

City of Blaine Wildlife Management Plan

As property development and the human population increase, the number of incidents involving Blaine residents and deer are becoming more frequent. The rising deer population is causing concern for city officials and many residents for various reasons. The most pressing of these issues is the high rate of deer-vehicle collisions. These traffic incidents are dangerous and costly to the city and its residents. Deer have also been responsible growing number of complaints by residents due to browsing damage on native and ornamental vegetation. Increasing incidence of Lyme disease, a disease for which deer serve as a primary host for the tick that is responsible for the spread of the disease, is also often correlated with high deer densities.

Purpose and Goals

The purpose of this deer management plan is to develop strategies for managing deer in the City of Blaine that addresses damage associated with deer while acknowledging and respecting the non-consumptive benefits and appreciation of wildlife presence within the city.

The following deer management goals identified in this plan is subject to change and will be revisited on an annual basis and are subject to approval by the appropriate City authority. Based on our current carrying capacity, we are striving for 12 deer per square mile. Current deer management plans for Blaine include:

1. To reduce the number of citizen complaints related to deer which are often related to vegetation damage.
 - a. Recommend, where possible, the use of non-lethal methods to minimize deer damage which may include vegetation management, exclusion/fencing, repellents, hazing/harassing.
2. To reduce the annual number of deer-vehicle collisions within the City of Blaine.
3. Prevent damage to and maintain the health of native plant communities.
4. Reduce deer damage to residential property e.g. gardens, ornamental plants, trees and shrubs.
5. Continue to monitor damage associated with deer e.g. complaints, deer-vehicle collisions, incidence of Lyme disease (if available).
6. Work with other State or Federal entities to develop methods of monitoring and/or assessing Blaine's deer population level and develop a deer population goal as it pertains to our carrying capacity.

Control Measures

The City of Blaine will use multiple management tools to maintain the deer population at a sustainable level. Controlled archery hunts may be conducted when deemed both safe and appropriate. Sharpshooting and/or trapping may also be used in areas where recreational hunting or other control measures are not considered safe or appropriate.

Population Monitoring

The City of Blaine will continue to track the number of deer-vehicle collisions and citizen complaints concerning deer. The city will also conduct winter deer aerial population surveys contingent on funding availability through the City budgeting process.