

DEER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

TALKING POINTS

POLICY AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT



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Mentor, Ohio
20 miles east of Cleveland CBD
2010 Population 47,159
Low Density Suburban - Exurban Development
Eastern edge of Cleveland MSA



Mentor

Cleveland and inner ring suburbs

Significant greenspace areas in
and adjacent to community.
State and City Nature Preserves
Parks / Tree Farms



NOACA 2007-2009 STUDY RESULTS: City of Mentor:

Largest # of accidents for communities surveyed in a 5 - County area*

Highest total # Accidents on one route (SR-2)

Highest total # Accidents within two routes (SR-2 IR-90)

*Cuyahoga, Lorain, Medina, Geauga, Lake.

ACCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS AS A % OF TOTAL ACCIDENTS BY COMMUNITY 2007-2009

| Community | Total Accidents | Animal-Related Accidents | Animal as % of Total |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| MENTOR | 5260 | 245 | 4.66% |
| STRONGSVILLE | 3260 | 180 | 5.52% |
| NORTH RIDGEVILLE | 1707 | 163 | 9.55% |
| MEDINA | 2252 | 144 | 6.39% |
| AMHERST | 1614 | 142 | 8.80% |
| ELYRIA | 5498 | 139 | 2.53% |
| MUNSON | 544 | 135 | 24.82% |
| MONTVILLE | 572 | 133 | 23.25% |
| CARLISLE | 679 | 129 | 19.00% |
| SHEFFIELD | 1340 | 129 | 9.63% |
| CHARDON | 947 | 128 | 13.52% |
| AVON | 1570 | 98 | 6.24% |
| BRECKSVILLE | 646 | 92 | 14.24% |

Caution: It's deer season on the highways

Number of collisions dropping in Ohio, but risk is still high

TOM FERAN
Plain Dealer Reporter

The combination of deer mating season and early evening darkness makes November a hazardous time for motorists.

Insurance and state safety officials say Ohio is a high-risk state for deer-vehicle collisions, normally logging about 25,000 annually, and that the highest number occur in November — mostly during the peak hours between 5 p.m. and 1 a.m.

"We're in the heart of it right now with breeding season here," said Scott Peters of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife.

But efforts to control the state's deer population — now about 650,000 after an explosion in the 1980s and '90s — have been paying off, he said.

The state's accident tally has dropped over the past five years. The State Highway Patrol put the 2009 total at

Risks high here for deer-vehicle collisions

Collisions between deer and motor vehicles have jumped more than 20 percent nationally in the past five years, and Ohio ranks as a high-risk state for such accidents.

Likelihood of collision with a deer

■ High-risk states ■ Medium-risk states □ Low-risk states Overall risk nationwide: 1 in 183



SOURCE: State Farm Insurance Co.

KEN MARSHALL | THE PLAIN DEALER

24,894, down from a high of 28,240 in 2006.

So far this year, the state has had about 13,000 deer-vehicle accidents, including three fatalities, the Highway Patrol reported. There were four deaths in 2009, six in 2008 and 10 in 2007.

Nationally, deer-vehicle collisions cause about 200 deaths each year, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. The average cost of property damage last year was \$3,103, the institute said.

Nationwide, the number of such accidents has increased more than 20 percent since 2005, according to a study by State Farm Insurance.

"It doesn't surprise me that it's up nationwide," Peters said. "Some states to the west are experiencing what we did 20 years ago with deer."

Avoiding deer collisions

Some driving tips from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, State Highway Patrol and insurance industry to avoid accidents with deer:

■ Remember that deer are most active between 6 and 9 p.m. and in the hours shortly before and after sunrise.

■ Use high-beam headlights after dark when there is no oncoming traffic.

■ Remember that deer generally travel in herds — and that bucks may be pursuing does. If you see one, there's a good chance others are nearby.

■ Be aware of posted deer-crossing signs.

■ If a collision seems unavoidable, brake firmly and stay in your lane. Swerving your vehicle to avoid hitting the deer could cause you to lose control or put you in the path of an oncoming vehicle.

■ Report any deer-vehicle collisions to a local law-enforcement agency or state wildlife officer within 24 hours.

■ Under Ohio law, the driver of a vehicle that strikes and kills a deer may take possession of it by first obtaining a deer possession receipt, which is available from law enforcement or state wildlife officers, and from local Division of Wildlife district offices.

PD 11 12 2010

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tferan@plained.com, 216-999-6251



DEER and MEDIA COVERAGE

W4 | Metro
ANIMALS IN T
Hudson
DONNA J. MILLER
Plain Dealer Reporter

METRO

1/16/11

B | THE PLAIN DEALER BREAKING NORTHEAST OHIO NEWS AT CLEVELAND.COM/METRO

Deer-slaying events

5/20/11 CLEVELAND RD. Hudson weighs allowing bow hunting for deer

PAULA SCHLES
Akron Beacon Journal

years. They reserved that effort in earnest last year after learning deer collide with vehicles on city

Solon considering turning to bow hunters to cull deer

Saturday, October 16, 2010

The Plain Dealer | Breaking news: cleveland.com

Metro | *B3

Metroparks workers give nature a helping hand

JAMES EWINGER
Plain Dealer Reporter

appear in late summer.

Because the pools dry up, fish can't live in them, giving frogs, salamanders, toads and other small creatures a chance to spawn in a predator-free environment.

The parks have at least 100 such pools. Park employees are restoring six in the Brookside Reservation near the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, making sure they are at least two feet deep so they don't dry up too quickly. They also planted deer-proofed seedling trees to help stabilize the soil around the pools and buffer storm runoff that could make the pools silt over.

Another initiative, under way since 2008, has park workers and contractors battling invasive plants. John Mack, the parks' chief

of natural resources, says the primary targets are the so-called Dirty Dozen: invasive cattails (narrow-leaved and hybrid cattail), Eurasian buckthorns, Eurasian honeysuckles, Japanese barberries, Japanese knotweed, garlic mustard, lesser celandine, multiflora rose, Norway maple, phragmites, purple loosestrife and reed canary grass.

They overrun native species, and the campaign against them includes herbicide spray, mechanical cutting and chipping.

"Humans have become such a dominant force on the landscape, our living here makes it hard for natural processes to go on without assistance. If we want a beautiful, forested landscape, we have to continually nudge it along to keep

it that way," Mack said.

Though not invaders, deer pose an obvious problem, munching on seedling trees to such an extent that natural forest regeneration has stopped in some places, according to the park system.

The parks have been actively culling the deer over the past decade, using sharpshooters. The last hunt, in January and February, bagged 461.

The native deer have few natural predators and have devastated forest land, especially plants on the forest floor.

The parks system is evaluating the possibility of actively restoring the vegetation in the forest understory — the lowest point beneath the canopy. One strategy calls for erecting barriers to keep the deer

out of certain portions of the forest, or collecting seed and root stock to have available to plant into the forest floor.

Restoring animal populations is a bit more complicated. Most species that have died out cannot be reintroduced without permission of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, said park spokeswoman Jane Christyson.

The park system has reintroduced brook trout to some of its streams and is considering repatriating wood frogs and spotted salamanders to some of the parks' vernal pools, Mack said.

The parks' natural scientists are working with a Case Western Reserve University researcher to determine how animals arrive on their own if the parks build or re-

store natural habitat.

In some cases, nature doesn't require any human help.

Coyotes and beavers have come back on their own and are doing quite well, said Mack and Terry Robison, the parks' manager of field research. Wild turkeys were reintroduced in southern Ohio and migrated north on their own by following river systems, they said.

Robison said the beavers have been so successful that the parks have had to relocate some. At one point along the Chagrin River, the big rodents created a dam system so sophisticated that it resembled the terraced rice paddies of eastern Asia.

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HIGH INCIDENT AREAS – NORTH MENTOR

SR 283 – Near intersection of Hopkins Road.
Green Corridor; Marsh Creek – Mentor Marsh



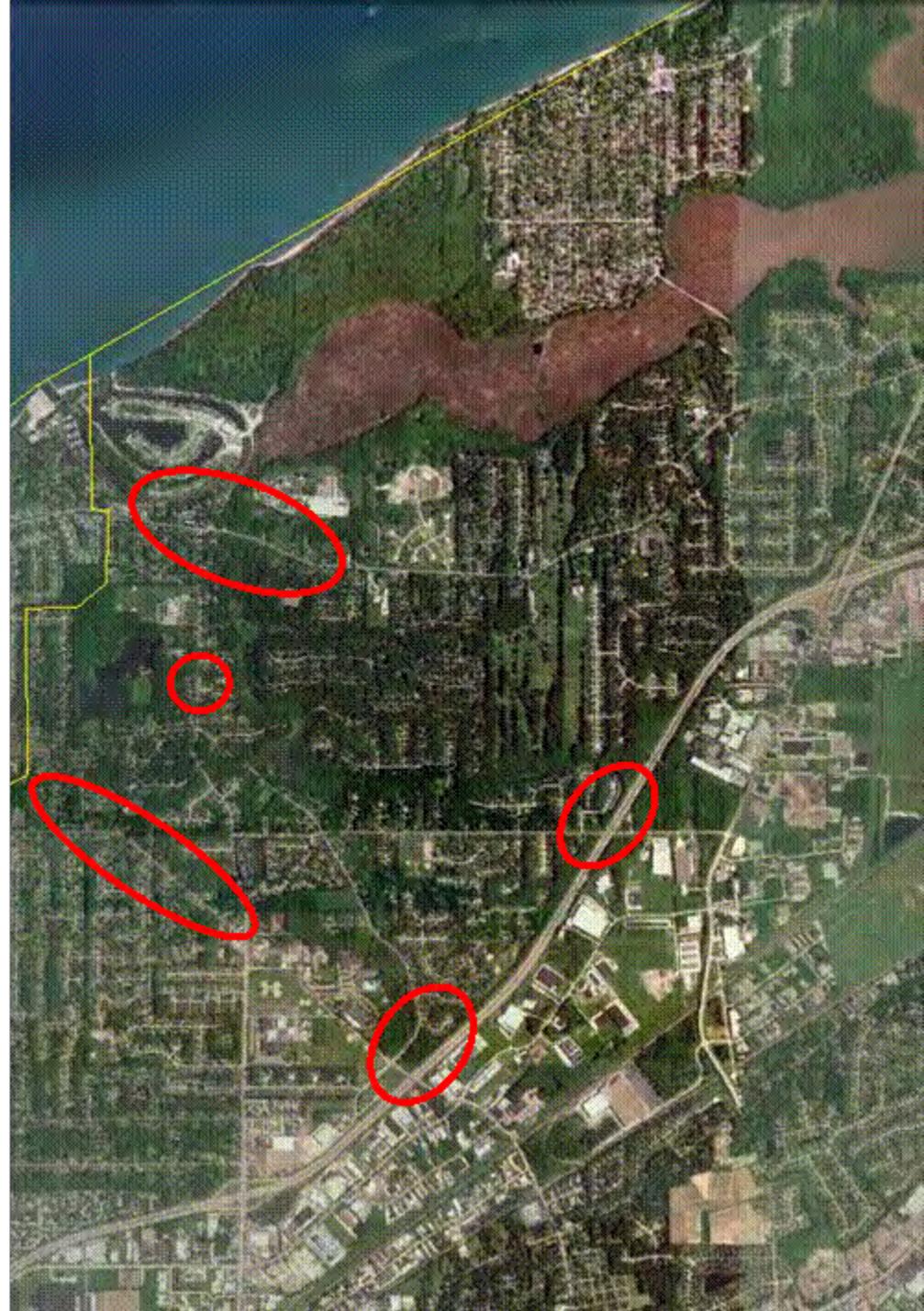
SUMMARY –

City Police Accident Reports for Car – Deer Collisions were gathered *by location of crashes* on aerial views of the City.

Clear relationship between roadway segments with heavy concentrations of collisions – and nearby *green corridors*.

Relevant Deer Behavior:

- **Tend to favor boundary zones having trees and open space.**
- **Travel along low-lying areas that could offer some visual protection.**
- **Follow watershed routes.**





Primary Site

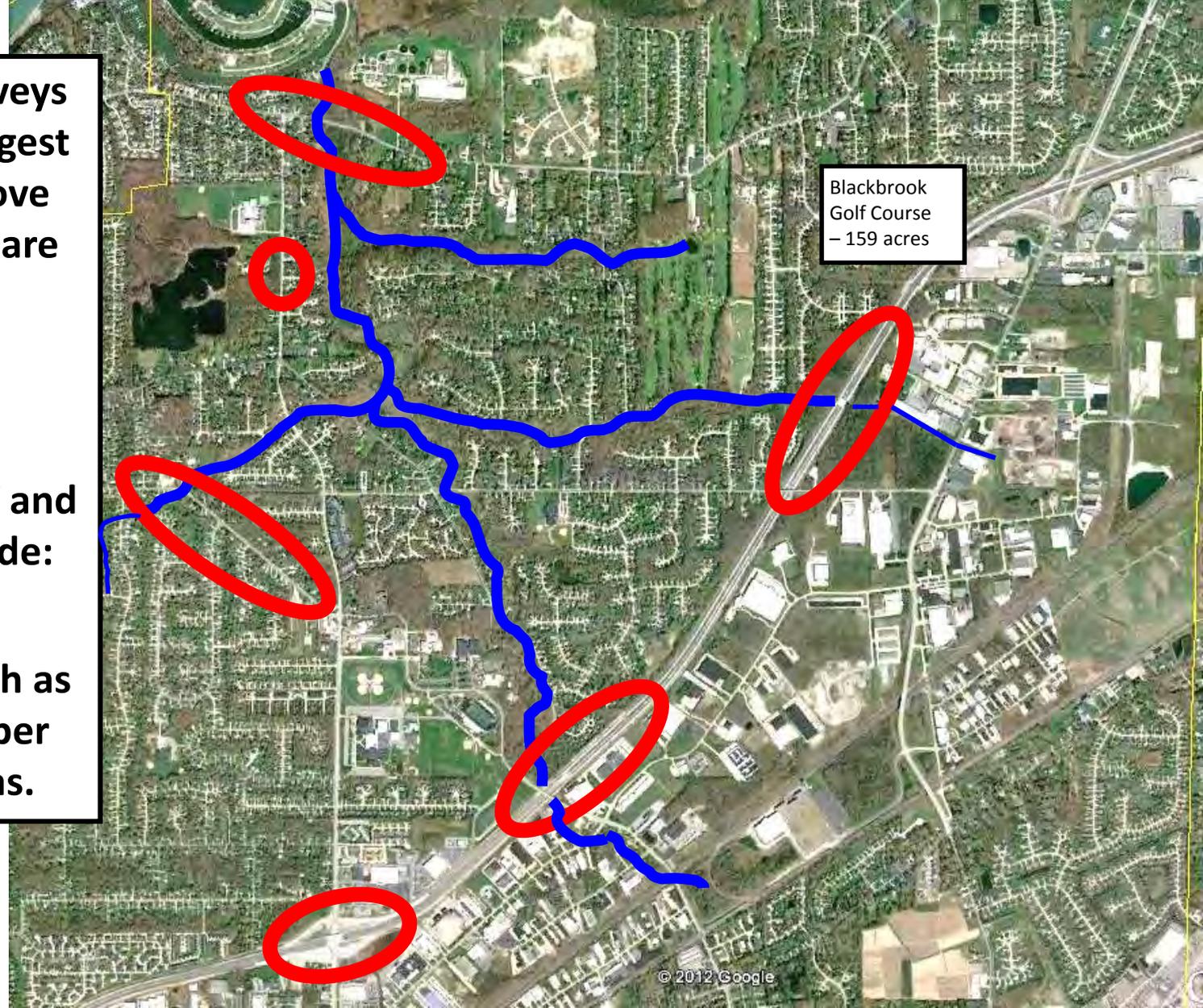
City Mentor. Animal-Vehicle Collision Prevention Initiative. Hopkins Road. (Looking north)

Most roadway segments with concentrations of collisions and nearby *green corridors* are interconnected via tributary streams.

Aerial infrared surveys of deer groups suggest concentrations above 33 animals per square mile in Year 2011.

As conservative estimate, City staff and consultants conclude:

By Year 2013, this number could reach as many as 100 deer per square mile in areas.

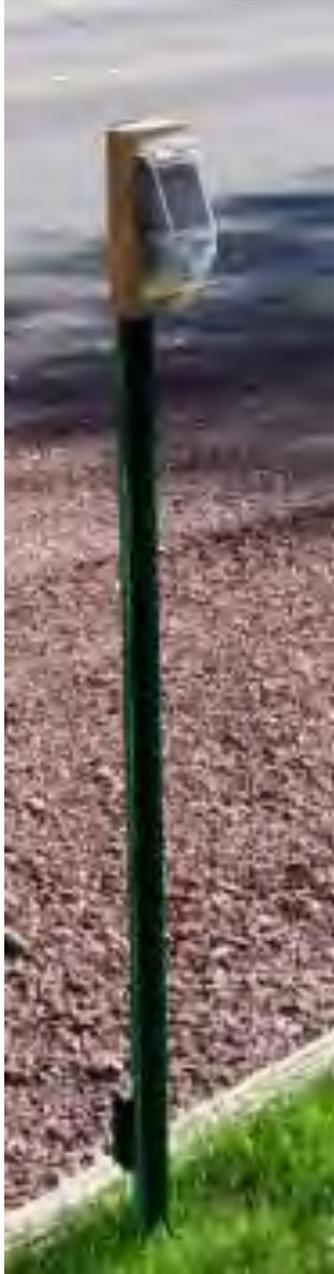




Primary Site

City Mentor. Animal-Vehicle Collision Prevention Initiative. Lakeshore Blvd. (Looking west)

Product Research



**Different
systems for
varied roadway
conditions**



Most roadway segments with concentrations of collisions intersect with nearby *green corridors* are interconnected via tributary streams.

Mentor Marsh, City and State Nature Preserves – 1450 acres

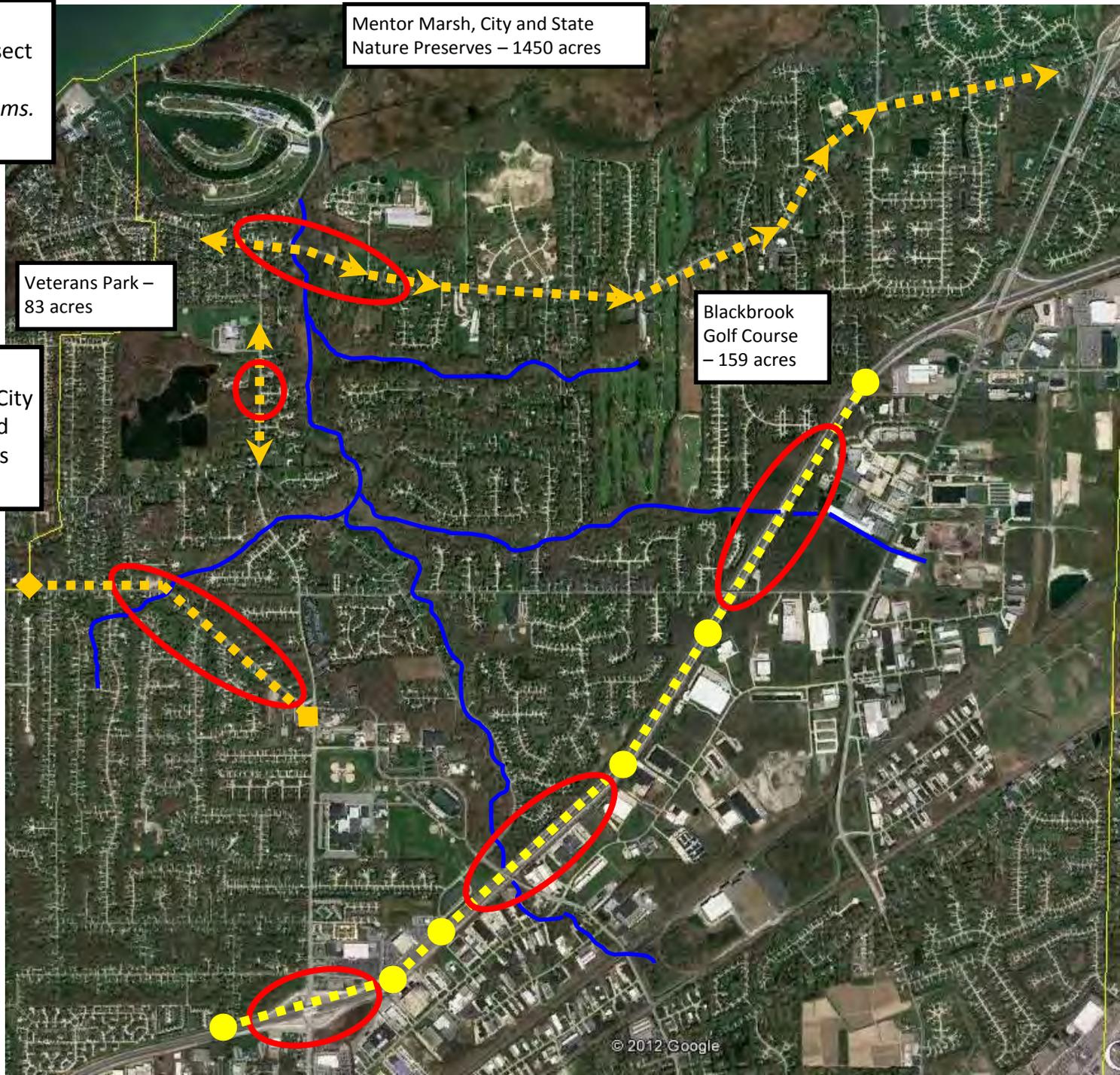
Veterans Park – 83 acres

Blackbrook Golf Course – 159 acres

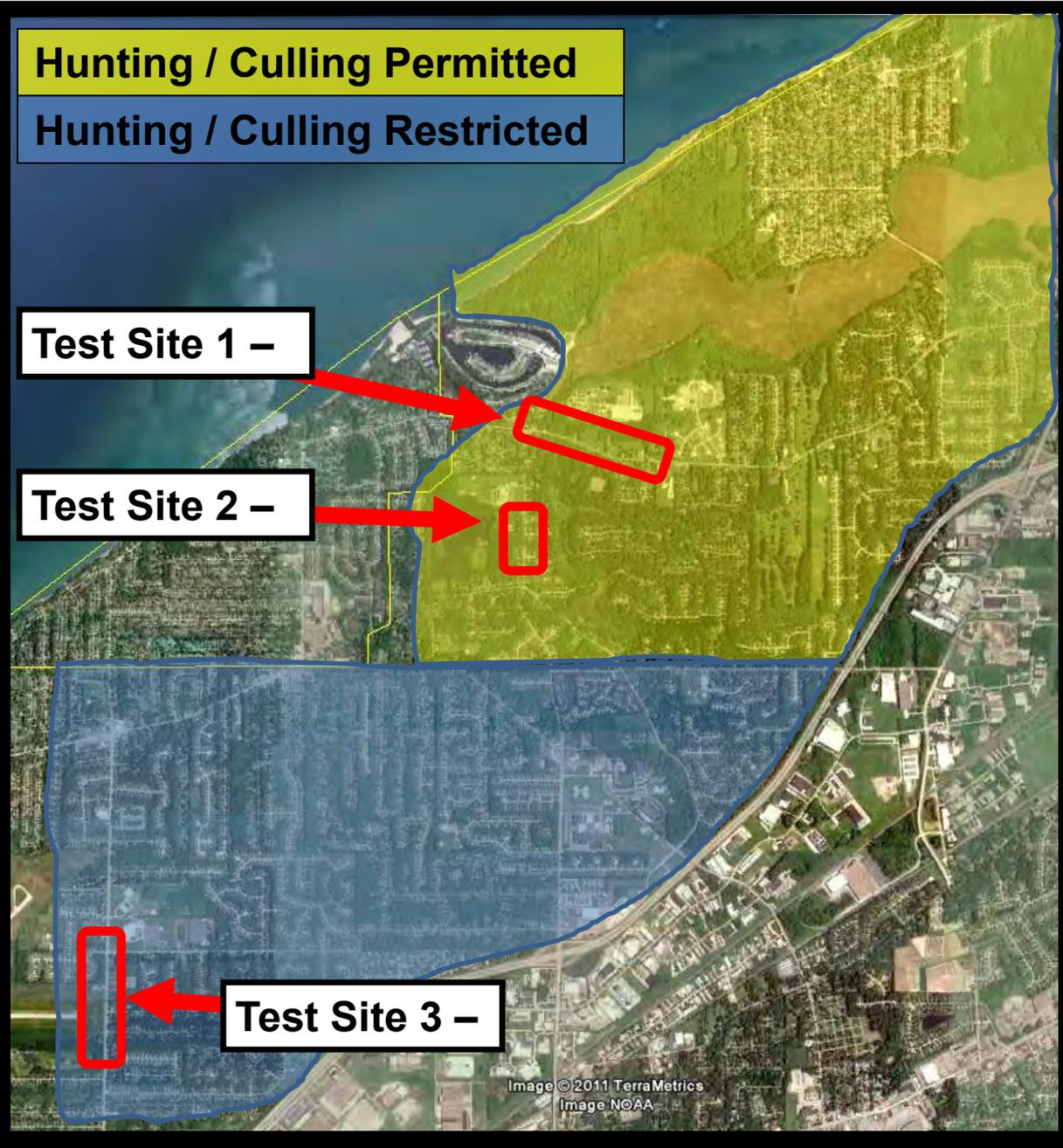
Aerial infrared surveys of deer groups within Veterans Park and City / State Nature Preserves indicated concentrations above 100 animals per acre.

Suggested AVC Systems

- ← → motion
‘DeerDeter’ – activated warning
- ◆ ◆ Seasonal warning signs
‘Tapco’
- ● Twin beam motion detector and warning device
‘SRF’



Traffic Safety Test Sites --- Hunting / Culling Areas -- City of Mentor, Ohio



Status Report to Ohio Department of Transportation

Mentor – Animal Vehicle Collision Prevention Project.

November 2013 – December 2014

Revision Date, September 14, 2015.



with additional support from



FINDINGS THUS FAR:

- ODOT-funded study: \$54,000.
- Actual cost: \$32,000+.
- AVC Devices in tandem with hunting / culling can substantially reduce number of car / deer events.
- Annual # car / deer events reduced:
 - 2013: 98 events
 - 2014: 46 events
- Reduction of 52 events
- Average insurance cost per event: \$4,000.
- Approximate savings: \$208,000.
- Still a work in progress.

OTHER BENEFITS:

- Reduction of complaints.
- Gradual restoration of existing ecosystem.
- Informed civic process moving forward.

ADVICE – BUILDING DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM:

USE PUBLIC PROCESS TO BUILD AWARENESS AND CONSENSUS

USE SCIENCE-BASED APPROACH. BRING PARTNER AGENCIES TO HELP.

BRING IN DEPARTMENTS ACROSS THE BOARD AS PART OF PROGRAM

- **ADMINISTRATION / ELECTED OFFICIALS**
- **POLICE**
- **PUBLIC WORKS**
- **PARKS AND RECREATION**
- **PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE**

OUTLINE THE PROGRAM COMPONENTS CLEARLY.

WHY THEY ARE IMPORTANT. HOW THEY INTERRELATE.

- **DATA GATHERING**
- **CONSENSUS BUILDING - COMMUNITY OUTREACH**
- **STRATEGY AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT**
- **IMPLEMENTATION. DATA GATHERING. COMMUNITY OUTREACH.**

7/19/14

Letters

Thin the deer herd, not the landscaping

Why would The Plain Dealer print the July 6 commentary on deer ("Longing for the days of the pink flamingo")?

I would bet that Joe Liana doesn't believe in American exceptionalism, either. He thinks we think too much of ourselves.

But you don't pull out all the beauty in your yard because a lot of stupid deer are eating them, you buy deer-deterrent sprays or motion detector water sprayers or coyote urine. You don't give up.

Thirty years ago, The New York Times had an article describing how there were more deer in the United States than when Columbus discovered America, and yet even today we know to namby-pamby who whine about thinning the herds.

How does this make sense? If you travel to farms in Amish country, you won't see deer because they know if they show themselves they take a certain chance of being shot.

Thin the herds and everyone will be happy: less competition for the remaining deer and prettier yards for us humans.

JOAN GOLINAR,
Cleveland

Deer are too close for comfort

In Lyndhurst, as in Joe Liana's Parma ("Longing for the days of the pink flamingo," July 6), herds of free-range gods (white-tailed deer) have ravaged dollars' worth of my these animals pose

Deer-vehicle collisions carry ticks that carry illnesses into our lawns in Ohio. It has been with the greatest number

According to the site, there were 50 the 1900s. That present (about one

It is time to drastically suburbs. Let's return the Metroparks, and ters in our backyard

MIRIAM WEISS,
Lyndhurst

Deer problem needs common solution

Regarding Joe Liana's "Longing for the days of the pink flamingo," about the sacred, free-range gods of Parma — the white-tailed deer:

My husband and I are sick to death of these deer. They are in our yard every day, leaving behind evidence of their visits.

It is past time that something is done about the deer population. We have to decide on a definite solution and follow through with neighboring suburbs.

JOYCE CELINSKI,
Parma

DEER and MEDIA COVERAGE

"The deer population in Mentor has been growing for five years, and it seems as if no one is working to stop it. Not only have they been eating all of our plants and trees, but they've been causing car accidents... You can't plant anything on the lawns... These animals are becoming so domesticated you can almost touch them. People have been feeding them, and the even eat right out of our corn feeders, and then they walk out on the street. Mentor is a very nice city, but it can flip-flop all because of one species: deer. Other cities have fixed the problem."

- Mentor resident

Growing deer woes

The deer population in Mentor has been rising for five years, and it seems as if no one is working to stop it. Not only have they been eating all of our plants and trees, but also they've been causing car accidents in Mentor and other cities, too.

You can't plant anything on the lawns because they get chowed up — even the municipalities.

These animals are becoming so domesticated, you can almost touch them. People have been feeding them corn, and they even eat right out of our bird feeders, and then they walk out on to the street.

Mentor is a very nice city, but it can flip-flop all because of one species: deer. Other cities have fixed the problem.

ALEX DI COLA,
Mentor

Sunday hunting shot down

■ Mentor OKs other expansions to

Betsy Scott

BScott@News-Herald.com
Twitter: @ReporterBetsy

Only one of the two major changes proposed to Mentor's deer hunting ordinance survived City Council's vote Tuesday night.

The request to allow bow-hunting on Sundays — in addition to the other days of the week during deer season

— was shot down in a 4-3 vote. Ward 3 Councilman Bruce Landeg

The administrator suggested the ordinance to increase the number of deer taken by bow-hunters only hunt on weekdays.

Janet Dowling's motion to refer the ordinance to a public hearing on Sunday. "Our prog

Aerial Infrared Deer Count Report City of Mentor, OH

Two areas of the City of Mentor, identified as Area 2 and Area 3, were surveyed by an infrared (IR) deer count flight on the night of 29 March 2011. The IF results were very good. Additional details can be found in the analysis notes below.

This report package includes this written report, DVD+R discs containing imagery of the count areas, map printouts of the deer count and deer count area and a copy of the maps in .jpeg format, and GIS files of deer are noted on the map by dots of different colors. Deer are red dots. A possible deer is defined as an animal that is thought to be a deer but is somewhat weak or otherwise difficult to plainly distinguish it as a deer. Animals cover an area approximately 60 feet in diameter on the map printed easily.

Results:

| LOCATION | Acres | DEER | | |
|--------------------|-------------|--|----------|---------|
| | | Inside | Possible | Outside |
| Area 2 | 3535 | 186 | 8 | 51 |
| Area 3 | 276 | 12 | 0 | -- |
| Total Acres | 3811 | (about 33 deer per square mile) | | |

Analysis Notes

The aerial infrared imaging flight for the portions of the City of Mentor on the night of 29 March, between the hours of 2333, 29 March and 0157, 30 March, were very good and small animals were visible in the imagery, but some of the animals were difficult to identify.

9 April 2011

Mentor deer count complete

■ Work session to talk about curbing herd numbers planned

Betsy Scott
BScott@News-Herald.com

An aerial deer count in northeast Mentor reveals what many residents there already know — there are too many.

Larry Davis, from Kent-based Davis Aviation, flew over close to 6 square miles comprising the Mentor Lagoons & Marina, Mentor Headlands and the Civic Center Campus, using infrared technology to locate deer.

The fly-over, done March 30 at a cost of \$9,527, revealed nearly 200 total deer, or about 33 per square mile — a conservative figure, Davis said. Most biologists consider 10 to 25 deer per square mile the healthy range for both the animals and the environment, said Davis, a biologist himself. In more developed areas, such as Mentor, the number should be in the lower range for a balanced ecosystem, he said.

"It's certain that anything over 25 (per square mile) is unhealthy. I don't care what environment it is," he said. Headlands Road resident Beth Gresham said she has seen about 100 deer in her neighborhood.

Oh deer!

Deer trouble in one Mentor neighborhood.



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ACTION STEPS

**DATA GATHERING . PUBLIC INFORMATION. OUTREACH
ADMINISTRATIVE / LEGISLATIVE – RESEARCH - PREPARE LEGISLATIVE / LEGAL STEPS**

DATA GATHERING: HUNTING & CULLING ELSEWHERE. TRAFFIC SAFETY.

REASONS WHY YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS A DEER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

- **HAVE THE REASONS - ALWAYS READY.**
- **EXPECT CHALLENGES –**
- **MEANS TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES**

BROAD CONSTITUENT SUPPORT. SCIENCE-BASED APPROACH

- **HELP CONVEY THE BIG ECOLOGICAL PICTURE**
TOO MANY DEER = LOSS OF BIRDS, PLANTS, INSECT DIVERSITY.
- **QUANTIFIED RESULTS**

BUILD YOUR STRATEGY WITH LOGICAL PARTNERS



Recovering from over-browse

If you are looking for a white-tailed deer inside this fence, you won't see one! The space is designed to keep deer out so we can study their impact on the plants in this park.

Too many deer eat too much! This results in a poor quality forest that cannot support a variety of wildlife. Deer eat wildflowers, acorns, beechnuts, tree stems, buds and branches.

A small deer herd only makes a small impact, but too many deer consume the seeds of a forest's future growth. Over time, these impacts create a visible browse line in the forest.

Plants inside this fence are protected from deer. Over time, this will show us how a healthy forest in Northeast Ohio can recover.

BROWSE LINE →

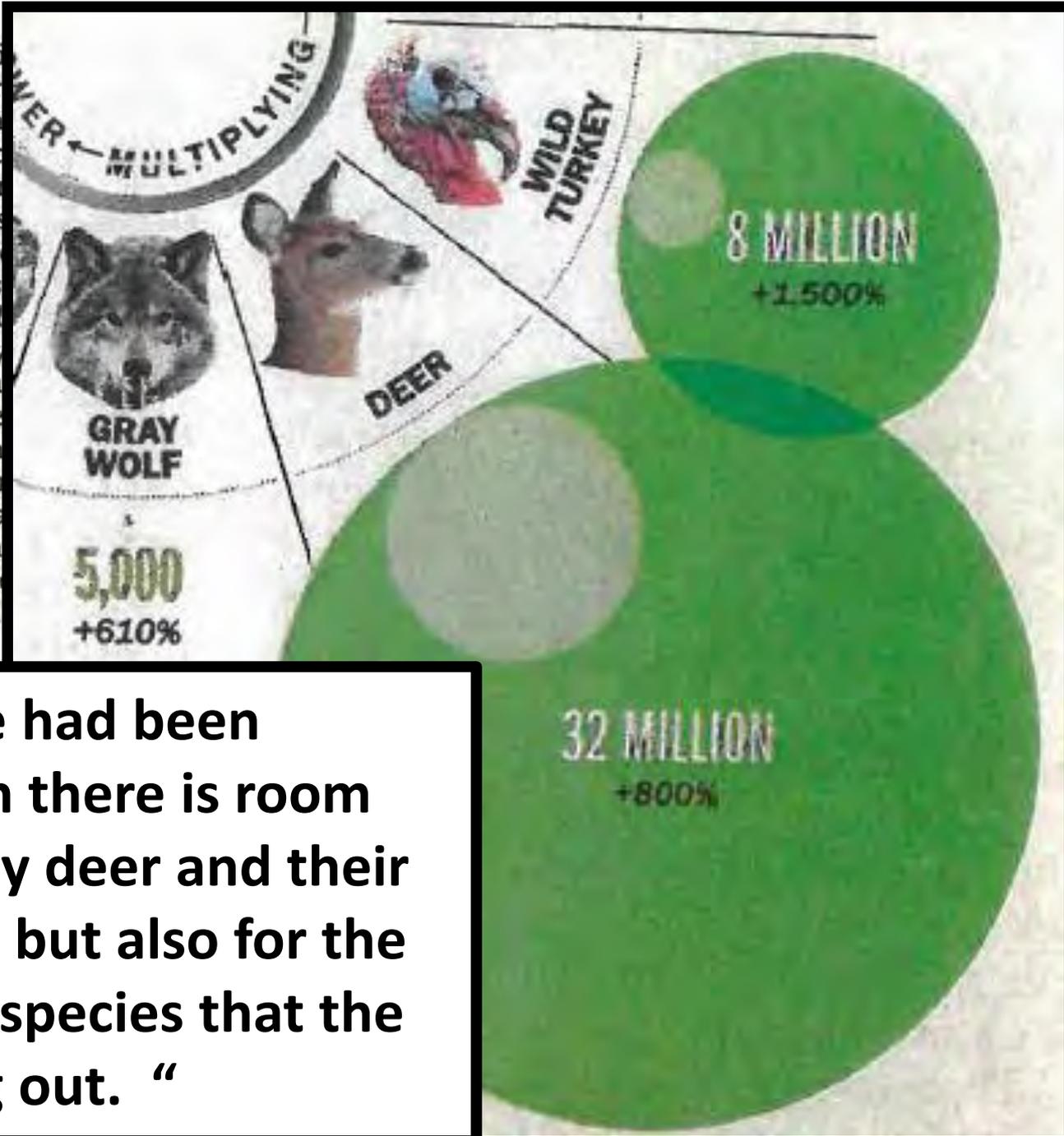


VETERANS PARK



“By shouldering the role of careful, conservation-minded predators, hunters make the coexistence of humans and wildlife sustainable.”

She might feel better if she paid a visit to Hidden Valley Lake, Ind., near Cincinnati. The little tree-sheltered community found itself overrun with white-tailed deer a few years ago. A helicopter survey of the tick-bearing traffic hazards led ecologists to estimate a population of more than 50 deer per sq km, at least 10 times the optimal number. The deer had chewed through the understory of the Hidden Valley woodlands, devastating habitat for other wildlife, and the deer were raising bacteria levels in the lake. Meanwhile, road crews were busy clearing deer carcasses from local roads. Authorities weighed expensive alternatives like traps and contracts before choosing to authorize an annual hunt in 2010.



“A sort of balance had been restored, in which there is room not just for hungry deer and their human neighbors but also for the plant and animal species that the deer were driving out. “

ACTION STEPS

**DATA GATHERING . PUBLIC INFORMATION. OUTREACH
ADMINISTRATIVE / LEGISLATIVE – RESEARCH - PREPARE LEGISLATIVE / LEGAL STEPS**

DATA GATHERING: HUNTING & CULLING ELSEWHERE. TRAFFIC SAFETY.

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- **HAVE THE REASONS - ALWAYS READY and CONSISTENT**
- **EXPECT CHALLENGES**
- **MEANS TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES**

BROAD CONSTITUENT SUPPORT. SCIENCE-BASED APPROACH

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THE NEWS-HERALD

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Friday, October 30, 2015

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MENTOR

Deer heads found

Man opposed to city's deer hunting laws finds two deer heads on property

By **Matthew Skrajner**
mskrajner@news-herald.com
@MattNewsHerald on Twitter

The ongoing debate of how the city of Mentor should decrease its deer population took a gruesome

turn on Oct. 29.

When Dan Welker took out the trash in front of his Hopkins Road home, he said he found two deer heads lying on his property. One was a buck with its antlers cut off and the other a doe that

appeared to have had its head smashed in.

"What kind of person does something like this?" Welker said.

Welker said he has been an outspoken opponent of the city's bow-hunting law, which was passed in 2012 and allows for bow-hunting of deer in the city with a license and enough acreage.

The law also allows up to three contiguous property owners, who may not have enough space on their own, to join up together.

"If you're willing to hunt animals, then this is the caliber of people you're associating with," Welker said.

Mentor police were called and a report was filed.

HEADS • PAGE 6

PAINESVILLE

SPOOKY SPECTACLE



Here
for the
Holidays!
LAKETRAN
Extended
Holiday





DEER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

TALKING POINTS

POLICY AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT



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