



SHAKER HEIGHTS

Wildlife Task Force Via Zoom Due to COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Friday, January, 29, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

For the safety of staff and residents, in-person attendance is not permitted. Join the Zoom meeting as a viewer or listener from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device at <https://zoom.us/j/98186200496?pwd=NFBIV2pMc3N5RTFpM3RMcmFhTXZmdz09>, Password: 33553400; Description: Wildlife Task Force; or join by phone at 833-548-0282 (toll free); Webinar ID: 981 8620 0496; Password: 33553400. International numbers available at <https://zoom.us/u/ahwKbeuA>. The audio of the meeting will be available the following day on the City's [website](#).

1. Update on 2020/2021 Deer Culling Program.
 - Jeffrey DeMuth, Chief of Police
 - James Mariano, Precision Wildlife Management, LTD.

Documents:

[ODNR PERMIT 2020-2021.PDF](#)
[DISCHARGING WEAPONS AND USE OF BOWS AND ARROWS.PDF](#)
[SHAKER SITUATION REPORT 2020-2021V1MARIANO.PDF](#)

To request an accommodation for a person with a disability, call the City's ADA Coordinator at 216-491-1440, or Ohio Relay Service at 711 for TTY users.



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

MIKE DEWINE, GOVERNOR

MARY MERTZ, DIRECTOR

Kendra S. Wecker, Chief

Division of Wildlife
2045 Morse Rd, Building G
Columbus, Ohio 43229
Phone: (614) 265-6300

Special Conditions Letter for Deer Damage Control Permit #7422

December 17, 2020

Ms. Jeri Chaikin
City of Shaker Heights
3355 Lee Rd
Shaker Heights, OH 44149

Dear Ms. Chaikin,

Your request for a deer damage control permit to conduct a white-tailed deer population management program within the City of Shaker Heights in Cuyahoga County has been received and thoroughly reviewed in accordance with the requirements of Ohio Administrative Code 1501:31-15-08 and Ohio's Deer Damage Procedure (Procedure 58). I have conducted a site visit within the city and while I am approving your request to continue the deer management program in Shaker Heights this season, it should be noted that based on my evaluation of your deer management program and using population modeling, the removal of only forty (40) deer will likely result in a continued increase in the deer in Shaker Heights. This assessment is the same assessment noted on last two season's special conditions letter as well. Therefore, I am expecting that as the management progresses this season that assessments are made to determine if a need for increasing the number of deer removed this removal season and if additional deer need to be removed that a request is made by the city for an increase in the number of deer permitted to be removed.

The Division of Wildlife issues DDCP's to address situations where the use of hunting has not or cannot adequately address identified issues. In my professional assessment there are areas within the City of Shaker Heights where hunting can safely be conducted. It is the recommendation of the Division of Wildlife that the city modify the codified ordinances to allow hunting and where feasible the use of hunting should be used to supplement the DDCP. Not only will this supplement the deer culling, but would also extend the deer management season, allow for localized deer management for property owners that would like to control deer, and would be virtually no financial costs to implementation and facilitation of a hunting program. In addition, the use of hunting would help address the need for increased deer removals through the use of sharpshooting.

Finally, I continue to encourage you to work with the Shaker Heights Nature Center for both doing management on their property as well as incorporating vegetation data into the decision making for the need and level of deer management in Shaker Heights.

Please be aware of the following additional stipulations of the permit:

1. Technical direction and assistance by Ohio Division of Wildlife personnel may be periodically given during the implementation of the permit.

2. Prior to a deer leaving city limits, each deer must have a tag with this permit number on it with this tag remaining on the deer until final disposition.
3. Deer shot may not be donated or processed using funds from a hunter donation program (ex. FHFH, Sportsmen Against Hunter, etc.)
4. There is no restriction on the hours when deer may be shot and deer may be killed during any open deer hunting season.
5. Replacing condition #7 listed on the permit all deer must be checked using the online system within 2 business days of being shot. When reporting each deer, a location description of where the deer was killed should be used (ex. First Name=Smith, Last Name=Property or First Name=Water Treatment, Last name=Plant).
6. Antlered deer may be shot, however no more than 20% of the total deer harvested under this permit may be antlered deer. An effort should be made to avoid culling out mature males which may have already shed antlers for the season. The antlers are to be destroyed by City of Shaker Heights personnel or Precision Wildlife at the conclusion of the culling season. No antlers taken under authority of this permit may be possessed by anyone other than City of Shaker Heights personnel or Precision Wildlife until they are destroyed and no one thereafter.
7. A final written report detailing the results of the deer reduction effort must be provided to Geoff Westerfield at the Wildlife District Three Office by May 1, 2021 using the supplied template.

It should be noted that white-tailed deer populations are regulated by the Division of Wildlife across the state using harvest management and if not controlled the populations can exceed both the sociological and biological carrying capacities. For this reason, the Division of Wildlife supports programs like this one which strive to balance the number of deer to the available habitat while also assisting residents with management for sociological goals.

Sincerely,



Geoff Westerfield
Assistant Wildlife Management Supervisor

cc: Matt Madgar, Cuyahoga County Wildlife Officer
Scott Peters, Wildlife Management Supervisor
Scott Angelo, District Manager

Mary Murphy

From: William Gruber
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:02 PM
To: Jeri Chaikin
Subject: Discharging Weapons and Use of Bows and Arrows

Here are the relevant ordinances when it comes to hunting deer in Shaker.

749.08 DISCHARGING WEAPONS.

No person shall fire any cannon, gun, air gun, spring gun, rifle, pistol or firearms of any kind within the limits of the City, provided that nothing herein shall be held to apply to any military company when drilling under command of an officer thereof or to regular shooting clubs, or shooting galleries having written permit from the Mayor, or targets privately erected for practice when permitted in writing by the Mayor, or to the use of firearms in the lawful defense of the person, family or property of any person, or by any police officer in the lawful discharge of his duties.

749.09 METAL-TIPPED ARROWS.

It shall be unlawful to use, own or possess any metal-tipped arrow in the City, except as provided herein. This section shall not prohibit or render it unlawful to use, own, or possess metal-tipped arrows for the purpose of:

- (a) Use in hunting or sport outside of the limits of the City.
- (b) Use on a range deemed suitable by the Chief of Police and in conjunction with the standard twenty-four (24) inch, thirty-six (36) inch, or forty-eight (48) inch padded bulls-eye type archery targets.

So no bow hunting is permitted, except with non-metallic arrows. I have no idea if anyone uses non-metal-tipped arrows for bow hunting.

William M. Ondrey Gruber
Director of Law
City of Shaker Heights
3400 Lee Road
Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120
(216) 491-1445
william.gruber@shakeronline.com

City of Shaker Heights Deer Management Situation Report
Date: January 22, 2021
Precision Wildlife Management LTD.

Shaker Heights is an inner ring suburb and densely populated bedroom community with limited green space. As a result, we have insufficient access to bait sites and areas to harvest deer. We currently have three bait sites with cameras at:

1. Shaker / Sulgrave Median
2. Shaker / Sulgrave (200 yards west of Shaker / Sulgrave)
3. 2701 Park Drive (Private)

We have been out on foot at Lee / South Park both west and east of Lee on City property as well as Horseshoe Lake, where we have also harvested 4 deer.

We bait in Shaker daily and drive around the City in an effort to locate and pattern deer, as well as attempt to acquire private property locations to cull.

This is the first season we have been permitted to secure private property, however, have had limited success in obtaining culling locations.

The following is an update on our progress to date:

From: 12/19/20 to 01/22/21

- 19 deer Harvested (13 were antlerless and 6 were antlered)
- 11 male deer were harvested
- 8 female deer were harvested
- 7 Fetuses recorded
- 58% of the deer harvested were males

From: 12/19/20 to 01/22/21

- 139 sightings of antlered deer have been observed on camera at the three bait sites. It is likely some of these deer have returned to bait sites more than once.
- 75 sightings of antlerless deer have been observed on camera at the three bait sites. It is likely some may have returned to bait sites more than once.
- We have observed 10 antlered deer and 6 antlerless deer in other areas of the city. We have observed deer bedded down in-between garages and property lines.
- For the past several seasons, we have observed significantly more antlered deer than antlerless deer in the areas that we bait.
- We have not observed as many antlerless deer as in previous years.
- During this season, we have forwarded pictures obtained from the Service Department of damage caused by antlered deer. We have also responded to two complaints concerning antlered deer. One on Palmerston and one at the intersection of Shaker and Coventry. These pictures have been forwarded to ODNR. The Palmerston resident was

concerned about her safety because of the three antlered deer in her yard. We are not able to harvest deer in the Palmerston area due to safety considerations.

- Deer patterns have been changed this year due to early winter storms knocking down trees and flooding, weather patterns, increase pedestrian traffic and coyote traffic. In addition, the same three areas have been hunted for five years and the antlerless deer have become significantly more wary. Interestingly, the antlered deer are not as wary.
- We have been patterning several antlered deer for weeks and have passed on numerous engagement opportunity because they were antlered deer. We have also passed on over 30 engagement opportunities because of safety concerns and people being able to witness a harvest.
- We have received reports from officers stating that they have observed 8 deer at the Eaton/Fairmount intersection and 11 deer at the soccer field near Chesterton.
- Even though deer are not reliably coming to bait, we believe that the deer are bedding down and feeding in resident's back yards.
- In speaking with Mr. Westerfield, ODNR, he has not observed the same number of deer tracks as in years past. He spoke with an employee of the Nature Center who also advised he has not seen the number of deer as in years past and the majority that he has seen are antlered deer.
- My assessment is that the deer management program has been successful in the management units that we have been able to impact. We believe, our accessibility to more deer would increase if we were able to secure private property bait sites, specifically near the golf courses. There has been no response from those we have attempted to contact.
- After being involved with the deer management program since its inception it is difficult at best to predict the population of deer in Shaker Heights.

Shaker Heights is unique due to the following:

- Shaker Heights is an inner ring suburb that is densely populated and does not have a large amount of green space.
- Because of the Covid virus, residents are outside more and there is increased pedestrian traffic at all hours of the day and night.
- No surrounding cities are involved with deer management.
- Based on the aerial survey conducted five years ago, the estimated deer population of 10 deer/square mile was understated based on our observations. As a result, ODNR's deer management baseline calculation was understated.
- Shaker Residents have determined through yearly questionnaires that currently 69% of those who filled out the questionnaire wanted to reduce the deer herd in Shaker Heights. Five years ago, the number was 73%
- This year we have seen a decrease in deer vehicle accidents and deceased deer pick-ups.
- We have documented pictures of damage that was caused by antlered deer, additionally we have recently received complaints concerning antlered deer.
- The recruitment factor, along with the management model indicated that prior to managing the deer herd, it was increasing 37% to 40% a year. After harvesting 40 deer

per year for the last four years, the model indicated that the deer herd was increasing by approximately 8% to 10% every year. ODNR recommended we consider increasing the harvest to 50 or 60 deer this year. After additional review of the deer population information with ODNR, they agreed to set a harvest target of 40 deer.

In summary, the number of complaints of property damage by antlered deer, as well as fear of antlered deer continue to come in from Shaker residents. 65% of the deer sightings we have on camera are antlered deer, most of which have scraggy antlers. We have only seen two antlered deer that had larger symmetrical antlers with 8 to 10 points.

Shaker is not like other cities where there is a significant amount of greenspace and areas for deer to be harvested. There are many locations in Shaker where it is not safe to harvest deer. We have not been able to impact the deer herd near the Warrensville/Scottsdale area, where we have received numerous complaints. We attempted to obtain permission from Highland Hills Cemetery and Golf Course but were denied. We have not been able to impact the Parkland area near the Shaker Heights Country Club, the Coventry area, the border line of Cleveland Heights, nor the border line of University Heights.

In order to address the concerns of the residents of Shaker Heights, our recommendation is to allow Shaker Heights to harvest both antlered and antlerless deer for the remaining season in an attempt to fill the 40 permits. All of the antlered deer that we are observing will drop their antlers by mid-March. It will be difficult to distinguish which are male and female. In all likelihood, if we are unable to engage antlered deer now, we will be culling the same deer that shed their antlers later in March. Delaying the harvest of male deer will inconvenience the residents limiting their access to the hiking and biking trails for two more months and the outcome will most likely be the same. After this season, we can evaluate this year's program and forward the information to the Wildlife Task force to shape next year's deer management program.

ODNR is now reevaluating based on the information we have provided and will contact the city next week.