Community-Based Deer Management

Collaborative Deer Management Outreach Initiative
Wildlife wars: Suburbanites clash over deer, coyotes

ANIMAL ADVOCATES RALLY AROUND DEER, COYOTES AS THEIR ABUNDANCE WORRIES RESIDENTS.

Kiley Blackman and Adrienne Hernandez, members of the group Animal Defenders of Westchester, pose with picket signs at the Marshlands Conservancy on Feb. 27, 2015. The group opposes killing deer and favors a sterilization program.

Ilsip Town grapples with Bambi boom

By ROBERT GERTHE

GREAT NECK RIVER CIVIC leader Barbara Lippert said she has received lots of complaints about deer in her neighborhood, which borders Northwell State Park.

"The deer are destroying people's yards and property," she said. "They just walk down the street and eat shrubs, bushes and plants. There's very little we can do about it."

Lots of white-tailed deer seem to be roaming through parts of Island Town, such as Great River, these days. To some residents, they have become a major problem.

Prompted by dozens of complaints, State Sen. Caesar Trin-

By ROBERT GERTHE

Preservation, the Town of Islip, the Scollay Science Center of the National Audubon Society and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have passed a resolution to reduce the number of deer. The short was conducted, but only after a lengthy legal battle.

The state is hoping to avoid
Identifying Potential Issues

Focusing Issues

Planning Actions

Taking Action
A structured process for making community decisions that includes multiple perspectives

Shared understandings about desired goals and a desire for achieving generally acceptable solutions

An understanding that this will be an ongoing process

A commitment to evaluation of the decision-making process and the subsequent management program
Need government legitimacy & public interest
What do we mean by the term stakeholder?

Stakeholder has been an evolving concept of who the beneficiaries of wildlife management are or ought to be.

This relates to the Public Trust Doctrine that is the legal foundation of why government wildlife agencies exist — to provide benefits for citizens of both current and future generations.
Stakeholders = people experiencing impacts from wildlife
What is possible in my community?
First identify the problem, then identify the outcome objectives.

“BEFORE I STATE THE PROBLEM, ARE THERE ANY SOLUTIONS?”
Expect controversy!

1) Controversy over whether or not deer should be managed at all

2) Controversy over the acceptability of the chosen approach
BEAVER IN MASSACHUSETTS:
YOUR EXPERIENCES AND OPINIONS

Research conducted by
Department of Natural Resources Conservation
University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Consider the **scope** of the issue

- Multi-state
- State
- Multi-county region
- County
- Municipality

**Deer Impacts**
Evaluate and select the right tools for your community.

Consider:

- Legality
- Effectiveness
- Cost
- Social acceptability
- Capacity to implement
- Time
Role for stakeholders

Identify impacts

Provide feedback on decision making process, desired outcomes, & tools

Processes for engaging the public are diverse
Role for wildlife expert

Describe events and interactions and their consequential effects

Increase understanding of systems

Clarify tradeoffs among alternatives
Role for local government leader

Legitimize the effort

Can help determine legal ramifications of decisions

Can be a voice for community members who are less engaged
Role for key partners

There may be partners that need to be involved in order to achieve success, e.g. a nearby state park.

Other partners may be able to lend resources or expertise, e.g. a local university.
Role for public issues educators

Increase people’s awareness of impacts and knowledge about issues

Build skills and provide opportunities for participation in decision making processes

Help people craft, evaluate and implement solutions
Role for local leaders

The support of respected local leaders may be needed in order to generate broad public support.

May be elected or otherwise.
Role for facilitators

Needed to stimulate discussion, and resolve conflict as it arises

May be needed to facilitate certain processes, such as task forces

A facilitator may be a local official, a hired professional, recruited from other organizations like Cooperative Extension
Role for the wildlife manager

Provide information on deer and deer management, tools and possibilities available to communities from the agency, identify any regulatory limitations to certain actions.

Provide guidance based on experiences with other communities.
What **conditions** are needed for an effective community-based deer management process?

- Adequate knowledge about the situation
- Essential working relationships
- Effective local leadership
- Sufficient credibility
- Commitment to a common purpose
What can be done to help achieve the right conditions for effective community-based deer management processes?

- Stakeholder involvement
- Education and learning
- Informative communication
- Assessment
- Key partnerships
Be open to what your community’s outcome will be.

There’s always the possibility for innovation!
Remember:

These efforts require **time & patience**

Effective, consistent **leadership** is key
Community-based deer management may seem like a daunting task, but in communities where deer become an issue, accept that addressing it is inevitable and success is possible.