

2019 Deer Questionnaire Results

1. How would you describe the deer population in the City of Shaker Heights?		
Overabundant	93	40.09%
Abundant	71	30.60%
Few	11	4.74%
Very Few	4	1.72%
Just Right	45	19.40%
Uncertain	8	3.45%
TOTAL	232	

2. What neighborhood do you live in?		
Boulevard	26	11.21%
Fernway	21	9.05%
Lomond	27	11.64%
Ludlow	5	2.16%
Malvern	19	8.19%
Mercer	76	32.76%
Moreland	2	2.20%
Onaway	32	52.46%
Sussex	24	10.34%
TOTAL	232	

3. How would you describe the deer population in your neighborhood?		
Overabundant	91	39.22%
Abundant	61	26.29%
Few	30	12.93%
Very few	16	6.90%
Just right	27	11.64%
Uncertain	7	3.02%
TOTAL	232	

4. Have you noticed a change in the number of deer in your neighborhood compared to last year?		
Yes	119	51.29%
No	113	48.71%
Total	232	

4A. If yes, what kind of change?		
Less	61	52.59%
More	55	47.41%
Total	116	

5. Do you have concerns about deer in the City of Shaker Heights		
Yes	157	67.67%
No	75	32.33%
Total	232	

5. If you have concerns about deer in the City of Shaker Heights, please indicate those concerns (check all that apply).		
Damage to landscape and garden plants	140	
Transmission of diseases	98	
Damage to park ecosystems by over-browsing of native forag	86	
Decline in deer health due to overpopulation	59	
Aggressive behavior toward humans	57	
Aggressive behavior toward pets	43	
Hit a deer with my vehicle	10	
Almost hit a deer with my vehicle	54	
Other	17	

5. If other, please explain.		
See Comments		

6. In the future, what would you like to see happen with the number of deer in Shaker Heights?		
Slight increase	22	9.48%
Moderate increase	6	2.59%
Substantial increase	2	0.86%
Slight decrease	25	10.78%
Moderate decrease	61	26.29%
Substantial decrease	82	35.34%
Stay the same (not asked)	0	0.00%
Uncertain	34	14.66%
Total	232	

7. Do you support deer culling on private property?		
Yes	151	65.09%
No	81	34.91%
Total	232	

8. If the City culls deer on private property, would you want your property included?		
Yes, contact me using information shared at the end of this survey	94	40.52%
No	138	59.48%
Total	232	

9. In what years have you taken this questionnaire (check all that apply)?	
This is my first year	120
2016	111
2017	8
2018	54
2016 & 2017	19
2016 & 2018	1
2017 & 2018	26
2016, 2017, 2018	19

10. Please add any additional comments about deer.
See Comments

2019 Deer Questionnaire - Question 5B

5. If other, please specify:

1	Decline in hunting in rural areas among younger generation. This contributes toward pushing the population into city areas.
2	deer consume fruits and vegetables growing on out property
3	Deer ticks in the grass - Lime disease/pets
4	Fear of hitting a deer
5	Freaking ticks & Lyme disease! !!!!
6	Frequently in both front and backyard. Deer waste is also problemati
7	Greater potential for traffic accidents
8	I have encountered a buck at my back door and I am afraid to walk out to my car.
9	I haven't hit or come close to hitting a deer with my car but this is always a concern.
10	I'm concerned about the killing of deer! Why is that NOT an option for this question?
11	I'm concerned FOR the deer. We've taken over their space and should learn to live with them peacefully.
12	possibility of cars hitting deer
13	Start a ranch for deer and use the meat for hungry people
14	they just ate all my lilies and roses in bloom, and a neighbor's too - they are out and about day and night - fearless
15	Traffic accidents caused by deer
16	Traffic dangers, to deer and to people
17	Unpredictability of deer when cycling.

2019 Deer Questionnaire - Question 10

10. Please add any additional comments about deer:

1	I have a secluded backyard and the deer love to sleep there overnight. I would love to see a fence installed on my property to protect it, but unfortunately itâ€™s too expensive. I have a balcony that overlooks my backyard that would be perfect for either bow and arrow or shotgun attempt to cull the deer. My backyard is full of feces and I cannot let my grandchildren play back theRe. Culling 40 deer is not substantial and does not address the deer population.Itâ€™s the governmentâ€™s obligation to protect its citizens. We are the higher species, not the deer.
2	I love them but I have given up on gardening because they eat everything. When we first moved in (2007) this was not the case for a few years, but gradually they just became more numerous and voracious. I've been really menaced by deer as well, chased aggressively.
3	they are such gentle animals and we do not mind the few we have. One was in our yard this week eating the birdseed.
4	#SaveTheDeer2019
5	Also make available any natural sprays for residents to use such as "Wolf Urine" scent.
6	Because we have children walking to school and playing outside I do not feel that it is safe or appropriate for culling on private property.
7	Beside shooting what other way can we remove the deer without killing? We spent over \$1,000. a deer to kill them. Can they be rounded up and taken to a farm and raised for food?
8	City resources can be better utilized in other areas. The deer are not a problem in Shaker. Shaker has very serious problems and issues including mismanagement of funds from the city and mismanagement and loss of control of the school district. The deer are NOT a problem. I wish this much time and effort could be dedicated to addressing the city's real issues.
9	Culling needs to continue. We have a very small yard and deer are there every week, all year long.
10	Deer are pretty much the least of my concerns...as in, if I made a list of concerns about living in Shaker Heights or life in general, they would be at the bottom of it. I certainly would not advocate killing them, on public or private property.
11	Deer simply don't belong in the city. It's not a good place for them to live and it is a nuisance and possible health hazard for humans. I didn't offer my yard for marksmen to use for culling because my neighbors would be upset with me.
12	Deer walk up Fernway Rd from the golf course almost daily now. They snack in my yard and garden at XXXXX regularly eating hosta, tulips, and daylilies by the dozens. To add insult to injury early-rising neighbors have spotted 3-5 deer sleeping on my front lawn at dawn. The damage in my yard has increased dramatically in the last two years. Please help.
13	Due to deer we have basically abandoned any plantings in our front yard. The back yard is completely fenced which is the only reason things survive. We used to grow a lot of flowers but have given up due to the deer. They know now that they have no natural predators but soon even more dangerous animals will be coming in from the rural areas after them (and us). A considerable reduction is needed for the safety of all.
14	Fernway properties are too small for safe culling in my opinion.
15	Have never seen deer in our yard
16	Hunting deer on private property in Shaker Heights OH is outrageous. Highly opposed.
17	I am more concerned about the coyotes than deer. I had a dog taken off of my property and can no longer allow my dogs out off of leash.
18	I am not certain of the years I have answered the survey. We rent our home, but if I owned it, I would allow culling on my property.
19	I am not seeing deer in my yard since mid-April, but had substantial damage showing they'd been here a lot over the winter, plus a lot of sightings all winter. Would be fine with culling in my yard but don't think you'll find deer here right now--that could change as we've had deer for about five years all spring and summer and a lot in winter.
20	I am very against culling of the deer (on public or private property)
21	I believe there should be a balance but unfortunately my yard is not only a breeding ground but the landscaping has been damaged over the years. We now spray for deer continually all summer and plant only plants that they are not attracted too.
22	I canâ€™t recall if I have filled this form out in the past. If I answered incorrectly I apologize. I actually have my property professionally sprayed and that still does not detract the deer. I am more than happy, and my neighbor as well (Henry Doll), would offer our property for the marksmen without hesitation! If there is anything we could do to assist the city in this regard please do not hesitate to let me know. Thank you very much!

2019 Deer Questionnaire - Question 10

10. Please add any additional comments about deer:

23	I do not believe in killing off the deer population. The city should be exploring other ways to control. We have encroached on all their habitat, now it's time to live and let live!!! If you are bothered by the destruction of plant-life, fence it in.
24	I do not support the culling of deer;
25	I dont know the answer but killing them is NOT the answer. Round them up and take them somewhere, but please dont kill them.
26	I don't own my home so as much as I might want, I can't include my residence for culling
27	I enjoy seeing deer on my morning runs!
28	I feel sad for the deer.
29	I have a small herd in my back yard. They eat my yard plant.
30	I like the deer but I understand the need to keep the habitat in balance.
31	I live in a "high rise" condo so my answers may not be as appropriate/pertinent as single home owners.
32	I love nature and enjoy wildlife. I just want things in balance. It's natural for deer to protect their young and themselves. That has created problems when walking a dog, enjoying my back yard, etc.
33	I love seeing the few deer in my neighborhood and would like to see more. They're beautiful creatures who deserve to live their lives without being hunted.
34	I love the wild life particularly the deer. hate that you are killing them. they're lovely and so tamed, we coexist
35	I love to see the deer and have no problem having them on my property. They add personality to the city.
36	I personally have no issues with the deer. They are a welcome creature in the neighborhood and it does not seem like there is overpopulation. I think people worry too much about them eating plants and such. If that is the case, create garden fencing or barriers. Leave the deer in peace.
37	I see a few in the neighborhood. Not a problem. I have a 1/4 acre lot with a fenced back yard, so deer do not jump my fence. So the only possible culling would be in the front yard. With small lots on the street, I don't think it would be safe to have marksmen shooting deer in the front yards! But I see no problem with careful culling strategies for the community.
38	I see less deer so status is fine on Braemar Fernway. I used to see so many more.
39	I see more deer in Shaker Heights and the surrounding area than I see at my actual deer camp in the Allegheny National Forest in PA. Our big concern is the constant destruction of vegetation on our property and the noticable increase in visable ticks in our neighborhood over the last 5yrs.
40	I see occasional dear in my neighbourhood but they do not bother me. I rather like seeing them.
41	I strongly oppose culling on private property.
42	I think my property is fairly useless for deer culling (middle of block, fences in back yard) but offering consent in the spirit of community solidarity. The deer usually hit my neighbors down the street near Belvoir.
43	I think there may be a few more this year than last, that I have seen. I suspect there are too many, but don't really know the numbers to comment
44	I think this is a big waste of money, and I don't like the appearance of awarding a former employee involved with the process with a lucrative contract. It all seems a little incestuous.
45	I work very hard to maintain an attractive garden that is an asset to the neighborhood, and I receive compliments and thanks from passers by. Although I have tried a number of deer repellents, the damage that my plants sustain is frustrating. A family of five deer can munch through a lot of roses and greenery in a short visit.
46	I would be ok with private property culling if you could ensure firearms/darts/bows precautions are considered. I don't think our block with .25/.3 acre lots can support safe culling, unless you plan to use other means.
47	I would like to let the deer be as much as possible. I love them and they never cause any trouble, even though they were abundant in my yard before the culling
48	I've had very little problem and Live right by the nature center.
49	If a marksman is on the property, I am concerned about the safety of humans and pets on my, and surrounding property. I'm not a fan of firearms because bullets are indiscriminate. Is it possible to use a bow and arrow, or some other form of culling device to control the animals in a way that will not affect humans? My adult son was visiting and took his small dog on a walk in the neighborhood. A mother doe displayed aggressive behavior toward my son (and the dog), while following them to our home. They were followed about one half of a mile, causing my son to even jog a bit to get away from the animal. This was quite unsettling for my family, particularly when my son did nothing to provoke the doe. Not only are the deer becoming more numerous, they are becoming more aggressive.

2019 Deer Questionnaire - Question 10

10. Please add any additional comments about deer:

50	I'm not against all deer; I've lived in the country and enjoy them. But they're overpopulated to the point of damaging habitat for other animals and plants. And deer have become so accustomed to being unharmed that I fear problems may get worse -- that people will assume they're tame, approach them and be harmed. Or they wander more through the streets, including some of the main thoroughfares.
51	It is a great relief to have fewer deer in our yard destroying our plants and soiling our yard.
52	It seems like many things that "government" undertakes in Shaker Hts. is overkill. I have lived in this home since 1974 & a previous home in the Ludlow area beginning in 1966. Every time the city undertakes a project, especially if a grant or "free" money is gotten wind of, you guys jump on the band wagon, stomping on citizens' rights & wishes. We had to mobilize the citizenry when a \$900,000+- grant was available to built a road through our woods around the Nature Center and around Lower Lake. We filmed a documentary, got lots of resident lawyers to help and fought off this takeover. My profession is a documentary filmmaker for television local & national. I made the film on Ludlow that ended up being used by the Ford Foundation and others to show how we integrated peacefully when we got the neighbors involved. I moved hrrr from Bay Village so my kids could grow up in an integrated school setting. Now we have a noisy group screaming about "too many deer" This is nonsense. We live across from a wooded area, and we have taken the deer's natural living area from them. You know what a real problem is? The speeders on our street! This and many other streets don't get patrolled like they used to. Those cut-through drivers govthru here easily over 50mph many times. That is so much more dangerous than a few deer!! Wake up! Do what is right for a diminishing natural world. Leave some dirt or chip-covered paths on which to walk. Stop trying to pave and control every inch of space!
53	It seems to me that the deer population was at its highest a few years ago (maybe 3 or 4). It's been better since then but seemed to rise a little again this year.
54	It's hard to answer your question about culling on private property until we know how successful deer culling has been YTD. Have you met your population reduction goals? If not, how far off are you?
55	I've had aggressive does during fawning season in my neighborhood; been chased up a street before while walking my dog due to inadvertently approaching a fawn.
56	Live on Winslow Rd. More deer have been seen or damage done by deer than ever before: more so, late spring.
57	Most concerned about their impact on traffic safety and health effects such as Lyme disease.
58	Mostly worried about ticks
59	My main concerns are accidents with vehicles and the disappearance of the understory of plants.
60	My neighborhood and the others that are highly populated should not be included in the marksman culling it is too risky. However, I do support private property culling on the larger properties with the owner's permission.
61	My property is only an eighth of an acre; if it were larger I would be fine with having deer culled on it. As it is, the deer do come into my yard, look threatening, and eat plants.
62	My property is very small and may not be appropriate for culling
63	My yard is so small that hunting it would be difficult and dangerous to the children in the neighborhood but I would support hunting in shaker country club and all parks.
64	Not a fan. Please do something. Their droppings have made my dogs sick which costs me money and is upsetting. They are constantly in our front yards on Scottsdale and they have no fear.
65	Not sure when I answered questionnaire. Very aggressive persistent anti-deer /rabbit spraying, systemic Repellex, etc The heavy and frequent rains removed the rain resistant repellent. Deer have been foraging despite thi.
66	Please get rid of them. They eat my plants. I am worried about driving near them. I have heard story about deer attacking pets when feeling threatened.
67	Shaker Country Club would probably allow access and there are always deer there.
68	Suggest you leave the deer alone and concentrate on tax reduction
69	The amount of deer is definitely down, for which I'm glad and grateful. We still see anywhere from 1 to 4 deer about every other day in or neighborhood and yard.
70	The culling program is fine but there needs to be a coordinated effort with Beachwood cleveland Heights and University Hts or it's not going to be successful. The culling does little to help the Mercer neighborhood.
71	The deer are dangerous and destructive. Please see this issue as critical to resident health and safety.
72	The deer are harmless and gentle creatures. They don't hurt anyone or any other animals. I would like to see Shaker forbid residents from letting their cats outside. Cats kill birds in huge numbers and they don't stay on their own property. They go into the yards of neighbors who do not want them.

2019 Deer Questionnaire - Question 10

10. Please add any additional comments about deer:

73	the deer are starving and they are a health and safety hazard to residents
74	The deer are used to humans and are almost friendly. I love them. Please leave them alone.
75	The deer have taken the joy out of gardening. They have eaten my flowers, shrubs and vegetables. I don't like all of their poo in my yard either.
76	The deer live here because we are a safe community. They do not pose a risk to our health or safety. There are many plants to add to your garden that deer do not eat, if garden foraging is the problem.
77	The extensive damage deer have caused to our landscaping and fear of injury to our grandchildren often playing in our yard caused us to erect an expensive 6 foot fence in our backyard last summer. We reluctantly did this only after years of continual spraying and planting supposedly deer-resistant shrubs and trees failed to significantly limit the deer in our yard. This new fence added to other fencing already in place in our back yard and has protected our back yard. But the deer still roam in our front yard. The city's deer culling program has helped because we see fewer deer. But there are still far too many, and we've recently seen deer bedding (and eating plants) in our unfenced, wooded side yard.
78	The meat should be made available to residents
79	The number of deer in my yard significantly decreased over the winter months, but they came back in the spring. Not uncommon to have 4 to 5 deer in my yard eating everything but the weeds. It is as if they know what I paid for and are just screwing with me. :)
80	the overpopulation is hazardous to everyone....cull cull cull!
81	There are a lot of deer on this east side of town, in our neighborhood. Please cull the deer on the east side of town. They are multiplying every year and are in our yard daily.
82	There are now multiple babies with their moms. They are aggressive
83	There is a migratory route that deer take in my Sussex neighborhood. They bed down in backyards and graze on Scottsdale and Townley, Stoer and along Norwood. I am sure of at least these streets because I see the same deer frequently and have also had comments from neighbors. I have had to chase them from my front and back yards on a frequent basis.
84	They are everywhere! They have not invaded our back yard specifically but are visible nearly daily on the street
85	They come in groups and it seems that they come regularly for a while and then stop for a while.
86	They eat every flower I plant and the plants are supposed to be "deer resistant" • No way! They eat everything!
87	They keep returning to my yards, back and front, eat shrubbery, plants especially in bloom, are a menace, carry ticks, do not respect boundaries so it's hopeless, please get on the ball - they are in my yards year around - from February on. I don't have a dog/cat or a gate on my driveway - and they have jumped over a 4-5' fence. I have a professionally designed backyard that is badly affected by their constant visits, day and night. Please help.... It is getting worse every year!
88	Today a deer was eating plants in my yard only 3 feet from my living room window. I no longer plant only a few vegetables (kale, herbs, etc) because it takes too much effort to protect them from deer.
89	unsure which years I completed deer culling survey.
90	We continue to have way too many deer on our property. In spite of spraying our plants with anti-deer spray, we continue to have many of our flowers and plants destroyed by the deer. I planted about 7 flowering plants in a row in our backyard about 10 years ago and never saw a single flower until this year! Every year the deer ate every bud! This summer for the first time we saw two flowers, but we should be seeing dozens of them. All the other buds were eaten by the deer. There needs to be continual culling in our area, by the border between Shaker and Beachwood. Because of the explosion of disease-causing ticks that ride on the white-tailed deer, there is an especially urgent need to cull the deer from Shaker and other communities. As I think I mentioned in a prior survey, I met a Shaker resident who became very ill with Lyme Disease, which she received from a tick bite on the lower US campus. Please continue to cull as many deer as you can. It is unfortunate that the state puts a limit on the number each year. Deer do not belong in an urban community. Unless it is explained further, I do not support culling on private property. It seems it would not be safe for the residents in my area. Maybe it would work in an area of larger properties. Instead, I think the city should attempt to get the neighboring cities to participate in a joint effort to cull the deer. Many of the deer in our neighborhood come over from Beachwood. Thank you!
91	We currently do not have any deer on our private property
92	We frequently see large groups of deer, up to 9 or 10, coming off the golf course and walking across parkland toward our house. There are also 2 bucks that we saw together frequently. We have a hard time keeping them away from our plants.
93	We have deer in our garden all the long winter and they are ruining the landscape in every season!

2019 Deer Questionnaire - Question 10

10. Please add any additional comments about deer:

94	We live at XXXXX Shaker Blvd, across from the Median Park and not far from one of the sites where deer are culled. For quite a while both before and after this year's culling, we had seen a significant decrease in the deer population. However, in the last few weeks, the deer population appears to be again increasing significantly.
95	We live right off XXX on XXX. A herd of 3-4 deer stay every evening on one property on our street. We see up to 8 deer on a given evening or early morning. While I realize that Warrensville Heights and Highland Hills need to be a part of the solution, I don't see how sharpshooting only in North Shaker benefits Southeast Shaker Heights. We continue to see increases in our neighborhood. While I am for culling, I don't think the smaller properties of our neighborhood would qualify for culling. What else can be done? These animals seem to be migrating from the development near I-271,
96	We need to learn to live in harmony with wildlife, including deer. No need to kill deer in Shaker.
97	We rarely see deer on Shaker Blvd anymore. It is much better for us at the current level.
98	We support the City of Shaker's proactive deer reduction program. A noticeable difference over last year.
99	We will be moving before long, so I can't say how the next owners would feel about culling. The deer are lovely in many ways, but they are too many for their brown good as well as ours.
100	Were there really that many issues with deer that we need to shoot them? They were here first and we took their land. It seems a bit cruel to kill them.
101	We've seen a substantial increase in deer population feces, eating foliage & flowers...on our property. Thanks
102	When we moved here 7 years ago, we had so many deer it was years before a tulip bloomed -- there were all nibbled on by deer. Then last summer for the first time, tulips made it into bloom. have no idea how that correlates with the city's culling efforts, but despite a slight increase this year, there are far fewer deer than when we moved to Shaker.
103	With the continued development of forested land, the deer need habitat. People who want lush surroundings need to accept the presence of the creatures it attracts.
104	You are welcome to come on my property to cull deer, but I live at the corner of Lomond and Chagrin and I don't think there's enough land there for your project. But the deer ate my tulips this year, so they do show up for that.