

The City of Dublin's Deer Management Program

Shaping a Balanced Ecosystem



Program Overview

The City of Dublin is committed to ethical and effective ways to manage its white-tailed deer population. After careful consideration of Dublin's ecosystem, a review of survey data and conversations with wildlife experts, the City is engaging trained professionals from the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services to conduct targeted removals of deer.

These frequently asked questions (FAQs) are intended to offer clarity, facts and answers.

Why do deer need to be removed?

The City of Dublin is committed to safety and sustainability, including maintaining a healthy ecosystem and deer population. Guidance from the Ohio Division of Wildlife, United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services and other agencies recognizes that active deer population management may be necessary to protect ecological balance and public safety.

The local deer population in Dublin is increasingly impacting the community and environment. Overpopulation of deer can cause severe harm to the ecosystem. Excessive browsing by deer damages forests and green spaces, limits the growth of native plants and reduces habitat for other wildlife species. Deer can suffer from poor health and starvation when populations exceed what the environment can support.

Residents are also reporting deer-vehicle collisions, damage to landscaping or native vegetation and frequent encounters with aggressive deer.

Targeted removal is intended to help restore ecological balance, improve public safety and maintain a healthier deer population over time.

What are targeted removals?

Trained and licensed wildlife management professionals from the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services Wildlife Services (APHIS-WS) will remove deer by lethal means to reach and maintain sustainable population levels. APHIS-WS strategically selects removal sites, in partnership with the police department, based on safety considerations and higher deer densities. This will happen overnight on mostly City-owned land (not individual private residences), following strict safety and humane standards.

How did Dublin decide to do this?

The Community Services Advisory Committee (CSAC) has been discussing deer management since 2022 and has continued to review the topic at City Council meetings. Local subject matter experts from The Ohio State University School of Environment and Natural Resources (SENR), Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks (Metro Parks) provided an analysis to City Council.

Overall, it was determined that targeted removal would be the best solution for the health, safety and environment of our community. See the decision-making process at telledublin.dublinohiousa.gov/deer-in-dublin.

When are targeted removals taking place?

Operations will take place this fall and winter between Nov. 1 and March 31. Before operations begin, residents will be notified through a Citywide mailing.

Why not use non-lethal methods?

While non-lethal methods such as relocation, sterilization and fertility control are often discussed, these options are either not permitted by law or not feasible at our community's scale. The trapping and relocation of deer is illegal in Ohio, under the Ohio Revised Code, due to its unethical and inhumane impact on animals. Sterilization and fertility control are permitted only for research purposes and would be ineffective in a community as populated and open as Dublin.

Why not use hunting?

Hunting is prohibited within the City of Dublin. Under the City of Dublin Code of Ordinances (Section 91.08), it is unlawful to hunt, trap or capture wildlife within the City limits. This includes hunting with firearms, air rifles, longbows, compound bows and crossbows. The prohibition applies year-round.

Because Dublin is a developed suburban community with neighborhoods, parks, schools, roads and shared-use paths, recreational hunting cannot be conducted safely or appropriately. Instead, the City's deer management program uses trained professionals to conduct targeted removals in designated areas, providing a controlled, safe and effective approach.

What will happen to the venison?

The venison will be donated to the Dublin Food Pantry.

What's next?

The City of Dublin's cooperative service agreement extends from Nov. 1 to March 31. Operations will be conducted during this timeframe. The City will send communications to residents before operations begin to provide information about the program. The City of Dublin deeply values the well-being of its residents and recognizes the importance of keeping the community informed throughout the process. The program is expected to encourage deer to avoid developed areas and become less comfortable around people, pets and homes.

What can residents do in the meantime?

-  Adhere to the "no feed ordinance" to prevent close encounters with deer
-  Drive cautiously at dawn and dusk, as deer are more active at these times
-  Stay up to date by visiting <https://dublinohiousa.gov/deer-management-program>