



PROPOSED DEER MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

September 2008

At the June 9, 2008, Regular City Council Meeting, Lance DeVoe along with representatives from the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division and Law Enforcement Division made a presentation on the deer population in Rochester Hills. Per the request of City Council, Administration prepared and presented at the July 21, 2008, Regular City Council Meeting its recommendations for managing the deer population in our city (see attached Deer Management Options report).

After many discussions with knowledgeable professionals and research into the issues, we offer the following Deer Management Implementation Plan for City Council consideration.

RECOMMENDATION #1
FEEDING BAN ORDINANCE

Pass a city-regulated ordinance to prevent the feeding of wild animals other than birds (draft included). This feeding ban could reduce the current travel patterns of deer from their natural habitat into subdivisions where feeding stations and bait piles were provided.

The supplemental feeding of wildlife is disruptive to the natural feeding habits of wildlife. While some residents enjoy recreational viewing of deer, this action is detrimental to the animals; attracts predators and nuisance species (raccoons, coyotes, rats, etc.); and can draw deer seeking food to cross heavy traffic areas, causing deer-vehicle accidents.

Safety Issues

Implementing a feeding ban would help reduce the concentration of deer at any single location and help prevent nose-to-nose contact resulting in the spread of disease (i.e. bovine TB, Lyme disease) and possibly reduce the number of deer-vehicle collisions in Rochester Hills.

Costs

- Initial cost for preparing an ordinance amendment, review, and passage including attorney fees, etc.
- Clerical and ordinance enforcement costs related to answering complaints for noncompliance and staff time related to the prosecution of repeat violators. No overtime hours are currently anticipated, but total time would be entirely dependent on the volume of incidents.

Effective Herd Reduction

There may be a small decrease in the fawn birthrate as available food becomes limited to surrounding habitat. Potentially, a small increase in the actual existing herd could be realized due to lessening of the deer mortality rate by fewer accidents.

City Commitment

The city would **educate** residents of the need and purpose of the new ordinance through various sources: cable TV, Hills Herald publication, notes on water bills, etc.; publicly **defend** the feeding ban as a means of reducing deer-vehicle accidents, property damage, and potentially lowering the birthrate; and **enforce** the ban to ensure compliance. The city could also encourage businesses to refrain from selling mineral blocks and place signs noting that wildlife feeding in Rochester Hills is banned by ordinance.

RECOMMENDATION #2 EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT

The Environmental Education Center (EEC) would expand the information and programs available to residents on the deer problems in our city and provide additional information on fencing, plants rarely damaged by deer, deer repellents, as well as offer other suggestions, references, and guidelines to homeowner associations and individual residents on effective means to limit the nuisance deer and damage to their property and on avoiding deer-vehicle accidents.

Safety Issues

There are no safety issues associated with increased education of the issues.

Costs

- City staff time during normal working hours for classes, presentations, or inquiries as well as video production time for cable programs or DVDs on effective deer deterrents and general information.
- Example: \$170 for 1500 brochures on Deer Management.

Effective Herd Reduction

Educating the public on all the measures of the city's deer management plan could be the most important factor in reducing deer complaints, property damage, and deer-vehicle collisions. Following and maintaining all these measures over the years will help to attain the goal of increasing the "social caring capacity" of Rochester Hills.

City Commitment

The city should begin a 3-year program informing residents of deer management procedures, and offer helpful recommendations. The city will provide further information through EEC programs, cable programming, Hills Herald articles, etc. The Administration and City Council should also show unified support for this Deer Management program and its various components and continue to monitor its effectiveness and make any appropriate modifications.

RECOMMENDATION #3

IMPROVED SIGNAGE AND ROADSIDE DETERRENTS

Improving the signage on city and county roads warning motorists of deer crossing areas could potentially reduce deer-vehicle collisions. The city would examine current signage and countermeasures to identify any needed modifications and could test new cutting-edge innovations or deterrents.

Safety Issues

MDOT and RCOC regulations for sign placement and construction would be followed. All policy recommendations could go through the Advisory Traffic and Safety Board for comments, questions, and concerns.

Costs

- Costs per sign multiplied by the number of signs plus the costs of installation (estimated at \$250 - \$300 each).
- MDOT, RCOC, grants, and SEMCOG could share some or all of the costs on roads under their jurisdiction.

Effective Herd Reduction

Although it would not cause an actual reduction in the deer population, this component should help reduce the number of deer-vehicle collisions in our city.

City Commitment

The city would construct, install, and maintain the signs placed along the city's major roadways. City staff would also assess any newly tried signage or countermeasures for their effectiveness.

Other state and county agencies would be encouraged to upgrade their existing signage or try innovative countermeasures to reduce accidents on roadways under their jurisdiction as well.

RECOMMENDATION #4

3-YEAR MORATORIUM ON BOW HUNTING BAN

Regulated hunting has proven to be an effective deer population management tool resulting in a reduction of the deer herd and modification of deer behavior.

Safety Issues

Although statistically bow hunting is the safest hunting method for deer, accidents do occur. Most accidents affect the hunter, i.e. falling out of tree stands, etc. A person mistakenly being shot by an arrow is an extremely rare occurrence due to the close proximity of the hunter to the deer (typically less than 30 yards). An arrow, however, is capable of penetrating and/or injuring an animal or person up to 100 yards. Even though the city would require an elevated hunting position, an arrow could possibly ricochet off a branch or other object, travel long distances, and strike something other than its intended target. Because of our population density, the city cannot guarantee that any given hunting zone will be free from casual people (dog walkers, bird watchers, bikers, hikers, kids playing, etc.) unintentionally putting themselves in harm's way. Wounded or frightened deer and other wildlife spooked by hunters could run into roads and potentially create a dangerous traffic hazard.

Costs

- Employee costs to administer this plan could be extensive (issuing permits, testing, inquiries, correspondence, follow-up duties, etc.).
- The Ranger/Naturalist could potentially use up to 25% of his annual time for hunting proficiency tests and other related duties that could involve seasonal peaks exceeding 75% of his available man-hours depending on the level of interest in the city. This could potentially reduce the current level of services and programming provided.
- Oakland County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) would need to respond to hunting complaints and violations, such as hunters disregarding established rules and safeguards, trespassing, wounded/dying deer, suspicious people, etc. Their time spent on this could take the officers away from dealing with other criminal activities. The officers' time relating to deer complaints would be tracked and reported to City Council.
- Ordinance Enforcement would also be involved in response to complaints.

- Clerical staff would need time to verify written permission information, handle questions from residents, clarify information, mail information, etc. They would also need to respond to emails, phone calls, counter traffic, etc. on details required to implement the plan.
- MIS staff time would be required to assist with background information and site data for each location being granted a hunting permit.
- The city attorney would need to defend the city if the ordinance is challenged or people are prosecuted for hunting activities stemming from this moratorium.
- City staff would require supplies (printing permits, postage, etc.) during the implementation of this plan.

Effective Herd Reduction

Any decrease in the deer herd through the implementation of bow hunting would be affected by two factors: the total number of participants in this yearly activity and the success of the hunters. If only 5 people participated, there would be no impact on the deer population. If even 50 people participated, the impact could be minimal. There would be a significant impact on the number of deer if hundreds of residents participated. It is unknown at this time what level of interest there would be in this activity.

City Commitment

The EEC would be used as the primary source of information and the administration of this program.

The city would need to accept the responsibility and liability for implementing this program including the establishment of its own guidelines and requirements that would need to be above and beyond the state regulations. The city could require that hunters use an elevated platform; could test the proficiency of hunters; could set acreage or safety zone requirements; etc. City Council would need to support the Deer Management program and be actively involved in the program's

evaluation to determine its effectiveness in reducing deer-vehicle collisions and also address any concerns of our residents.

The city would need to coordinate with other agencies in southeastern Michigan [Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Oakland County Sheriff's Office (OCSO)] on the effectiveness of the implemented Deer Management program in Rochester Hills.

RECOMMENDATION #5 AERIAL DEER COUNT SURVEYS

In an effort to monitor the deer population in the city, annual or semi-annual aerial deer count surveys are necessary. These surveys will aid in evaluating the effectiveness of the city's Deer Management program as well as contribute valuable data for future decision-making regarding this program.

Safety Issues

N/A

Costs

Previous surveys have cost the city around \$725 - \$825. With current higher fuel prices, these costs could rise. Costs would also be greater if more acres are surveyed. Typically we join in with Oakland County; they set up the bid process and select the company. Approximately 2 hours of park staff time would be required for each survey.

Effective Herd Reduction

The surveys would not be directly responsible for any deer herd reductions, but would be used as a tool for evaluating the implementation of the various deer reduction methods.

RECOMMENDATION #6

MONITORING DEER-VEHICLE COLLISIONS

Monitoring the number, locations, and time of deer-vehicle collisions is an important step in obtaining qualitative information needed to evaluate the effectiveness of the various components of the Deer Management program. Tracking this information can be used for comparison purposes with previous years to determine which components were most effective.

Safety Issues

This information can contribute to the safety of city motorists by identifying accident hot spots and making motorists aware of these locations so extra caution can be used.

Costs

This monitoring would require minimal cost to the city since members of SEMCOG can access this information free of charge. Park staff time would be needed to compile this data, but this task should be completed during normal working hours.

Effective Herd Reduction

This would not be a deer herd reduction tool, but would aid in the decision-making process regarding the effectiveness of deer reduction methods used.

City Commitment

The city would need to remain a SEMCOG member to access their data and would need to commit to at least 4 hours of staff time to compile this data.

08/15/2008

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE TO ADD ARTICLE III, DEER MANAGEMENT, TO CHAPTER 14, ANIMALS, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ROCHESTER HILLS, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, TO PROHIBIT DEER FEEDING; REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES, AND PRESCRIBE A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS.

THE CITY OF ROCHESTER HILLS ORDAINS:

Section 1. Article III, Deer Management, shall be added to Chapter 14 of the Code of Ordinances, as follows:

ARTICLE III. DEER MANAGEMENT

Sec. 14-90. Findings and Purpose.

Increasing complaints about and incidences of deer/vehicle accidents, deer/human interaction, deer-related diseases and damage to private property make it necessary and appropriate to manage the deer herd in the City of Rochester Hills. The City Council finds that the intentional feeding of deer contributes to an unnaturally large deer population resulting in traffic hazards, loss of natural fear of humans, risk of disease, and private property damage. By prohibiting deer feeding, the City Council intends to manage the deer herd and improve public safety and quality of life in the City by reducing the occurrence of deer/vehicle accidents, deer/human interaction, the likelihood of deer related disease, and damage to private property.

Sec. 14-91. Deer Feeding Prohibited.

No person may place or permit placement on the ground or within five (5) feet of the ground any fruit, berries, grain, vegetables, nuts, salt or other edible material or bait which may reasonably be expected to attract or feed deer unless such materials are covered or protected in a way to prevent deer from feeding on them.

Sec. 14-92. Exceptions.

The foregoing prohibition of deer feeding does not apply to:

- (a) Naturally growing materials, fruit trees, other trees and shrubs, and live crops, plants, flowers and vegetation;
- (b) Bird feeders; or
- (c) Veterinarians, animal control officers, federal and state game officials and persons authorized by the City or other public authority in the course of their duties to treat, manage, count, capture or remove deer.

Section 2. Severability. This ordinance and each article, section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, part, provision, sentence, word and portion thereof are hereby declared to be severable, and if they or any of them are declared to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason

by a court of competent jurisdiction, it is hereby provided that the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

Section 3. Penalty. All violations of this ordinance shall be misdemeanors and upon conviction thereof shall be punishable by a sentence of not more than ninety (90) days of confinement to jail or by a fine of not more than \$500, or both, in the court's discretion.

Section 4. Repeal, Effective Date, Adoption.

(1) Repeal. All regulatory provisions contained in other City ordinances, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance, are hereby repealed.

(2) Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective on _____, 2008, following its publication in the *Rochester Eccentric* on _____, 2008.

(3) Adoption. This ordinance was adopted by the City Council of the City of Rochester Hills at a meeting thereof held on _____, 2008.

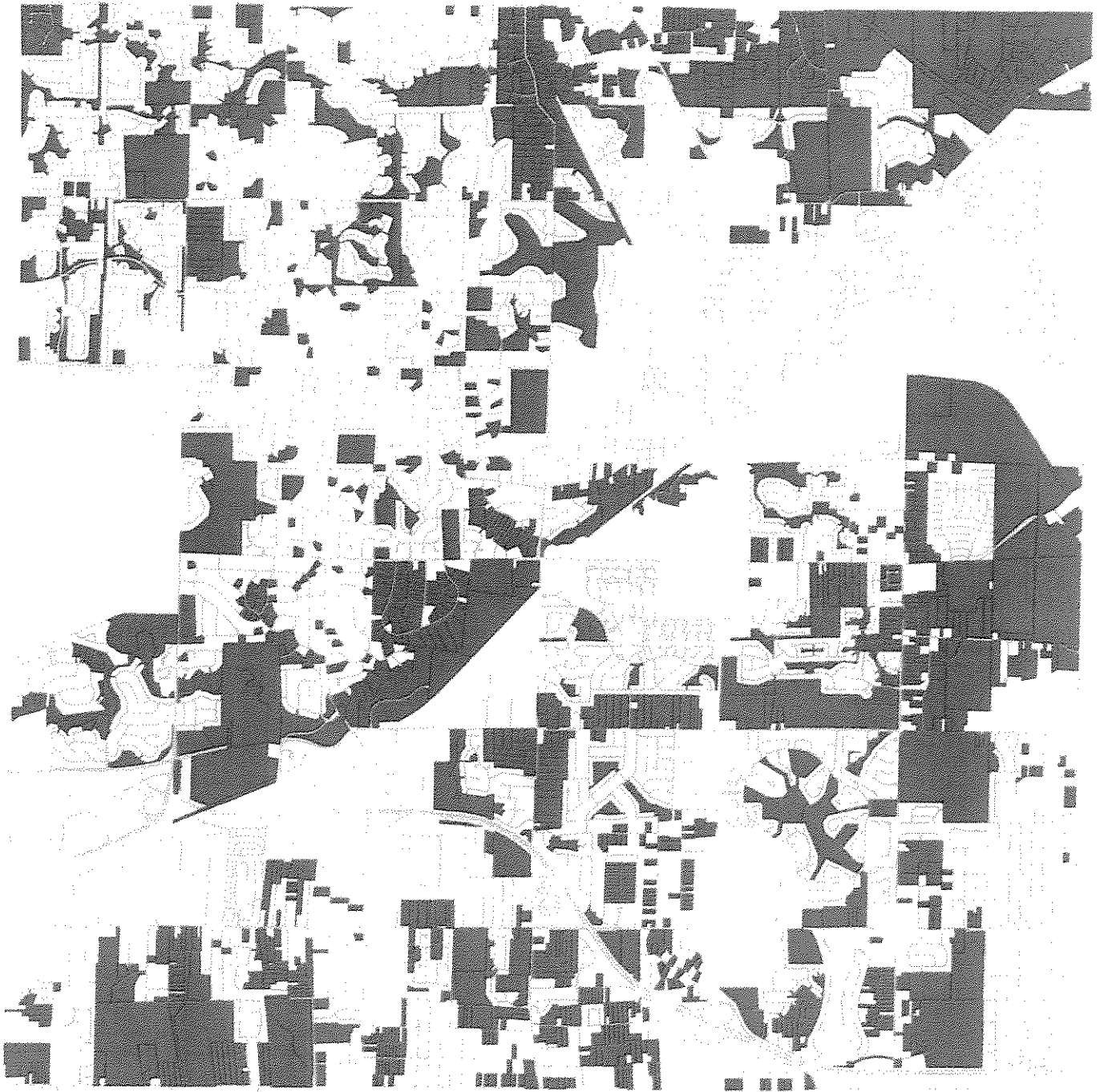
Bryan K. Barnett, Mayor
City of Rochester Hills

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify the foregoing ordinance was adopted by the City Council of the City of Rochester Hills at a meeting thereof on _____, 2008.

Jane Leslie, Clerk
City of Rochester Hills

Residential Parcels Larger Than 1 Acre (1507 Parcels)



Residential Parcels Larger Than 5 Acres (230 Parcels)



CITY OF ROCHESTER HILLS

Mayor's
Office

Bryan K. Barnett, Mayor



DATE: July 14, 2008

TO: City Council

RE: Deer Management Report

Attached for your review is the completed administrative report on deer management options. This report was requested by City Council after lengthy discussion at the June 9, 2008 City Council meeting. In the report, you will find pros and cons to each of the options discussed that evening as well as some potential recommendations for council's consideration.

We ask that council take the next week to study the report and request any additional information they deem necessary. We can continue the discussion as a future agenda item to be scheduled at Council President Hooper's discretion.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mike Hartner at 248 841-2552.

DEER MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Introduction

The deer herd in Rochester Hills has become more concentrated over the years due to several factors. As the city developed, the amount of natural habitat has diminished causing more deer to move to smaller parcels of undeveloped land and into subdivision open spaces. With a citywide ordinance banning hunting enacted in 1976, population control was left to natural causes and, unfortunately, cars. Deer have few natural predators in Rochester Hills. While coyotes will bring down a sick deer or a young fawn, there are no predators for healthy adult deer. Many residents in our community tell us we have reached a point where the number of deer has become a hazard to motorists by causing numerous deer-vehicle collisions and a nuisance to residents by causing extensive property damage.

The biological carrying capacity for deer is the number of healthy deer that can be supported by the habitat without being detrimental to or degrading that habitat. In this capacity, according to the DNR, Rochester Hills has more deer than our habitat can support. The deer are being sustained, in part, because people feed them corn, carrots, sugar beets, mineral blocks, etc., or unintentionally feed them by landscaping with plants that deer like to feed on. In addition, it is obvious to us by the regular, year-round complaints we receive at the EEC that the city has reached its cultural carrying capacity as well where many residents feel they can no longer peacefully coexist with the deer because of the problems that they cause.

Deer overpopulation results in competition for limited food resources and can alter plant species composition and abundance causing a reduction in plant diversity. These changes have a negative impact on other wildlife species, which also depend on these healthy vegetative systems for food and cover. Deer overpopulation also leads to a decline in deer herd health causing decreased body weights, lowered winter survival, increased parasitism, and increased prevalence of disease.

With the absence of natural predators and hunting, if City Council wishes to adequately address this issue, a deer management plan needs to be developed for our community. The objective of this report is to outline the various deer management options, provide the pros and cons of each, and potential recommendations for the steps the community can take to decrease our deer population.

Option #1
ALLOW NATURE TO TAKE ITS COURSE

This is a "do nothing" approach to the deer situation. Nature and the habitat would determine how many deer it can support with its vegetation and predators. Natural habitat includes available land parcels with adequate food, water, cover, and living space to ensure their healthy survival.

PROS

- There would be no additional cost to the city.
- There would be no additional city involvement for staff members.
- It satisfies the pro-deer contingent that prefers seeing the wildlife.

CONS

- It does not reduce the deer population.
- Deer-vehicle collisions will continue and could potentially increase.
- Degradation of the habitat will increase.
- Doesn't alleviate the property damage.

Option #2
USE YARD FENCING AND REPELLANTS

Yard fencing and repellents can only address site-specific problems. Woven wire fences that are six or seven feet high are adequate deterrents for most homeowners, but may not provide complete exclusion. It should be noted that effective repellent programs require frequent applications because rapidly growing shoots quickly outgrow protection and repellents degrade rapidly due to weather.

PROS:

- Fencing and repellants are site specific and would help homeowners alleviate the deer problems on their property.
- Fences can be an effective deterrent with proper methods and/or design.
- There would be negligible city involvement and would not require a change to our ordinances.
- There would be little cost to the city to provide residents with information on fencing and repellants.
- It is an environmentally safe option – not hazardous to nature or harmful to the environment.

CONS:

- Fencing and repellents would be site specific and wouldn't do anything citywide to reduce the deer population.

- It puts the responsibility on the homeowner to set aside time to frequently apply the costly repellants for them to be effective.
- Spray repellents can only be applied effectively during mild weather, so their value during winter months is restricted.
- Fences could cost \$6 to \$8 per foot to install, making them cost prohibitive for many residents.
- Many people would find the fencing to be unsightly because it would need to be a high fence, an angled fence, or a double-row fence to be effective.
- Many deed restrictions or homeowners' association restrictions prohibit residents from putting in fencing at all or fencing that is more restrictive than the city's ordinances.

Option #3

USE NON-LETHAL METHODS TO REDUCE DEER-VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

This would include roadside clearing and high fencing along roads that have been identified as areas where large numbers of deer-vehicle collisions occur; better signage warning drivers of the deer danger; and the use of reflectors or mirrored prisms that are made specifically for an artificial barrier that could potentially reduce the number of deer-vehicle collisions.

PROS:

- It could reduce the number of deer-vehicle collisions in some places.
- The landowners or agencies responsible would bear the cost of installation and maintenance.
- Current studies on newer technologies and techniques are encouraging.

CONS:

- It doesn't reduce the deer population directly.
- It would be expensive, around \$7,000 - \$10,000 per mile for fencing and close to \$30,000 per mile for a prism system. Money would also have to be budgeted annually for labor and maintenance.
- Prisms have not been proven to be 100% effective in all situations.
- Passive deer crossing signs tend to become less effective over time as people grow accustomed to them, and eventually ignore them.
- The same is true for the deer. Once accustomed to these measures, they would have little long-term effect on containing the deer herd.

Option #4

ENACT A CITY-REGULATED FEEDING BAN

This would require the city to pass an ordinance to prevent the feeding of wild animals other than birds.

PROS:

- Limited involvement for city employees.
- May reduce property damage because deer will not be drawn to these feeders and cause damage to private property along the way.
- Could cause some reduction in the population since the deer would no longer be able to get the food from these supplemental feeding stations.
- There is a correlation on the health of the herd and the fawn birth rate based on the availability of food – less food, fewer births.

CONS:

- There would be no immediate reduction in the deer population.
- A feeding ban would be a hard ordinance to regulate and would be primarily complaint driven or self-regulated.
- It would require a change in the city's ordinance.

Option #5

TRAP AND TRANSFER / CONTRACEPTIVES

Trapping and relocating deer are complex, impractical, and prohibitively expensive operations with limited value in managing free-ranging deer. Deer are susceptible to traumatic injury during handling, and moving deer has the potential for spreading disease. Contraceptive use for fertility control of deer herds have not been approved by the FDA, are impractical to administer, and it is unknown if the target animals would be safe for human consumption. These are some of the reasons trapping and the use of contraceptives are **not allowed** by the Michigan DNR.

Option #6

SHARPSHOOTERS

A typical sharpshooting program involves the systematic culling of deer by skilled marksmen who are highly trained professionals. Although expensive (estimated at \$250 - \$350 per deer) relative to regulated hunting, sharpshooting programs may be useful in reducing the size of the local deer population where there is insufficient undeveloped land or interest to support traditional regulated hunting.

PROS:

- There would be an immediate reduction to the deer population.
- Venison could be donated to food banks.
- It could reduce property damage and/or deer-vehicle collisions.
- It may reduce the number of deer complaints the city receives.
- It would be easier to manage having DNR-issued permits for select areas.

CONS:

- It is an expensive option (\$100,000 minimum to be effective in reducing the deer population).
- It would require significant city involvement for bidding out the process, securing the sites, and monitoring the operation.
- It would require a change in our city's ordinances that currently ban the discharge of firearms in the city.
- There could be a serious potential safety problem that might increase the city's liability and would need to be discussed with our risk management consultant.
- Because of the city's largely developed areas, only sites in a small portion of the city would be accessible for this type of operation. Deer would not be able to be shot in most of the subdivisions that are encountering deer damage problems.

Option #7 REGULATED BOW HUNTING

Regulated bow hunting has proven to be an effective deer population management tool. It is the most efficient, safe, and least expensive technique for removing deer where traditional firearm hunting cannot be utilized. Research and management experience has shown regulated hunting to be an ecologically sound, socially beneficial, and fiscally responsible method of managing deer populations.

ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

PROS:

- Would reduce the city's deer population.
- Fewer deer would reduce property damage and deer-vehicle collisions.
- There would be a behavioral change in the deer causing them to fear humans.
- Regulations are already in effect by the MDNR so city involvement would be limited.
- Individual homeowners and homeowner associations would still have some control because the safety zone is 450 feet from occupied dwellings.
- Homeowners have the option to grant or deny their permission for hunting closer to their dwelling, and homeowners associations can grant or deny permission for hunting in their commons areas.

CONS:

- It would require an ordinance moratorium on hunting for a limited trial basis and further evaluation.
- It could increase conflicts with the pro-deer contingency.
- It would increase the potential for staff to be involved with complaints, inquiries, and responses for wounded or dead deer in the yards of our

residents. This is in response to the known possibility that a deer wounded by an arrow can travel great distances before it subsides.

- Trespassing and poaching violations could likely occur.

ON CITY PROPERTY

PROS:

- It would reduce the city's deer population.
- It may reduce the number of deer-vehicle collisions.
- It could reduce the deer damage in surrounding neighborhoods.

CONS:

- There would be serious safety issues in controlling 100% of the access to selected areas allowed.
- It would pose increased liability to the city.
- Increased city staff and OCSO time would be required to secure the property when hunting is taking place.
- It would require a change in the city's ordinances and the longstanding park policies against hunting in our parks.
- The potential for violators could increase, and patrol would need to be dramatically increased to identify any violations occurring.

POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

The following are steps the city could take to help manage the deer population in our community. There are some costs associated with each action.

1. Enact a citywide wildlife feeding ban ordinance to eliminate feeding stations for deer. This could deter deer from grazing on neighborhood vegetation on their way to these feeding stations and reduce the supplemental food supply that encourages population increases.
2. Provide an increased educational component on fencing options and repellants for homeowners to help them protect their property from deer damage. This could include packets of information, website information, programs at the EEC or at homeowner association meetings, newspaper articles, etc.
3. Make improvements to the city's signage warning motorists of deer crossing areas that could potentially reduce deer-vehicle collisions.
4. Impose a 3-year moratorium beginning October 1, 2008, on our bow-hunting ordinance and follow the MDNR guidelines **for private property only**. This could be used on a trial basis to determine its effectiveness. No hunting would be allowed on city property.
5. Continue to conduct a yearly flyover to count the deer population and evaluate the effectiveness of the programs.

6. Continue to monitor the deer-vehicle collisions in our community by using data from SEMCOG.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS REQUIRING FUNDING

The following considerations are more costly and would require significant budgeted funds to implement. These methods would require additional research to determine their desirability and effectiveness over time.

1. Use roadside reflectors or mirrors to deter deer.
2. Clear roadsides of vegetation to keep deer away from the roadways.
3. Install exclusionary fencing and wildlife crossings in high-risk areas.
4. Hire sharpshooters for an immediate reduction in the deer population.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION – SHARPSHOOTING

A recent proposal offering assistance from the Oakland County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) to remove deer at minimal cost to the city is being considered. A sharpshooting program, when successful, is an effective means of immediately removing deer from the population.

Safety Issues

- The number one safety issue when firearms are involved is that the maximum range of a bullet can be miles. A ricochet or accidental discharge could potentially cause damage or injury to people or property outside the target area.
- These risks are minimized by the use of trained officers from the OCSO. These risks are further minimized by the limited number of areas that have both the requisite acreage and a deer problem (see attached map).
- In Michigan, out-of-season permits are typically issued in January and February when the elimination of casual users at the sites can most easily be accomplished. It is anticipated that the sharpshooting will be done after dark using the latest technology.
- Any sharpshooting program will be developed and reviewed in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife and Law Enforcement Divisions in cooperation with the OCSO.

Costs

- For this trial year, there will be no additional cost to the City of Rochester Hills from the DNR or the OCSO.
- Implementation of this plan will require additional city staff time.

Effects on Herd Reduction

When properly implemented, sharpshooting is an effective, immediate reduction to the deer population. However, to sustain this reduction, annual culling of the herd is necessary or the population will quickly rebound to previous levels.

City Commitment

- Use of city property and staff as needed to implement this program.
- Notification of residents close to the reduction zones.
- Defend program to residents and special interest groups opposed to sharpshooting.

At this time the city has requested a one-year trial program with the OCSO and will monitor it's effectiveness for future consideration.