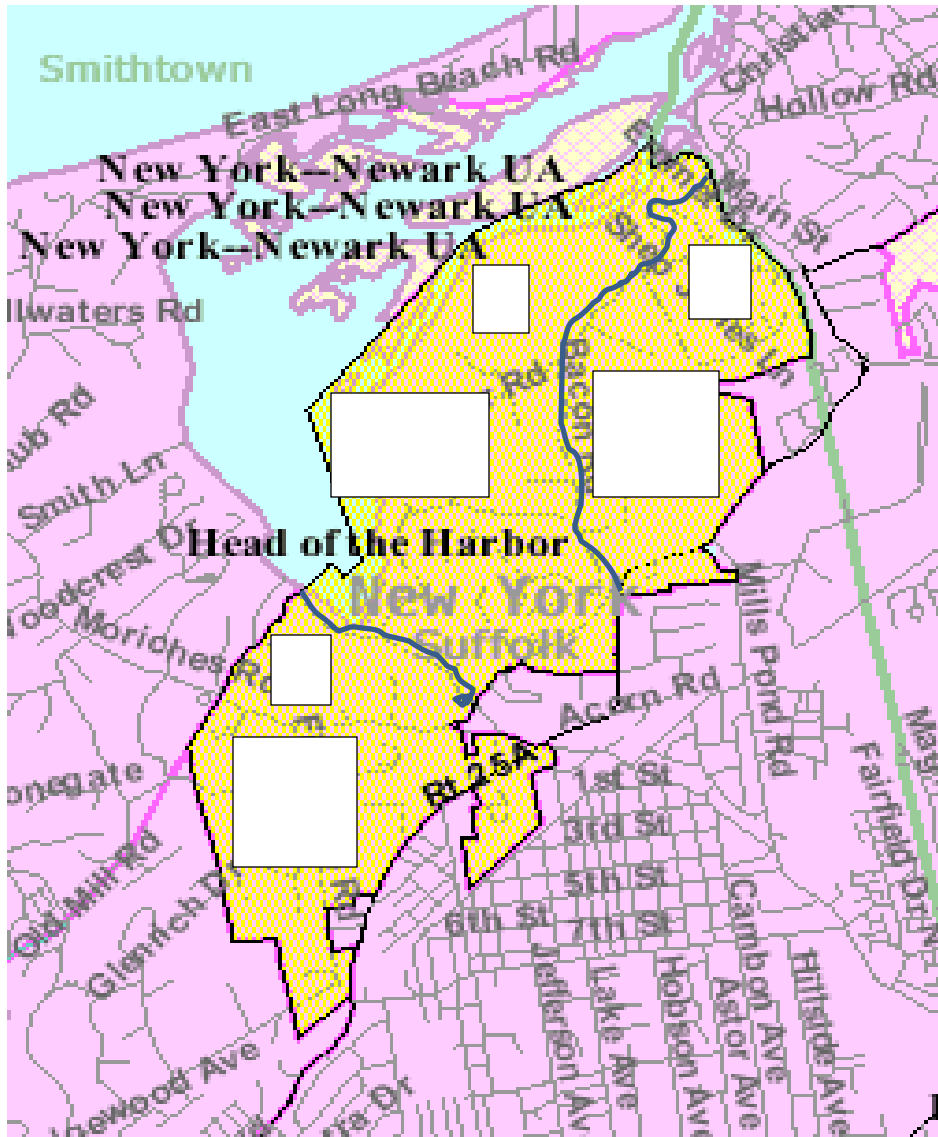


# Survey of Opinions and Experiences with Deer in Head of the Harbor



We received 260 survey responses (52% response rate), including 17 that did not indicate a region.

## The survey questions:

1. Considering the last three months, what has your household's experience with deer been? (If no deer seen, please enter a "0" in the box.)

	Number of times in 3 months
Have seen deer on my property	<b>29.6</b>
Have seen deer elsewhere in Head of the Harbor, not on my property	<b>13.0</b>

**2. Do you consider the current deer population in the Village to be a problem?**

Y **59.6%** / N **29.2%** / Don't Know **11.2%**

If Yes, in what way(s)? Check all that apply.

Type	Check if a problem
Minor nuisance	<b>33.5%</b>
Damage to landscape or property	<b>58.8%</b>
Vehicle risk on roads	<b>58.1%</b>
Tick-borne disease risk	<b>56.2%</b>

**3. Has any member of your household experienced injury or property damage as a result of collision with a deer in the Village in 2015? Y 6.5% N 90% Don't know 3.5%**

**4. Do you believe that deer management is an issue that the Village government should be concerned about and act on? Y 58.8% N 37.4% Undecided 3.8%**

**Table of Survey Results**

Question	Response	Key	Total	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3
1. 3 mo experience	Property	1	29.6	24.7	33.1	32.7
	Elsewhere	1	13.0	9.5	15.1	15.7
2. Deer problem	Y/N (1/0)	1/0	59.6%	56.0%	60.0%	71.9%
	DK	1	11.2%	14.3%	10.0%	9.4%
	Minor	1	33.5%	35.2%	31.7%	34.4%
	Landscape	1	58.8%	54.9%	60.8%	68.8%
	Vehicle	1	58.1%	59.3%	55.8%	62.5%
	Disease	1	56.2%	56.0%	55.0%	56.3%
3. Family deer collision	Y/N (1/0)	1/0	6.5%	4.4%	9.2%	6.3%
	DK	1	3.5%	2.2%	0.8%	0.0%
4. Village govt concern	Y/N (1/0)	1/0	58.8%	58.2%	58.3%	71.9%
	Undecided	1	14.2%	17.6%	12.5%	12.5%
	DK/ NR	1	3.8%	3.3%	2.5%	0.0%
Number of responses			260	91	120	32

## **Analysis of Survey Results**

Region 1 appears to have materially fewer sightings than the other two regions.

3/5 of the respondents believe the deer are a problem and similar numbers note landscape, vehicle risk and disease in equal proportions.

6.5% reported deer collisions although there is evidence of some misunderstanding of this question, whereby some respondents were including other property damage as well.

3/5 of respondents believe that deer management is a legitimate government issue.

The sample of comments is useful both to illustrate the different views of our neighbors and also, by count, how many expressed opinions in various categories. In all, there were 168 comments.

## **Sample of comments from your neighbors**

By topic:

### **Landscape damage (31 comments)**

Major nuisance. \$5-7K property damage.

Has caused hundreds of dollars in damage to plantings

They eat landscape that are supposed to be deer resistant. Expense of deer stopper spray too high.

Don't mind sharing our foliage with these beautiful animals.

They have destroyed parts of our property. They are a serious danger on the roads.

Lived here since 1984 and never suffered significant damage from deer

Have eaten entire landscape to tune of thousands of dollars. Major nuisance.

Our landscaping has become an open salad bar. Deer have destroyed our beautiful property.

Homeowners can fence their property. We have fenced off garden and have not had a problem.

### **Vehicles (16 comments)**

Car full of young adults swerved to avoid deer at midnight and careened 50 yds deep into our woods. Miracle they missed injury or death.

We need to be proactive. I don't want teen drivers injured or killed by deer in our roads. Now is not the time for bleeding hearts deer lovers who put the deer ahead of the safety of our residents.

Close calls twice in almost hitting deer.

They aren't a problem especially if people keep to the speed limit.

Problem is cars speeding, not the deer.

Cars and trucks drive way too fast down Hitherbrook.

Speeding or distracted drivers are most at fault. If speed limit followed there should not be a problem.

Drivers should slow down on Shep Jones

Speeding vehicles is the issue, not the deer

Almost hit deer twice on 50 Acre Rd.

### **Ticks and Lyme disease (18 comments)**

All of my dogs have gotten Lyme disease in the past several years

Lyme disease twice.

Deer ticks on self or dogs almost daily.

One of my children was treated for Lyme disease last summer.

Ticks were here before the deer.

I've had Lyme disease twice.

Ticks are more of a problem. Prefer efforts to exterminate the ticks.  
Wife contracted Lyme disease last year.

Ticks are carried by mice.

Unable to let kids on the grounds due to Lyme disease.

### **Hunting – Pro and Con (20 comments, 8 against)**

This is a serious problem and must be addressed by a deer kill if necessary.

Deer should be killed!

Eradication necessary!

Allow owners to help provide responsible deer management including bow hunting that abides by all NYS DEC laws.

We chose to live in village with its natural environment. These deer are a beautiful part of our village. No one should hunt them.

Absolutely do not support deer hunting in our area!!

No kill methods. No hunters near my home or property!

Seeing a hunter in full camo with a bow and arrow outside my back window was a bigger problem for me!!

#### **Non-Lethal management (26 comments)**

Deer are lovely creatures. Agree with controlling but not eliminating. Non-lethal controls. No hunting. May want to try to limit reproduction.

Deer are a problem but management should not result in killing. Birth control should be considered.

Population needs thinning without violence.

Birth control methods should be considered. No hunting or bow shooting!

Do NOT want hunters in village. It is not safe near resid properties. Consider birth control. No hunting.

Deer are why I live here! If you want to hunt go somewhere else.

Depends on type of action. Sterilization is acceptable.

Please leave the deer alone. They are part of the charm of living in H of H. The Village government should not be involved in deer mgmt. We are vehemently opposed to use of firearms or bows.

I oppose any use of firearms or bows on or near my property. Concerned with child's safety.

Birth control seems a humane way to deal with the problem.

It appears deer are increasing. Steps to control population such as birth control should be implemented.

The only way I would support deer management is to do so with no harm to the deer.

### **Deer and community (46 comments)**

Haven't seen deer in last three months but many during the year.

HoH isn't a zoo. We should have NO DEER.

A benefit of the area is the natural surroundings and seeing wildlife. Deer were here before we were. Education regarding deer resistant plants and other safety measures re road hazards, ticks would be beneficial as opposed to deer population control.

Not a problem at all.

Government's role is to keep property and people safe.

They are taking over. Enough is enough.

The problem is made by a few residents that have nursery.

Deer are dangerous to our streets. We have a fence and they jump right over it.

Ban use of speared fence tops! Deer impale themselves when jumping. Love the deer. They are a beautiful part of living in the suburbs!

Deer management is called for.

I have car damage. It seems to be getting worse. Currently have herds walking through daily. If you shoo them they have become steadfast and often aggressive.

See deer almost daily but they keep their distance.

Seeing deer has been a wonderful experience!

Deer population is growing rapidly and we need a plan.

Something should be done in terms of major reduction in population before someone is killed or injured.

I chose to live here knowing I'd be sharing space with wildlife. I use natural repellents and tick repellents. This self-appointed committee does not represent my interests or concerns.

This is not the mission of the village government. The residents of Belle Terre had a similar issue and expressed their opposition to deer management. HoH has more important issues to address. Focus on roads, crime, maintaining the village.

They pose a threat to not only Village residents but also to this balance in the Village ecology. Some measure must take place to check this problem soon. Each year the population increases.

There are more important issues in the Village such as speeding cars.

My opinion: Deer should be managed.

There are much greater issues in the village. Seeing a deer occasionally is not a big deal.

I have deer that come out on my property twice a day. They don't bother me at all.

We have to do something. I have had as many as 8 deer on my front lawn at once.

They come close and hiss. Afraid they will charge us.

Undecided if village should act on the deer. Many factors involved and may be beyond the scope of an incorporated village.

#### **HoH and surrounding communities (5 comments)**

County wide issue that can't be solved by village alone.

Village can't act alone since deer can move in from other regions.  
A broader coalition of governments may work and village should be involved.

Deer don't follow village boundaries. We need a regional approach.

Need an integrated and coordinated plan with the surrounding communities. Without this we are skeptical that any plan will be a success.

I don't know if HoH should try to control deer if bordering areas don't.

#### **Comments on survey (6 comments)**

Thank you for taking the time to conduct a survey as residents have very different opinions on the treatment of our deer.

How dare you use my tax money for this survey.

Many thanks to the Committee for taking on their difficult task.

This survey is far from any real scientific data and in no way represents accurate balance of our environment.