

City of Belvedere 2009 Deer Study

Summary of Results



2009 Deer Study

- Provide information to City on deer biology and population management techniques
- Public opinion questionnaire (opinions and observations)
 - Literature review
 - 28 question survey



Black-tailed Deer Ecology

- Prefer interspersed habitat with open areas & cover
- Feed on grasses, legumes, weeds, fruit, crops, seeds, stems.
- Very few natural predators



Black-tailed Deer Ecology

Behavior and Movement Patterns

- Alone or in small groups most of year
- Seasonal Variations
 - Late summer/autumn **mating** and **rutting** season
 - Winter (**post rutting**) – hiding
 - Late spring (mid April to June) – **birthing**



Black-tailed Deer Ecology

Lifespan and Reproduction

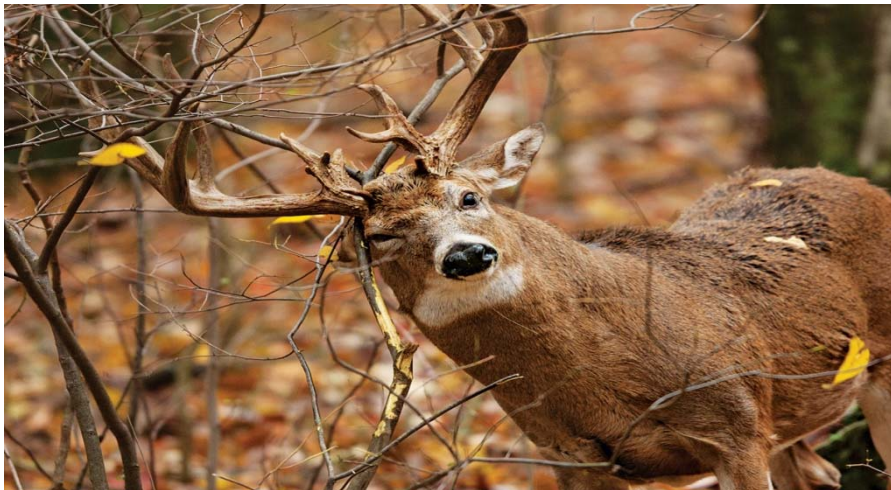
- Lifespan average 8 to 10 years
- Does produce 2 to 3 offspring every year
 - Roughly 50% to 70% fawns born each year die within first year
 - Does are aggressive in defense of their young
 - Doe will leave fawn alone for up to 8 hours



Black-tailed Deer Ecology

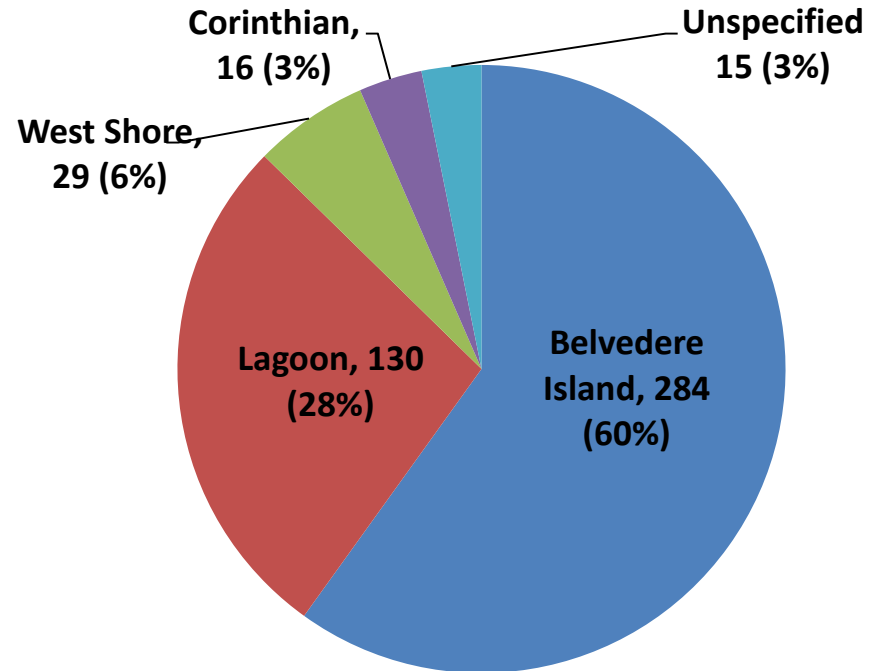
Threats

- Predation (natural predators and hunters)
- Vehicle collisions and other accidents
- Starvation



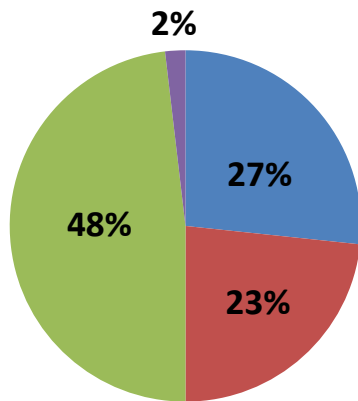
2009 Deer Questionnaire Respondents

- Sent to All Belvedere households (approx. 1,000)
- 474 respondents

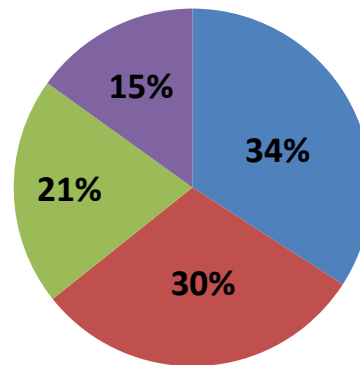


Results: Perceived Value of Deer

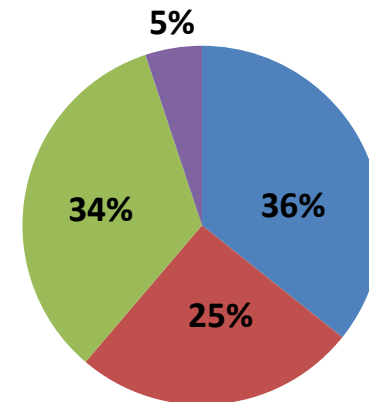
Belvedere Island



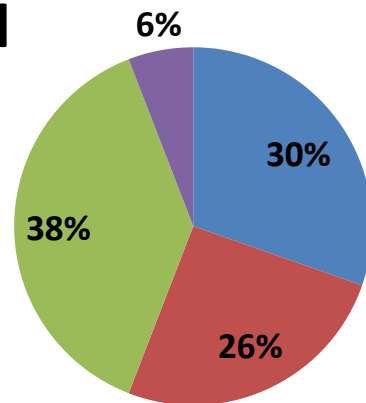
Lagoon



All Others



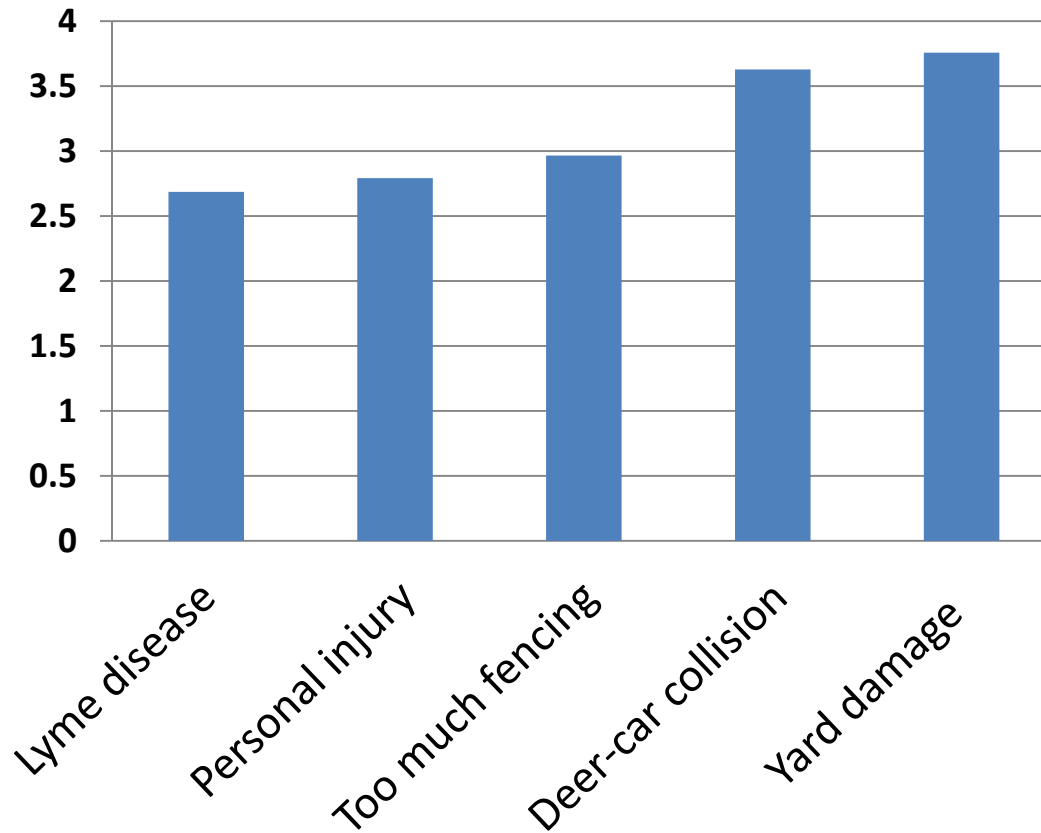
Total



- Deer have aesthetic value, I enjoy seeing deer
- I enjoy seeing deer, but worry about appropriateness
- Deer are a problem and need to be addressed
- No opinion

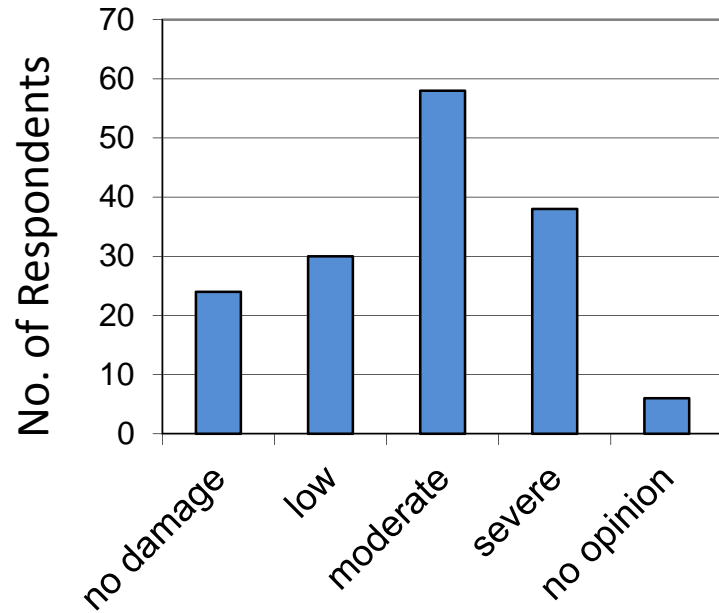
Primary Concerns

rated from 1 to 5 (5= greatest concern)

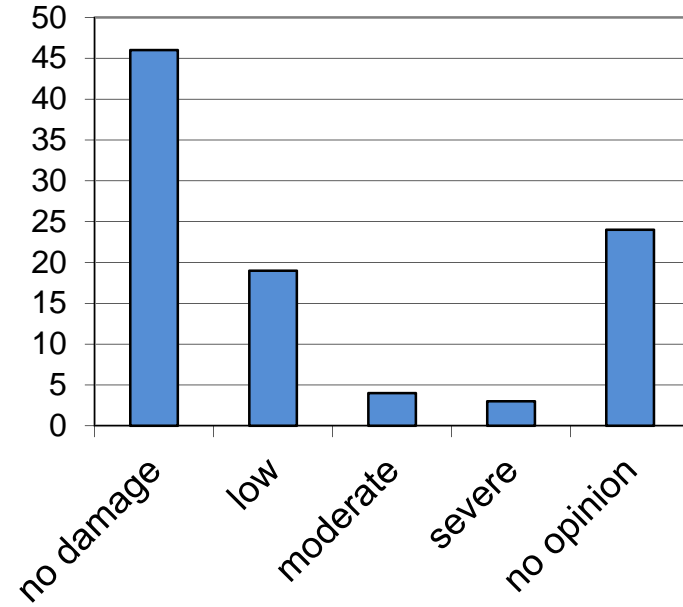


Results: Damage caused by deer in 2008

Belvedere Island



Lagoon

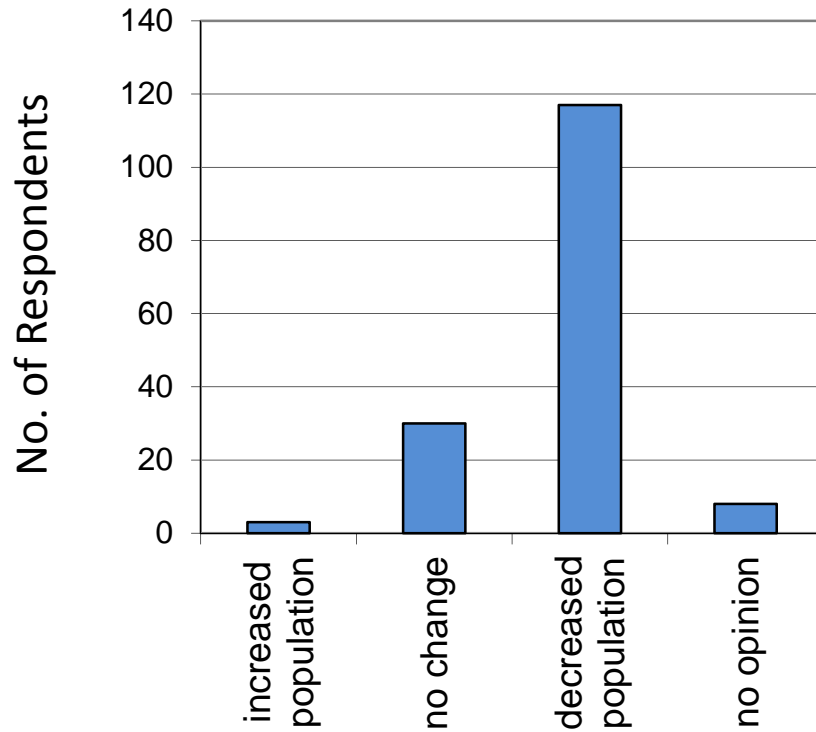


Deer Deterrent Used & Effectiveness

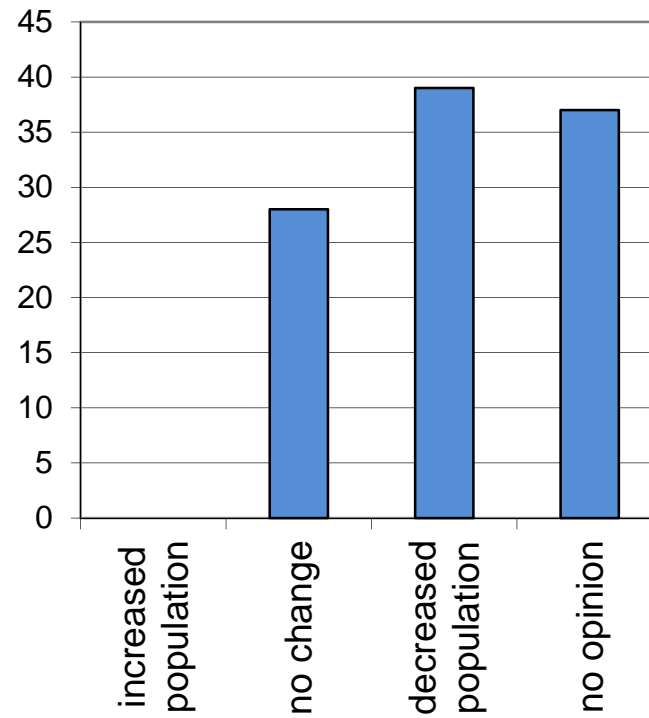
- The primary methods used to deter deer are:
 - **landscaping**
 - **barriers**
 - **repellant and dogs**
- Belvedere Island residents achieve limited success using these methods.
- Lagoon residents find these methods often eliminated their deer problem.

Desired Population

Belvedere Island



Lagoon



Other Management Options

- **Depredation permit (Hunting)**
 - No discharge of firearms
 - Individual, not community level
 - Public disapproval
- **Trap and translocation**
 - Past studies suggest high mortality
 - Costly
- **Immunocontraception and/or sterilization**
 - Labor intensive and costly
 - Current application requires repeat treatments (as of 2009)
 - Deactivates if orally ingested by non-target animal
 - Less than 100% effective

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Questions?

