Application and Lottery Drawing

The **online application** will open on August 1, 2024, and must be submitted by August 31, 2024. Hunters may only apply once. Hunters whose names appear on more than one application will be disqualified. Five applicants will be selected for each season. All applicants will be notified of lottery results by e-mail no later than September 15, 2024. Hunters selected to receive a permit (either season) will be required to do the following:

- Complete and return a liability release form (will be sent by e-mail to those selected).
- Pay the permit fee of \$20 to the parks office.
- Read and agree to follow the rules for the hunt.
- Minors under the age of 18 may not apply for the lottery, however lottery winners may bring one minor hunting with them. Both the permit holder and the minor must have a copy of permit in their possession while hunting.
- Permit holders may scout the property (off trail hiking) up to seven days prior to their season.
- **Complete a post-season survey.** Failure to complete this survey will result in being excluded from the opportunity for a special permit in the future.

Lakeshore Wildlife Management Hunt

The wildlife management hunt will take place between the dates of November 22- November 25, 2024 (each participant will be scheduled for two of those dates) at North

Ottawa Dunes and Ottawa Sands. The parks will be closed to the general public. Special hunting [rules and regulations](#) are in effect for these hunts; please review before you apply.

Application & Lottery Drawing

The [online application](#) will open on August 1, 2024, and must be completed by August 31, 2024. Hunters may only apply once. Hunters whose names appear on more than one application will be disqualified. All applicants will be notified of lottery results by e-mail no later than September 15, 2024. Selected hunters will be required to do the following:

- Complete and return a liability release form (will be sent by e-mail to those selected).
- Pay the permit fee of \$20; due at pre-hunt meeting.
- Attend a required pre-hunt meeting (in-person) – **Wednesday, October 16 from 5:30-6 pm OR Saturday, October 19 from 10-10:30 am**
- Complete a [post-season survey](#). Failure to complete this survey will result in being excluded from the opportunity for a special permit in the future.

[Apply for the Lakeshore Wildlife Management Lottery](#)

Hunter Safety Tips

- Treat every firearm as if it is loaded.
- Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.
- Be certain of your target and what's beyond it.
- Keep your finger outside the trigger guard and off the trigger until ready to shoot.
- Control your emotions when hunting.
- Always let someone know where you are hunting and when you plan on returning.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dealing with deer population here

To the editor,

As Tri-Community Wildlife Committee members, we wish to share our efforts to address a growing concern in our area: managing an out-of-balance deer population.

While we all appreciate the presence of wildlife in our region, the current situation is unsustainable, posing challenges to both our community and the deer themselves.

Our goal is to find thoughtful, humane solutions that address overpopulation, food scarcity and the impacts on our daily lives.

In recent years, we have seen a significant increase in the deer population. This has resulted in higher incidences of property damage, including that deer eat nearly every plant in sight, often leaving residents feeling helpless.

Beyond these frustrations, overpopulation poses more serious concerns. With limited food sources, deer face the threat of malnutrition and starvation, especially as winter approaches.

Simply put, the land cannot support the current numbers, and without intervention these challenges will only deepen, impacting

the health of our local ecosystem and the well-being of the deer.

Feeding deer, while well-intentioned, is illegal in the State of Michigan and has further complicated the situation. Supplemental feeding may attract more deer to certain areas, increase dependency on human-provided food and encourage further population growth. Feeding can also contribute to the spread of diseases within the deer population.

For these reasons, the committee is advocating for a community-wide understanding of how feeding impacts the population balance and discussing alternative ways to support the deer naturally.

We are working with wildlife specialists and community members to explore a variety of humane options to address the deer population thoughtfully. This includes educational initiatives to inform residents about the effects of feeding deer and ways to reduce conflict without relying on strategies that only offer temporary solutions.

Ultimately, we believe that this situation requires a balanced approach that prioritizes animal wel-

fare, public safety and the health of our environment.

We understand that deer are an integral part of our natural landscape, and our goal is to find a path forward that respects their place in our community while acknowledging the limits of the local ecosystem's capacity.

In closing, we believe that together we can work toward a solution that reflects our shared values and commitment to the well-being of our community and our wildlife.

Thank you for your support as we strive to address this issue with care and thoughtfulness.

Tri-Community
Wildlife Committee

Created this fall, the committee consists of three representatives each from Douglas and Saugatuck cities, plus Saugatuck Township. Members meet the first Wednesday of each month in Douglas City Hall at 6 p.m. Due to the New Year's holiday, they will next convene Jan. 8. For more information, contact any of these government offices.

-Ed.

City Manager

From: Jeff Parker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 9:21 AM
To: Ryan Heise
Cc: Ryan Cummins; Scott Dean
Subject: RE: deer in Dunegrass

Good morning Ryan. I am following up to see if there has been any progress regarding the deer overpopulation and solutions for it in the city of Saugatuck.

Jeff Parker
Property Manager
CFM Capital
Cell: [REDACTED]



From: Ryan Heise <Ryan@saugatuckcity.com>
Sent: Friday, November 3, 2023 10:57 AM
To: Jeff Parker <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Ryan Cummins <rcummins@saugatuckcity.com>; Scott Dean <sdean@saugatuckcity.com>
Subject: RE: deer in Dunegrass

Hello Jeff,

As mentioned in previous exchanges with the Dune Grass reps... hunting in the city is a sensitive topic... as is true throughout the state.

The mayor is willing to place this item (hunting on private property) on a future agenda this year, but it will take some time to educate the current City Council and citizens about the existing ordinances and DNR regulations.

Please let your team know that we appreciate your/their patience and understanding as we delicately address the overpopulation of deer in the area.

Best,

RH
City Manager

From: Ryan Cummins <rcummins@saugatuckcity.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2023 9:58 AM
To: Jeff Parker <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Ryan Heise <Ryan@saugatuckcity.com>
Subject: RE: deer in Dunegrass

Hi Jeff,

Thank you for checking in. I did share your letter with Ryan H, and I saw that you also sent him a list of property owners.

I am copying Ryan H to advise on the status of your request.

Thank you,

Ryan Cummins
Director of Planning and Zoning

City of Saugatuck
102 Butler St
PO Box 86
Saugatuck, MI 49453
Ph: (269) 857-2603

From: Jeff Parker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2023 6:24 AM
To: Ryan Cummins <rcummins@saugatuckcity.com>
Subject: deer in Dunegrass

Good morning Ryan,

I think I submitted everything that was requested for the city council to review the deer issue in Dunegrass. Do you know when they will discuss the issue? Obviously the guidelines set by the state for hunting seasons will have to be followed, so if there's any way to expedite the issue so we can get started this season, it would be great! Let me know if I can help. Thanks!

Jeff Parker
Property Manager
CFM Capital
Cell: [REDACTED]



City Manager

From: CAROL BRUCKMAN <cbrucky@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 10:41 AM
To: Lauren Stanton; Helen Baldwin; Scott Dean; Russ Gardner; Ryan Cummins
Subject: Major Deer Problem on Park Street

My name is Carol Bruckman. My husband Tom and I currently live (and have owned our residence for 30 years) at 129 Park Street.

I have previously written to this Board about the significant and growing problem with the deer population in the Park Street area over the past 5 to 7 years. It keeps getting worse, and something needs to be done NOW to curb this problem.

This is what I encountered when I drove into my driveway at 7:30 PM yesterday. There were five deer grazing on my neighbor's backyard on the other side of Interlaken from us. This is fairly typical.

They have eaten all of our plants and bushes as well as our neighbor's recently planted plants. They are obviously tick-infected, which poses danger from lyme disease. And, they pose a major danger for cars driving down Park Street to go to the beach and for we residents living on Park Street.

It's time for Saugatuck city officials to take actions to curb this problem! We pay considerable taxes to the city of Saugatuck. This is not a situation that residents and visitors should need to put up with.

Please respond to let us know the city's plans to attack this problem. Thank you.



Sent from my iPad

City Manager

From: pascale@collagescollection.com
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 1:08 PM
To: Jamie Wolters
Cc: Ryan Cummins
Subject: Deer issue
Attachments: Deer REMY property October 1 2024.jpg

Caution: This email originated from outside of the organization. DO NOT click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Jamie,

It was great to see you today.

That's wonderful news about the creation of the tri-community wildlife committee.

You will find attached a picture showing deer on our property yesterday. I counted 25 of them.

As you can imagine, we cannot enjoy our property anymore!

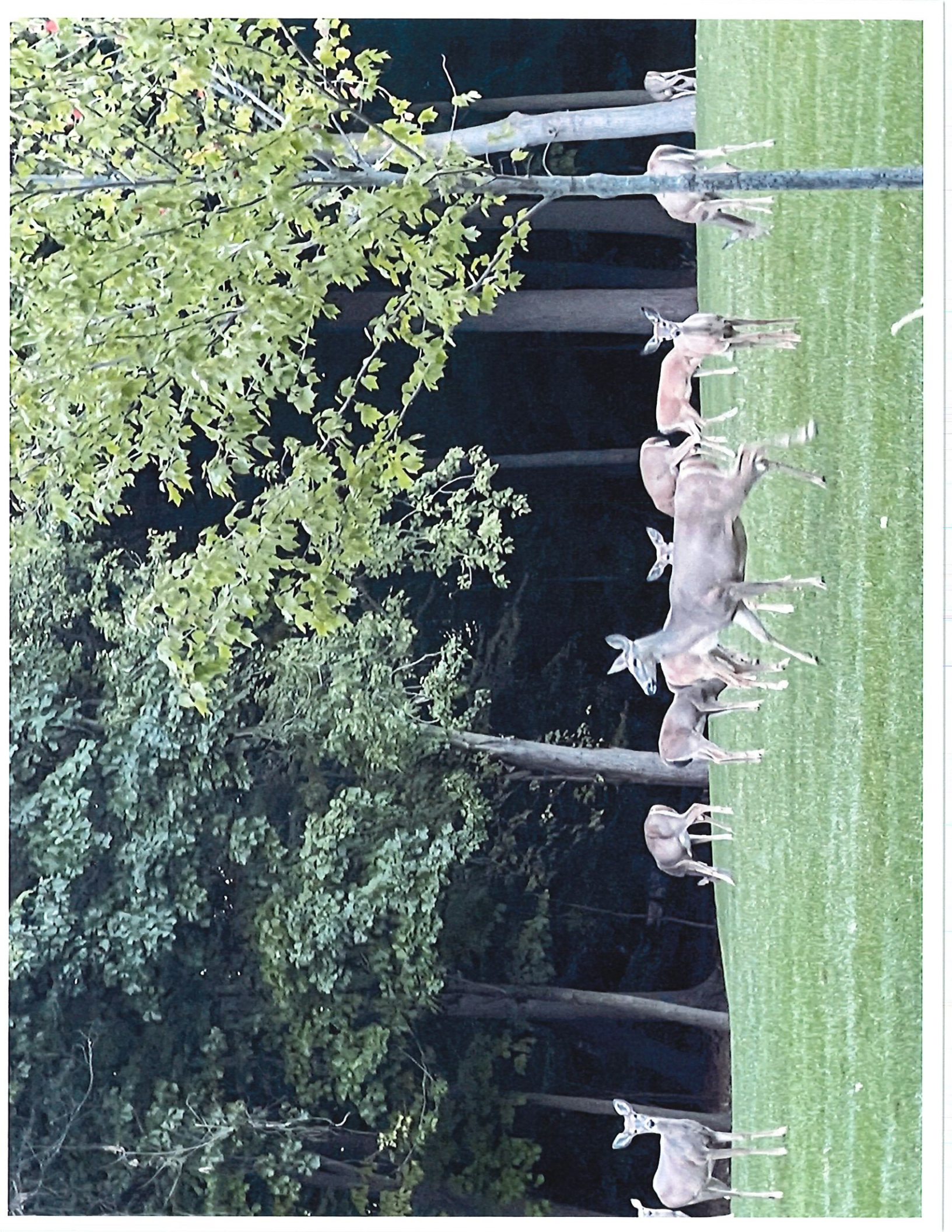
Hopefully, the committee will act soon.

I am available to share my concerns with the committee if needed. I will also be happy to participate in the meetings.

Once again, our heartfelt thank you for your help on this matter

Warm regards

Pascale



Barry Wood & Bruce Stewart

● Fremont St., Douglas, MI 49406

Counted **96 DEER** One Year ago, at dusk, week of Dec 17th 2023 while driving along this route over 30 minutes.





CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF DOUGLAS
86 West Center Street, P.O. Box 757
Douglas, MI 49406
(269) 857-1438 phone / (269) 857-4751 fax
www.douglasmi.gov
info@douglasmi.gov

COMPLAINT/CONCERN FORM

Date: 12/19/24
Name: John Finney
Address: [REDACTED] First Street
Telephone: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Email: jfinney44@hotmail.com
Complaint/Concern: There are too many deer. This problem has existed for years. The Douglas City government has done very little to solve this problem. Over the past 5 years the problem has worsened.
Address where complaint/concern is taking place: [REDACTED] First Street
Signature of applicant: [Signature]

(TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CITY)

Complaint/Concern received by: _____

Complaint/Concern given to: _____

Response: _____

City Manager

From: Beth Ramsson <beth.ramsson@cityofrochester.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 1:09 PM
To: Neal Seabert; Keith P. Walker; tammy@rochester.com
Cc: City Manager
Subject: Re: Wau Ke Na deer hunt
Attachments: Wau-Ke-Na Managed Deer Hunt Result.pdf

Here, in case none of you received it, are the results of the deer hunt.

Stay warm!

Beth

On 12/30/2024 9:38 AM, Beth Ramsson wrote:

Hello again,

I hope everyone is having a wonderful holiday season!

You may be aware of this but I thought I should send it anyway. The attached is a letter sent to the Lake Michigan Shore Association and SWMLC might be able to help us with information about what worked and what didn't, including costs, since this will be completed before our next meeting.

I would be happy to communicate with them but.... it might be better coming from someone higher up, plus I'm not confident that I'll ask the right questions without some guidance.

Please let me know what you think.

Thank you so much!

Beth Ramsson

Managed Deer Hunt Result - Wau Ke Na

Letter from the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy

Hi All,

After taking a few days to organize our thoughts and results, we wanted to reach back out to let you all know how the managed deer hunt went. Ultimately, **our hunters spent 90 hours total in the effort to harvest 22 deer**. Many more hours were spent by staff on site, setting up, organizing, and communicating around this effort as well. Considering this was the first time Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy has ever organized an effort like this, we were pleased with how things turned out.

Most of the venison resulting from the hunt was donated to area churches and foodbanks, working with meat processors who provided their service at discounted or even **free** rates! A huge shoutout to Dr. James Nieuwenhuis at [Richland Meat Center](#) for donating his services. In the end with the number of deer that were donated, this resulted in **over 1,500 meals** to help address food insecurity in our region, while dealing with an ecological problem at the same time. It was noted the churches and food banks are in great need this year due to the EHD virus affecting deer populations in other parts of the southwest region (the lakeshore was unaffected), resulting in far less donated venison.

While 22 deer will certainly not take care of the high population densities we are seeing along the lakeshore, we feel it is a good start in the right direction. We made some great personal connections in the process, communicating with many neighbors, including several (and a nearby farmer) who have independently **harvested another ~30 or so deer** that we are aware of.

We appreciate the support we receive from you and the wider community in our efforts, and we will continue to keep everyone informed as the situation evolves in the future.

Thanks again and stay warm!

Mike Larson (Executive Director)

Mitch Lettow (Conservation & Stewardship Director)