

Assemblymember
Pamela J. Hunter
128th District

Deer Survey:
Summary and
Analysis 2017
128th District Survey

Prepared June 2017

Assemblymember
Pamela J. Hunter



Assembly District 128

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June 9, 2017

Mayor Stephanie A. Miner
City of Syracuse, City Hall
233 E. Washington Street
Syracuse, NY 13202

Supervisor Edward Michalenko
Town of DeWitt, Town Hall
5400 Butternut Drive
E. Syracuse, NY 13057

Dear Mayor Miner and Supervisor Michalenko:

The increasing deer population has been a growing problem in our district, and nowadays we see them all around our neighborhoods. Traffic accidents, emptied gardens, and tick-borne illnesses have all resulted due to the rise in the deer population throughout Upstate New York. Since 2011, there have been numerous neighborhood meeting and task force meetings, with a 2014 preliminary report disseminated by SUNY ESF that included herd numbers, ratio of deer to neighborhoods, potential remediation's, and the cost for each method.

The 2014 SUNY ESF study found over 220 deer living in the east side of Syracuse and a small part of the town of DeWitt. The highest concentration was recorded around St. Mary's Cemetery, where researchers estimated a herd consisted of as many as 60 deer. Additionally, in September 2014, a joint City of Syracuse and Onondaga County task force released a report on the deer issue. The task force recommended that the City and the County work together to develop an effective deer management program for the Eastside neighborhoods of the City of Syracuse and in the Town of DeWitt. They also suggested specific remediation methods, stating that non-lethal methods were recommended, but noted how lethal methods would be more effective in the short term.

In December 2015, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) responded to a letter you wrote Mayor Miner about the city's deer problem. In its response, the DEC stated it was the responsibility of the City and the rest of the effected communities to reach a consensus on what remediation methods they want to use and to take responsibility in implementing the decision. More specifically, that the DEC's role is typically to provide advice and technical assistance and to issue special permits to help control the deer numbers.

I was able to secure \$200,000 in the 2016-2017 New York State budget to assist in managing the deer populations on the East Side of Syracuse and in the town of DeWitt. \$150,000 went to SUNY ESF to

develop a detailed plan. This plan will include an assessment of the current herd, updated remediation methodologies and cost along with the deforestation issues relative to the deer population. The plan is expected to be completed near the end of 2017, but is not required for municipalities to move forward with their deer management plans. The remaining \$50,000 is being held to assist Syracuse and DeWitt in implementing deer management strategies.

To assist the City of Syracuse and Dewitt in moving forward with gathering information from its residents about the deer issue and remediation methodologies, I mailed 12,000 surveys to residents living in the east side of Syracuse and DeWitt in late 2016.

The attached report breaks down the results of each survey question by zip code, providing recommended action by residents. Additionally, as reference, survey respondents' addresses are visually mapped out by zip code. And finally, comments from the surveys are included.

I hope you find the results of the survey useful to make better informed decisions about deer management in our communities.

Warm regards,



Pamela J. Hunter
Member, New York State Assembly
128th District

CC:

City of Syracuse Common Council

Honorable Van Robinson, Common Council President

Honorable Helen Hudson, Councilor-At-Large

Honorable Jean Kessner, Councilor-At-Large

Honorable Joseph Nicoletti, Councilor-At-Large

Honorable Steven Thompson, Councilor-At-Large

Honorable Joseph Carni, 1st District Councilor

Honorable Chad Ryan, 2nd District Councilor

Honorable Susan Boyle, 3rd District Councilor

Honorable Khalid Bey, 4th District Councilor

Honorable Nader Maroun, 5th District Councilor

Town of Dewitt Town Board

Honorable Joseph Chiarenza

Honorable Karen Docter

Honorable Jamie Frank

Honorable Kerry Mannion

Honorable Kerin Rigney

Honorable Sam Young

Survey Notes

- Over 12,000 surveys were mailed to residents in the four focus zip codes 13210, 13214, 13224, 13078
- During the course of the survey period 1,293 surveys were returned; several hundred surveys were returned that were not included in the focus zip code areas. Those results were not included in the analysis
- Overwhelmingly, survey respondents are concerned about the deer herds living in their neighborhoods (64% Very Concerned & 17% Moderately Concerned)
- The spread of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses is the greatest concern (47% of respondents)
- An overwhelming majority responded when asked if action should be taken to reduce the deer population...89% said Yes
- The solution respondents would like to see utilized by a margin of 59% is to have a percentage of the deer herd culled by professional sharp shooters
- Respondents (70%) also indicated that they would support a combination of lethal and non-lethal methods for reducing deer numbers
- Not all questions were answered on every survey

1 - How concerned are you about the deer living in your neighborhood?

Zip Code	Very Concerned	Moderately Concerned	Slightly Concerned	Not At All Concerned	Total
13078	75	18	15	14	122 (13%)
13210	108	36	14	25	183 (20%)
13214	154	58	27	27	266 (28%)
13224	271	46	24	28	369 (39%)
Total	608 (64% of total)	158 (17% of total)	80 (9% of total)	94 (10% of total)	940

2 - Please choose your greatest concern from the list below

Zip Code	The deer are causing property damage including to my home and landscaping	The deer are a traffic hazard, causing disruptions and collisions	The deer contribute to the spread of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses.	Total
13078	24	25	57	106 (13%)
13210	56	19	81	156 (19%)
13214	90	43	101	234 (28%)
13224	134	53	151	338 (40%)
Total	304 (36% of total)	140 (17% of total)	390 (47% of total)	830

3 - Do you think action should be taken to reduce the deer population?

Zip Code	Yes	No	Total
13078	106	17	123 (13%)
13210	157	24	181 (20%)
13214	236	26	262 (28%)
13224	333	33	364 (39%)
Total	832 (89% of total)	100 (11% of total)	932

4 - Which solution would you like to see implemented?

Zip Code	I would like to sterilize the deer using contraceptive drugs	I would like to sterilize the deer surgically	I would like a percentage of the deer to be culled immediately by professional sharp shooter	I would like a percentage of the deer to be culled by allowing private hunters to take additional game during the deer season	Total
13078	18	18	62	21	119 (14%)
13210	37	3	95	21	156 (19%)
13214	60	5	122	45	232 (28%)
13224	78	9	214	31	332 (39%)
Total	193 (23% of total)	35 (4% of total)	493 (59% of total)	118 (21% of total)	839

5 - Would you support a combination of lethal and non-lethal methods for reducing deer numbers?

Zip Code	Yes	No	Total
13078	80	41	121 (13%)
13210	131	50	181 (20%)
13214	167	84	251 (28%)
13224	251	100	351 (39%)
Total	629 (70% of total)	275 (30% of total)	904

Maps

Maps were created for each of the focus zip codes; 13078, 13210, 13214, and 13224. Each map indicates the areas of the Assembly District, Municipality, and Zip Code. Additionally, the maps highlight which streets in each zip code that had a response rate of more than seven (7) survey responses returned.

Street Name	Number of Survey Responses	Range of House Numbers	Zip Code
Allen Street	11	317-754	13210
Bradford Parkway	20	107-622	13224
Brookford Road	8	214-406	13224
Crawford Avenue	28	103-915	13224
Cross Road	10	21-36, 62, 101	13224
Cumberland Avenue	12	120, 526-613	13210
Demong Drive	8	420-805	13214
Dewitt Road	16	101-306	13214
E. Genesee Street	18	2121-4465	13210, 13214
E. Seneca Turnpike	10	5906-7176	13078
Euclid Avenue	21	1101-2206	13224
Fellows Avenue	12	270-706	13210
Harrington Road	10	103-131	13224
Hillsboro Parkway	8	105-522	13214
Hurlburt Road	12	207-321	13224
Janet Drive	8	100-113, 205	13224
Lockwood Road	8	202-236, 308	13214
Meadowbrook Drive	10	704-1324, 1615	13224
Nottingham Road	12	221, 603-701, 803, 904	13078, 13224
Radcliffe Road	9	203, 402-423, 110, 1301	13214
Revere Road	8	110-305	13214
Roosevelt Avenue	8	130-412	13210
Salt Springs Road	20	234-843, 1017-1620	13214, 13224
Scott Avenue	26	205-716	13224
Scottholm Boulevard	12	105-401	13224
Scottholm Terrace	13	102-310	13224
Standish Drive	26	109-705	13224
Stanton Drive	8	109-326	13214
Westcott Street	11	329, 429, 460, 612, 956-1105	13210
Westmoreland Avenue	21	552, 796, 1076	13210
Wethersfield Road	10	5240-5266	13078

Deer Survey Comments

The comments listed below were taken directly from the returned surveys. Corrections to spelling were the only modifications made.

- Encourage hunting and sell the meat.
- Let more hunters hunt.
- The Lyme disease problem should be addressed by looking into treating the rodents with pesticides to treat Lyme disease bacteria. I support non-lethal methods only.
- I heard that sterilization is difficult and expensive.
- I think the furor over property damage is caused by those with anger who insist on artificially perfect landscapes.
- I hope you make a decision that is helpful and humane.
- Should use non-lethal human interventions to introduce predators which have died out.
- I support the most humane process to control the deer population in Syracuse.
- Why can't deer be tranquilized and relocated to areas away from neighbors?
- Why can't the deer be corralled live and trucked up north to Adirondacks and let free to live there?
- Non-lethal solutions too expensive and don't work. It is normal for large numbers of humans to live in urban areas, not deer.
- I do not agree with any of these. We have no right to kill off the deer population.
- I understand that the DEC says sterilization efforts are not effective. I also understand that extended hunting quotas will not have a significant effect on city deer herds.
- Thank you for asking! I do not want lethal means used to reduce the deer population. I think it's fine the way it is.
- A combination of these solutions would be great.
- Deer are a traffic hazard and contribute to disease and illness.
- Our dog died of Lyme disease from local deer. We no longer allow our child to play in the yard due to this issue.
- Not able into yard because of ticks.
- The deer have no natural predators in our semi urban environment. Their numbers are out of balance now and human intervention is required.
- I do not own properties but I work for people and I know the damage.
- I am a hunter myself and would like to be part of the solution.

Deer Survey Comments (continued)

- A proper deer management plan should focus on establishing natural spaces in which deer and predators may thrive.
- Many deer roam around and cause traffic hazards.
- Deer jumped over neighbors fence got caught, wounded and wondering around. Terrifying sight, deer suffering, and horrible situation.
- I think a combo of sterilization and culling is the most effective option.
- All three are concerns on question 2.
- Lower my taxes equal to the amount of damage to my property over the years. Make neighborhood safe from disease so my grandchildren can play in the yard.
- 40 or more deer per sq. mile in my hood. I've seen them nursing and defecating and sleeping on my property. "Study" the problem but do something ASAP.
- We love wildlife but have invested much in our garden. As a gardener and a hiker I am concerned about the Lyme tick! There must be a plan to lessen the deer impact.
- We humans are way too eager to kill anything that gets in our way. Spend time on non-lethal solutions.
- Preferably, I'd like to see the deer caught or rounded up and relocated, perhaps to the Adirondacks.
- We have 3-7 deer in our yard almost on a daily timeframe. We have a small dog and grandkids that are in our yard often to play.
- I plant flowers they don't bother and I don't grow a garden and whatever lawn damage they do is old.
- For #4a and b are unrealistic. For, hunting is probably not allowed where the deer live.
- A friendlier approach should be taken. A study possibly to see if re-location is possible or building fences for containment.
- It would be nice to know how large the herd is and what could be an optimal balance between deer, people, etc.
- My property is the pathway for deer around LeMoyne College. Flowers, plants, etc. are always eaten, I'm also worried about Lyme Disease
- Leave things as they are. We've built houses in their habitat so they have nowhere to go.
- Have hit 3 deer on Woodchuck Hill Road!
- I got in an accident on Randall Road because of a deer. And they eat and trample my plants.
- This needs to happen! There are going to be more deer than squirrels soon. One incentive to move from University area to Jamesville was that the deer were aggressive in small yard in Syracuse.
- Castrate the bucks.

Deer Survey Comments (continued)

- All issues for Question #2 are serious.
- Forget contraception. In addition to culling by sharp shooters, could sterilize the males.
- I think more education to residents is needed i.e. landscape methods, sprays on existing plants.
- Sterilization is too expensive.
- We have lived in DeWitt since 1959. The deer problem is getting worse every year we live here.
- My sister lives in Rochester and bow hunters can take deer there. We should also permit bow hunting.
- The deer are becoming invasive to our area we can't enjoy our yards because of threat of Lyme disease. Please do something.
- The situation with the deer in my neighborhood has been out of control for years!!! They are a health hazard and a huge traffic hazard besides destroying our own property. Do something now!
- Time of picking up deer droppings all over my yard. Worried of catching Lyme disease and grand kids playing around yard.
- I have been treated twice for Lyme disease which came both times after raking leaves! Deer wander all over the Dewitt suburb and Lyme should be a concern especially to families with small children.
- Tranquilize and transport out to surrounding rural countryside.
- Combo of sterilization and culling.
- The deer population in our neighborhood (Bradford Heights) has increased significantly in the last few years. Please take action!
- I can't allow my grandchildren to play in the yard due to fear of Lyme.
- Question 2: It's not so much damage as it is the inability to plant things the deer don't eat. They eat everything, even "deer resistant" plants.
- Please remember- we are living in their neighborhood, not vice versa.
- It's hard to choose the answer for question 2. Both and A and B are major concerns.
- We have deer on our property all the time.
- Leave the deer alone!
- I had Lyme disease in 2011 and now still have it return every now and then. Almost died!! 2009 had a collision with a deer. Car cost to repair was \$2,800 and I could have been injured.
- The greatest damage by deer is to our woodlands and forests where they eat new tree sprouts.

Deer Survey Comments (continued)

- City deer won't necessarily relocate to the country if country populations are over hunted. City deer prefer the city, so we need a city solution.
- We have fenced our vegetable garden and flower gardens, leaving unfenced certain perennials. In our neighborhood, the deer are not traffic problems. We also protect our dogs and cats with tick and flea collars or medicine.
- 8 point buck has made my yard his home. I don't want them by my yard.
- I have lost thousands of dollars in damage and am scared of Lyme disease.
- Round up the deer and ship them to Montezuma Wildlife pasture. Plenty of room for them to roam.
- The deer should be dealt with in the most compassionate means possible. I cannot support culling as an option to control the deer population.
- Use bow hunters because of noise issues.
- Other concerns include deer poop all over backyard and deer behaving in an increasingly assertive way.
- These deer are huge and a danger in the roads. Every year it gets worse.
- Cull the deer and donate the meat.
- A deer ran into my car caused \$5,000 damage. It hit me in the village of Fayetteville on the main street.
- Deer are not an endangered species. Let's feed the hungry!
- Thank you for taking issues seriously. For #2 I'd have liked to circle all the choices.
- To question #2, I am concerned about ALL the answers.
- I understand we have caused the overpopulation, but there are too many deer in residence areas that can cause disease.
- Besides the issue of ticks, my landscape is a mess. Something needs to be done ASAP.
- I often see the deer where I live and I wouldn't begrudge sharing the habitat with them if it weren't for the risk of illnesses.
- We've taken their natural habitat and created a problem for them! Now you want to kill them! We should welcome them! They are God's creatures too!
- Way too many deer, something has to be done.
- Another concern is the introduction of predators into the city and the potential interaction with domestic pets.
- I am stopping gardening due to deer population, not enjoyable anymore.
- Do take action to reduce the growing deer population. The earlier the better. There are too many around the LeMoyne College area.

Deer Survey Comments (continued)

- I see deer or signs of deer every day in this neighborhood. They come out of Menorah Park. Vegetation damage is prevalent.
- Don't kill them.
- Deer have come up to my back door and eaten from the pots on my step. One time at our old house we counted 18 deer in one day in the woods between my house.
- Consider cost and effectiveness.
- I believe the population could get out of control without impacting taxes.
- Very concerned about Lyme, know about friends and gardeners in our area who have been sick because of Lyme.
- The number of people infected with Lyme is far more than reported. I'm fed up with the number of deer related accidents. Thanks for reaching out to us!
- I've lived in Dewitt for a short time. I do not have pets. I see how families with dogs would be concerned. Please, make a decision with very little costs. Allowing bow hunting for all hunters makes more sense.
- An annual culling event with butchering meat and distributions to the poor would be my first preference. (I believe this is done in Long Island)
- The process needs to be done humanely!
- I am uncomfortable with the concept of culling the deer population via sharp shooters but don't find the contraceptive as "doable."
- We like the deer. They remind us not to forget nature.
- I would welcome expert opinions about the best way to reduce the deer population.
- I love the deer in our community; this is rare in such a city based area. Stop trying to destroy the beauty this ugly city has....
- Our family dog has tested positive for Lyme disease and he's tested yearly. Non-lethal means won't cut the ticks fast enough.
- They know they are safe. They need to be hunted to move. They are in my yard all year round.
- This past summer it was hard to spend time in our yard due to ticks also a car hit our trees in our front yard trying to avoid a deer.
- Question #2- All our concerns. Too many deer for a populous area!
- Remove from neighborhood to the forest and non-residential wooded areas.
- Why did it get so out of control? It's been going on forever, every time we clear land for new housing they come!
- Knock down the number of deer to be able to have a garden without a high fence.
- I've always advocated tranquilizing them and transporting them into the wild.

Deer Survey Comments (continued)

- There should be no bow hunting due to the pain and suffering of deer as well as risk to public safety! Non-lethal is my choice whenever possible, but I understand if it's necessary.
- Sterilization was tried on Long Island and it doesn't work. They must be killed and any plan agreed on must be implemented annually. There is no one-time fix. They eat everything in my yard!
- Damage to landscape and fences at our home- only in past 5 years- has caused a depression in our neighbors, Lyme disease is so debilitating- as a victim I know, although I contracted it elsewhere.
- Protect the coy wolves, natural predator to deer. I have had to have rabies shots because of contact with dead deer in my yard.
- I have so many deer that come through my property. I drive to work at 6:30am and the deer are so dangerous it's hard trying to navigate in the morning.
- Huge safety issue, I have 3 kids and would be happy see them all gone. Please get rid of them all.
- Why not distribute a spray to each home and ask them to spray? These animals are so beautiful- we should not kill them.
- 3 vehicle collisions w/deer. Eating destroying flower brush, gardens.
- We love animals. Please do not hurt them. They are beautiful and mice bring ticks. Cooperstown uses deer as a tourist attraction.
- I am also worried about Lyme disease in our area.
- Give deer room. Decrease or stop developing the land, there are too many houses (empty) in the city.
- If the deer are to be killed, which I don't support, the meat should go to food pantries or similar venue.
- I do not want private hunter with guns tracking deer through my yard. Donate or auction meat.
- Deer are an increasing hazard, act soon!!!
- I am very concerned about the public health epidemic of Lyme disease as city residents we are prohibited by law in taking any action on our own.
- Only recommends deer to be culled if meat is donated to feed the hungry.
- I love seeing them but they can cause damage to plants/flowers and can be a concern to traffic.
- I completely support lethal removal of the deer by hunters (1st choice) or professionals. If you go with the professionals, can the meat be available to the public?
- Would like inspected safe deer meat from professional hunters available for sale- as it is in Europe.
- I think the action that causes the least harm to the deer should be taken; this is their home, too.

Deer Survey Comments (continued)

- Meat should go to the poor.
- I'd like a child and pet safe option that the ESF faculty can agree on.
- Please leave the deer alone. Please drive with caution to avoid contact with deer. Do not feed the deer, do not kill the deer. Thank you.
- I don't believe that we should kill anything but there is too many deer. Send them to another area- not the city.
- Would not want any private or professional hunters near my property, don't want any accidental shootings!
- My husband got Lyme Disease- most likely in our backyard. We live on a deer highway, constantly in our own backyard. Can't even scare them away.
- If you use sharpshooters take meat to food bank. Great job Pam!
- Don't delay on reducing the deer population in our community.
- Supply information to homeowners on how to discourage deer from entering yards and property.
- Venison could be butchered and given to food banks, soup kitchens. I know many refugees who would welcome the free meat.
- Need "0" population. Deer at my house sleep and eat here. My bushes need total irradiations. No room for large game in city. They are not cute.
- I live in a cul-de-sac and the deer walk down the street and come close to my home. I garden a lot so I'm afraid of Lyme.
- This is my family and neighbors #1 concern. It is out of control and we can no longer enjoy our yards without fear. Something must be done now!
- I have no problem with hunting /culling the herd but it's a short term solution. Sterilization makes the most sense (drugs, not the surgery) if an appropriate drug regimen is available.
- I'd support a solution arrived at by research and recommended by experts.
- We should not use expensive medical-like treatments. Funds are better used to benefit humans who more important.
- Can you capture some and transport them to state and national forests?
- Easy fix, give out more deer tags and extend hunting season.
- There are usually herds of deer eating my flowers, there are too many.
- Our yard is covered in deer feces and we have lost thousands of dollars in landscaping. We are disgusted by the lack of action from the city!
- Please do not shoot firearms or use poison in my neighborhood. I have a dog that I love and do not want any harm to come to her because of your lethal action.

Deer Survey Comments (continued)

- For #2 all of those are applicable
- Question 4 first choice is “C” as long as deer are processed for homeless food pantries and the like.
- It is difficult for our neighborhood when whatever is planted becomes deer food.
- Sending the meat to feed the hungry is important.
- A hazard in traffic and carry disease!
- Spend the money wisely. Culling may be best solution.
- No I want them killed.
- Have deer in my yard at night for the past 2 years. They leave poop in bushes and eat my plants and flowers.
- Reducing # of deer may not lower risk of diseases. Can deer be immunized vs. Lyme disease?
- Hopeful something will be done to manage the population of deer.
- Several have limped across my yard after being hit by a car. They will die slowly-not right. They have ruined my yard and landscape. This city has to have the guts to take action.
- I would like to concentrate on using already built structures and stop knocking down trees and forests to build apartments and gas station and things. The deer are not over populated, it is because we are building too many buildings and the wild has no place to live. This is very sad.
- I love deer meat and think hunters be allowed to take home for winter meat, it's really good meat. Do not kill them if you're not going to eat the meat.
- My street has had 4 people contract Lyme disease. I cannot plant anything. Non-lethal means are pensive and ineffective. Thank you for your actions on our behalf.
- Teach people in your district how to trap on their own property and dress the deer to put in their freezers.
- Don't drug them, sterilize them.
- It seems like no one action is the solution. Instead we need a multifaceted, sustained effort over a decade or more. This is what I support.
- Part of the issue is due to lack of natural predators. The deer are crowded in other areas of dense human population- little natural habitat away from people. I worry about hitting them with my car as much as worrying about harming people or property garden damage.
- The deer in the DeWitt area are a huge problem!
- Please don't kill the deer. It is human's fault that natural ecology is so out balance to cause overpopulation of deer, raccoons, skunks, woodchucks, etc. Thank you!
- I have 6 to 8 deer in my yard for the last 10 years. Sharp shoot could take the deer and provide the food bank with meat for the needy!
- My car recently sustained substantial damage because a deer ran into the side of the front bumper. Thank you for addressing this issue.

Deer Survey Comments (continued)

- We as humans have created the problem- take over natural habitat, disrespect other species, and wipe out natural predators.
- I consider this a problem that's only going to get worse. I now have to clean up piles of deer poop before mowing my lawn. They have destroyed plants and bushes and many on my street have been bitten by ticks.
- They're causing so much property damage and there are so many.
- Technique used in Kentucky- shoot deer with medication called succinylcholine- temporarily paralyzes deer so they can be transported out of area.
- The deer population continues to grow every year and the danger increase, health-wise and safety. Thank you for paying attention to this issue!
- These animals are our responsibility! We are in a crisis condition. I am an avid deer hunter and know these beautiful creatures are hurting from overpopulation.
- For #4- c if it can be done safely and effectively, not opposed to a or d.
- I would say sterilization would be best in city but I heard it would cost too much. I am not opposed to sharpshooters or hunters but worry about accidents!
- Deer have destroyed our hosta, tiger lilies and other flowers we have as many as 6 deer here every day.
- Any reduction in the population would be appreciated.
- Don't want private hunters culling the herd. Too dangerous.
- Sterilization is very expensive and not effective. Culling is best solution. Also- thank you! For finally addressing this large problem!
- Any work/management must be humane and compassionate as humans created this problem.
- I am pleased that you will help eliminate this awful problem in the correct way, they are such a nuisance.
- We circled our #1 choices but would welcome any solution if our choices turn out not to be feasible.
- Because it is of my understanding that non-lethal methods are not effective.
- My home is located next to an abandoned house and the deer now use the property as an obstetrical ward. The deer are delivering/raising their young on this property.
- Shoot them with needles put them to sleep, take them back to the wild.
- The deer are lovely to look at, but with them the rabbits and woodchucks, the flowers and bushes have been decimated.
- I've been bitten by deer ticks- my partner is currently battling what we think is Lyme.

Deer Survey Comments (continued)

- Cost is also a factor for me- effective but w/ budget in mind.
- Hunting in rural areas to cull the population will not address the current in herd in our neighborhood.
- Dangerous for children to play in yards due to Lyme disease found from ticks in deer.
- These are like giant rats carrying a plague. They are no longer charming wildlife due to their excess population.
- I picked two ticks off my leg this year.
- Experts should determine most humane and effective method(s)
- Please let's cull the nuisance deer before the damage is irreplaceable.
- I spend a lot of time outdoors and Lyme disease and tick presence is a big problem.
- We are favorable impressed by the effort made earlier in Fayetteville, NY.
- Landscaping takes a real hit and tick-borne illnesses are of grave concern.
- My son had bad Lyme disease last year from playing outside the yards.
- I am exasperated by this issue! I don't think spending so much money will help. Get money from the insurance companies to help control the deer population.
- Deer don't belong in city life; please protect babies and children and puppies from Lyme disease. God please you, don't let children's pets die.
- Perhaps educate people on how to minimize damage from deer. What to plant, use of scents for deterrence, use of fencing/netting.
- As there are no natural predators for deer it's their relocation. Hunting field in Fayetteville the game could go to food bank to help so many...win-win.
- It's important if culling is implemented so that the meat must be put to good purposes such as feeding the hungry.
- There has been nothing but taking and passing the buck. The only answer is to cull the heard, please act soon.
- Random hunting? Illegal last year someone shot an arrow at deer in my backyard. We found the arrow sticking to the ground 3 feet from house.
- This issue has been extensively discussed, researched and debated in our area already. It is very frustrating to still see at this stage. We should institute a culling program like Fayetteville ASAP.
- I have a lot of deer. Don't mind them a bit. If they must be culled, I would want sharp shooters and the meat to be harvested and donated to food pantries.
- I was part of the 2012-13 Ad Hoc deer committee and task force. The huge public interest in deer issues means we need more public education. I fully support non-lethal means, but it may be necessary to reduce by lethal means at first.
- I think sterilization would be difficult and expensive. Unless a food could be developed that deer would eat and cause disruption.

Deer Survey Comments (continued)

- If you increase the percent of deer taken by hunters, will not reduce the population of deer.
- Leave the deer alone.
- Could they be relocated?
- The deer cause no problems.
- The city deer watch for cars. Yesterday 7 deer were resting in my back garden.
- Thomas Road South from Le Moyne boundary going south has very frequent multi-deer crossings. There should at the very least be deer crossing signs.
- Consider trapping deer and relocating them to forest, after option c above, prefer sterilization.
- We have 8-10 deer that live in Le Moyne and graze up and down our street nightly. They damage property and are causing danger to people driving. Cull the herd!
- The deer have made it almost impossible to garden in the Salt Springs area. I appreciate this effort very much.
- Deer are causing health hazards.
- Several of these Q's could have been more than 1 answer. Remove the deer soon, thank you.
- Donate meat to food bank. Limit funding research it's a waste of spending.
- Live on city's east side. The deer population already grew for a few years, but this year it seems to have leveled off. I think the neighborhoods have reached peace with the herd at this point.
- They were here first! Reduce local speed limits on local roads.
- Deer is a threat to human health property and safety.
- Although I was asked to circle only one choice in #2, I believe all 3 are important.
- Please reintroduce a natural predator (wolves) to allow nature to manage the over population.
- Can they be encouraged to migrate to areas further from neighborhoods?
- Sorry about your plantings but the deer were here first. With constant building you have taken away their habitat.
- For #2, a and b are equal concerns. We would consider other solutions that the team recommends.
- They are beautiful but they are out of control. Perhaps natural predators could be introduced to help control herd size.
- This is a very difficult issue. They are beautiful animals but they dangers of Lyme disease to children are extremely dangerous.
- For years there has been lots of talk but no action, hope you resolve this problem.
- Sterilization is expensive and often ineffectual.

Deer Survey Comments (continued)

- The solution must include more than 1 approach processing the venison and given to those organizations who feed the needy would be a good addition.
- Follow the lead of Fayetteville and Manlius, hire professional sharpshooters, do this for several years in a row, start today.
- The sooner the better to get this done because they are a hazard and spread their ticks in the yards.
- Great numbers of deer visit my property and the hill behind my property every year. Deer control in Dewitt needs action, not rhetoric, not steps, but action.
- It has gotten out hand, please take action ASAP.
- This is a growing property damage, traffic, and health hazard. We need action now, please let me know the results of this survey.
- Deer are road hazards. Deer destroy property and property values.
- The deer are not only destroying residential landscaping but are also deforesting the wood if their plants.
- I'd also to see coyote allowed to live in our woods at St. Mary's Cemetery- Deer are systematically destroying our nature plants and forests. Allowing invasive species could help clear it.
- A humane birth control plan coupled with a caring approach.
- Have them captured and used to feed the poor.
- We have taken enough land from them so the solution is to kill them and not relocate them? Of course.
- They ruin my garden.
- I've had 3 ticks attack me and gotten Lyme for the last one, garden destroyed by them too.
- In my neighborhood I see them as encouraging drivers to follow speed limits which they otherwise disregard.
- Should children die!!! Lyme disease, destroying property, do deer belong in cities?!
- Severe damage to hedges, bushes, and landscaping- ruining neighborhood- also spread of Lyme disease.
- I believe all the concerns listed under question 2 are serious. I could've circled all three.
- I'm a hunter, would like to bow hunt in city limits.
- Importation and establishment of a mountain-lion population could be considered as a natural means of controlling deer population.
- Deer do not carry Lyme disease this why hunter can eat deer meat.

Deer Survey Comments (continued)

- A great place to cull: the upper ball field behind Edgehill Road is open and would seem a safe spot. Thank you for doing this.
- We live less than block from E Genesee and Westcott St. This summer there were six deer living in the area. We lost 80% of our tomatoes and other garden items. First time this has ever been a problem. We feed 10-12 people from the garden.
- I am opposed to sterilization- I think you should allow license bow hunters and use the meat.
- Bow season exists in other state parks in NY
- I have a pet- so concerned about Lyme disease also concerned about traffic issues and damage to landscaping- they seem to be increasing since I moved here a year ago.
- I was a member of the East Side deer committee, 2012-13. We learned that non-lethal methods are not practical.
- Deer are at my house every year!
- It's getting pretty bad in my yard.
- The deer are smart- they have adapted to the suburbs where they are safer from natural predators.
- My answers because live right next a large farm area and the deer are not a problem but that's not the case for those in Dewitt, Fayetteville, and Manlius.
- My stepson was hospitalized for 5 days due to Lyme disease. The herd needs reduction.
- The deer are beautiful and humans have invaded their space, I am concerned about their safety.
- Children that are going to school and playing could be hurt them. Damage to cars and homes.
- A good place to shoot them would be LeMoyne College reservoir at St. Mary's cemetery. Pretty ironic, huh?
- The problem is an imbalance of the ecosystem. The solution is not to kill deer, they are just a symptom. The concord should be to try and fix the ecosystem.
- As a hunter, I've seen deer population become very low in many of the state forestlands.
- Question 2- I really think all 3 concerns are very serious.
- Due to the selfish acts of humans, the deer are forced to cause problems as they continue to live where they have always lived. The only humane way to solve this is creating a preserve for them or relocation.
- I would like for you to round them up and take them somewhere else. It seems to me that it would be difficult to release them into the wild area in this state.
- As a physician, I am concerned about Lyme's multiple methods.
- At least 4 or fewer deer are in my yard daily.

Deer Survey Comments (continued)

- 20 deer in a neighborhood is too many. They become a hazard to us and themselves.
- I would support sterilization with contraception or safely performed surgery. We have no right to kill the deer who are here because we have taken over their natural habitat. I love the deer.
- Allow residents to remove deer if on property with bow and arrow
- The bucks should be sterilized to prevent pregnancy to the females. They should NEVER be killed
- We are glad you are taking an initiative in the "deer issue". However, the "survey" you recently sent to the east side residents is somewhat misleading and redundant to what has been discussed here for the last 5+ years. It is already clear that we should address all 3 deer concerns: the spread of Lyme disease, property damage and traffic hazards. Unfortunately, the sterilization methods you propose have been found in other towns to be marginally effective, take too long and are VERY expensive. The ESF research has shown that up to 40% of adult ticks in this area are already infected with the Lyme disease organism. New Cases of Lyme Disease are increasing in CNY are we must attack the main carriers (rodents and deer)/ To spend \$200K-\$400K of available public funds on more planning committees and administration may benefit bureaucrats, but would further delay action. Instead, I suggest we use those funds now to begin reducing the rodent population and the deer herd, and continue to monitor progress on a regular basis.
- I love to see the deer in my backyard and do not advocate for total destruction but allow for private hunters to use the meat for the poor or personal needs
- No because we stole that habitat and it is not justice because we stole their habitat and now we're going to kill them
- We appreciate this initiative and hope to see results in the coming year.
- Not only do the deer cause car accidents frequently but they also are a major contribution to Lyme disease. Glad to hear you're looking into solutions
- We should hunt the deer so the meat can be used by the hunter. A percentage of the meat should be donated to the food bank.
- They should be taken back to their natural habitat - far away from cities.
- I am very concerned with the overpopulation. However, I don't want them killed. If there is some other way - perhaps trap them and take them to the zoo or an area where they can roam. If not, whatever will get them out of my yard.
- Not one deer killed! People are the problem. Cull them. Houses are for sale all the time, yet more habitat is destroyed. Example: outer Comstock, builders are given our money!
- Ques #4: I assume this is the most humane way but "c" may be most efficient. "d" would be acceptable. "b" seems unwieldy and expensive and inefficient.
- Are we preserving enough habitats for the deer?
- #5 yes but only if done by private hunter I would support lethal.

Deer Survey Comments (continued)

- The meat from the culled deer should be given to homeless shelters and other services for the poor.
- I am also concerned that the deer do not have enough food for their large number and they painfully starve. Therefore, the numbers should be reduced.
- Thank you! When I moved to my current address I was an avid gardener, but without being able to erect an 8' fence around my gardens, I was forced to give up. The deer sleep in my yard and the wooded lots between Westmoreland and Houston, they are leaving large amounts of droppings in places my pets go and they are great carriers of Cryptosporidium so public health...
- Non-lethal methods. Human development (or poor planning) led to the destruction of their habitat. Could they be captured and released elsewhere in the wild?
- Regarding question 2, all the choices are of concern to me.
- Take over deer habitat, where would we expect them to go? No killing!
- I absolutely oppose any form of culling in our community!
- We love the deer but feel they can spread Lyme disease, which causes physical harm that can last years. Contraception could contaminate water.
- Culling is inhumane. People have to learn to live with the deer. Where are they to live now that so much woodland has been taken
- The deer meat should go to food banks. After the sharp shooters get the deer population down then maybe contraceptive drugs can be used and allowing private hunters to take additional game during the deer season would be enough to keep the herd small. Also thought to bring them up to the Adirondack Park or create a fenced off sanctuary for them. Herd must be reduced for any other idea to work.
- Above all, we are strictly opposed to culling deer. We do not want firearms in the city.
- While I think increasing hunter's "take" would be the most natural solution, it is my understanding that herds are actually smaller in the countryside than in the city. We need to balance health of our citizens with the community's many needs and my guess is that sterilization through drugs is less costly than surgical. Don't know about level of its effectiveness through.
- My wife votes for all the methods depending on the specific area. Alternatively, she says, use science. I say: But why not look next door where their problem was studied and action taken.
- They break my fence and eat my veggie garden over the last three years.
- The problem with the deer situation is that they are worst in populated areas. Letting hunters take more deer won't help the populated areas and could be dangerous if allowed closer to the rural areas.
- Question 4 "d" would not affect the deer problem.

Deer Survey Comments (continued)

- #4 a+b would need a huge budget. I don't wish lethal methods at this time. It's a problem without doubt! At this time, I prefer the most humane + cost concern. Hopefully hunters will use for food.
- This is a health and safety concern but the damage to property is no longer tolerable. The expense is huge and over time degradation of landscape will affect property values.
- Regarding question 2, all the choices are of concern to me.
- I do not support any lethal measures to control the deer population. I'm fine with using contraceptive drugs but please don't kill wildlife, we can drive slower!
- I'd be OK with shooting deer if the meat could be given to the poor or soup kitchens in our community
- Leave them alone. It's nature. Drivers need to be cautious and watch for them
- The cost of protecting landscaping, endangering residents of ticks and road hazards makes DeWitt a less appealing area to live in.
- Half a dozen deer frequent our backyard.
- Both my husband and I had severe tick bites. My dog has Lyme disease now.
- The meat from deer should be dressed and given to the poor.
- Urgent that something be done now, it is a public health issue.
- We need to learn to live with them - drive more carefully, check dogs and ourselves for ticks - before we resort to lethal methods.
- My biggest concern is deer having a negative impact on native ecosystems (especially change in forest species and ecology).
- The deer population is a hazard to our community. All is a concern for #2
- I would support some method of sterilization in conjunction with culling.
- Also of concern, deer starvation/suffering as numbers grow. I would support this option if it could be done responsibly and in concert with sterilization. Thank you for this survey.
- To reduce the deer population immediately, allow sharpshooters to kill the deer and donate the meat to food pantries to feed the hungry kids of Syracuse.
- Any deer that are eliminated should be used for food - venison.
- I had to watch 4 deer on Scott Avenue. Typical.
- Ideal to me would be surgical sterilization but it seems too difficult. How long does contraceptive drugs work?
- We have reduced their habitat. We need to live with them in their area.
- I prefer not to kill deer. They were here first; some areas are affected more than others. I have deer visiting. See those 3 or 4 times a year. They nap on my backyard and wander off.
- I can't let my dog out in the yard, even in the winter because she got bit by a tick.




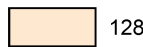

Deer Survey Comments (continued)

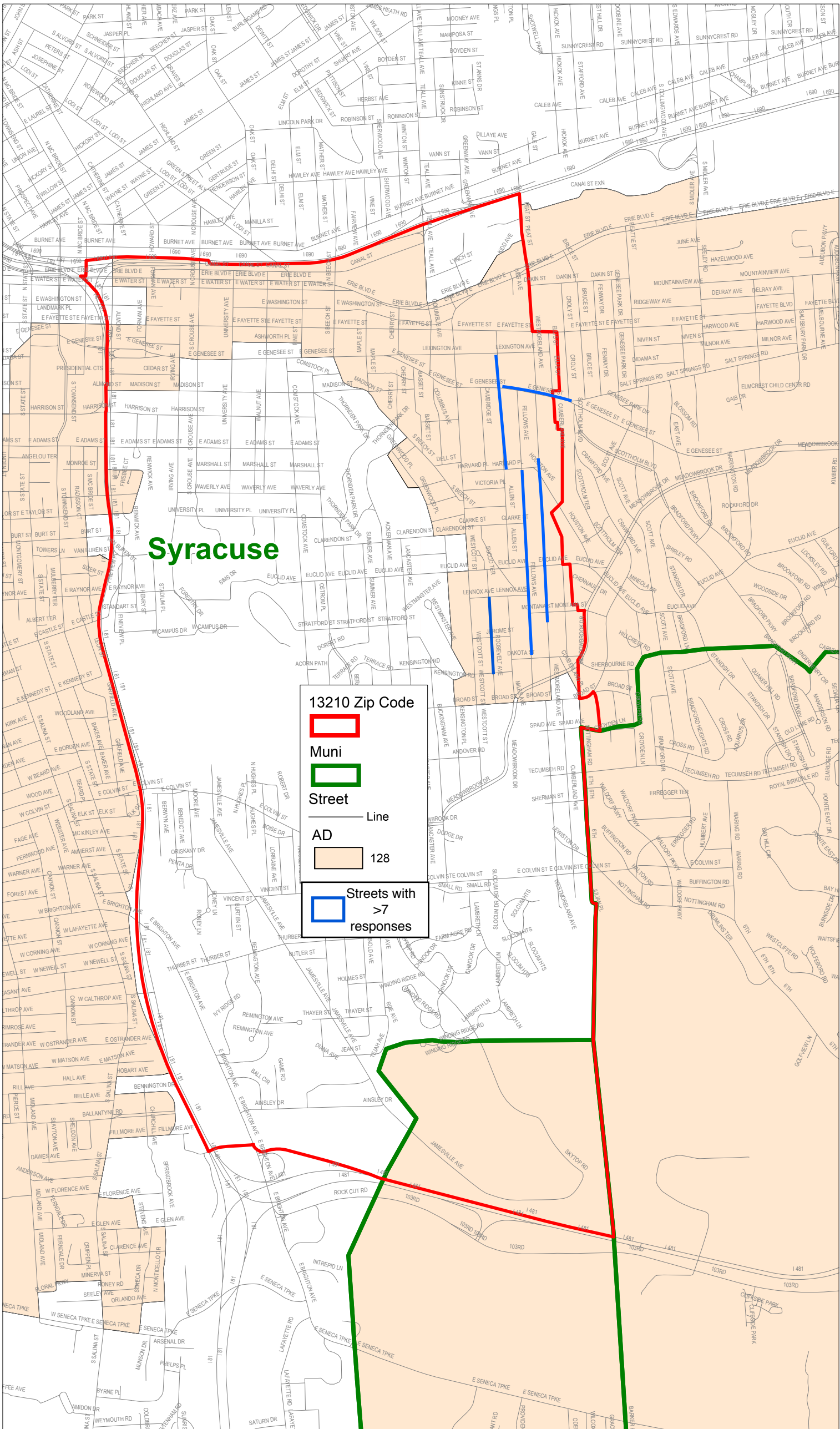
- The answer to #2 is all of them.
- I would like the meat from the culled deer to be used as food.
- They are a beautiful addition to my neighborhood. Thank you for asking!
- 4D will not work. The problem is in our neighborhoods, not in the woods where hunting is allowed.
- In broad daylight (12 noon), a very large deer came running within 6 inches of my husband and I as we sat on our patio. It then jumped a fence where children sometimes play
- Please have deer venison given to food pantries locally.
- My concerns are all of those listed in question #2. I've to date not hit a deer but I worry about it when I drive in my neighborhood. I see one and worry, where are the others?
- How about trapping and slaughtering, with the meat going to food kitchens or homeless shelters.
- They are over running the neighborhood, are not afraid of dogs, cars, or people. The population needs to be reduced.
- I'd like to suggest the creation of a deer refuge in one of the local parks. This way they could be confined in a natural environment without disturbing human activities and be protected as well. For example, Clark Reservation Park could be designated as a "deer reservation area."
- All concerns under question 2 are of great concern.
- 4-7 deer wander through our yard daily. They leave scat throughout our lawn. Last year I cleaned up 1/3 of a 5 gallon bucket of deer scat. I am concerned about having our grandchildren play in our yard. The deer are a health problem!
- I am equally concerned about all 3 choices for question #2.
- Deer from the woods behind LeMoyné College have wreck the evergreen hedge (eating all the lower branches) around my backyard. Now bolder, they eat all flowers and shrubs close to the house. So disheartening.
- Cull the herd, process the meat to food banks or local sale of venison products. This is really a simple prospect.
- The deer are way too close to our houses.
- Deer ate the bottom half of all my cedar trees and killed the small ones!
- Contraceptive drugs are a waste of money.
- All concerns under question 2 are of great concern.
- Because of accidents and Lyme disease, I would love to support both lethal and non-lethal methods if it came to that point that it had to be done that way.

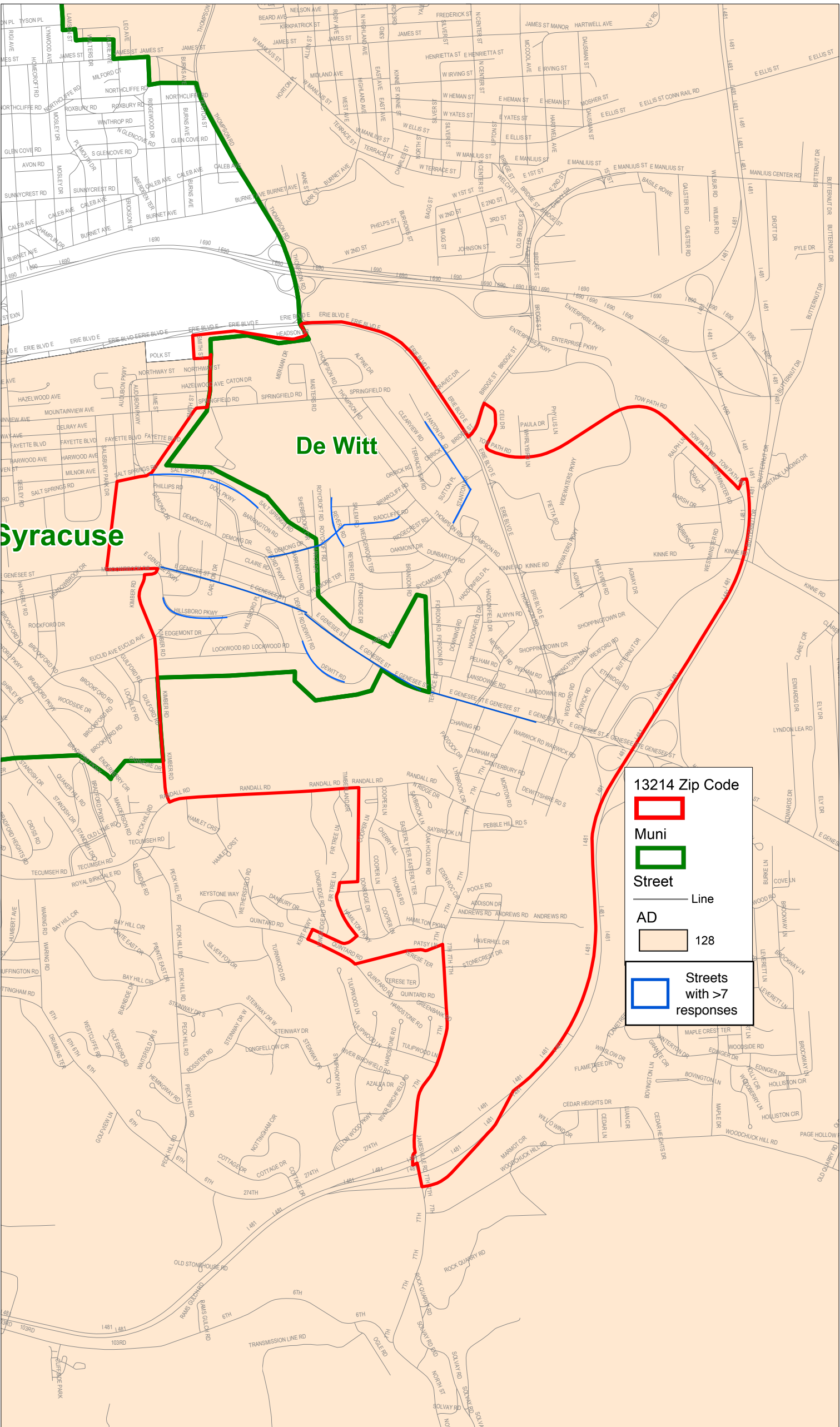
Deer Survey Comments (continued)

- Perhaps the developments should have planned to include natural areas for animals that have inhabited these areas over the years. It is inhumane to kill for human's convenience or aversion to wildlife. People are driving way too fast and should know to slow down in deer zones.
- As a city resident, I feel that deer need to be removed in a way that is safe for city residents (i.e. not shot at, even by "professional sharpshooters"). If there is a way to trap them, release them in a forest preserve far away, that is best.

Syracuse

13210 Zip Code
 Muni
 Street
 Line
 AD 128
 Streets with >7 responses





Syracuse

De Witt

13214 Zip Code

Muni

Street

AD

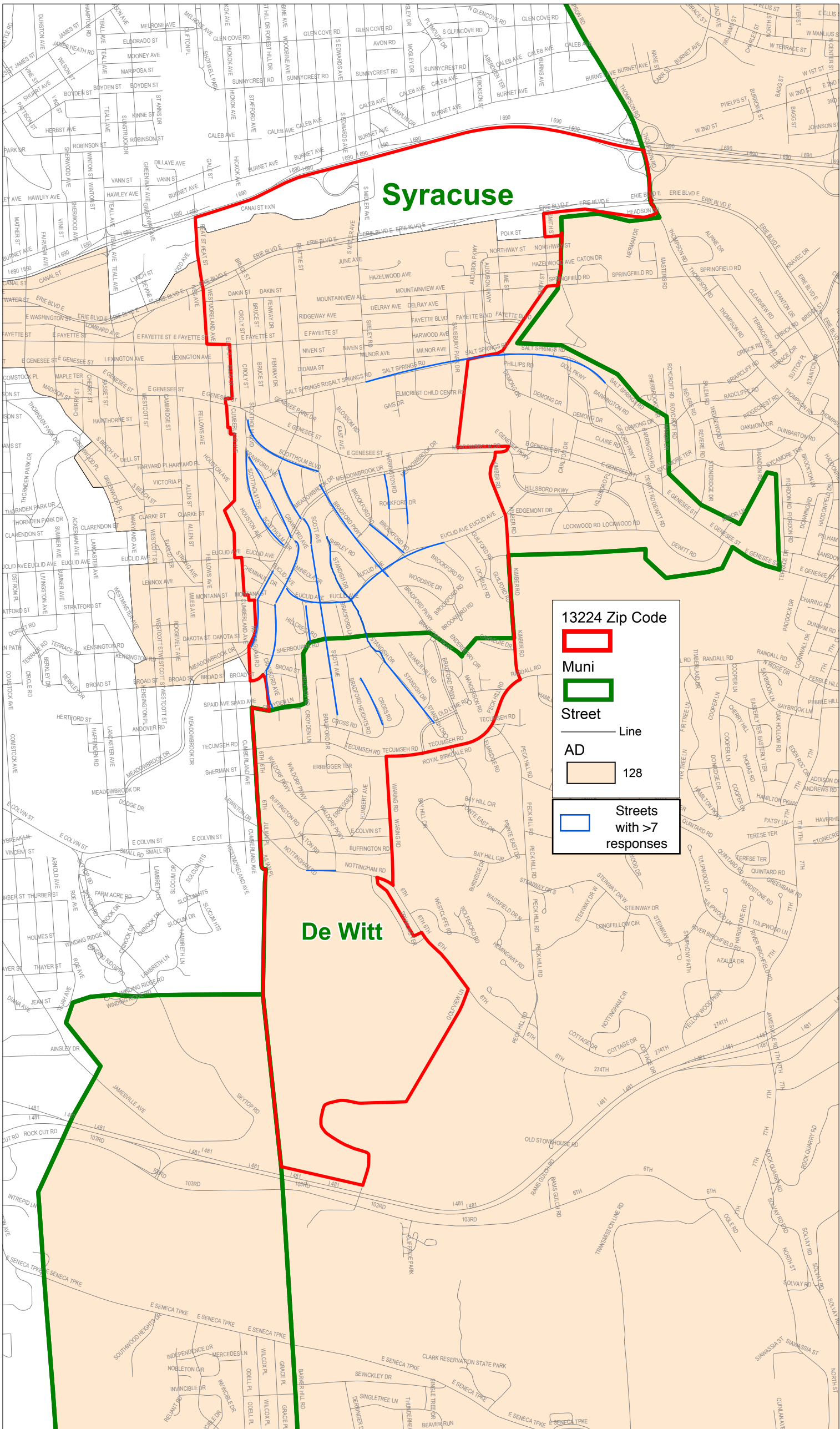
Streets with >7 responses



Line

128

Streets with >7 responses



Syracuse

De Witt

