

DEER MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT

2017 AND 2018

THERE IS A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF INFORMATION THAT PROVIDES ALL CITIZENS A HISTORY OF EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY AND MANAGE THE SERIOUS PROBLEM OF DEER OVER POPULATION IN OUR TOWN SINCE 2011. IT IS FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE AT OGDENDUNES.IN.GOV. GO TO THE DOCUMENTS LIBRARY, CLICK ON ARCHIVES BY TYPE AND THEN CLICK ON REPORTS

FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS (2015 -2016, 2016-2017 AND 2017-2018) THESE EFFORTS, IN COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED THE DEER POPULATION TO THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED STANDARD OF 8-15 DEER PER SQUARE MILE, THE ACTUAL SIZE OF OGDEN DUNES. THE COORDINATION WITH NPS HAS ALSO ASSISTED OUR NEIGHBORING LAKE FRONT COMMUNITIES OF BEVERLY SHORES AND DUNE ACRES THAT ALSO HAD OVERPOPULATION ISSUES FOR MANY YEARS.

THE PRIME METHOD OF DETERMINING DENSITY HAS BEEN THE USE OF FLYOVERS USING INFRA RED CAMERAS. THIS YEAR THE FLYOVER OCCURRED ON MARCH 21. OBSERVED DAMAGE TO GARDEN AND NATIVE PLANTS AS WELL AS DOCUMENTED CITIZEN EXPENSES TO REPAIR, REPLACE AND PREVENT DAMAGE FROM DEER BROWSING IS ALSO CONSIDERED.

THE FLYOVER IS A PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR NEIGHBORS IN ORDER TO REDUCE COST AND IS PRESENTLY BEING PAID FOR ENTIRELY BY DONATED FUNDS.

THE RESULT FOR OGDEN DUNES INDICATED 16 DEER WERE INSIDE OUR BOUNDARY WITH NPS. 2 OF THE DEER WERE SOUTH OF U.S.12. THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 57 DEER WITH 41 OUTSIDE OUR BOUNDARY WITH NPS ON OUR EAST AND WEST SIDES AND SOUTH OF US 12.

NPS ADVISED THAT, THEY CULLED 8 DEER FROM OUR EAST BORDER TO THE PORTAGE PARK ROUNDABOUT AREA. IT IS OUR ASSESSMENT THAT A FEW OF THOSE DEER WERE FROM OGDEN DUNES AS THEY REGULARLY TRAVERSE IN AND OUT OF OUR CONTIGUOUS BORDER. NPS ALSO HARVESTED 6 DEER SOUTH OF US 12. NONE WERE CULLED IN WEST BEACH WHERE FEW WERE SPOTTED.

THIS DATA SUGGESTS THAT OUR DEER POPULATION HAS BEEN REDUCED AND RESTRICTED SO THAT IT IS IN THE IDEAL RANGE OF 8-15 THUS A CULL FOR THE FALL OF 2017 WAS NOT NEEDED AND IT WAS SO RECOMMENDED TO THE TOWN COUNCIL.

THERE IS AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF CONTINUING TO MONITOR THE DEER POPULATION TO KEEP IT, OUR CITIZENS, AND OUR NATIVE VEGETATION IN A HEALTHY, NATURALLY BALANCED AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT.

NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

- *908 DEER HAVE BEEN CULLED BY NPS IN 6 YEARS ENDING THIS MARCH*
- *95 OF THOSE HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY ADJACENT TO OGDEN DUNES*
- *174 WERE CULLED BY NPS THIS YEAR (2018),.*
- *ANECDOTAL REPORTS INDICATE A NOTICEABLE RETURN OF NATIVE PLANT SPECIES AND SIGNIFICANT LESS DAMAGE TO GARDEN PLANTS.*
- *DEER HAVE BEEN OBSERVED AS NOTICEABLY HEALTHIER*

THERE IS ONGOING WORK TO BE DONE TO MAINTAIN THIS BALANCE. THE FOLLOWING ARE REMINDERS OF HOW ALL OF US CAN CONTRIBUTE TO HELP MAINTAIN A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT FOR US, OUR DEER AND OUR NATIVE PLANTS.

- *DO NOT FEED OR WATER DEER OR OTHER WILD ANIMALS SUCH AS COYOTE AND RACOONS*
- *SPRAY DEER RESISTENT CHEMICALS ON YOUR FAVORITE GARDEN PLANTS, BUSHES AND FLOWERS AS OFTEN AS WEATHER DICTATES.*
- *RAISE YOUR BIRD FEEDERS TO 5-6 FEET ABOVE GROUND IF POSSIBLE*
- *KEEP EXPENSE RECORDS OF YOUR PREVENTION EFFORTS INCLUDING ANY FENCING.*
- *KEEP YOURSELVES AND YOUR PETS SPRAYED AGAINST TICKS AND POTENTIAL LYME DISEASE.*
- *REPORT ANY DEER OR ANY OTHER WILD ANIMAL THAT APPEARS SICK OR INJURED TO OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT.*
- *DOCUMENT WITH PHOTOS AND EXPENSES WHEN YOU REPAIR PREVENT OR REPLACE DEER DAMAGE.*
- *REPORT ANY INCIDENTS WITH AUTOMOBILES, BICYCLES, SCOOTERS ETC.*

FINALLY:

- *A THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR TOWN COUNCILS FOR THEIR CONCERN AND SOLID SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUED MONITORING OF OUR DEER POPULATION SO THAT WE NEVER LET THIS PROBLEM OVERWHELM US AGAIN.*
- *A SINCERE THANK YOU FOR THE DONORS WHO ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF OUR WILDLIFE AND OUR FELLOW CITIZENS.*

PAUL E. PANTHER

AI JOHNSON