

Deer thrive in suburban environments:

- They like patchy habitat with lots of edges.
- Residential areas have plenty of food and few predators.
- Populations can double every 2-3 years.

Societal impacts of deer overabundance:

- Deer-vehicle collisions
- Damage to agricultural crops
- Damage to landscaping plants
- Potential for increased risk of tick-borne disease



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Deer impacts on forests are profound and long-lasting.

Ecological impacts of deer overabundance:

- Reduced understory diversity
- Increased dominance by invasives
- Reduced bird diversity and abundance
- Reduced survival of tree seedlings
- Reduced canopy diversity
- Altered species composition
- Fewer canopy trees



Healthy forest understory



Deer-ravaged forest understory

The only way to reduce plant damage throughout a community is to reduce the deer population.

Reducing deer numbers by shooting is more humane than relying on vehicle collisions.

Bowhunting from a tree stand is extremely safe for the public and non-target animals.

Community deer management:

- Localized strategies developed and applied at the community level are usually necessary for effective deer management in residential areas.
- An inclusive decision-making process, community-wide learning, and a high level of communication and transparency are important elements of successful programs.
- Without action, expect the problems to increase.

Don't feed deer! It just makes things worse.

DEC pages on deer overabundance and community deer management:

- <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/104911.html>
- <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/104961.html>

Cornell University guide for communities confronting deer problems:

- <https://deeradvisor.dnr.cornell.edu/>

Impacts of deer on forests and wildlife:

- <http://www.deerandforests.org/>

Examples of municipal deer programs:

- <http://www.southoldtownny.gov/438/Deer-Management>
- <http://eastgoshen.org/services/deer-management>
- <http://www.ci.burnsville.mn.us/index.aspx?nid=379>