



ARLINGTON COUNTY DEER SURVEY EXAMPLE RESPONSE

1. On a scale of 0 to 5, how would you describe your level of awareness regarding the impact of over-browsing on deer health and Arlington's ecosystem prior to watching the video above? - ***choose a number that best reflects your awareness.***
2. On a scale of 0 to 5, how would you describe your level of concern regarding the impact of over-browsing on deer health and Arlington's ecosystem? ***AWLA recommends choosing 0***
3. What is your level of support regarding the recommendation for Arlington to develop a deer management implementation strategy for Arlington County Parks? ***AWLA recommend choosing "Very Unsupportive".***
4. Given the information above, please share your level of support for the following potential deer management strategies on Arlington County-owned natural land parks.
 - Professional Sharpshooting (Lethal) - ***Very Unsupportive***
 - Surgical Sterilization (Non-lethal) - ***Supportive***
 - Public Archery Hunting Where Permissible (Lethal) - ***Very Unsupportive***
 - Fencing Entire Parks (Non-lethal) - ***Very Supportive***
4. Given the information above, please share your level of support for the following potential deer management strategies on Arlington County-owned natural land parks.
 - **Professional Sharpshooting (Lethal) - *Very Unsupportive***
 - Additional thoughts: ***I do not support the killing of deer in Arlington County. Lethal practices should not be utilized ahead of more measured, humane approaches that are proven to be effective. Data from surrounding counties shows that culling programs do not work, as these counties are still killing deer after years of management. Furthermore, Arlington residents don't want to be scared to use our local parks, have injured or dead deer in our backyards, or spend tax dollars on an unnecessary program.***
 - **Surgical Sterilization (Non-lethal) - *Supportive***
 - Additional thoughts: ***These tools are innovative and part of an advancing field. Fairfax City, for instance, implemented a sterilization program that saw a reduction from an estimated 91 deer per square mile in 2014 to 40 deer per square mile in 2018. A broader conversation around ethical concerns, however, would need to be further addressed before pursuing such a program.***

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- **Public Archery Hunting Where Permissible (Lethal) - *Very Unsupportive***
 - Additional thoughts: *As stated above, I do not support the killing of deer in Arlington County. Archery hunting in particular is inhumane and can lead to prolonged or extensive suffering. This type of program may send injured deer into our backyards, posing a risk to local residents as well as being cruel.*
- **Fencing Entire Parks (Non-lethal) - *Very Supportive***
 - Additional thoughts: *We are very much in support of humane options to control deer populations. However, the language “fencing an ‘entire’ park” is an extreme take on more reasonable methods that could be taken to humanely deter deer (and other wildlife) from private property and to protect our ecosystems.*

5. What should Arlington keep in mind in the event that it develops a deer management implementation strategy for County owned natural land parks? (Select your top 3 considerations)

- *Minimized deer pain or suffering*
- *Safe implementation of strategies*
- *Other - non-lethal, humane management*

6. Please use the space below to share any additional thoughts about deer management in Arlington County that were not captured through the questions above:

This survey is based on the assumption that there are too many deer in Arlington County. This is a subjective question and I fundamentally disagree with the premise. Furthermore, there is a lack of transparency with the information provided by the County, including:

- *What are the program's end goals? We know from other jurisdictions deer culls will continue indefinitely without clear, objective measurements for success.*
- *What are the costs? Culling programs are expensive because they must be continued year-after-year.*
- *What is the impact on the local community? Density in Arlington County means that parks will be closed and hunting will be occurring in backyards.*

Ecosystems are complex and deer are often the scapegoats for larger ecological problems. As seen in other communities, killing deer will not solve the problems the County wishes to address. I firmly support a more measured and humane deer management plan.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

