

10. Committee Recommended Deer Management Program

Based on the above-itemized findings, the committee recommends the following options to the City Council and urges adoption of as many as the council deems appropriate to assist in managing deer and other wildlife in the city limits:

1. Count the deer

The City should:

- Conduct an aerial deer count, working in conjunction with the Galena Territory Association's deer count.
- Evaluate the number of deer counted against the 20 deer per square mile reference point.
- Estimate the degree of accuracy of the driving count for future counts.
- Conduct annual driving counts on a regular basis.
- Conduct an aerial count again in 2 years (winter 2018-19) if the number of deer-vehicle accidents in the 2018 calendar year exceeds 20.

2. Educate Citizens

The City should:

- Contract with the University of Illinois Extension to provide natural resource education presentations at City Hall each winter that are free to the public. Topics might be drawn from those in the Extension's Master Naturalist program, such as "Urban Areas and Wildlife," "Agricultural Lands and Wildlife," "Understanding the Natural World," and "Understanding Prairie in the Prairie State." The Master Gardeners program on Deer Resistant Plantings should be repeated on a regular basis. Include education along the lines of the "Veer for Deer" program used successfully in Rochester, MI.
- Invite the formation of a citizen advisory committee to make ongoing recommendations to the City Council on natural resource issues (including wildlife management), and to assist in educating the public on natural resource matters.
- Offer a survey to the citizens each year (see recommended survey in Appendix D). Evaluate the number of responses to the question, "Are levels of deer damage tolerable?"

3. Install Deer Warning Signage

The Illinois Department of Transportation will not install deer warning signs, but the City may do so in consultation with the department. The City should install deer-warning signs along roadways with high deer-vehicle incident rates (e.g. Gear St., U.S. 20, Franklin St., and Stagecoach Trail - see Fig. 3, p. 7).

4. Maintain Deer Health

The City should:

- Follow the progression of Chronic Wasting Disease in deer in Jo Daviess County and cooperate with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources should infected animals be documented in or near the City.
- Manage the deer population by encouraging increased hunting on private properties surrounding the City of Galena, and open City properties on the periphery of the City (e.g. Gateway Park, the acreage north of Indian Ridge subdivision) to hunting during the regular hunting season.

- Determine the number of deer within the city limits (through aerial or driving counts, or both) per square mile each year. If the number is found to exceed 20 deer per square mile, consider special City permission working with the IDNR to implement a bow-hunting program in select areas within the city. Neither the hunters interviewed nor the committee recommends using firearms within the city limits to reduce the deer population. The Apple Canyon Lake program for testing and certifying bow hunters is a good reference. The City of Dubuque's program for identifying areas within the City limits suitable for deer hunting is a good reference.

5. Improve the Ability to Enforce the Prohibition of Deer Feeding

The City of Galena should pass an ordinance that will assist law enforcement in stopping the feeding of deer inside the City limits. Recommended sample ordinance language is provided in Appendix E.

6. Monitor Overall Situation

The City should annually review information about the number of deer, number and nature of deer incidents, status of Chronic Wasting Disease in the area, and citizen opinion. A sample annual report is provided as Appendix F.

7. Evaluate the Galena Deer Management Plan

In 3 years (December 2019) evaluate the effectiveness of the Galena Deer Management Plan as written and modify as appropriate.

11. Cost Implications and staff time for deer population management

Costs:

1. Count the deer

The cost of a driving count would be minimal if conducted by volunteers (similar to the annual bird count conducted by the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation). The cost of the aerial count = \$1,500. If an aerial count is conducted once every two years, the maximum annual expense at current rates would be \$750 per year.

2. Educate Citizens

The University of Illinois Extension will provide 2-hour programs that are free to citizens as desired by the City, will promote those programs, and will handle online registrations for the programs. They would ask the City to host the programs and help promote them. The cost per program event would be in the range of \$150-\$250. Assuming three programs at the higher cost, the annual expense would be \$750.

There are minimal anticipated costs for the formation of a citizen advisory committee to make ongoing recommendations to the City Council on natural resource issues.

An online survey (e.g. Survey Monkey) would be free. There would be some additional expense for city staff to analyze the data.

The cost for an annual mailing of the survey including an addressed return envelope to 1900 households is approximately \$2,000. There would be additional expense for the city staff to compile and analyze the survey data.

3. Install Deer Warning Signage

The purchase and installation price for a standard sign is approximately \$300 per sign, and the Police Department should identify appropriate locations.

4. Maintain Deer Health

There is no cost involved in following the progression of Chronic Wasting Disease in deer in Jo Daviess County and cooperating with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources should infected animals be documented in or near the City beyond the minimal staff time required to accomplish this.

5. Improve the Ability to Enforce the Prohibition of Deer Feeding

The ordinance should allow for clear enforcement of the prohibition on feeding deer. Revenue may be generated through the collection of fines.

6. Monitor Overall Situation

A sample annual report is provided as Appendix F. There is no cost involved in putting together the annual report beyond the minimal staff time required to accomplish this.

7. Evaluate the Galena Deer Management Plan

There is no cost involved in evaluating the Galena Deer Management Plan beyond the minimal staff time required to accomplish this.

The Committee recommends the following ACTION PLAN:

Winter 2016-17

- Conduct aerial count in conjunction with Galena Territory Association
- Contract with University of Illinois Extension to provide three educational programs
- Adopt ordinance language regarding prohibition of feeding deer
- Offer Citizen Survey

Summer 2017

- Install deer-crossing signs in strategic locations

Winter 2017-18

- Conduct driving count
- Work with landowners just outside the city limits to increase hunting on their properties.
- Open City properties on the periphery of the community to hunting (e.g. Gateway Park, the area north of Sproule Lane)
- Contract with University of Illinois Extension to provide three educational programs
- Offer Citizen Survey

Winter 2018-19

- Evaluate number of deer-vehicle collisions
- If deer-vehicle collisions are over 20, conduct aerial count
- If deer-vehicle collisions are under 20, conduct driving count
- Work with landowners just outside the city limits to increase hunting on their properties.
- Open City properties on the periphery of the community to hunting (e.g. Gateway Park, the area north of Sproule Lane)
- Contract with University of Illinois Extension to provide three educational programs.
- Offer Citizen Survey