

**To:** Members of Dublin City Council  
**From:** Members of the Community Services Advisory Committee  
**Date:** March 3, 2026  
**Re:** CSAC Report – Deer Management

## Background

The Community Services Advisory Committee (CSAC) has been discussing deer management since February 2022, beginning with a general overview of the City's wildlife management program. Since then, the Committee has reviewed the topic at its February 14, 2023, June 13, 2023, September 12, 2023, and October 10, 2023 meetings. At the October 10, 2023, meeting, the Committee recommended that City Council amend the City's Code of Ordinances to include a prohibition on outdoor feeding of wild animals or animals running at large. Ordinance 47-23 was adopted at the November 27, 2023, City Council meeting and amended via Ordinance 05-24 at the April 22, 2024, meeting to remove a reference to feral cats.

City Council referred this topic back to CSAC for continued evaluation as regional conditions evolved at its October 21, 2024, meeting. CSAC received a presentation on statewide deer management strategies at its November 25, 2024, meeting, presented by representatives of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). Following that presentation, City staff members presented updated data and new information on regional programs, including the City of Worthington's program, at its February 11, 2025, meeting. The Committee recommended that the City of Dublin continue to monitor the regional landscape of deer management programs and provide CSAC with updates when new information becomes available. This recommendation was supported by City Council at its May 5, 2025, meeting.

In furtherance of this commitment, City Staff provided an update to CSAC at its January 14, 2026, meeting. City Staff updated the Committee on benchmarking, data, aggressive deer, outdoor feed ordinance enforcement and collected feedback from CSAC members. City Staff presented responses to additional questions that the Committee had at its Jan. 14 meeting, along with survey results and some additional information to provide context at CSAC's February 10, 2026, meeting. CSAC also discussed the topic with local experts from the Ohio State University School of Environment and Natural Resources (SENR) and Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks (Metro Parks).

Throughout CSAC's engagement with deer management, the Committee reviewed:

- Presentations from experts, including ODNR, SENR and Metro Parks
- Dublin-specific data on deer populations, resident inquiries, deer-vehicle collisions and aggressive deer encounters
- Resident survey results from 2023 and 2026

- Benchmarking information from statewide and regional communities, including the City of Worthington, Metro Parks, Marysville, Gahanna and New Albany

### **Dublin-Specific Data and Trends**

Based on research conducted in partnership with The Ohio State University in May 2023, Dublin’s deer density was estimated at approximately 50–85 deer per square mile. A standard urban deer population is typically cited as 20–25 deer per square mile. While this suggests that Dublin’s population exceeds biological benchmarks, ODNR has advised that Dublin is not currently at biological carrying capacity, given the absence of widespread disease, starvation, or a sustained rise in severe deer-vehicle accidents.

However, ODNR has characterized Dublin as being near or at sociological carrying capacity, meaning that resident tolerance for deer presence may be strained even if other indicators do not yet suggest the population is at biological carrying capacity.

#### *Resident Inquiries and Complaints*

Deer-related inquiries are highly seasonal, increasing in late spring and early summer during fawning season. Common concerns include landscape damage, defensive does, canine-deer interactions and questions about fawns bedding in yards. The City received 37 documented deer-related inquiries in 2023, 24 in 2024 and 22 in 2025. Since the GoDublin app launched in 2019, 67 inquiries have been submitted through the app.

#### *Aggressive Deer Incidents*

In 2025, the City received approximately 20 reports of dogs attacked by deer and 35 reports of deer stalking or chasing behavior. This is a significant increase from the three reports received in 2023 and four in 2024. This data is limited to reported cases. Incidents can happen without being reported to the City. Based on the survey results, at least 120 residents reported that a deer attacked, stomped, kicked, gored, head-butted, charged, or otherwise injured a pet. There were four references to a pet being killed by an interaction with a deer and 45 distinct references to deer chasing and/or stalking people.

The incidents reported to the City were concentrated in several neighborhoods and were largely associated with the fawning season. Current response protocols involve police monitoring and coordination with ODNR when available, with City staff also exploring removal services for specific aggressive deer.

#### *Deer-Vehicle Collisions and Deer Mortality Data*

Deer-vehicle collision data shows year-to-year variability but no sustained upward trend. Recent years have generally reflected low numbers of collisions and low injury severity. Similarly, the number of deer dispatched due to catastrophic injuries has remained relatively consistent. The Dublin Police Department dispatched 21 deer in 2025, as opposed to 19 dispatched in 2024.

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Number of Collisions</b> | <b># Resulting in Minor Damage</b> | <b># Resulting in Significant Damage</b> | <b># of Collisions Resulting in Injury</b> |
|-------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|
| 2015        | 11                          | 10                                 | 1  | 2  |
| 2016        | 13                          | 10                                 | 3  | 0  |

|      |    |    |   |   |
|------|----|----|---|---|
| 2017 | 13 | 11 | 2 | 2 |
| 2018 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| 2019 | 10 | 8  | 2 | 2 |
| 2020 | 21 | 19 | 2 | 5 |
| 2021 | 12 | 8  | 4 | 1 |
| 2022 | 11 | 8  | 3 | 1 |
| 2023 | 7  | 6  | 1 | 1 |
| 2024 | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| 2025 | 6  | 4  | 2 | 0 |

Another data point CSAC reviewed is the number of dead deer the Department of Public Service has picked up. City Staff created a [map](#) to identify hot spots and track the total number of dead deer reported year-over-year. Prior to late 2022, the GoDublin app did not specify whether a dead animal pick-up request was for a deer. Data from 2021 and 2022 were compiled by filtering service request comments for those that mention “deer.” This specification was added to better track trends. Since 2023, the number of dead deer picked up has increased by about 10 per year.

The City is working to establish a population index, consistent with work conducted in Worthington. The Dublin Police Department conducted a drone survey using thermal imaging to count deer in specific zones. These zones were selected based on where Staff receive the most calls from residents, where dead deer are picked up and where the City has received reports of aggressive deer encounters. Replicating this population index annually can serve as a data point to determine if the population is declining. For example, when Metro Parks was having difficulty finding deer for its targeted removal program in 2025, an aerial survey confirmed that there were significantly fewer deer in Glacier Ridge than had previously been counted, indicating that the program was successfully reducing the population.

*Enforcement of the Outdoor Feed Ordinance*

Since City Council’s adoption of Ordinance 47-23, which prohibits the outdoor feeding of wild animals or animals running at large, members of the City’s Nature Education staff have proactively informed and engaged residents regarding the purpose and objectives of this legislation. The Nature Education staff distributed informational materials concerning Responsible Bird Feeding to 44 residents and issued educational letters to 14 residents, six of whom received an additional follow-up educational letter. Furthermore, the Nature Education staff provided consultation to 36 residents seeking to better understand the code changes enacted by the ordinance.

In 2025, there were three cases initiated by Code Enforcement Officers following violations of Code Section 91.12 that remained unresolved by residents despite the proactive provision of educational information by Nature Education staff. All three cases were dismissed, and no residents were fined after achieving voluntary compliance.

The first instance involved a resident with multiple hanging bird feeders, various trough-style feeders, a bin-style gravity corn feeder for deer mounted on a tree, and kiddie pools with ramps designed for ducks. Following the issuance of a citation and the scheduling of an arraignment, the resident agreed to remove all feeders and the improvised ponds for 30 days to modify deer and waterfowl feeding behavior, with a plan to gradually reintroduce limited hanging feeders. This

measure was deemed acceptable, and consequently, Code Enforcement Officers recommended dismissing the charges. The second case involved a resident who possessed multiple hanging bird feeders between their home and an adjacent home, creating a pathway for deer to potentially travel out of the open space and further into a neighborhood. The case was resolved and closed following the relocation of feeders to a landscaped area near an adjacent ravine and installing a drop catcher on the single remaining bird feeder near the resident's home. The third case that required Code Enforcement Officer attention involved a resident with numerous hanging feeders, a trough-style feeder, and a kiddie pool, but the primary concern was other code violations unrelated to outdoor feeding. The resident addressed the outdoor feeding violations immediately following contact by Code Enforcement Officers, and the property is being monitored through the Spring to ensure feeding patterns are altered.

### **Regional Benchmarking and Peer Community Approaches**

#### *Worthington, Ohio*

The City of Worthington has served as a key benchmarking point for CSAC's review. Worthington City Council voted unanimously at its January 21, 2025, meeting to direct Worthington staff to implement a deer management program consistent with the recommendation of the Deer Task Force, including targeted removal and an archery hunting program.

Worthington will likely conduct a targeted removal program for the next several years before considering an archery program. The targeted removal operations will primarily take place on City-owned properties. Private properties are also eligible to host a removal operation. Private property owners can submit their property for evaluation by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services Wildlife Services (APHIS-WS), which will determine whether it is appropriate for use. The City recently sent letters to all property owners within 200 feet of each approved site to notify them of upcoming operations.

The City of Worthington worked with ODNR to obtain permits, listing APHIS-WS as a sub-permittee. APHIS-WS set up bait stations at the removal sites. Removal activities will be conducted from Jan. 1 – March 31, 2026, with a goal of removing up to 100 deer. If 100 deer have been removed before funds have been expended, and based on APHIS-WS availability, an additional 25 deer may be removed.

The City of Worthington Police Department will have officers on overtime to monitor the surrounding areas of the removal operations and assist with clearing them. Worthington's Service and Engineering Department crews working overtime will be responsible for field dressing the harvested deer, including entrail removal.

APHIS-WS will collect data (weight, age, sex, etc.) on the deer and then deliver them to the City of Worthington's maintenance building for field dressing. APHIS-WS will provide a refrigerated truck to store the deer meat. They will return the next day to transfer the meat to the Pickaway Correctional Institution. All meat processed there will be donated to local food pantries, with priority given to the Worthington Resource Pantry.

It could take several overnight operations to reach Worthington's goal removal number. The total contract with APHIS-WS is \$56,831.32. Worthington staff does not anticipate accounting for the

overtime costs associated with police and maintenance staffing as part of the total program cost. The City will pay the Ohio Penal Industries \$130 per deer for meat to be processed into two-pound ground venison packages. Worthington will coordinate the distribution of the packaged venison to food banks.

As part of the Worthington Deer Task Force’s work, Worthington received 5,118 responses from Worthington residents across its two surveys, both conducted in 2024. The survey results showed that 71% of residents would like to see a decreasing deer population and 74.9% were supportive of using public funds to address the issue. When asked about specific lethal management strategies, 73% of respondents supported or strongly supported a targeted removal program using professional sharpshooters.

The Worthington Police Department conducted a drone thermal-imaging count and spotlight survey to determine how many deer were in specific areas around the city. This method can be duplicated in Dublin. By establishing an initial deer count at a specific location, the City can track program success by conducting drone surveys annually to determine whether the deer population in that location is decreasing.

*Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks*

Metro Parks has employed targeted removal and controlled hunting since the 1990s as part of its broader ecological management strategy. The program is framed around biodiversity protection and habitat health rather than nuisance control. At nearby Glacier Ridge Metro Park, deer management is considered essential to prevent over-browsing, habitat degradation and long-term ecological instability. Targeted removal typically takes place overnight from late October to late January. Data on annual targeted removals and aerial population counts from Metro Parks’ 2025-2035 Deer Management Plan are available below. The plan states that the acceptable population range at Glacier Ridge Metro Park, following targeted removal operations, is 40-60 deer.

| Targeted Removal Totals - Glacier Ridge |      |      |      |         |         |
|---|------|------|------|---------|---------|
| 2021                                    | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | Average |         |
| 53                                      | 54   | 43   | 66   | 54      |         |
| Annual Aerial Count - Glacier Ridge     |      |      |      |         |         |
| 2021                                    | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025    | Average |
| 110                                     | 69   | 81   | 65   | 33      | 72      |

*City of Columbus*

The City of Columbus conducted a deer survey from June through August 2025, collecting 3,151 valid responses. The survey, which is not statistically valid, was analyzed by capstone students from Ohio State. A substantial number of respondents were Clintonville residents, who will likely be most impacted by deer migration caused by Worthington’s program. The survey responses indicate that 71.7% of respondents reported that deer numbers in their neighborhood have increased over the past three years, and 70.2% indicated that they would like to see the population decrease. There was 57% support for professional targeted removal and 61% support for an archery program. The City of Columbus hosted a community conversation to explore different deer management approaches with subject matter experts on February 19, 2026.

### *Other Central Ohio Communities*

New Albany, Marysville and Gahanna have used or explored urban hunting or targeted lethal management with varying structures and levels of formality. Some programs emphasize police oversight and designated discharge zones, while others rely on volunteer or permit-based hunting models. Reported outcomes generally indicate reductions in deer-vehicle collisions and landscape damage, with minimal public safety incidents when programs are tightly controlled.

## **Management Options Reviewed by CSAC**

### *Non-Lethal Management Options*

CSAC reviewed several non-lethal strategies, including those listed below. Based on CSAC's review and discussions with ODNR, non-lethal strategies may be effective in reducing population increase, but don't impact current populations. Additionally, some non-lethal strategies are not permissible unless accompanied by a lethal program.

- Outdoor feeding prohibition, which has already been implemented in Dublin
- Relocation, which is illegal in Ohio under Ohio Revised Code Chapter 1531 and associated with a high mortality rate and disease risk
- Birth Control
  - Surgical Sterilization: Limited effectiveness on an open herd and not proven to be effective in reducing the existing population
  - Contraceptives: Limited effectiveness on an open herd, significant complexities caused by the need for boosters and not proven to be effective in reducing the existing population

### *Lethal Management Options*

Lethal management strategies reviewed include targeted removal by professionals and regulated archery programs. These options are used by peer communities and supported by ODNR when data indicates a need.

- Targeted Removal: The City contracts with trained professionals at APHIS-WS. APHIS-WS strategically selects removal sites, in partnership with the police department, based on safety considerations and areas with higher deer concentrations. Operations are conducted overnight with safety as the top priority. This is the quickest way to effectively reduce the deer population.
  - Dublin can establish a call-out list for locals to pick up the whole deer, eliminating the need for field dressing, or potentially hire APHIS-WS to field dress the deer, depending on their staffing availability
  - Deer meat can be donated to local food pantries after being processed
- Archery Hunting Program: Less effective at quickly reducing the population. The direct cost of an archery program is lower, as it relies on volunteer hunters, but it requires more staff

time to establish and oversee. The Dublin Police Department would provide oversight to an archery program, including conducting an archery proficiency and safety test and establishing standards for where/when activities can be conducted. An archery program can be implemented as a long-term, cost-effective management tool to complement a targeted removal program.

Potential pros of a lethal management program:

- Direct and measurable reduction in deer population
  - Potentially reduces all types of human-deer conflicts, including deer/vehicle collisions and landscape damage
- Proven effectiveness in peer communities
- Ability to target specific areas of the city
- Processed venison can support local food pantries

Potential cons of a lethal management program:

- Potential negative public reaction and ethical concerns from residents
- Financial costs associated with contractors, oversight and any staffing needs (ex. Dublin Police Department costs associated with supporting the safety on any operations)
- Long-term commitment. Once a program is started, it must be maintained.

## **Analysis of Survey Results**

*May 2023*

The first time City of Dublin residents were surveyed on this topic was May 2023. Staff partnered with the Ohio State University's (OSU) School of Environment and Natural Resources to conduct research during the weeks of May 9 through May 26, 2023. The purpose of this work was to establish a population estimate of the deer herd within the City of Dublin. The survey team conducted a field study during the week of May 15, which included road sightings and camera-trap surveys, assessed vegetation for signs of deer, and created a citizen survey to gather data on the community's attitudes towards deer. The week-long community-wide survey received 297 responses. Public sentiment was split on whether the white-tailed deer population in Dublin is increasing and needs to be managed. The 2023 survey results are below.

| How would you describe your experience with white-tailed deer in the City of Dublin? |     |
|--|-----|
| Negative   | 74  |
| Neutral  | 73  |
| Positive   | 150 |

| Do you think the white-tailed deer population in Dublin is increasing and needs to be managed? |     |
|--|-----|
| The white-tailed deer population is increasing and should be managed                           | 150 |
| There is no need to manage the white-tailed deer herd in Dublin                                | 147 |

| Have you seen a white-tailed deer on your property? |     |
|---|-----|
| No  | 17  |
| Yes   | 219 |

| Do you think there are too many white-tailed deer an acceptable number, or too little number in Dublin, Ohio? |     |
|---|-----|
| Acceptable amount of white-tailed deer  | 163 |
| Too little white-tailed deer  | 8   |
| Too many white-tailed deer  | 126 |

| What negative experiences have you or a member of your household had with white-tailed deer in Dublin? |     |
|--|-----|
| Deer/vehicle collision or almost collision   | 29  |
| Lyme’s Disease from Deer Tick  | 2   |
| Other  | 47  |
| Plant/Property Damage  | 219 |

*January 2026*

To better understand Dublin residents’ attitudes toward and the impact of the local white-tailed deer population, and to track changes in sentiment since May 2023, a second survey was launched on Jan. 6 and remained open through at least Jan. 30. This survey was developed to closely align with Worthington’s surveys. A total of 3,656 responses were collected. With approximately 33,838 adult residents in Dublin, this represents a statistically valid response rate. The Committee reviewed responses to each survey question as of Feb. 3 at its February 10, 2026, meeting. A summary of the responses, including the sentiment change from the questions asked in 2023, is included below. The data is visually displayed in Exhibit A.

Overall Experience and Perceived Population Trends

Resident experiences with deer were mixed. About 40% of respondents described their experience as positive, 38% as negative and 22% as neutral. However, 55% of respondents believe there are too many deer in Dublin, while 41% feel the current number is acceptable. A small fraction (4%) believes there are too few deer.

Sixty percent of respondents reported that the number of deer in their neighborhood has increased over the past three years, compared to 34% who believe the population has remained stable and fewer than 6% who observed a decrease. This indicates a perception of population growth, even in the absence of clear biological indicators of overpopulation.

Impacts and Experiences with Deer

The most common negative experience reported was plant and property damage, cited by 49% of survey takers. Deer-vehicle collisions or near misses were reported by 14% of respondents. Most respondents (93%) indicated that no one in their household had experienced a deer-related injury to people or pets.

Level of Concern

The issue of public safety was cited as most concerning to 38% of survey takers, while 33% were slightly concerned and 29% were not concerned. The cost of administering a program was most concerning to 19% of respondents, while 81% were slightly concerned (44%) or not concerned (37%). Finally, the individual welfare of deer was selected as the most concerning by 34% of survey takers, while 36% were not concerned and 30% were slightly concerned.

Support for Management

When asked directly whether the deer population should be managed, 59% of respondents said the population is increasing and should be managed, while 41% said there is no need for intervention. Regarding public funds used to address the deer presence in Dublin, 60% supported it, while 40% did not. Support for using lethal methods to regulate the local deer population was 49% in favor, 33% opposed, and 18% neutral.

2023 to 2026

A comparison of the 2023 and 2026 surveys is presented visually below and in Exhibit A. Notably, the sentiment regarding population management has increased from 50% in 2023 to 59% in 2026.



Narrative Response Summary

The survey offered residents the opportunity to share open-ended comments. Across the narrative responses, residents describe their interactions with deer. The primary themes are public safety concerns, pet injuries and deaths, aggressive deer behavior, vehicle collisions, and property damage. Most narrative responses express negative sentiment towards the current herd population, with about 25-30 expressing opposition to lethal management due to ethical concerns.

Approximately 135 of the narrative responses refer to aggressive deer. This includes charging, stomping, kicking and acting territorially around humans and pets. About 45 references to humans being chased, knocked down, charged at or injured (either by a deer or as a result of fleeing from a deer) by a deer. Nearly 105 responses mention concerns with road safety, including repeated

near-misses and confirmed deer-vehicle collisions. Just over 150 responses mention concerns with deer destroying landscaping and the financial implications for replacing damaged gardens. About 80 respondents expressed concern about overpopulation, often calling on the City to act. Other concerns mentioned included Lyme disease and general health.

## **Public Education and Information**

### *Dublin Nature Education Programming*

The City of Dublin has leveraged comprehensive nature education programming to help residents coexist with wildlife for decades, including having a dedicated employee to lead the program. Dublin has prohibited the feeding of waterfowl citywide since 2003 and the feeding of wildlife in City parks since 2013, with education serving as a foundational component of enforcement. Deer-related outreach has expanded in recent years, particularly following the adoption of the 2023 Outdoor Feed Ordinance. Educational efforts have included targeted neighborhood mailings in areas with feeding violations, articles in *Dublin Life Magazine*, a video series and podcast featuring the Nature Education Coordinator, informational materials distributed at programs and events, presentations at Neighborhood Leadership Meetings, social media outreach, and inclusion in the Dublin News Now newsletter. Seasonal messaging also helps residents understand deer behavior, including the fawning season and increased movement at dusk during the fall.

### *Worthington Deer Task Force*

The Worthington Deer Task Force, in partnership with Ohio State University students, conducted a community survey in the spring of 2024 to assess resident attitudes toward deer, perceived impacts, preferred management approaches, and areas of concern. The survey also revealed several prevalent misconceptions. To address these and better inform the public, the Task Force hosted two educational sessions focused on deer ecology and management strategies. The first session, held in July 2024 and titled "*Deer 101: How We Got Here, Understanding the Basics to Inform Management Decisions*," featured Jonathon Cepek, Wildlife Ecologist with Cleveland Metroparks. The second session, held in September 2024, "*Deer Management Options & Choosing the Right Path*," was led by Geoff Westerfield, Assistant Wildlife Management Supervisor with ODNR. Mr. Westerfield provided the same presentation to CSAC at its November 25, 2024, meeting.

Both sessions were recorded and made available on the City's website. The Task Force launched its second survey in the fall of 2024. According to Greg Hitzhusen, a member of the Worthington Deer Task Force and a professor at Ohio State, the second survey results indicated that the education sessions helped dispel some misinformation evident at the first meeting.

## **Program Goals for Consideration**

Given that Dublin is not at its biological carrying capacity, there is no exact science to determining how many deer should be removed each year. Rather, it depends on the social tolerance and is evaluated annually based on the results. The decision on how many to remove each year is made based on what is feasible and realistic in an urban area. Measuring the success of a lethal management program depends on the community's tolerance for deer and which factors are deemed important metrics. In other words, the number taken each year is driven by the program's goals and what is feasible, as determined in partnership with APHIS-WS.

Once a lethal program begins, residents will experience deer differently, as their behavior will change. According to APHIS-WS, deer will begin to ignore bait traps in a park after a few removal operations. Additionally, it becomes more difficult to remove deer after a few years of a reduction program because they learn to avoid areas and become less brazen. The number of years required for a lethal program to reach maintenance levels depends on the number of deer taken during the initial reduction efforts. These numbers are determined annually based on what helps the program achieve its goals.

It is important to acknowledge that white-tailed deer will remain a permanent presence in Dublin, regardless of the effectiveness of a management program. The goal is not to eliminate deer entirely, which is not possible in an open space like Dublin. Rather, the goal is to meet the community's tolerance for their presence. It will be impossible to eliminate landscape/property damage. A reasonable population is one that minimizes negative impact.

Should City Council determine that a lethal deer management program is appropriate to address community concerns, establishing clear and measurable goals would be critical to designing the program, evaluating its effectiveness and communicating with residents. The following potential goals are provided for consideration.

1. Reduce aggressive deer encounters

Public safety is the City's number one priority. One potential goal would be to reduce incidents of aggressive deer behavior, particularly those involving people and pets. Survey responses and service request data indicate increased reports of deer charging, stalking, and attacking pets in recent years. In addition to removal services for specific aggressive deer, a lethal management program can aim to reduce negative and unsafe encounters between residents and deer. This can be tracked by continuing to document aggressive deer reports and encouraging residents to report any aggressive deer encounters to ensure data is accurate. Additionally, conducting a community survey every few years can track changes in the number of aggressive deer encounters reported via the survey.

2. Reduce deer/vehicle collisions or almost collisions

Another goal related to public safety is reducing collisions or near-misses. The City can track all calls for service related to car collisions involving deer, not just those that produce a crash report. Since not all collisions are reported to the Dublin Police Department, the City can also monitor the number of dead deer picked up, particularly along roadways. A function can be added to Cityworks for the GoDublin crew to record any dead deer pick-ups along the side of the road. A community survey conducted every few years can also be used to track any changes in the percentage of deer-related vehicle safety concerns.

3. Limit property and landscape damage

The most reported experience residents have with deer is property and landscape damage. By conducting a community survey every few years, the City can track this data point. A successful program would result in a lower percentage of residents reporting deer-related damage to their gardens than in the January 2026 survey.

#### 4. Reduce the number of resident complaints

The City will continue to track inquiries related to landscape damage, reports of negative deer interactions and questions regarding fawn bedding in residents' yards. A successful program will see a reduction in the total number of these complaints received annually.

City Staff can continue educating residents on deer-resistant plants, repellents, hazing and other tools to promote a successful coexistence of humans and deer.

#### 5. Reduce the annual number of dead deer pick-ups

Using existing data and continuing to track the number of dead deer picked up by Public Service crews can be used as a measure of success for a lethal program. If the overall population in Dublin declines, the number of dead deer pick-ups will decrease. This saves the City time and money, enabling the GoDublin crew to focus on other important priorities.

#### 6. Reduce the deer population, as informed by an annual population index

Given that estimating deer population is challenging, the City can conduct an annual population index using thermal-imaging drones. This would include using drone technology from the Dublin Police Department to estimate the number of deer in specific areas of the city. Drone imaging can be used to count deer in these areas before implementing a lethal program. The same methods can be repeated annually to track any population changes after implementation. This is not a foolproof method for tracking population changes, as numerous factors can influence deer congregation in a given area, but it can be used as an additional metric when determining success.

### **Implementation Considerations**

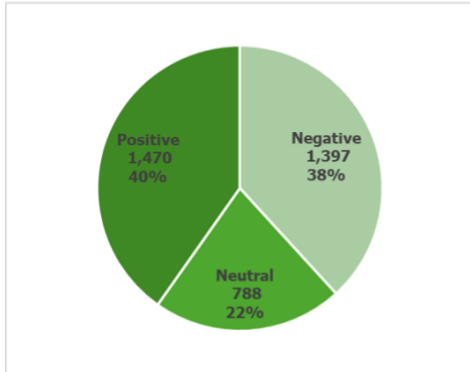
Should City Council wish to advance a lethal management program, City Staff would begin working with APHIS-WS to identify areas within the city suitable for a removal operation. Safety considerations analyzed include an adequate backstop (berm, wooded backdrop, downward shooting angle, etc.), the ability to control access to the property and an appropriate distance from homes. Additionally, based on the program goals and available APHIS-WS staffing, Staff would determine the total targeted number of deer for the first year. If APHIS-WS can provide staffing to support field dressing of the deer, the City could hire them to conduct this work. Alternatively, Staff can work to establish a call-out list for residents to either take the deer whole or assist with field dressing needs. All of this information would be determined as part of the contract development process with APHIS-WS, which would be approved by City Council.

CSAC was particularly interested in hearing about the public education component that was deployed by Worthington. This included public education sessions and informational graphics to correct public misconceptions about deer management. If lethal management is determined to be the most appropriate option, a comprehensive public education campaign could be deployed to help keep residents informed. The Ohio Community Wildlife Cooperative, of which the City of Dublin is a part, is planning to host a workshop on white-tailed deer management in Dublin this April. This educational session, "Urban Deer 101: Biology, Impacts, and Management Strategies," will be hosted by third-party subject matter experts and held at the Dublin Community Recreation Center from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8.

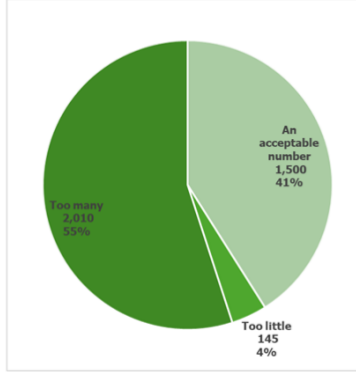
### Exhibit A – Survey Results

#### Experiences

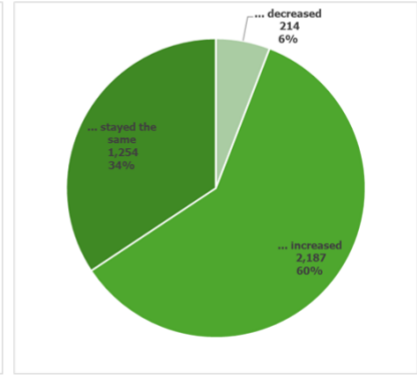
1) How would you describe your experience with white-tailed deer in the city of Dublin?



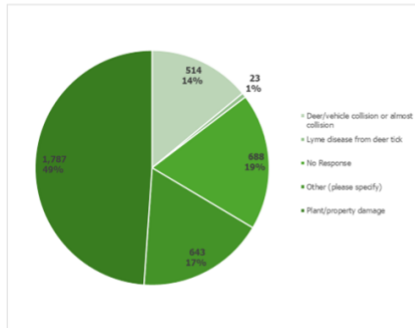
2) Do you think there are too many, an acceptable number, or too little number of deer in Dublin?



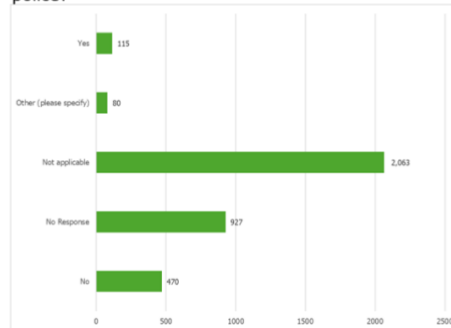
3) What changes, if any, have you noticed in the deer population in your neighborhood in the last three years? The number of deer in my neighborhood has...



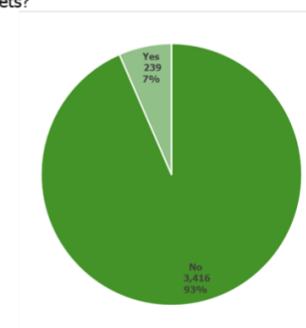
5) What negative experiences, if any, have you or a member of your household had with deer?



6) If you answered deer/vehicle collision or almost collision: Did you report the collision to police?

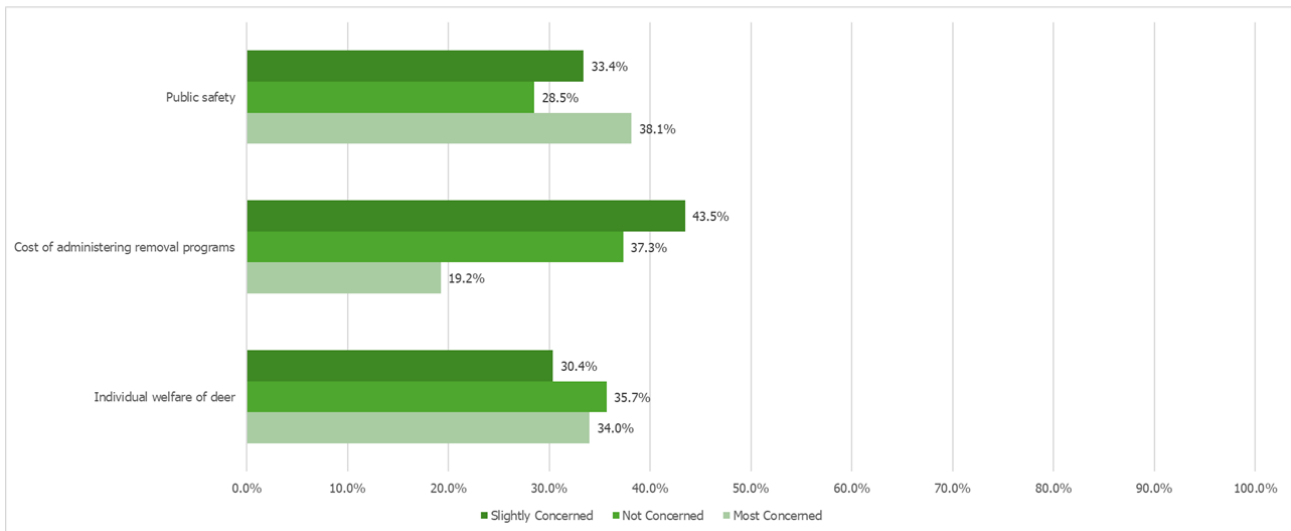


7) In the past three years, has anyone in your household been involved in an incident with deer in Dublin that caused injury to people or pets?



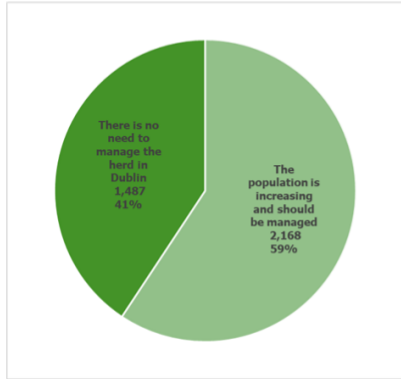
#### Level of Concern

11) How concerned are you about the following issues with deer removal programs?

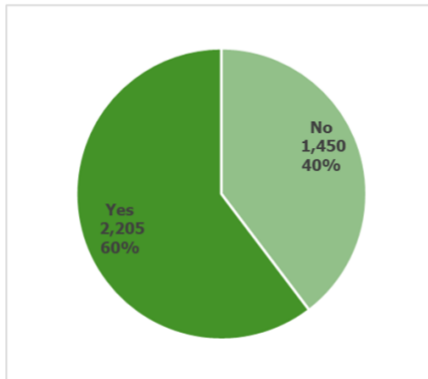


*Management*

4) Do you think the deer population in Dublin should be managed?



9) Do you feel that public funds should be used to address the deer presence in the City of Dublin?



10) As the City of Dublin explores potential deer management options, what is your opinion about the use of lethal methods to regulate the local deer population, assuming regulations are established for safety?

