



MEMORANDUM

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 21, 2023 at 7:00 PM

TO: City Council

FROM: Rich LaBombard, City Manager

DATE: February 21, 2023

SUBJECT: Deer Survey Results – Discussion Only

With growing concerns regarding the deer population in the City of Douglas, City staff prepared a deer survey to gauge how residents perceive the deer population. This survey was available to all taxpayers on the back of their winter tax bill. Approximately 1,360 tax bills were mailed out. Residents could also take the survey online or stop in City Hall to pick up a copy.

With a deadline of February 14, 2023, 175 total surveys, approximately 13 percent response rate, were received. Results are attached.

In summary, residents of Douglas see deer all the time and they worry about the problems they cause, such as, deer-vehicle collisions, damage to personal landscape and garden plants, the decline in deer health due to over population, damage to the park ecosystems by over-browsing of native forage plants, and the transmission of diseases from deer to people. Most residents have not been involved in a car-deer accident but have had a near-miss while driving in Douglas. Eighty-seven percent of residents have had their personal garden plants or landscaping damaged and selected odor and taste repellants and deer resistant plants as being somewhat effective as a measure of preventing damage. Residents strongly support enforcing state regulations, prohibiting supplemental feeding of deer by residents, and use some control method to slow the growth of the deer population.

Sample Motion: Discussion Only

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

[More Details](#)

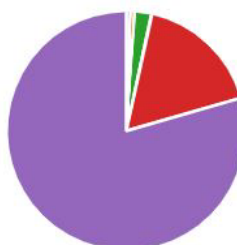
- My primary residence is in Doug... 125
- My primary residence is not in ... 47
- My workplace is in Douglas 11



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

[More Details](#)

- Never 1
- Rarely 1
- Sometimes 4
- Often 30
- All the time 139

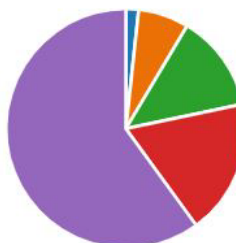


3. How many deer do you see in Douglas in a typical week?

[More Details](#)

Insights

- No deer 3
- 1-3 deer 12
- 4-6 deer 23
- 7-10 deer 32
- 11 or more deer 105

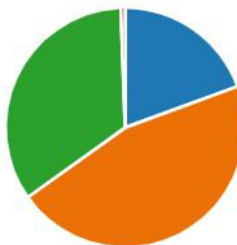


4. Generally, which of the following best describes your feelings about deer in Douglas?

[More Details](#)

Insights

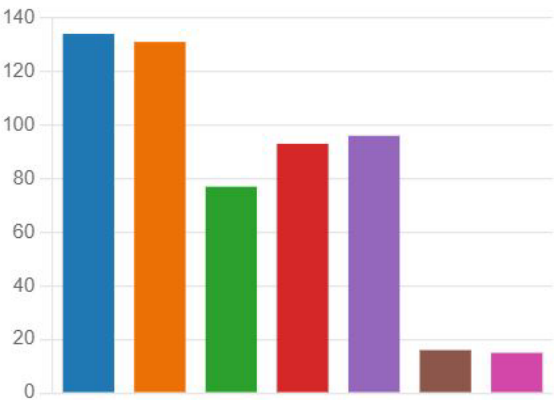
- I enjoy seeing and having deer ... 34
- I enjoy seeing a few deer, but w... 80
- I generally regard deer as a nuis... 60
- I have no particular feeling abou... 1



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

[More Details](#)

Deer-vehicle collisions	134
Damage to personal landscape ...	131
Transmission of diseases from d...	77
Damage to park ecosystems by ...	93
Decline in deer health due to ov...	96
No concern	16
Other	15



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

[More Details](#)

Yes	22
No	153



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

[More Details](#)

 Insights

Yes	56
No	119



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

[More Details](#)

 Insights

Yes	129
No	46



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

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

- Yes 111
- No 64



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

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

- Yes 153
- No 16
- Not applicable 6



11. Do you feed the deer with a feeding station/area?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

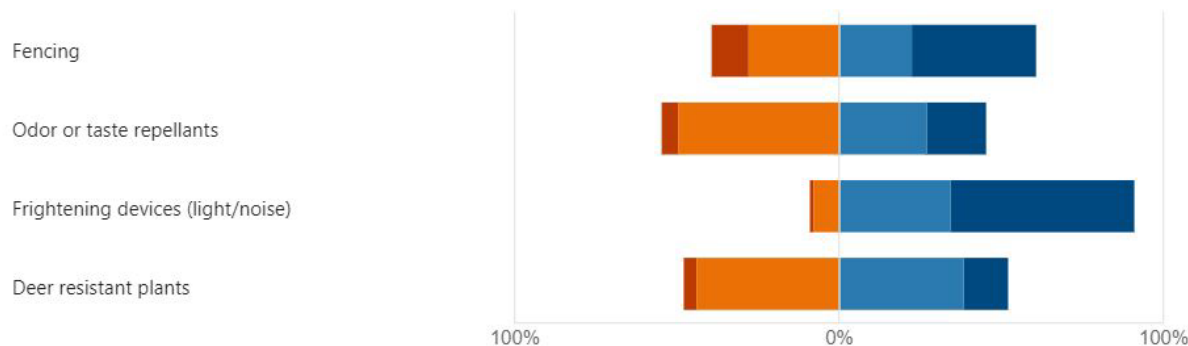
- Yes 1
- No 174



12. 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.

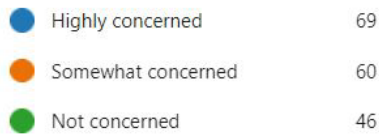
[More Details](#)

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



13. How concerned are you about the transmission of diseases, such as Lyme Disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, from deer to people?

[More Details](#)



14. Question

[More Details](#)

Strongly Support Moderately Support Do Not Support

Do nothing and let nature take its course

Educate residents on deer resistant landscape plants

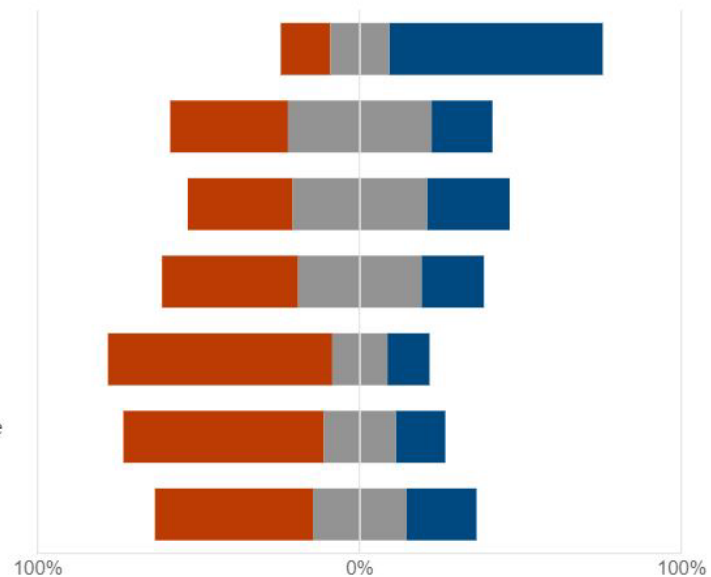
Install signs or reflectors at known deer crossings

Manage roadside vegetation to increase driver visibility

Enforce State Regulation 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 hunting to reduce the deer population



15. 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)?

[More Details](#)

Insights

