



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Howard S. Lazarus, City Administrator

DATE: December 4, 2017

SUBJECT: **Winter 2018 Deer Management Plan**

REFERENCES: None.

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**PURPOSE:** This memorandum provides an update and establishes expectations for the city's upcoming (Winter 2018) Deer Management program. Although there isn't full community consensus on the plan, there are elements of the Plan which reflect the variety of perspectives from the community.

**BACKGROUND:** The November 9, 2017 memorandum described the objectives across the three key program areas: including lethal cull, sterilization, and the education program. It also established a long-term process for how staff will approach future deer management discussions. Additionally, draft public park closures were shared so the community was aware of which locations are being considered.

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:** On October 31, 2017, White Buffalo submitted their proposal to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to amend the existing research permit under which White Buffalo operates within the city. The MDNR verbally informed the city of their decisions on this amendment, which resulted in the need to revise the program goals (see attached). Notable changes include:

- Lethal (sharpshooting) - Establishes the level of lethal removal of deer to be 250, unless modified by the MDNR at a later date.
- Sterilization - Establishes the cumulative target for sterilization to be 80, resulting in 26 being permitted in 2018 (54 were performed in 2017). Working in a new third sterilization zone is allowed but the priority for sterilization will be to first obtain 98% sterilization in the two existing zones prior to working in the third zone.

During the next few weeks, city staff will be finalizing the authorizations for access to properties. Achieving the 2018 Program objectives is dependent on the level of access obtained.

When the written MDNR permit is issued, it will be added to the city's deer management website ([www.a2gov.org/deermanagement](http://www.a2gov.org/deermanagement)).

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

A detailed implementation plan is attached (see attached 2018 Deer Management Implementation Plan). Some highlights include:

Sterilization Activities – Sterilization activities will take place Jan. 2 through Jan. 7 (or earlier if target is met). It's estimated this will take three to six days to complete. Darting and retrieval will occur on private property starting at 3 p.m. daily and along public rights-of-way after dark. Resident's normal activities should not be impacted as a result of sterilization activities.

Private Property Lethal Activities – Sharpshooting activities may start on January 6 on city-selected, privately owned parcels subject to the owner's prior written consent and compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. The properties utilized are expected to be in Ward 1, Ward 2, and near Mary Beth Doyle Park.

Public Park/Nature Area and Selected University Property Closures: Selected parks/nature areas, University of Michigan parcels (pending final authorization), and Concordia University parcels will be closed for public use between 3 p.m. and midnight each day (including weekends) starting on January 8 and ending at midnight on January 31. Residents should be aware that tampering with bait piles or interfering with deer management program activities is illegal (see attached 2018 Deer Management Implementation Plan for specific locations).

Education Programming: To date, the education program has recommended adding additional signage in priority locations, assisted in the development of an interactive information and mapping tool and suggested improvements to the city's deer management website. Staff and the committee will continue meeting after the New Year to decide next steps.

**COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION:** Tom Crawford is the primary point of contact for this action and can be reached at 734-794-6110 x45100 or at [tcrawford@a2gov.org](mailto:tcrawford@a2gov.org). Mr. Crawford is supported by a number of other employees who will be focused on certain aspects of the plan.

**2 Attachments**

- 1 – 2018 Deer Management Objectives – Revised
- 2 – 2018 Deer Management Implementation Plan

## 2018 Deer Management Objectives - Revised

### 2018 PROGRAM SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

#### MEASURES OF SUCCESS:

##### **Educational Program & Public Right-of-Way Improvements:**

- Review the City's "Fencing" ordinance and existing deer signage locations. Recommend and implement changes and improvements.
- Develop and publish an expanded deer education component to the City's deer management website, including a deer-resistant gardening campaign.
- Develop an interactive information/mapping tool.
- Create and hold a public forum designed to address questions related to the City's deer management program.
- Establish an on-going education program.

##### **Sterilization (Non-lethal) Program:**

- Obtain an amended permit from MDNR for a deer sterilization program.
- Sterilize of at least 98% of the female deer in the original research areas #1 & #2.
- Sterilize at least 95% of the female deer in a new third zone, such that the cumulative sterilizations for all three zones are not more than 80.
- Mortality rate associated with sterilization less than 2%.
- Investigate with University of Michigan if there are appropriate locations for sterilization.
- Obtain a written update on the scientific results to-date on the sterilization efforts.

##### **Lethal Program:**

- Number of firearm related injuries associated with cull activities is 0.
- Remove 250 deer.
- Level of public park closures are acceptable to at least 75% of surveyed residents.
- Coordinate with University of Michigan to increase the number of available locations for the deer management program.

# 2018 Deer Management Implementation Plan

(January 2018)

The long-term objectives for the Deer Management Plan are available at <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/community-services/Pages/Long-Term-Objectives.aspx>. To make progress towards these objectives, the 2018 program was developed with specific objectives available at <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/community-services/Pages/2018-Program.aspx>.

## The 2018 Deer Management Plan has three primary components:

1. Educational Program & Public Rights-of-Way Improvements – Providing educational materials to the community on how to live with deer, evaluating the city’s fencing ordinance, and recommending/implementing improvements that can be made in the city’s rights-of-way, such as signage.
2. Sterilization (non-lethal) Plan – pneumatically darting female deer in three neighborhoods, temporarily removing the deer for surgical sterilization, and returning the deer back to the original area.
3. Lethal Plan - sharpshooting deer on public lands and a small number of city-selected private parcels with prior written consent from landowner.

## Residents should be aware that:

1. Interfering with the operations of the City’s Deer Management Implementation Plan (e.g. tampering with bait piles) is against the law.
2. Baiting deer onto private property within the city is also against the law, unless performed by the city’s contractor.

## IMPLEMENTATION PLANS:

1. Sterilization (non-lethal) Plan
  - a. From **Jan. 2 through Jan. 7**, three neighborhoods outlined in the attached map (Exhibit I) will have up to a total of 26 female deer sterilized via an ovariectomy. The primary focus will be on zones 1 and 2. Once the goals are met in zones 1 and 2, sterilization activities will occur in zone 3.
  - b. No public parks will be *closed* for female deer sterilization activities. Selected public lands will be utilized for darting, but public access is not affected.
  - c. No University lands are planned to be utilized for sterilization activities.
  - d. Sterilization activities will occur in two phases:
    - i. Phase I: “Dusk” Activities from city-selected private parcels:
      1. Baiting female deer will occur on some city-selected private parcels within the three identified neighborhoods with appropriate consent.
      2. Pneumatic darting of female deer on the selected private parcels will occur every day from 3 p.m. (near dusk) to 10 p.m.
      3. Once the female deer is anesthetized, it will be picked-up with a stretcher, temporarily removed to a private location for surgical sterilization, and tagged on the ear to designate that it has been sterilized. Select females will also have a collar attached to them.
      4. Sterilized females are returned to the original area the same evening and observed as they recover from the anesthesia.
    - ii. Phase II: Mobile Pneumatic Darting:
      1. Following the completion of Phase I, White Buffalo Inc. personnel, accompanied by an Ann Arbor police officer, will utilize a city vehicle to drive through the neighborhood and dart female deer that are near the rights-of-way. Once anesthetized, the female deer will be handled with the same procedures described above.

2. Phase II activities will occur until 5 a.m.
- e. Darting will not occur from a moving vehicle but may occur from a parked vehicle.
- f. Preliminary results of the sterilization activities will be shared publicly when complete.
- g. Safety Measures:
  - i. The City will communicate this plan in December with implementation dates of Jan. 2 through 7 (see Exhibit II – Communication Plan).
  - ii. A City police officer will be present during darting and removal of female deer.
  - iii. Any vehicles involved in the female deer sterilization activities beyond the city vehicle, will be marked with White Buffalo, Inc. or Wildlife Research.

## 2. Lethal Plan

### Timing & Location

- a. **January 6 - 31 – Private Parcels:** Sharpshooting activities may start on January 6 on privately owned parcels, subject to the owner’s prior written consent and in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. Residents can continue with their normal daily routines since all deer management activities will occur on private property. Unauthorized trespassing is not permitted and will be subject to enforcement action.
- b. **January 8 - 31 – City Parks/Nature Areas:** The following city parks (located in Wards 1 and 2) will be CLOSED every day for all activities from 3 p.m. until midnight (See Exhibit I - Map) for sharpshooting activities to occur:
  - Arbor Hills Nature Area
  - Barton Nature Area [only the Foster area north of Warrington Dr.]
  - Bird Hills Nature Area
  - Foxfire West Nature Area
  - Glazier Hill Nature Area
  - Huron Parkway/Braun Nature Areas
  - Leslie Woods Nature Area
  - Leslie Park Golf Course
  - Narrow Gauge Nature Area
  - Oakridge Nature Area [east of Huron Parkway only]
  - Oakwoods Nature Area
  - Olson Park [The Dog Park and parking lot will remain open]
  - South Pond Nature Area [only the area in NAP office vicinity located at 3875 E. Huron River Dr.]
  - Stapp Nature Area
  - Sugarbush Park [north of Rumsey Dr. only]
  - Traver Creek Nature Area
- c. **January 8- 31 - Selected University of Michigan and Concordia University properties:** Pending final authorization from UM, university selected sites will be CLOSED every day from 3 p.m. to midnight (See Exhibit I - Map).
- d. **January 9, 16, 19, and 23 – Nichols Arboretum:** Pending a final authorization from UM, it is expected that Nichols Arboretum will be CLOSED each of these days from 3 p.m. to midnight for sharpshooting activities to occur.
- e. Sharpshooting will not occur from a moving vehicle but may occur from a parked vehicle.
- f. If sharpshooting activity is completed early, the community will be notified and properties will re-open.
- g. Sharpshooting activities may occur in all of the areas that are closed. Sharpshooting activities will occur seven days a week. On any particular day, multiple locations will be utilized. Weather and other field condition factors will determine which locations are utilized on any particular day.

- h. The number of Park/Nature Area closures has been minimized. All closed Parks and Nature Areas MAY have deer culled from them. At the conclusion of the lethal program, not all parks WILL have deer culled from them due to conditions at the time.
- i. Preliminary results of the sharpshooting activities will be shared publicly when complete.
- j. If poaching activities are suspected, residents are asked to call the MDNR *Report All Poaching* (RAP) hotline at 800-292-7800 or visit the [RAP website](#) for information about how to report a violation.
- k. Deer carcasses:
  - i. The city or contractor will remove all deer carcasses associated with the deer cull.
  - ii. The city has jurisdiction for removing deer carcasses from public lands resulting from any other causes of death.
  - iii. Private property owners are responsible for removing deer carcasses from private property not related to city deer management activities. The city may, at its sole discretion and by exception only, remove deer carcasses from private property.
- I. Safety Measures:**
  - i. The city's contract for professional sharpshooters is based on the contractor being paid for time and materials. The contractor's compensation is not dependent on the number of deer culled. White Buffalo Inc. is a non-profit organization.
  - ii. The safety protocols of the contractor have been reviewed by AAPD personnel.
  - iii. Designated city park and nature areas will be closed daily from 3 p.m. until midnight.
  - iv. The city will communicate in December park and nature area closures from Jan. 8-31.
  - v. The designated University of Michigan (pending final authorization) and Concordia University properties will be closed from 3 p.m. until midnight from January 8-31.
  - vi. Nichols Arboretum (pending final authorization) will be closed on Jan. 9, 16, 19, and 23.
  - vii. Signage warning of sharpshooters and closures will be posted along entrances and other notable locations around all designated city parks and nature areas and University sites at least 24 hours in advance of the three-week closure timeframe. Snow fencing will supplement signage at select locations.
  - viii. Only personnel authorized by the City or UM are permitted in the parks and on UM property during closures.
  - ix. A city security contractor, in communication with White Buffalo, will patrol closed public areas when sharpshooting activities are occurring.
  - x. City Police staff will coordinate as appropriate with the UM Division of Public Safety and Security and Concordia University for all sharpshooting activities on university properties.
  - xi. Notwithstanding all of the above items, the professional sharpshooters are responsible for following safety protocols to ensure no injuries at all times.

### 3. Educational Program & Public Right-of-Way Improvements

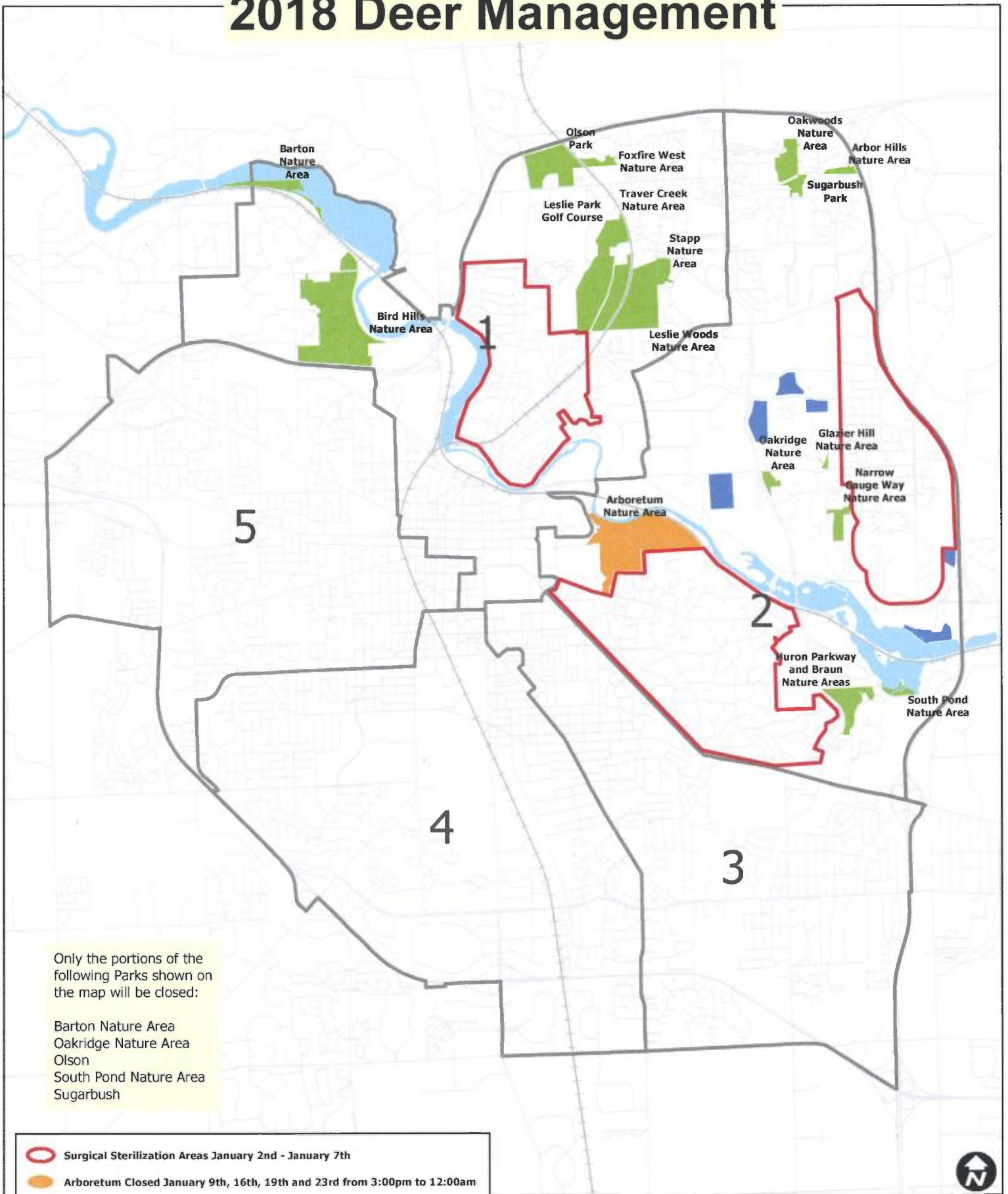
To date, the education program has recommended adding additional signage in priority locations, assisted in the development of an interactive information and mapping tool and suggested improvements to the city's deer management website. Staff and the committee will continue meeting after the New Year to decide next steps.

#### WHAT TO DO IF....

- You observe or suspect unlawful activity (such as baiting on private property) or hear shots fired and are concerned, call the Police Dept. Emergency 9-1-1 | Non-Emergency 734-994-2911
- You suspect poaching, call the MDNR *Report All Poaching* (RAP) hotline at 800-292-7800 or visit the [RAP website](#) for information about how to report a violation.
- You have additional questions about the City's Deer Management Implementation Plan:

- Check out Answers to Frequently Asked Questions at [www.a2gov.org/deermanagement](http://www.a2gov.org/deermanagement)
- Review the Approved Proposal and Permits at [www.a2gov.org/deermanagement](http://www.a2gov.org/deermanagement)
- Contact the city via email at [deermanagement@a2gov.org](mailto:deermanagement@a2gov.org) or call the Deer hotline at 734.794.6295

# 2018 Deer Management



Only the portions of the following Parks shown on the map will be closed:

- Barton Nature Area
- Oakridge Nature Area
- Olson
- South Pond Nature Area
- Sugarbush

- Surgical Sterilization Areas January 2nd - January 7th
- Arboretum Closed January 9th, 16th, 19th and 23rd from 3:00pm to 12:00am
- City Parks Closed January 8th - January 31st from 3:00pm to 12:00am
- University Lands Closed January 8th - January 31st from 3:00pm to 12:00am
- Wards
- Huron River



Map date 12/4/2017  
 Any aerial imagery is circa 2015 unless otherwise noted  
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## City of Ann Arbor Deer Management 2018 Communication Plan

### Goal

Effectively communicate 2018 deer management activities, locations, and information resources to residents, stakeholders, media and community partners.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **1. What does the 2018 City of Ann Arbor Deer Management Program include?**

The 2018 deer management plan has three primary components, including:

##### Educational Program and Public Rights-of-Way Improvements

Provide educational materials to the community on how to live with deer, evaluating the city's fencing ordinance and recommending/implementing improvements that can be made in the city's rights-of-way, such as signage. To date, the education program has recommended adding additional signage in priority locations, assisted in the development of an interactive information and mapping tool and suggested improvements to the city's deer management website. Staff and the committee will continue meeting after the New Year to decide next steps.

##### Sterilization (Non-Lethal) Program

Pneumatically darting female deer in three neighborhoods, temporarily removing the deer for surgical sterilization, and returning females back to their original area. From Jan. 2-7 between 3 p.m. – 5 a.m., three neighborhoods will have up to a total of 26 females sterilized via an ovariectomy. The primary focus will be on zones 1 and 2. To the extent the goals are met in zones 1 and 2, sterilization activities will occur in zone 3. Like last year, the city will mail sterilization information directly to residents in impacted areas in December.

##### Lethal Program

From Jan. 6 through Jan. 31, sharpshooting activities may occur on privately owned parcels, subject to the owner's prior written consent and in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. Residents can continue with their normal daily routines since all deer management activities will occur on private property. Unauthorized trespassing is not permitted and will be subject to enforcement action.

From Jan. 8 through Jan. 31, sharpshooting of deer may occur in the following city parks and nature areas. These city parks will be closed every day for all activities from 3 p.m. until midnight. The city will mail park-closure postcards in December to residents adjacent to impacted areas in Wards 1 and 2.

1. Arbor Hills Nature Area

2. Barton Nature Area [Foster area north of Warrington Dr. only]
3. Bird Hills Nature Area
4. Foxfire West Nature Area
5. Glazier Hill Nature Area
6. Huron Parkway/Braun Nature Areas
7. Leslie Park Golf Course
8. Leslie Woods Nature Area
9. Narrow Gauge Way Nature Area
10. Oakridge Nature Area [East of Huron Parkway only]
11. Oakwoods Nature Area
12. Olson Park [The dog park and parking lot will remain open]
13. South Pond Nature Area [Only the area in the vicinity of NAP office at 3875 E. Huron River Dr.]
14. Stapp Nature Area
15. Sugarbush Park [North of Rumsey Dr. only]
16. Traver Creek Nature Area
17. \*Pending final authorization from UM, it is expected that Nichols Arboretum will be closed on Jan. 9, 16, 19 and 23 only.

Residents should be aware that interfering with the operations of the city's deer management implementation plan (e.g. tampering with bait piles) is against the law. Also, baiting deer onto private property within the city is against the law, unless performed by the city's contractor.

## 2. What are the objectives of the program?

### **Educational Program & Public Right-of-Way Improvements:**

- Review the City's "Fencing" ordinance and existing deer signage locations. Recommend and implement changes and improvements.
- Develop and publish an expanded deer education component to the City's deer management website, including a deer-resistant gardening campaign.
- Develop an interactive information/mapping tool.
- Create and hold a public forum designed to address questions related to the City's deer management program
- Establish an on-going education program.

### **Sterilization (Nonlethal) Program:**

- Obtain an amended permit from MDNR for a deer sterilization program.
- Sterilize of at least 98% of the female deer in the original research areas #1 & #2.
- Sterilize at least 95% of the female deer in a new third zone, such that the cumulative sterilizations for all three zones are not more than 80.
- Mortality rate associated with sterilization of less than 2%.
- Investigate with University of Michigan if there are appropriate locations for sterilization.
- Obtain a written update on the scientific results to-date on the sterilization efforts.

### **Lethal Program:**

- Number of firearm related injuries associated with cull activities is 0.
- Remove 250 deer.

- Level of public park closures is acceptable to at least 75 percent of surveyed residents.
- Coordinate with University of Michigan to increase the number of available locations for the deer management program.

**3. If someone doesn't agree with all or parts of the 2018 Deer Management Implementation Plan, how can his or her views be expressed?**

- Ensure you're informed:
  - Read most up-to-date FAQs to understand all aspects of the plan.
  - Submit clarifying questions to deer management [email](#) or call the hotline, 734.794.6295.
- A professionally developed survey will be conducted with a random sample of residents this spring (2018). If you receive an invitation to participate, please complete the survey.
- Contact your councilmember.
- Attend a Council meeting (public comments spots are available at the beginning and end of each meeting).

**4. Can residents feed deer?**

No, since January 2016 the city has had a deer feeding ban ordinance. Baiting deer onto private property within the city is against the law, unless performed by the city's contractor. In addition, interfering with the operations of the city's Deer Management Implementation Plan (e.g., tampering with bait piles) also is against the law.

**5. How did the city select White Buffalo to work with?**

After completion of the 2016 deer management plan, the city worked with some self-organized citizen groups to obtain feedback. These groups initially brought White Buffalo Inc. to city staff's attention. Staff reviewed White Buffalo's experience and found the Michigan Department of Natural Resources believed the organization to be a credible research organization. City staff solicited a proposal from White Buffalo for the 2017 program and determined there weren't any other non-profit organizations that provided the level of research expertise of White Buffalo. The city contracted with White Buffalo to implement the city's 2017 Deer Management Plan, including sterilization and nonlethal deer removal. Under the terms of White Buffalo's contract with the city, White Buffalo applied for and received the necessary permit from the MDNR to implement the city's 2018 deer management plan.

**Sterilization Program**

**6. Where and when will sterilization occur?**

From Jan. 2 through Jan. 7, three neighborhoods will have up to a total of 26 female deer sterilized by White Buffalo via an ovariectomy. The primary focus will be on zones 1 and 2. To the extent the goals are met in zones 1 and 2, sterilization activities will occur in zone 3. These areas were chosen where sharpshooting of deer cannot occur, but darting and surgical sterilization of deer can take place per a special state permit. Residents' daily routines do not need to change.

No public lands will be closed for deer sterilization activities. Selected public lands will be utilized for darting, but public access is not affected. No university lands will be utilized for sterilization activities.

It is unlikely that residents will notice the actual darting activities because, while some darting will occur at designated bait stations in the late afternoon (after 3 p.m.), most work will be done during nighttime hours, when deer are most active (and people generally are not).

**7. How were citizens in study areas informed of the sterilization program?**

The city informed residents in the study areas of sterilization program activities via a flyer mailed directly to homes mid-December. In addition, a variety of communication channels were used to promote the program, including:

- Media release.
- Resident newsletter article.
- Email notifications (subscribe at [www.a2gov.org/deermanagement](http://www.a2gov.org/deermanagement), “email notifications” section).
- Social media.
- City of Ann Arbor website and deer management project webpage updates.
- Community Television Network.
- Direct email to all registered neighborhood associations.
- Ann Arbor Public Schools and University of Michigan notifications.

**8. What is the sterilization process?**

White Buffalo Inc., wildlife professionals, will locate female deer and dart them with tranquilizer darts equipped with tracking devices. This will be done from marked, stationary vehicles on public roadways and at bait stations at designated sites within program areas between 3 p.m. and 5 a.m. Female deer will be darted by highly experienced personnel who are specially trained to dart deer in an urban setting with precision and accuracy. Unlike firearms, pneumatic darting guns have limited range (30-40 feet).

Once darted, the female deer will be tracked until they are unconscious (typically just a few minutes), and then transported to a temporary surgical site where a veterinarian will perform ovariectomies and administer long-acting antibiotics and pain relievers. The entire process, from initial darting to release, takes approximately one hour per female.

All sterilized female deer will be fitted with numbered ear tags, and one mature female in each group will be radio-collared to facilitate future program efforts, track migration rates and patterns and assess survival rates. Data regarding size, age and condition will be collected. Treated deer will then be returned to a safe location close to the area where they were found and monitored until they have recovered from anesthesia.

Once darted, a female may run up to 100 yards before succumbing to the tranquilizer. It is unlikely that a tranquilized female will choose your yard in which to fall asleep, but if she does, the recovery team, assisted by the Ann Arbor Police Department, will carefully remove the sedated female and transport her to the surgical site. A city police officer will be present during darting and removal of the female deer. Any vehicles involved in the deer sterilization activities beyond city vehicles, will be marked with White Buffalo, Inc. or Wildlife Research.

**9. Why did the city implement sterilization as a deer management method?**

The Ann Arbor community is comprised of individuals with a variety of perspectives and values about deer. As a result of working with resident stakeholder groups, sterilization was identified as an appropriate deer reduction method for the city to explore.

**10. Why did the city add a third sterilization zone?**

There are areas in the city that have dense residential neighborhoods, some of which are within one thousand feet of a public school. In these areas, the city has determined that sterilization is a preferred solution to address deer browsing impacts. Because sterilization is not an approved deer management method by the MDNR, these activities were authorized by the MDNR under a special research permit.

**11. When will sterilization outcomes be shared?**

After completion of the sterilization program, results will be available on the deer management website at [www.a2gov.org/deermanagement](http://www.a2gov.org/deermanagement).

**Lethal Program**

**12. What is a cull?**

Culling refers to the act of killing wildlife by firearm or bow. Per the MDNR research permit, deer culls will be conducted in Ann Arbor in designated parks, nature areas and on city-selected private property using firearms. The city's contractor will not be utilizing a bow.

**13. Where and when will culls be conducted?**

The MDNR permit allows White Buffalo sharpshooters to lethally remove up to 250 deer in designated City of Ann Arbor parks and natural areas in Wards 1 and 2. If needed, the permit can be modified by the state at a later date to increase the lethal removal amount.

Sharpshooting will not occur from a moving vehicle, but may occur from a parked vehicle.

From Jan. 8 through Jan. 31, the below parks and nature areas are closed every day (including weekends) for all purposes from 3 p.m. to midnight.

1. Arbor Hills Nature Area
2. Barton Nature Area [Foster area north of Warrington Dr. only]
3. Bird Hills Nature Area
4. Foxfire West Nature Area
5. Glazier Hill Nature Area
6. Huron Parkway/Braun Nature Areas
7. Leslie Park Golf Course
8. Leslie Woods Nature Area
9. Narrow Gauge Way Nature Area

10. Oakridge Nature Area [East of Huron Parkway only]
11. Oakwoods Nature Area
12. Olson Park [The dog park and parking lot will remain open]
13. South Pond Nature Area [Only the area in the vicinity of NAP office at 3875 E. Huron River Dr.]
14. Stapp Nature Area
15. Sugarbush Park [North of Rumsey Dr. only]
16. Traver Creek Nature Area

Pending final UM authorization, it is expected that on Jan. 9, 16, 19, and 23, Nichols Arboretum will be closed for all purposes from 3 p.m. to midnight for sharpshooting activities to occur.

In addition, from Jan. 8 through Jan. 31, several UM (pending final authorization) and Concordia University properties will be closed every day from 3 p.m. to midnight. Please refer to the closure map available on the Deer Management Website [www.a2gov.org/deermanagement](http://www.a2gov.org/deermanagement).

#### **14. When will the city stop culling deer?**

Once a community begins deer management activities to address deer browse damage, it requires some level of actions to continue unless the tolerance of the community changes. The city monitors citizens' deer browse tolerance via an annual survey conducted by the Michigan State University Research Center.

In addition to education, culling is the preferred method recommended by the MDNR for effectively managing deer. The city, based on input from its residents, is also pursuing an alternative deer management method in locations where culling is infeasible. The mixture of these three methods in Ann Arbor going forward may change. At this time, the MDNR does not permit sterilization without an approved research permit.

Because deer don't have natural predators in urban environments and they reproduce at a rate that rapidly increases their population, it is necessary to remove 30 to 40 percent of the deer population annually in order to maintain a stable population size. The sooner a large population of deer is brought to an acceptable level, the fewer deer that will have to be removed annually and cumulatively. The city's future deer management efforts include deciding which method is appropriate for maintaining an acceptable level of deer impacts in the community.

#### **15. What will happen to the venison?**

The deer will be processed and the venison donated to a local food bank.

#### **16. What happens if someone disregards a park's closure?**

Violations of park rules are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. In the case of deer management activities, safety is a top priority, and Ann Arbor Police will respond accordingly to individuals who violate park closures. Designated parks and nature areas are closed **for all purposes every day from 3 p.m. to midnight Jan. 8 through Jan. 31, 2018.**

**17. How will safety be ensured during cull activities?**

The below processes and information help to underline safety protocols that have been put in place to ensure citizen safety during cull activities:

- The city’s contract for professional sharpshooters is based on the contractor being paid for time and materials. The contractor’s compensation is not dependent on the number of deer culled. White Buffalo Inc. is a non-profit organization.
- The safety protocols of the contractor have been reviewed by AAPD personnel.
- Designated city parks and nature areas will be closed daily from 3 p.m. until midnight.
- The City will communicate park and nature area closures December for the January 8 through January 31 closure dates.
- Nichols Arboretum will be closed on Jan. 9, Jan. 16, Jan. 19 and Jan. 23.
- The designated University of Michigan and Concordia University properties will be closed from 3 p.m. until midnight for the January 8 through January 31 closure dates.
- Signage warning of sharpshooters and closures will be posted along entrances and other notable locations around all designated City Parks and University sites at least 24 hours in advance of the three-week closure timeframe. Snow fencing will supplement signage at select locations.
- Only personnel authorized by the City of Ann Arbor or University of Michigan are permitted in the parks and on UM property during closures.
- A city security contractor, in communication with White Buffalo, will perform a roving patrol of closed public areas when sharpshooting activities are occurring.
- City Police staff will coordinate with the UM Division of Public Safety and Security for all sharpshooting activities on university property.
- Notwithstanding all of the above items, the professional sharpshooters are responsible for following safety protocols to ensure no injuries at all times.

**18. Will walking and biking trails be closed in designated parks?**

Yes, all walking and biking trails are closed every day within designated parks from 3 p.m. to midnight Jan. 8 through Jan. 31, 2018.

**19. Will the border-to-border trail remain open and the dog parks?**

Yes, all parks through which the boarder-to-border trail is constructed will remain open. All dog parks will remain open as well, including Olson Dog Park.

**20. Where can I get a copy of the MDNR permit?**

MDNR issued a Scientific Collector’s permit to White Buffalo, Inc., the City’s contractor, to examine different management techniques to control the overabundance of white-tailed deer in the city of Ann Arbor. The research permit specifically approves use of the combined approach of surgical sterilization and sharpshooting as the selected management technique. The permit is available to view on the project website at [www.a2gov.org/deermanagement](http://www.a2gov.org/deermanagement). White Buffalo has requested an amendment to this permit to incorporate the 2018 activities. The amended permit also will be shared on the city’s website.

**21. Will White Buffalo be shooting on private property?**

Yes, private properties were identified by the city for lethal removal activities. All private property sharpshooting will be confined to that property. Abutting property owners will be notified of activities and residents' daily routines will not be impacted. White Buffalo's sharpshooters will remain within the confines of permissioned properties. They will not be following deer onto adjacent properties nor shooting on any property without permission. Unauthorized trespassing is not permitted and will be subject to enforcement action. As a result of safety precautions followed by White Buffalo personnel, citizens can safely walk, bike or drive through all neighborhoods in Wards 1 and 2 during culling activities.

**22. Should citizens modify their normal routine when White Buffalo is shooting on private property?**

As stated above, residents do not need to modify their normal routines during culling activities on private property. Also, please see answer to question 16 regarding implemented safety precautions.

**23. How will the city inform residents of cull activities?**

It's important to note that safety is our top priority. The deer will be lethally removed by highly experienced sharpshooters who are specially trained to conduct culls in urban settings with precision, accuracy and safety as their top priorities. The city will inform residents of potential cull locations in parks and nature areas via a variety of communication channels including:

- Signage, including Spanish and Chinese translations, at the identified park and nature area entrances.
- Postcards mailed to residents in close proximity to closed parks within Wards 1 & 2.
- Media releases.
- Resident newsletter articles.
- Email notifications (subscribe at [www.a2gov.org/deermanagement](http://www.a2gov.org/deermanagement), "email notifications" section).
- Social media.
- City of Ann Arbor website and deer management project web page updates.
- Community Television Network.
- Direct email to all registered neighborhood associations.
- Ann Arbor Public Schools and University of Michigan notifications.

**24. What happens if I hear gunshots during lethal operations?**

AAPD and White Buffalo personnel are working closely to coordinate communications throughout all deer management operations. However, any citizen who hears gunfire and is concerned about it should call 9-1-1 directly to report it.



**25. What were the results of last year’s cull?**

A Deer Management Update Report was provided to City Council in June 2017, which is available online at [www.a2gov.org/deermanagement](http://www.a2gov.org/deermanagement).

**Questions**

**WHAT TO DO IF....**

- You observe or suspect unlawful activity (such as baiting on private property) or hear shots fired and are concerned, call the Police Department: Emergency 9-1-1 | Non-Emergency 734-994-2911.
- Poaching is illegal. If you suspect poaching is occurring, call the MDNR Report All Poaching (RAP) hotline at 800-292-7800 or visit the RAP website for information about how to report a violation.
- You have additional questions about the city’s Deer Management Implementation Plan:
  - a. Check out answers to frequently asked questions, which are updated regularly: [www.a2gov.org/deermanagement](http://www.a2gov.org/deermanagement).
  - b. Email [deermanagement@a2gov.org](mailto:deermanagement@a2gov.org) or call the deer hotline at 734.794.6295. Staff will try to return calls within 24 hours Monday–Friday.

Communication Methods		
Target Date	Vehicle	Status
10/1/17 - Ongoing	Deer Management 2018 Project and Education website developed with stakeholders	Ongoing
10/10/17	Marketing menu options provided to education stakeholder group for consideration	Done
10/13/17	Website Updated & Gov Delivery Email Notification: Council 10/16 agenda items and education website update	Done
10/16/17	City Council: Contract Consideration and Budget Allocation	Done
10/26/17	Website Updated & Gov Delivery E-mail Notification announcing Resolution Passage, etc.	Done
11/1/17	Online Nov. Resident Newsletter article: 2018 Program Approved	Done
11/2/2017	Website updated & Gov Delivery Notification announcing stakeholder meeting notes and program objectives	Done
12/1/17	Online Dec. Resident Newsletter Article: Education	Done

	Efforts to Date	
12/01/17	Finalize city-wide closure map with lethal and nonlethal sections noted, news release and FAQs.	Done
12/04/17	Winter 2018 Deer Management Plan Memo and Implementation Plan to Council.	Done
12/04/17 or 12/05/17	Distribute final parks closures news release, map & FAQ. Send to UM and AAPS and request assistance with distribution of information to students & parents. Send to Parks and Facility city staff.	
12/05/17	Update Website & send Gov Delivery Email notification	
12/05/17	Update city and parks social media channels with parks closure information	
12/6/17	Notify Neighborhood Associations of closures	
Mid to end Dec.	AAPD work with PORT to publicize parks closure information	
12/08/17	Nonlethal flyer and postcard sent to printer. Flyer to arrive to homes around 12/18. Postcard to arrive around 12/28/18 or sooner.	
12/08/17	Print parks closure signage for all locations. Orange, 11x17 laminated outdoor paper with reflective tape. 150 first run.	
When receive	Add MDNR amended permit to website.	
12/10/17	Contact MSU to establish spring survey and payment timeline	
12/12/17	A2 News Notes – Promote parks locations & map to city employees.	
1/1/18	January Resident Newsletter Article: Park Closures, FAQs and map.	
1/6/18	Gov Delivery email notification reminder and schedule multiple social media posts	
1/7/18	Community Television Network Electronic Bulletin Board and FYI 1/08-1/31	
January	CTN FYI Segment	
1/5/18	All designated park and nature area webpages and google maps updated with closure information	
1/X/18	Parks reopened notification to UM, AAPS, Gov Delivery subscribers, Social Media, Parks webpages, Google Maps updated	
2/1/18	Deer Management Activities Update News Release, Gov Delivery Notification, Social Media, etc.	
2/1/2018	Feb. Resident Newsletter Article: Deer Management Activities Completed	
March	MSU Survey conducted—final report end of April?	

June 2018	Final Deer Management Report provided to City Council	
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