



A reminder from the City of Windsor Heights...

Be a Dear – don't feed the Deer!



The City of Windsor Heights joins with many other state and local agencies in asking you to refrain from feeding of wildlife, particularly deer in the area. This practice almost always carries with it negative consequences for the wildlife involved. (These include increased disease transmission and increased mortality due to vehicle collisions). In addition, there could be safety and social concerns for members of the public, such as the potential increase in vehicle collisions, as well as damage to property and nuisance problems.

There are a number of deer along Walnut Creek and throughout the community. We realize that people who feed deer, do so with good intention. However, even though you may feel you are helping them if you feed them, please bear in mind that wildlife should remain wild. They should find their food and shelter in natural habitats. This gives them the on-going ability to adapt and survive.

Feeding deer

People are often tempted to feed deer during winter in order to “save” them from winter conditions. This practice causes a particular set of problems. Research has shown that there is actually little or no benefit from feeding deer during winter. In fact, there are a number of negative consequences. Here is why you should not feed deer:

- * Artificial feeding may not actually improve winter survival.
- * Deer visiting feeding areas lose their natural wildness and aversion to people.
- * Feeding manufactured food products removes their natural adaptations to cope with severe winters in their natural habitat.
- * Natural migration patterns to their wintering areas may be disrupted if the animals are enticed to remain at a feeding area.
- * Deer become concentrated around feeding areas, resulting in destruction of natural habitat.
- * Concentrations of deer at feeding stations also increase the risk of disease transmission among the animals.
- * The digestive system of deer adapts to the typical natural food that is available during winter. Improper feeding of other food types can cause digestive problems that may result in death.
- * Deer that become accustomed to feeders and are then not fed proper quantities or quality of food will also die.

Thank you for your cooperation in assisting property owners and wildlife.