

RESTORING BALANCE: WHITE-TAILED DEER MANAGEMENT IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Here's what neighbors are saying about deer control in Arlington & Alexandria...



PHOTO CREDIT: ASSOCIATED PRESS

"I am a vegetarian and animal lover. However, I am also a nature lover. There is evidence that Arlington Parks cannot sustain the level of growth in deer population. The growth in deer population is spilling over into neighborhoods. This is also unsustainable. Reluctantly, I have concluded that a humane deer management policy is necessary. Although I am one of Arlington's two appointees to the NOVA Parks Board, my comments are my own and not representative of the organization."

- **PAUL FERGUSON, FORMER ARLINGTON COUNTY BOARD MEMBER** Feb. 2021

"Recently a motorist driving near our Maywood community was seriously injured in a car crash after she struck a deer in the roadway. This incident exemplifies just one of the many public health and safety, parkland overgrazing, and overall quality of life challenges presented to area residents, businesses and visitors from the rapidly burgeoning deer population in Arlington County."

- **AMANDA DAVIS, PRESIDENT - MAYWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** Jan. 2020

"Much is already known about effective ways to control deer populations. Neighboring jurisdictions have taken actions that provide a starting point for Arlington County's consideration. There are deer control programs in Fairfax, Montgomery, Loudoun and Prince George's counties, and in Rock Creek Park. We urge the County to prioritize funding to explore these programs, and others from jurisdictions similar to Arlington, and develop a pilot program of our own to address the devastation caused by deer overpopulation."

- **JULIE LEE, PRESIDENT - GLENCARLYN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION** Jan. 2021

"Many parks have a diverse mature tree canopy now, but because of deer grazing few seedlings and sapling trees can survive in the understory. Deer are preventing our future trees and other understory plants from growing up and taking their rightful place in ecosystem. Without this natural succession deer will ensure that in the next 30 years we will have significantly fewer canopy trees despite our best efforts protect or replace them."

- **WILLIAM ROSS, CHAIR - PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION** Oct. 2020

"Excessive deer population is a significant factor that must be addressed if the County is to preserve, let alone expand, Arlington's tree canopy...If left unchecked, deer browsing of the forest will, in addition to its severe and permanent negative impact on trees, adversely affect bird, butterfly, reptile and amphibian species that depend on trees and forests for food and habitat."

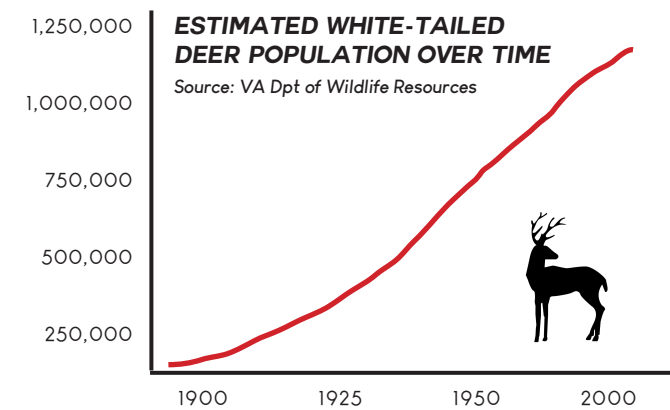
- **PHIL KLINGELHOFER, CHAIR - URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION** Oct. 2020

"The current population of white-tailed deer in Arlington is degrading the ecosystems of our natural areas, preventing natural regeneration of our urban forests, destroying habitat of birds, amphibians, and other wildlife, and undermining County efforts at natural area restoration. Deer help to spread invasive plants into our natural areas and are a vector for tick-borne disease."

- **JOHN BLOOM, CHAIR - CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION** Nov. 2020

White-tailed deer are overwhelming Northern Virginia suburbs. Too many deer means degraded forests, costly property damage, car accidents, and a sick and weakened deer population. Overpopulated deer can destroy the forest floor and understory, resulting in inadequate habitat for many of our local birds, small mammals, insects, reptiles, and amphibians. Excessive deer browsing also prevents tree saplings from taking root and puts the future tree canopy in jeopardy.

Deer population management through controlled hunting in suburban environments is safe and effective, and can help restore the balance in Arlington and Alexandria



healthy level of deer - diverse plants able to grow in the understory & floor and provide habitat for wildlife



overpopulation of deer - severe overbrowsing, few plants are able to grow in the understory & floor


PHOTO CREDIT: CHARLES SMITH

"Regulated hunting is considered to be the most practical & cost-effective means to control free-ranging deer populations in most settings. Deer hunting is also strongly supported by the public - 80% 75-80% in recent national surveys."


- Molly Joseph Ward, Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources, 2014

HOW CAN ARLINGTON & ALEXANDRIA RESIDENTS HELP?

1. Learn about healthy forests & the impact of deer overpopulation at www.armn.org/deer-management
2. Contact your local representatives about the importance of maintaining a healthy balance of deer through population control programs:
Arlington - email countyboard@arlingtonva.us
Alexandria - visit www.alexandriava.gov/Council and follow phone or email options provided
3. Ask Arlington Master Naturalists to speak with a group of your friends and neighbors about deer control - email us through www.armn.org/contact-us

0 bystanders injured by an archer in Virginia in over 60 years 

42 Virginia cities, towns, and counties, like Fairfax County & Richmond, with deer management archery programs

1 MILLION  servings of venison donated to community organizations through Hunters for the Hungry



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