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City of Ann Arbor
Deer Management Plan
Public Meeting

December 10, 2014

Welcome . . .
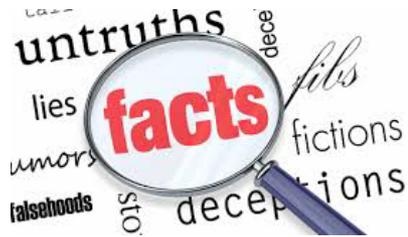
Sumedh Bahl
City of Ann Arbor

Tonight's Agenda

- Desired Outcomes
- Team Introduction
- Facilitation Process
- Project Introduction
- Project Data Collection Results
- Interview with Kristin Bissell – MNDR Biologist & Regional Coordinator
- Public Comment

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Desired Outcomes

- Introduce Deer Management Project Plan
- Review feedback & data collected to date
- Provide MDNR perspective
- Listen to public comment

Meeting will be recorded by CTN and available on the project website.

Team Introduction

- **Sumedh Bahl**, City of Ann Arbor, Community Services Area Administrator, Project Manager

- **Lisa Wondrash**, City of Ann Arbor, Communication Director

- **Charlie Fleetham**, Project Innovations, Public Engagement Facilitator

Facilitation Process

1. Will take questions during presentations.
2. Will maintain agenda time periods.
3. Will encourage questions from an many people as possible.
4. Will use comment cards during interview.
5. Will preserve an atmosphere of mutual respect between presenters and audience.
6. Will have public extended comment (3 minute limit per speaker).

Project History

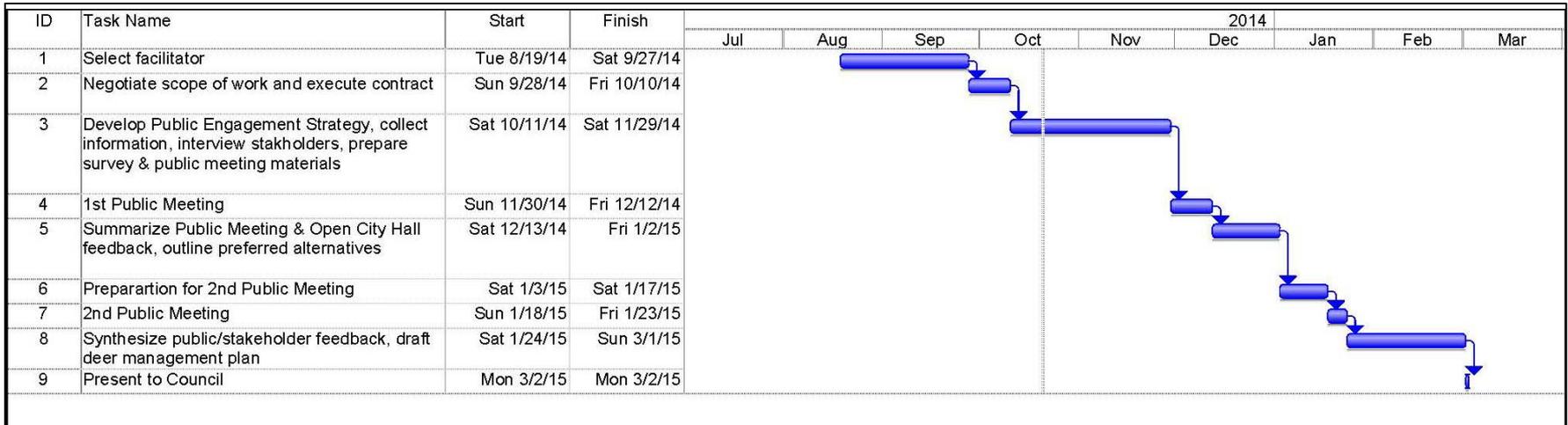|	
2013	Residents report deer damaging landscape, causing vehicle accidents (Arbor Hills & Green Road/Glazier Way)
May 5, 2014	Council resolution to evaluate deer management options
August 2014	Staff delivers report: *Deer Management Options*
Aug. 14, 2014	Council authorizes development of community endorsed Deer Management Plan with Public Engagement
Oct. 2014	After competitive process, Project Innovations is awarded public engagement contract ($19,860)

Key Questions for Plan Development:

- ✓ What should be the goals of a deer management program?

- ✓ What would be the deer management area?

- ✓ What is the preferred deer management method(s)?

Activities to Date

1. Developed Project Plan

ID	Task Name	Start	Finish
1	Select facilitator	Tue 8/19/14	Sat 9/27/14
2	Negotiate scope of work and execute contract	Sun 9/28/14	Fri 10/10/14
3	Develop Public Engagement Strategy, collect information, interview stakholders, prepare survey & public meeting materials	Sat 10/11/14	Sat 11/29/14
4	1st Public Meeting	Sun 11/30/14	Fri 12/12/14
5	Summarize Public Meeting & Open City Hall feedback, outline preferred alternatives	Sat 12/13/14	Fri 1/2/15
6	Preparartion for 2nd Public Meeting	Sat 1/3/15	Sat 1/17/15
7	2nd Public Meeting	Sun 1/18/15	Fri 1/23/15
8	Synthesize public/stakeholder feedback, draft deer management plan	Sat 1/24/15	Sun 3/1/15
9	Present to Council	Mon 3/2/15	Mon 3/2/15

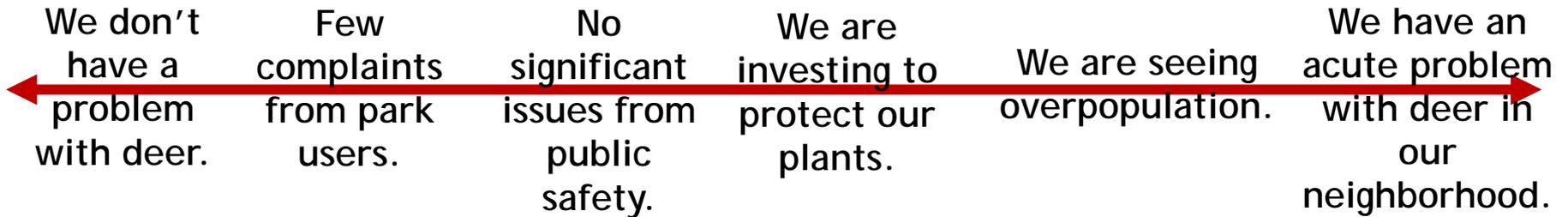# Project Data Collection Results

Charlie Fleetham

Interviewed Stakeholders

- Ann Arbor Police Chief
- Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation Service Manager
- Humane Society of Huron Valley
- MDNR
- Natural Area Preservation Program Manager
- University of Michigan
- Washtenaw Citizens for Ecological Balance
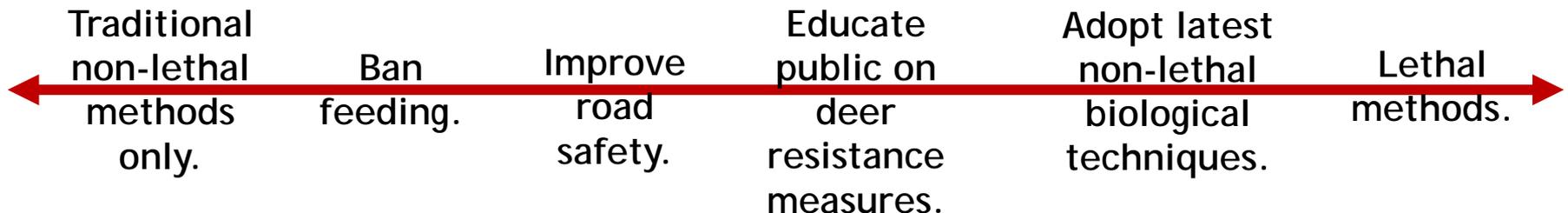- Washtenaw County Parks Director

Interview Results

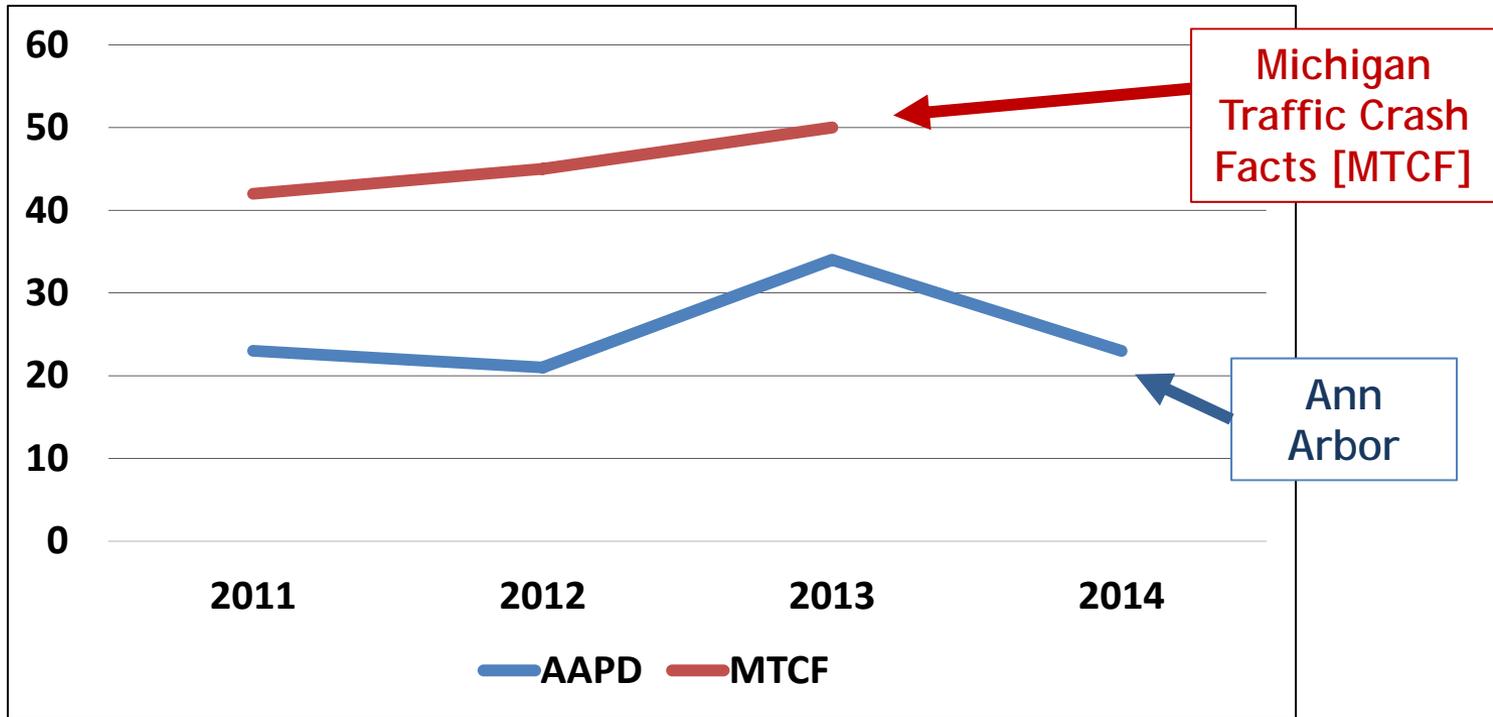## 1. Do we have a deer problem?

We don't have a problem with deer. — Few complaints from park users. — No significant issues from public safety. — We are investing to protect our plants. — We are seeing overpopulation. — We have an acute problem with deer in our neighborhood.

2. If there is a problem, what should be done about it?

Traditional non-lethal methods only. — Ban feeding. — Improve road safety. — Educate public on deer resistance measures. — Adopt latest non-lethal biological techniques. — Lethal methods.

2012-2014 Deer Removal Costs

Source: Ann Arbor Public Safety

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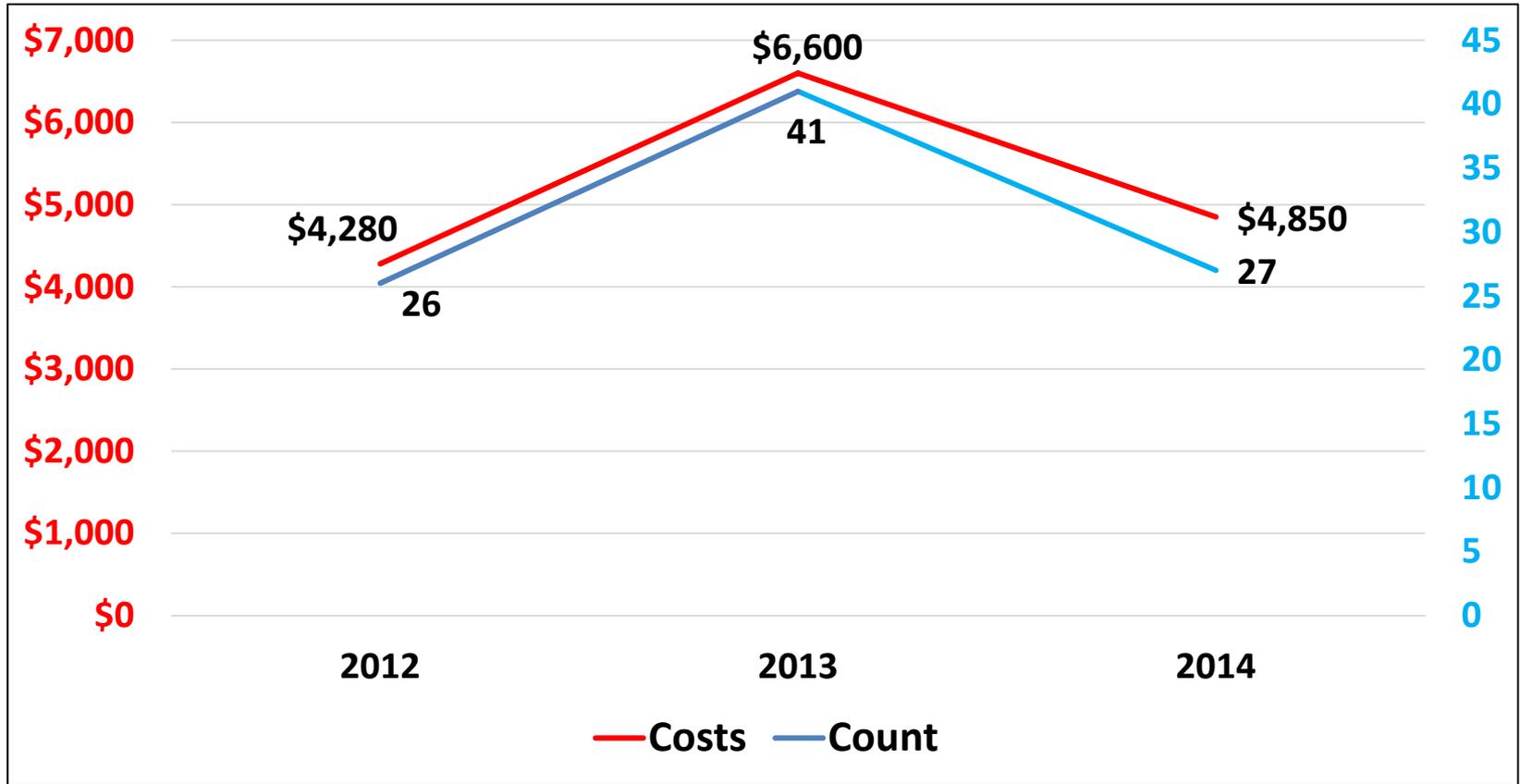
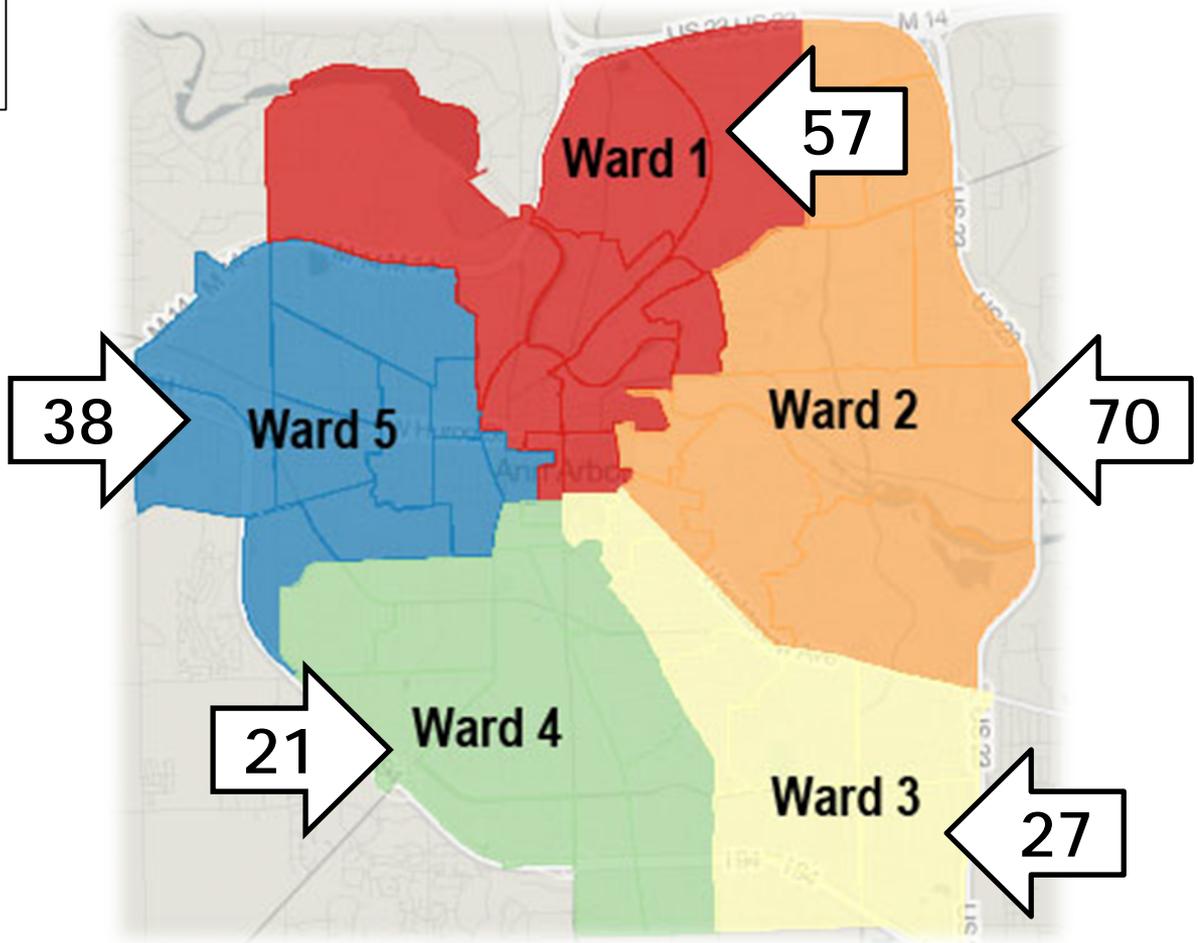# Songbird Counts in Ann Arbor Parks
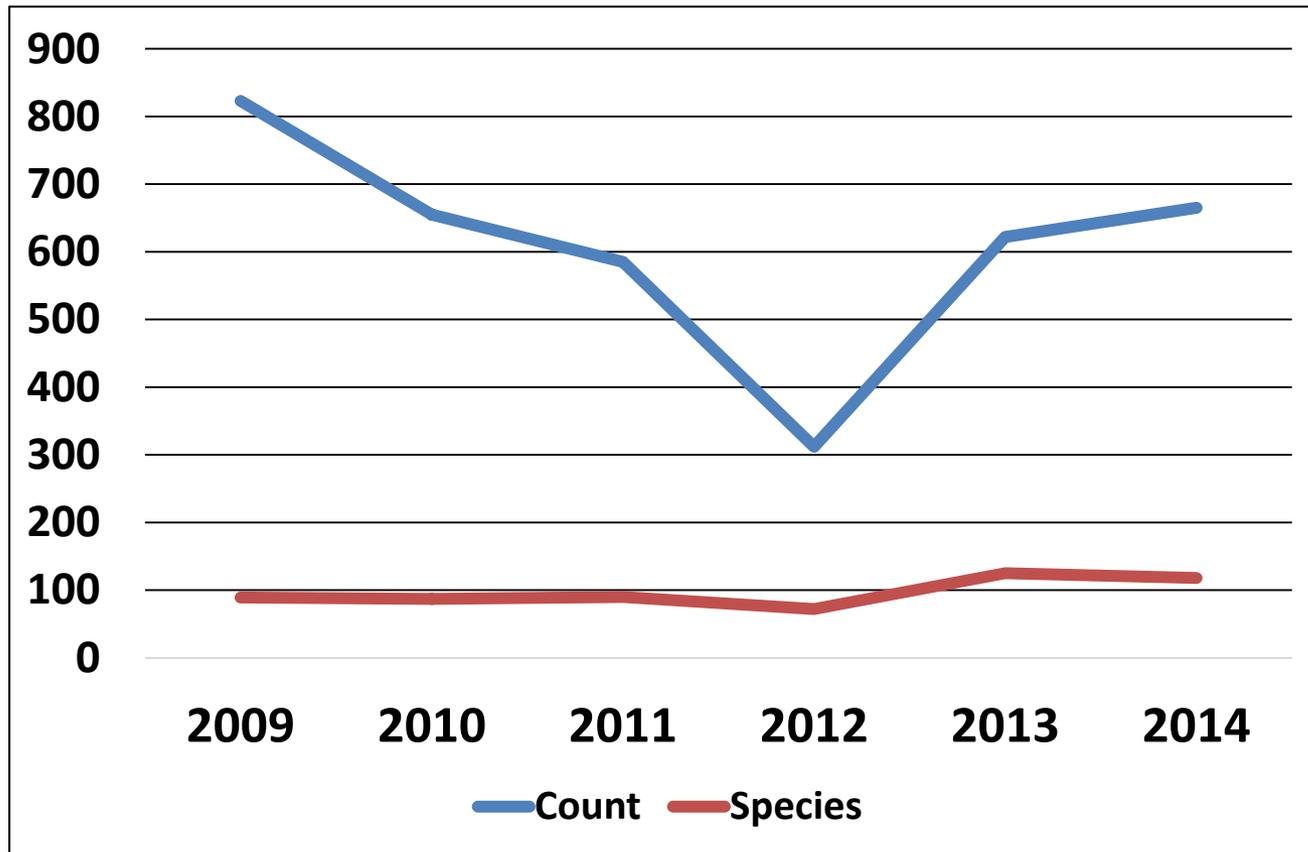
Source: Natural Area Preservation

Conducting Survey via
A2 Open City Hall
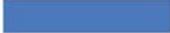## (Available on City of Ann Arbor website)

- Launched Nov. 25, 2014

- 257 Responses

- 721 Views

257 Total Responses

44 Outside City

Ward 1: 57
Ward 2: 70
Ward 5: 38
Ward 4: 21
Ward 3: 27

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Generally, which of the following best describes your feelings about deer in the City of Ann Arbor?

		%	Count
I enjoy seeing and having deer around.		40.9%	105
I enjoy seeing a few deer, but worry about the problems they may cause.		31.1%	80
I generally regard deer as a nuisance.		24.5%	63
I have no particular feelings about deer.		3.5%	9

In the past three years, have you seen a significant increase of deer in your neighborhood?

		%	Count
Definitely		50.2%	129
Not Sure		14.8%	38
No		35.0%	90

In general, do you believe deer are a more valued species than other urban mammals (coyote, rabbit, squirrel, skunk, woodchuck, etc.)?

		%	Count
Yes		27.2%	70
No		72.8%	187

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Which of the following concerns do you have about deer in the City of Ann Arbor?

		%	Count
No concerns		24.5%	63
No concerns now, but somewhat worried about issue if deer population continues to increase.		6.6%	17
Deer/vehicle accidents.		63.4%	163
Damage to landscape and garden plants.		50.2%	129
Transmission of diseases. (e.g. Bovine Tuberculosis, Lyme Disease, etc.)		44.0%	113
Damage to rivers / streams by deer fecal material.		28.8%	74
Damage to park ecosystems by over-browsing of native forage plants.		48.2%	124
Decline in native species (songbirds, butterflies, etc.)		35.0%	90
Decline in deer health due to overpopulation.		38.9%	100

Has someone in your household been involved in a car / deer accident within the City of Ann Arbor?

	%	Count
Yes	7.4%	19
No	92.6%	238

Has someone in your household been involved in a car / deer accident on the outskirts of the City of Ann Arbor?

	%	Count
Yes	16.0%	41
No	84.0%	216

Have your garden plants or landscape been damaged by deer?

	%	Count
Yes	51.8%	133
No	48.2%	124

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Have you used fencing to prevent damage and how effective has this measure been?

		%	Count
Highly Effective		6.6%	17
Somewhat Effective		14.8%	38
Not Effective		13.2%	34
Have not used this option		65.4%	168

Have you used odor or taste repellents to prevent damage and how effective has this measure been?

		%	Count
Highly effective		4.3%	11
Somewhat effective		15.2%	39
Not effective		20.2%	52
Haven't used this option		60.3%	155

Have you used frightening devices (i.e. lights or noises) to prevent damage and how effective has this measure been?

		%	Count
Highly effective		0.8%	2
Somewhat effective		3.1%	8
Not effective		17.5%	45
Haven't used this option		78.6%	202

**Have you planted deer-resistant plants
to prevent damage and how effective has this measure been?**

	%	Count
Highly effective	7.8%	20
Somewhat effective	20.6%	53
Not effective	11.7%	30
Haven't used this option	59.9%	154

**Have you used another option not noted to prevent damage and how effective was this measure?
Please specify.**

Answered	55
Skipped	202

Have you had a dead or an injured deer on your property (in the last three years)?

	%	Count
Yes	14.0%	36
No	86.0%	221

Communities who have adopted deer management plans typically utilize a variety of measures to help minimize conflicts with deer and/or to reduce their population. Please indicate your level of support for efforts to educate residents about deer-resistant landscape plantings:

		%	Count
Strongly support		60.3%	155
Moderately support		26.5%	68
Do not support		13.2%	34

Please indicate your level of support for signs or reflectors to be installed at deer crossings:

		%	Count
Strongly support		50.2%	129
Moderately support		33.1%	85
Do not support		16.7%	43

Please indicate your level of support for managing roadside vegetation to increase visibility:

		%	Count
Strongly support		57.6%	148
Moderately support		32.3%	83
Do not suport		10.1%	26

Please indicate your level of support for prohibiting supplemental feeding of deer by residents:

|	%	Count
Strongly support	66.5%	171
Moderately support	16.7%	43
Do not support	16.7%	43

Please indicate your level of support for using lethal methods such as hunting or sharpshooting to reduce the deer population:

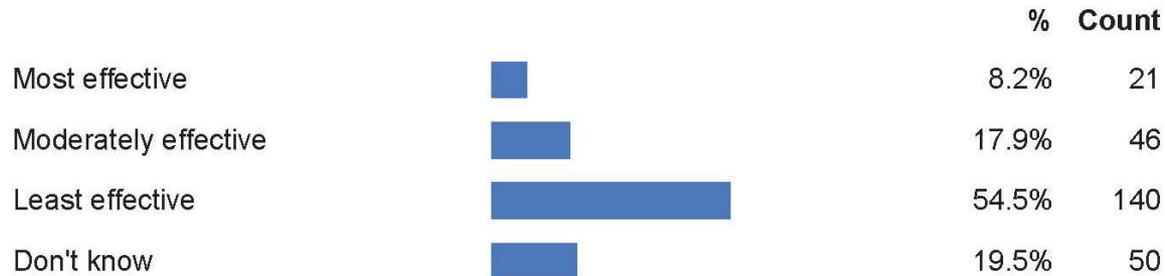|	%	Count
Strongly support	45.5%	117
Moderately support	13.6%	35
Do not support	40.9%	105

If the following method were allowed by the DNR, based on your knowledge, do you feel deer contraceptives would be the most effective non-lethal method in resolving the perceived deer nuisance issues in Ann Arbor?

	%	Count
Most effective	14.4%	37
Moderately effective	21.4%	55
Not effective	27.6%	71
Don't know	36.6%	94

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If the following method were allowed by the DNR, based on your knowledge, do you feel trapping and sterilizing deer would be the most effective non-lethal method in resolving the perceived deer nuisance issues in Ann Arbor?

	%	Count
Most effective	12.1%	31
Moderately effective	25.7%	66
Least effective	32.7%	84
Don't know	29.6%	76
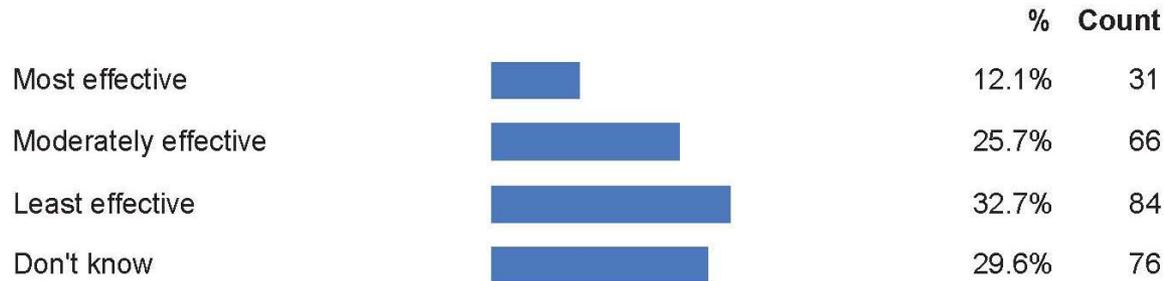
If the following method were allowed by the DNR, based on your knowledge, do you feel trapping and relocating deer would be the most effective non-lethal method in resolving the perceived deer nuisance issues in Ann Arbor?

	%	Count
Most effective	8.2%	21
Moderately effective	17.9%	46
Least effective	54.5%	140
Don't know	19.5%	50

What concerns would you have regarding a managed lethal removal of white-tailed deer within the City? (Check all that apply)

		%	Count
Individual welfare of deer.		40.1%	103
Cost of administering a deer management program.		32.3%	83
Proper management of hunters / shooters.		73.2%	188
Public safety		81.3%	209
Hunter / sharpshooters damaging property.		31.1%	80

Would you like to provide any additional information or thoughts on the City' deer population?

Answered	131
Skipped	126

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Interview with
Ms. Kristin Bissell, MNDR Biologist

Public Comment

Thank you!