New York Deer Survey - General

Q1 **Welcome to the New York Deer Survey!**   You are invited to take part in a survey about deer in New York. The survey is part of a research project that investigates how concerns about and responses to deer vary across villages, towns, and cities in New York.   The survey should take approximately 10-25 minutes to complete. You can take the survey alone or consult with other staff or volunteers in your community who have knowledge about deer, hunting, local bylaws, or deer management. You may complete this survey on a mobile device, but we recommend completing it on a computer.   Following completion of the survey, we may contact you to briefly follow up on specific questions and/or to see if you are interested in participating in a follow-up interview.   Your participation in the survey and any subsequent interview is voluntary and your responses will remain confidential. Your survey responses will be labeled with the name of your village, town, or city but not linked to your name or position. We will not include your name or any other identifying information in any reports from this research.   If you have any questions or comments about this research, you may contact the Principal Investigator for the project, Anne Short Gianotti, at agshort@bu.edu. To obtain further information about your rights as a participant in this research project, please contact Boston University Charles River Campus IRB Office at 617-358-6115 or irb@bu.edu.   Thank you very much for helping with this important study!   To begin the survey, please click the arrows below.

Page Break

SECTION 1: Deer in your Municipality
This section contains questions about deer in your village, town, or city and the concerns residents and local officials may have about deer.

We know you may not have exact data or precise answers for all the questions – that is okay. We are interested in your perception *of the local concerns and deer populations. Please answer the questions to the best of your ability based on your experiences in your village, town, or city. You can describe any uncertainty in your answers or provide additional information at the end of the section.*

Q3 **Are deer a concern in your municipality?**

○ Yes

○ No

○ Don't know

Q4 **What proportion of residents have considered deer to be a problem in your municipality?**

○ All or nearly all

○ Majority

○ About half

○ Minority

○ None or nearly none

Q5 How frequently do you or other local officials receive complaints about deer from residents?

○ Often

○ Sometimes

○ Never

○ Don't know

Q6 How has the number of complaints regarding deer changed over the past ten years?

○ The number of complaints has increased

○ The number of complaints has not changed

○ The number of complaints has decreased

○ Don't know

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Q7 How often do <u>residents</u> **express concerns to you or other local officials about the following issues?** *Indicate the frequency for each item below.*

	Frequently	Occasionally	Never	Don't know	Not applicable
Deer-vehicle collisions (Q7_1)	○	○	○	○	○
Damage to agricultural crops due to deer (Q7_2)	○	○	○	○	○
Property damage due to deer (Q7_3)	○	○	○	○	○
Tick-borne disease (Q7_4)	○	○	○	○	○
Impacts of deer on forests (Q7_5)	○	○	○	○	○
Low deer sightings by hunters (Q7_6)	○	○	○	○	○
Other, please describe: (Q7_7)	○	○	○	○	○

Page Break

Q8 **How concerned are _local_ officials about the following issues?** *Indicate the level of concern for each item below.*

	Strong concern	Moderate concern	Minimal/No concern	Don't know	Not applicable
Deer-vehicle collisions (Q8_1)	○	○	○	○	○
Damage to agricultural crops due to deer (Q8_2)	○	○	○	○	○
Property damage due to deer (Q8_3)	○	○	○	○	○
Tick-borne disease (Q8_4)	○	○	○	○	○
Impacts of deer on forests (Q8_5)	○	○	○	○	○
Low deer sightings by hunters (Q8_6)	○	○	○	○	○
Other, please specify: (Q8_7)	○	○	○	○	○

Page Break

Q9 **How are deer populations different from _20 years ago_?** *Please answer to the best of your ability based on your own observations and/or observations shared by others.*

○ There are more deer now than 20 years ago

○ There are approximately the same number of deer as 20 years ago

○ There are fewer deer now than 20 years ago

○ N/A - there have not been deer in this municipality for the past 20 years

○ Don't know

- -

Display This Question:
If Q9 = There are fewer deer now than 20 years ago

Q10 **What do you think caused the decline in deer populations?** *Select all that apply.*

☐ Environmental factors

☐ Recreational hunting

☐ Controlled hunt run by municipality

☐ Hunting through the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP)

☐ Deer cull

☐ Immunocontraception (chemical birth control) program

☐ Surgical sterilization program

☐ Other, please specify:

_____

☐ ⊗ Don't know

Q11 **How do you expect deer populations to change in the _next 5-10 years_?** *Please answer to the best of your ability based on your own observations and/or observations shared by others.*

○ Deer numbers will increase

○ Deer numbers will remain stable

○ Deer numbers will decline

○ Don't know

Q12 **What is the cause (or causes) of the expected decline in deer populations?** *Select all that apply.*

☐ Environmental factors

☐ Recreational hunting

☐ Controlled hunt run by municipality

☐ Hunting through the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP)

☐ Deer cull

☐ Immunocontraception (chemical birth control) program

☐ Surgical sterilization program

☐ Other, please specify:

_____

☐ ⊗Don't know

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Q13 **Please use the space below to comment on any uncertainty in your answers to the questions in this section. You can also use the space to provide any other information that is relevant for understanding concerns about deer and recent changes in population in your municipality.**

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Page Break

Q14 **SECTION 2: Recreational Deer Hunting in your Municipality**

This section contains questions about where recreational deer hunting is allowed and/or restricted in your village, town, or city. **Recreational hunting** *refers to hunting by individuals who have purchased a hunting license and are following NYS Department of Environmental Conservation regulations during regulated hunting seasons.*

Q15 **Are any lands owned or managed by the following entities open to licensed hunters during the regulated hunting season in your municipality?**

	Yes	No	Don't know	N/A - no lands owned/managed by this entity
Private landowners (Q5_1)	○	○	○	○
New York State (Q15_2)	○	○	○	○
Non-profit organizations (Q15_3)	○	○	○	○
Your municipality (Q15_4)	○	○	○	○

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Q16

Some villages, towns, and cities have bylaws or ordinances that intentionally or unintentionally restrict recreational hunting beyond state regulations. These bylaws and ordinances may restrict hunting by limiting access to particular properties, requiring written permission for hunting on certain properties, and/or by restricting discharge of firearms and/or arrows. This question asks about any bylaws or ordinances that directly or indirectly restrict recreational hunting in your municipality.

Q17 **Which of the following hunting bylaws or ordinances exist in your municipality?** *Select all that apply.*

☐ No hunting within municipal limits, no exceptions

☐ No hunting on some areas of municipal properties

☐ No discharge of firearms within municipal limits, no exceptions

☐ Permit, approval, or other written permission required to discharge firearms anywhere within municipal limits

☐ Permit, approval, or other written permission required to discharge firearms on municipal property

☐ Written permission or other consent from landowner required to discharge firearms on private lands

☐ No use of bow and arrow within municipal limits, no exceptions

☐ Permit, approval, or other written permission required to use bow and arrow within municipal limits

☐ Permit, approval, or other written permission required to use bow and arrow on municipal property

☐ Written permission or other consent from landowner required to use bow and arrow on private lands

☐ Other bylaws that directly or indirectly restrict hunting. Please specify:

_____

☐ ⊗None of the above

☐   ⊗ Don't know

Q18 **Please insert a copy of any bylaws or ordinances that intentionally or unintentionally restrict hunting in your municipality, or use the space below to indicate where we may obtain a copy of the relevant text.**

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Page Break

Q19 **SECTION 3: Deer Management in your Municipality**
Some villages, towns, and cities have taken actions beyond hunting to control deer populations. These efforts may include lethal and non-lethal management strategies. This section contains questions about efforts to manage deer in your municipality. Below, we have provided some definitions of key management terms for reference.

Lethal deer management: deer management approaches that control the number of deer by killing deer intentionally. Options for lethal management approaches include:
- ***Controlled hunts***: hunts that occur during the normal hunting season with a set of rules that are established by the municipality. The rules for a controlled hunt are stricter than the state law hunting requirements and can include limiting when hunting can occur, specifying the killing implements that can be used, requiring proficiency tests, as well as other restrictions.
- ***Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP)***: deer management program that provides an allotment of antlerless deer tags that can be used during the regular deer hunting season on designated lands within the municipalities. The deer tags allow hunters to shoot more does than they would with their regular hunting license.
- ***Deer culls***: efforts to control deer populations by killing deer using methods not available to hunters (such as bait, traps, killing outside of the hunting season). To cull deer, municipalities must have a Deer Damage Permit (DDP) issued by the state and must designate permitted agents to kill the deer. Permitted agents can include wildlife control professionals, employees, and volunteers.

Non-lethal deer management: experimental deer management techniques that use fertility control methods to control deer populations. Options for non-lethal management include:
- ***Immunocontraception***: chemical birth control technique that prevents pregnancy in deer
- ***Surgical sterilization***: surgical techniques that prevent pregnancy in deer

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Q20 **Has your municipality employed or experimented with the following forms of local deer management?**

	Yes, in use now	Yes, used in past	No, never used	Don't know
Controlled hunt with rules imposed by municipality (Q20_1)	○	○	○	○
Hunting with extra deer tags through Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) (Q20_2)	○	○	○	○
Culling (Q20_3)	○	○	○	○
Immunocontraception (Chemical birth control) (Q20_4)	○	○	○	○
Surgical sterilization (Q20_5)	○	○	○	○

Display This Question:

If Q20 [Yes, in use now] (Count) >= 1

Or Q20 [Yes, used in past] (Count) = 1

Q21 **In what year did you start your first deer management program?**

_____

Display This Question:

If Q20 [Yes, in use now] (Count) >= 1

Or Q20 [Yes, used in past] (Count) >= 1

Q22 **What are the primary motivations for deer management in your municipality?** *Drag the motivations to show which were important and which did not matter.*

Motivations for deer management. Please put in order of importance.	Not a motivation for deer management/Not applicable
_____ Deer damage to agricultural crops	_____ Deer damage to agricultural crops

_____ Deer damage to gardens/landscaping	_____ Deer damage to gardens/landscaping
_____ Deer-vehicle collisions	_____ Deer-vehicle collisions
_____ Impacts of deer on forest health	_____ Impacts of deer on forest health
_____ Concerns about tick-borne disease	_____ Concerns about tick-borne disease

Q23 **Were there any other factors that motivated deer management in your municipality?**

○ Yes, please specify: _____

○ No

○ Don't know

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Q24 **How are hunters selected to participate in controlled hunt and/or DMAP?** *Select all that apply.*

☐ Hunters are selected on a first come, first serve basis

☐ Hunters are selected through a lottery

☐ Hunters are selected based on proficiency

☐ Other, please describe:

_____

☐ ⊗Don't know

- -

Q25 **If applicable, please describe any minimum qualifications hunters must have to hunt on land owned or managed by your municipality**

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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Q26 **Who has been responsible for culling the deer in your municipality?** *Select all that apply.*

☐   DEC-licensed Wildlife Control Officers

☐   Municipal employees (non-police)

☐   Police

☐   USDA Wildlife Services

☐   White Buffalo

☐   Volunteer agents

☐   ⊗ Don't know

- -

Q27 **What types of shooting implements have been used for deer management in your municipality?** *Select all that apply.*

☐   Crossbow

☐   Vertical bow (standard or compound bow)

☐   Shotgun

☐   Muzzleloader

☐   Rifle

☐   Penetrating captive bolt

☐   ⊗ Don't know

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Q28 Please describe what you would consider a successful management program.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Q29 How successful have _lethal_ deer management programs been in your municipality?

◯ Very successful

◯ Somewhat successful

◯ Not at all successful

◯ Success has varied based on management approach. Describe in text box below:

_____

◯ Don't know

Q30 How successful have _non-lethal_ deer management programs been in your municipality?

○ Very successful

○ Somewhat successful

○ Not at all successful

○ Success has varied based on management approach. Describe in text box below:

_____

○ Don't know

- -

Q31 Earlier in this section, you indicated that there are some deer management strategies that were used in the past and are no-longer in use. Please describe why they are no longer in use.

_____

_____

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_____

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Q32 **Has there been opposition to deer management in your municipality?**

○ Yes

○ No

○ Don't Know

Q33 **Who has voiced opposition to deer management in your municipality?** *Select all that apply.*

☐ Local residents

☐ Residents of neighboring municipalities

☐ New York State residents that do not live within or adjacent to your municipality

☐ People from outside of New York State

☐ Other, please describe:

_____

☐ ⊗Don't know

Q34 What forms of opposition to deer management has your municipality experienced?
Select all that apply

☐ Complaints to local officials

☐ Complaints in town meetings

☐ Lawsuit

☐ Public protests

☐ Other, please specify:

_____

☐ ⊗ Don't know

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Q35 **SECTION 4: Changing Deer Management Approaches in your Municipality**

Some villages, towns, and cities are currently considering or once considered but did not implement changes in hunting or deer management in their municipality. These changes could include lethal and/or non-lethal deer management, amending local bylaws to expand hunting, and/or amending local bylaws to restrict hunting. This section contains questions about any ongoing and prior unsuccessful efforts to implement local deer management programs or to amend local bylaws to modify recreational deer hunting opportunities.

Are you _currently considering_ starting a deer management program and/or changing local bylaws?

○ Yes

○ No

○ Don't know

Q36 **SECTION 4: Changing Deer Management Approaches in your Municipality**

Some villages, towns, and cities are currently considering or once considered but did not implement changes in hunting or deer management in their municipality. These changes could include lethal and/or non-lethal deer management, amending local bylaws to expand hunting, and/or amending local bylaws to restrict hunting. This section contains questions about any ongoing and prior unsuccessful efforts to implement local deer management programs or to amend local bylaws to modify recreational deer hunting opportunities.

Are you *currently considering* any changes to your deer management program and/or local bylaws?

○ Yes

○ No

○ Don't know

Skip To: Q42 If Q36 != Yes

Q37 **What actions _are currently being considered_ to control deer populations in your municipality?**

☐   Changing bylaws to expand hunting access on municipal properties

☐   Removing bylaw restrictions on firearm discharge

☐   Removing restrictions on the use of bow and arrows

☐   Hunting with extra doe tags through Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP)

☐   Controlled hunt with rules imposed by municipality

☐   Culling

☐   Trap and Kill

☐   Immunocontraception

☐   Surgical sterilization

☐   ⊗ None of these actions are being considered

☐   ⊗ Don't know

Q38 Who is being considered for _culling_ the deer in your municipality? *Select all that apply.*

☐ DEC-licensed Wildlife Control Officers

☐ Municipal employees (non-police)

☐ Police

☐ USDA Wildlife Services

☐ White Buffalo

☐ Volunteer agents

☐ ⊗ Don't know

Q39 Is your municipality _currently considering_ amending bylaws to further restrict hunting?

☐ Yes, by creating more restrictive bylaws to limit firearm discharge

☐ Yes, by creating more restrictive bylaws to limit the use of bow and arrows

☐ Yes, by restricting hunting access on municipal properties

☐ ⊗ No, none of these actions are being considered

☐ ⊗ Don't Know

Q40 **List any other options for deer management that your municipality is currently considering.**

_____

Q41 **Please describe any ongoing efforts to explore or implement local deer management programs, change hunting access, and/or to amend hunting-related bylaws**

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Page Break

Q42 **Did your municipality ever** *consider but decide <u>not</u> to implement* **any actions to control deer populations in the past?**

○ Yes

○ No

○ Don't know

Skip To: Q47 If Q42 != Yes

Q43 **Which deer management actions did your municipality** *consider but decide <u>not</u> to* **implement?** *Select all that apply.*

☐ Changing bylaws to expand hunting access on municipal properties

☐ Removing bylaw restrictions on firearm discharge

☐ Removing restrictions on the use of bow and arrows

☐ Hunting with extra doe tags through Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP)

☐ Controlled hunt with rules imposed by municipality

☐ Culling

☐ Trap and Kill

☐ Immunocontraception

☐ Surgical sterilization

☐ ⊗ None of these actions are being considered

☐ ⊗ Don't know

Q44 Did your municipality ever *consider but decided _not_ to implement* any of the following actions to amend local bylaws to further restrict hunting?

☐ Creating more restrictive bylaws on firearm discharge

☐ Creating more restrictive bylaws on the use of bow and arrows

☐ Restricting hunting access on municipal properties

☐ ⊗ No

☐ ⊗ Don't Know

Q45 List any other options for management *considered but _not_ implemented* in your municipality.

_____

Q46 Please describe why your municipality decided not to implement the proposed changes.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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Q47 **SECTION 5: Learning about Deer and Deer Management**
Some villages, towns, and cities provide information about managing the impacts of deer to residents and/or have sought out information about deer populations, the impacts of deer, and/or deer management. This section contains questions about resources your municipality may provide to residents as well as efforts to obtain information about deer in your municipality.

Q48 **Please indicate the types of resources your municipality provides to help residents minimize deer problems on private property.** *Select all that apply.*

☐ Educational events

☐ Pamphlets/fact sheets created by municipality

☐ Pamphlets/fact sheets created by other sources

☐ Information posted on municipal website

☐ Supplies to manage deer impacts (such as fencing, repellents, or other supplies)

☐ Small grants

☐ Other, please describe:
_____

☐ ⊗None

☐ ⊗Don't know

Q49 **What topics are covered in the educational activities, pamphlets, fact sheets, and/or the online resources?** *Select all that apply.*

☐ Deer exclusion through fencing

☐ Deer repellents

☐ Deer resistant vegetation

☐ Habitat management to reduce tick numbers in yards

☐ Pesticide use to reduce tick numbers in yards

☐ Other, please describe:

_____

☐ ⊗Don't know

Q50 **What supplies are provided by the municipality?** *Select all that apply.*

☐ Deer repellents

☐ Deer resistant vegetation

☐ Fencing

☐ Pesticides to reduce ticks in yards

☐ Other, please describe:

_____

☐ ⊗ Don't know

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Display This Question:
  If Q48 = Small grants

Q51 **What activities are eligible for grant support?** *Select all that apply.*

☐ Deer exclusion through fencing

☐ Deer repellents

☐ Deer resistant vegetation

☐ Habitat management to reduce tick numbers in yards

☐ Pesticide use to reduce tick numbers in yards

☐ Other, please describe:

_____

☐ ⊗ Don't know

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Q52 **Has anyone conducted research about the impacts of deer in your municipality?** *Select all that apply*

☐   Yes, municipal officials have conducted research

☐   Yes, other individuals/organizations have conducted research

☐   ⊗No

☐   ⊗Don't know

- -

Q53 **Please describe the deer-related research in your municipality.**

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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Q54 **Who has your municipality consulted or collaborated with regarding deer management?** *Select all that apply.*

☐ Hunters

☐ New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

☐ Non-profit organizations

☐ Other municipalities

☐ Private consultants

☐ Private landowners

☐ University faculty/staff

☐ USDA Wildlife Services

☐ White Buffalo

☐ Other, please specify:

_____

☐ ⊗ None of the above

☐ ⊗ Don't know

- -

Q55 **What non-profit organizations have you consulted regarding deer management?** *Please list.*

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Q56 **What municipalities have you consulted regarding deer management?** *Please list.*

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Q57 **What private consultants have you consulted regarding deer management?** *Please list.*

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Q58 **What university faculty have you consulted regarding deer management?** *Please list.*

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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Q59 **SECTION 6: Respondent background**

Finally, this section contains questions about your position in your village, town or city, and how you have learned about deer in your municipality.

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Q60 **What village, town, or city do you work in?**

   ○ Village name: _____

   ○ Town name: _____

   ○ City name: _____

- -

Q61 **How would you describe the municipality where you work?**

   ○ Urban

   ○ Suburban

   ○ Exurban

   ○ Rural

- -

Q62 **How have you obtained information about deer issues in your municipality?** *Select all that apply. (If multiple people are filling out the survey, please select all relevant answers).*

☐ Personal experience

☐ Contact with residents in your official capacity (e.g., town meetings, phone calls, etc.)

☐ Informal conversations with other residents

☐ Conversations with other town officials or volunteers

☐ Survey of residents

☐ Other, please specify:

_____

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Q63 **In the table below, please indicate the positions held by any people who helped to answer the survey**

	Person 1 (Q63_1)	Person 2 (Q63_2)	Person 3 (Q63_3)	Person 4 (Q63_4)	Person 5 (Q63_5)
Village/Town/City Clerk	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Village/Town/City Manager or Administrator	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
City Council, Town Board, or Board of Trustees	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Animal Control Officers	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Police Chief	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Recreation, Parks, or Other Natural Resource Board/Commissions	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Planning Board/Commission	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Wildlife Manager	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other (please specify)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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End of Block: Default Question Block