

White-tailed Deer – Fact Sheet #1

Issues and Town Strategy

Greenwich Conservation Commission

The population of white-tailed deer in lower Fairfield County has grown considerably in the past decade. Conservationists, health officials, and residents are expressing concern because of the problems associated with this over-abundant species.

Issues

Public Health – Lyme Disease

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station has documented that there is a direct correlation between Lyme Disease and the population of white-tailed deer.

Public Safety – Motor Vehicle Accidents

There is also a direct correlation between deer populations and deer/motor vehicle collisions. The problem is escalating as deer population grows, vehicle traffic increases, and more people fence in their yards.

Biodiversity

The impact on forest ecology and habitat for other species by deer over-browsing has been documented. Research indicates that habitat of many song birds is being destroyed by deer. Over-population is also impacting the health of the deer herd itself.

Property Damage

Deer browse is responsible for considerable damage to ornamental landscapes.

Town Strategy

Conservation Commission

The Wildlife Issues Subcommittee is the coordinating group for the Town of Greenwich. Deer management is a top priority for the Commission.

Research and Monitoring

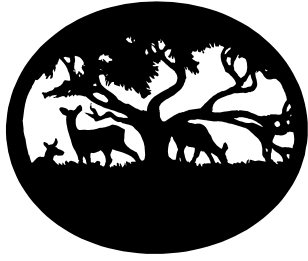
A research and monitoring program has been established by the Conservation Commission to provide baseline data and follow trends in deer populations and movement within the Town.

Deer Management Plan

A deer management plan will be developed and implemented incorporating information obtained from the detailed inventory and analysis being conducted by the University of Connecticut's Wildlife Conservation and Research Center and the Town of Greenwich.

Educational Program

The Conservation Commission will coordinate an ongoing educational program beginning July 2001.



White-tailed Deer – Fact Sheet #2

Management for Landowners

Greenwich Conservation Commission

Deer Management Tools and Considerations for Landowners

- ❖ **What is my goal?** - Landowners must decide what they want to accomplish to determine which management options they should consider. Protecting your family from Lyme disease may require different management tools than protecting bird habitat. Conservation staff is available to assist landowners with a management plan for their property. Call Denise Savageau, Conservation Director at 622-6461.

- ❖ **Reduce or Eliminate Attractions** – Deer are attracted to food and water sources. Birdfeeders attract deer to yards, usually at night. Place birdfeeders out of reach for deer and fill in the morning not in the late afternoon. Fruit trees should be harvested including the fruit that falls to the ground. Compost areas should be fenced. This will also help to prevent other nuisance wildlife such as coyotes or raccoons.

- ❖ **Repellants and Landscaping** – In areas of high deer concentration, which includes much of Greenwich, repellants and planting of deer resistant materials is generally not effective to keep deer off properties. Landscaping can be effective, however, in reducing deer tick populations. Practices include creating mulched buffer strips and placing playground equipment and picnic areas away from natural wooded areas. For additional information on landscaping for tick control contact the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station toll free in at CT 1-877-855-2237 or www.caes.state.ct.us/ and click on publications/fact sheets.

- ❖ **Fencing** – Fencing can be an effective tool to control deer access to properties. Fencing large tracts of land, however, forces deer onto other private and public open space lands. It also creates corridors between fenced properties that force deer out onto roadways. Landowners should consider both the public safety and habitat concerns when installing fencing. Limit fencing to the immediate yard areas to be protected.

- ❖ **Population Control** - Birth control and relocation programs have not been proven to be effective tools for controlling deer populations. Hunting is the most effective tool available as an option to many landowners in Greenwich. Bow-hunting is considered to be the safest method in a suburban community. All hunting in Greenwich is regulated by the State Department of Environmental Protection. For information on CT deer hunting regulations contact DEP Conservation Education at 860-675-8130 or www.dep.state.ct.us/rec-nat.htm . Information and assistance is also available from the Greenwich Sportsmen and Landowner’s Association at 203-912-2266.