Community-Based Tool Box for Resolving Deer Problems

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The Plan Elements:

✓ Urge communities to create a model deer <u>conflict</u> management plan:

❖ Assess /define scope of deer problems :

1. Conduct resident survey

2. Assess what kind of damage, where, number of complaints

3. Overlay maps of collisions, deer corridors, areas of high deer density, where complaints located

❖ Apply site-specific solutions to clearly defined problems

1. **Deer Damage to Gardens**:

   1. Public Education: Put conflict resolution information on town website, (ex: links to local resources, where to find deer-resistant plant lists, etc)

   2. Consider hosting deer-resistant gardening workshops

2. **Deer-Car Collisions**:

   1. Utilize Rochester Hills MN "Don't Veer for Deer" campaign as a model

   2. Collision hot spots – utilize warning devices, speed bumps, radar speed limit signs combined with warning devices (Streiter lites, Deer Deter Wildlife Crossing Guard (http://strieter-lite.com ; http://deerdeter.com)

   3. Reduce visual barriers on roadways, use salt replacement in winter, vegetative management so better sight lines, visibility along roadways

3. **Deer feeders** – encourage diplomatic sit-downs with neighbors, education campaign

4. **Lyme disease**

   1. Public education campaign, links on town website to CDC and other expert resources re: prevention methods, tools and resources

   2. Draw up community –based plan for strategic placement of *4-Posters*

   3. Property-targeted approach – encourage tick-inhospitable landscaping practices, links to product websites such as *Damminix*

- **Biodiversity issues**
  1. Importance of doing valid browse survey to establish baseline data on deer browsing level
  2. Consider use of forestry methods, fertilizing, temporary or permanent fencing etc to protect valued plant communities, etc

❖ Population Management

1. Consider site viability for sterilization or pilot immunocontraception project

❖ Program Assessment

1. Set up robust resident complaint and deer-car collision reporting system -- monitor over time so know if goals achieved

2. Collect data on LD incidents, tick density, infectivity rates prior to and during abatement plan -Monitor changes,/ assess effectiveness

❖ Public education: pivotal to success & community involvement!

1. Use city web site and all other outreach/media avenues, emphasize ways to deer proof gardens and yards, avoid collisions, why not to feed deer, etc.

2. Importance of getting good information in to all new driver education programs (high school, driving school, programs for the elderly, etc)

✓ **Summary: Setting Management Goals:**

❖ Site-specific solutions

❖ Based on scientifically valid data/ documentation

❖ Tailored to a particular problems

❖ Long-term, not "quick fix"

❖ Need for valid monitoring system to assess goal achievement

❖ Public education pivotal to success & community support

Helpful resources re: a variety of deer-conflict solutions:

❖ www.humanesociety.org/solvingproblems

❖ Deerfriendly.org

❖ *Living with Deer* booklet