

to: Churchill Borough Property Owners and Residents
from: Chair of the Ad Hoc Deer Committee, Churchill Councilor Diana Yankes
date: Feb 5, 2019

**THE 2018 SURVEY OF CHURCHILL PROPERTY OWNERS:
IMPACTS OF DEER DENSITY AND TOLERANCE FOR METHODS OF MUNICIPAL CONTROL**

Dear Residents, you may have received—or become aware of—a survey to gather opinions about deer in the borough. Thank you if you participated. We need to find out how widespread your experience with deer impacts has been over the last 5-10 years. Given that the deer population increases substantially each year, we need to decide if and when our free-roaming white-tailed deer pose serious risks to your health, safety, and property. Our findings will be used to determine if the borough meets state and federal requirements for assistance.

How has Deer Overpopulation Affected Your Quality of Life?

1. "Have you or any member of your household ever been involved in a deer/vehicle accident?"

Yes 118 (40%)
No or left blank 177

2. "Do you typically experience deer damage to landscape plantings?"

Yes 180 (61%)
No or left blank 115

3. "What [landscaping] characteristics" do you have on your property?"

fruit trees present 46
personal garden 156
FERTILIZED shrubs and grasses 202
note: can include more than one landscape characteristic

4. "Has a physician diagnosed you or a member of your household with a tick-borne Disease (Lyme, Erlichiosis, Babesiosis)?"

Yes 24 (9%)
no or blank 271
note: diagnosis of household pets accepted

5. "Do you or your neighbors intentionally feed deer during winter" or
"Do you think it is okay to feed deer?" (cumulative answers to 3 questions).

Yes 70 (24%)
No or blank 225

Notes: mailed to a randomly selected sample of half of Churchill property owners with 50% return rate. 295 returns were tabulated. Responsibility for choosing the PA Game Commission Questionnaire and tabulating results are mine. If you have questions or comments, you are welcome to contact Diana Yankes at dyankes@churchillborough.com or via the Churchill Borough office.

6. Instructions. "Please rate the importance of each item listed below to describe which are the most important reasons why you think it is worthwhile to manage the deer population in your area using a 1-10 scale where 10 means extremely important and 1 means not at all important. Please use any number from 1 to 10 in rating each item:

- a. Tick-borne disease _____
- b. Deer-car accidents / human injuries _____
- c. Damage to landscape plantings _____
- d. Deer Starvation _____
- e. Deer damage to the ecosystem _____
- f. No good reason to manage deer populations _____"

Importance of Perceived Risks to Humans from Deer (a.b.c. only)

Importance (1 least to 10 most)	a.Tick-borne disease risk	b.deer/vehicle collision risk	c.landscape damage or loss risk
9-10 very	203	168	115
5-8 moderately	63	84	112
1-4 mildly	24	39	59
0 or blank	4	4	9

Have You Tried Commercial Remedies?

7. "Have you used deer deterrents such as fencing or repellents?"

Yes 162 (55%)
 No or blank 133

Are You Comfortable with the Current Deer Population?

8. "Would you prefer to see more, the same, or fewer deer in your community?"

more	blank	same	fewer
0	9	81	205

9. "Regardless of which type of deer management technique you support, how many years would you be willing to wait to achieve a desired population?"

in 0-2 years or 2018-2020:	100 responses
In 3-5 years or 2021-2023	96 responses
In 5-7 years or 2023-2025	27 responses
7 or later in 2025-2029	32 responses
blank	40 responses

10. "Do you support the concept of using lethal means to reduce and manage deer populations at reasonable or acceptable levels?"

Yes	224 (76%)
No	65
blank	6

If a Municipal Deer Management Plan were to be adopted, do any of the following lethal methods seem reasonable to you?

11. "Which of the following deer management techniques below do you support?"

method	Yes	No	blank or inconclusive
Bowhunting	164	87	44
Firearms Hunting	114	135	46
Sharpshooting	152	120	43
Trap/Kill	110	143	42
Take Action	171	86	38

note: responses can include more than one method.

12. Would you consider allowing hunting activity on **your property**?

No, wouldn't allow or doesn't think possible	Yes if each owner can set unique conditions of use	left blank
110	177	8