

**DEER MANAGEMENT
IN
THE VILLAGE OF CAYUGA HEIGHTS**

Human Dimensions Research Unit
Department of Natural Resources
Cornell University

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Research conducted by the
Human Dimensions Research Unit
Department of Natural Resources
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In cooperation with the
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Bureau of Wildlife

- **Your responses are important!** The results of this survey will be distributed to the Cayuga Heights Deer Committee, a group of citizens appointed by the Village Trustees to study the deer situation. The results also will be made available to any interested residents of Cayuga Heights.
- We would like to hear from EVERYONE who receives this questionnaire, not just those with strong opinions about deer.
- **All your responses will be entirely confidential and will never be associated with your name.**
- Please remember that this questionnaire is to be filled out by the adult in your household with the birthday that occurs latest in the calendar year.
- Please complete this questionnaire at your earliest convenience, seal it in the enclosed envelope and drop it in any mailbox; return postage has been provided.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE!

1. Do you live in the Village of Cayuga Heights? *(Circle one number.)*

1 Yes ----->CONTINUE TO QUESTION 2

2 No ----->STOP HERE. *(Please return this questionnaire in the mail so we do not bother you with additional reminder mailings. Thank you!)*

2. How long have you lived in the Village of Cayuga Heights?

_____ **Years**

DEER IN CAYUGA HEIGHTS

3. The following is a list of interests that people may have regarding deer. Please indicate how interested you are in doing each of the following. *(Circle one number for each item.)*

How interested are you in

	<u>Not At All</u> <u>Interested</u>				<u>Very</u> <u>Interested</u>	<u>Don't</u> <u>Know</u>
watching deer near your home?	1	2	3	4	5	0
photographing deer?	1	2	3	4	5	0
hunting deer?	1	2	3	4	5	0
feeding deer near your home?	1	2	3	4	5	0
seeing deer in Cayuga Heights?	1	2	3	4	5	0
learning more about deer management in Cayuga Heights?	1	2	3	4	5	0
providing input for decisions about deer management in Cayuga Heights?	1	2	3	4	5	0
participating in decisions about deer management in Cayuga Heights?	1	2	3	4	5	0
Other <i>(Please specify:</i> _____)	1	2	3	4	5	0

4. The following is a list of possible problems that people may have regarding deer. Please indicate how concerned you are about each of the following possible problems in the Village of Cayuga Heights. (*Circle one number for each item.*)

How concerned are you about

	<u>Not At All Concerned</u>				<u>Very Concerned</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
	<u>Missing</u>					
a. deer-auto accidents?	1	2	3	4	5	0
b. deer damage to flower gardens?	1	2	3	4	5	0
c. deer damage to trees and shrubs in yards?	1	2	3	4	5	0
d. deer damage to vegetable gardens?	1	2	3	4	5	0
e. deer damage to trees and vegetation in natural areas?	1	2	3	4	5	0
f. deer threatening or harming pets?	1	2	3	4	5	0
g. deer threatening or harming people?	1	2	3	4	5	0
h. Lyme disease?	1	2	3	4	5	0
i. Other (<i>Please specify:</i> _____)	1	2	3	4	5	0

5. Have you personally been affected by any of the problems listed in Question 4 in Cayuga Heights? (*Circle one number.*)

1 Yes -----> (*Please circle the letter(s) below corresponding to those deer-related problems from Question 4 that you have personally been affected by in Cayuga Heights.*)

a b c d e f g h i

2 No

6. How do you personally feel about deer in Cayuga Heights? (*Circle one number.*)

- 1 I enjoy the presence of deer, AND I do not worry about problems deer may cause.
- 2 I enjoy the presence of deer, BUT I worry about problems deer may cause.
- 3 I do not enjoy the presence of deer and regard them as nuisances.
- 4 I have no feelings about deer in Cayuga Heights.

7. Residents may have different preferences about the size of the deer population in the Village of Cayuga Heights. How would you like the deer population in Cayuga Heights to change, if at all? (*Circle one number.*)

- 1 Large decrease
- 2 Moderate decrease
- 3 Slight decrease
- 4 No change
- 5 Slight increase
- 6 Moderate increase
- 7 Large increase
- 0 Don't Know -----> SKIP TO QUESTION 9

8. How important is it to you that the size of the deer population change as you indicated in Question 7? (*Circle one number.*)

<u>Not At All</u>					<u>Very</u>	<u>Don't</u>
<u>Important</u>					<u>Important</u>	<u>Know</u>
1	2	3	4	5		0

9. Listed below are actions that have been suggested for managing deer in other communities. Some are actions individuals might take on their own property; others require collective community action. How acceptable to you personally is each action for managing deer in the Village of Cayuga Heights? (*Circle one number for each item.*)

	<u>Not At All</u> <u>Acceptable</u>				<u>Very</u> <u>Acceptable</u>	<u>Don't</u> <u>Know</u>
Use fences to keep deer away from property (yards, gardens, etc.).	1	2	3	4	5	0
Allow landowners to permit bowhunters to kill nuisance deer on their property.	1	2	3	4	5	0
Sterilize deer or use contraception (birth control) for deer.	1	2	3	4	5	0
Trap deer and move them to another area.	1	2	3	4	5	0
Use <u>firearms</u> sharpshooters to kill deer at bait sites and donate the deer meat to food banks.	1	2	3	4	5	0
Use <u>archery</u> sharpshooters to kill deer at bait sites and donate the deer meat to food banks.	1	2	3	4	5	0
Educate people about how to live with deer, such as educating drivers about how to avoid deer on the road.	1	2	3	4	5	0
Allow regulated <u>archery</u> hunting by licensed hunters to control the deer population.	1	2	3	4	5	0
Allow regulated <u>firearms</u> hunting by licensed hunters to control the deer population.	1	2	3	4	5	0
Reintroduce natural predators of deer.	1	2	3	4	5	0
Let nature take its course without human interference from now on.	1	2	3	4	5	0

	Not At All Acceptable				Very Acceptable	Don't Know
Promote use of ornamental plants on private property that deer are less likely to eat.	1	2	3	4	5	0
Use chemical repellents to keep deer away from plants.	1	2	3	4	5	0
Drug, capture and kill deer by lethal injection.	1	2	3	4	5	0
Restrict development to preserve habitat for deer.	1	2	3	4	5	0
Other. (Please specify: _____)	1	2	3	4	5	0

DECISIONS ABOUT DEER MANAGEMENT

10. In your opinion, which one group should make final decisions about deer management in Cayuga Heights? (Circle one number.)

- 1 Elected officials in state government
- 2 Wildlife managers with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
- 3 The Village Mayor and Trustees
- 4 A majority vote of citizens living in Cayuga Heights
- 5 A committee of citizens representing a variety of interests in Cayuga Heights
- 6 Other (Please specify: _____)

11. When you consider a decision about deer management in Cayuga Heights, how important is each of the following to you? (*Circle one number for each item.*)

How important is it to you that a decision about deer management in Cayuga Heights

	<u>Not At All</u> <u>Important</u>				<u>Very</u> <u>Important</u>	<u>Don't</u> <u>Know</u>
meets your interests?	1	2	3	4	5	0
takes into account citizens' concerns?	1	2	3	4	5	0
produces results?	1	2	3	4	5	0
uses the best science available?	1	2	3	4	5	0
will <u>not</u> be overturned or reversed by the political or legal system?	1	2	3	4	5	0
does <u>not</u> cost too much?	1	2	3	4	5	0
is reviewed periodically?	1	2	3	4	5	0
supports your viewpoint?	1	2	3	4	5	0
is biologically sound?	1	2	3	4	5	0
incorporates the interests of citizens?	1	2	3	4	5	0
is implemented quickly?	1	2	3	4	5	0
does <u>not</u> require spending public funds?	1	2	3	4	5	0
is influenced by citizens?	1	2	3	4	5	0
does <u>not</u> require an increase in taxes?	1	2	3	4	5	0
is effective?	1	2	3	4	5	0
remains in place for a long time?	1	2	3	4	5	0
is based on scientific facts?	1	2	3	4	5	0
is in agreement with your perspective?	1	2	3	4	5	0
Other (<i>Please specify:</i> _____)	1	2	3	4	5	0

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN DEER MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

12. What methods would you suggest the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) use to gather public input for decisions about deer management in Cayuga Heights? (*Circle all that apply.*)

- 1 **No public input should be used**
- 2 **Unsolicited comments from citizens citizens to the DEC, such as letters and telephone calls**
- 3 **Scientific telephone and mail surveys**
- 4 **Meetings open to select groups and invited individuals**
- 5 **Public meetings open to all**
- 6 **Committee of citizens representing a variety of interests who work together to resolve differences**
- 7 **Other**

13. If you circled more than one response in Question 12 above, write the number of the ONE method listed in Question 12 that you most prefer for gathering public input. (*Fill in the blank.*)

14. How much influence do you feel certain groups of people should have on decisions about deer management in Cayuga Heights? *(Circle one number for each item.)*

	<u>No</u> <u>Influence</u>				<u>Great Deal</u> <u>of Influence</u>	<u>Don't</u> <u>Know</u>	<u>Missing</u>
Wildlife managers with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).	1	2	3	4	5	0	
Residents of Cayuga Heights who enjoy deer.	1	2	3	4	5	0	
Visitors to Cayuga Heights who enjoy deer.	1	2	3	4	5	0	
Motorists who deal with deer-auto accidents.	1	2	3	4	5	0	
Local businesses that receive income from deer-related tourism.	1	2	3	4	5	0	
Local businesses that experience damage from deer, such as golf courses.	1	2	3	4	5	0	
Local farmers who experience damage to crops and orchards.	1	2	3	4	5	0	
Local deer hunters.	1	2	3	4	5	0	
Homeowners in Cayuga Heights who experience damage to trees and gardens.	1	2	3	4	5	0	
Residents of Cayuga Heights who are concerned with animal welfare.	1	2	3	4	5	0	
Citizens of New York State who are <u>not</u> residents of Cayuga Heights.	1	2	3	4	5	0	
Other. <i>(Please specify:</i> _____)	1	2	3	4	5	0	

15. You told us earlier how you feel about deer management decisions. Now we want you to think about a decision-making process that involves the public (often called a public involvement process). Public involvement processes may include a variety of methods such as public meetings and surveys. When you consider a public involvement process concerning deer management in Cayuga Heights, how important is each of the following to you? (*Circle one number for each item.*)

How important is it to you that a <u>public involvement process</u>	Not At All Important				Very Important	Don't Know
promotes communication between the DEC and citizens?	1	2	3	4	5	0
genuinely influences the decision?	1	2	3	4	5	0
uses the best scientific information?	1	2	3	4	5	0
weighs citizens' interests differently depending on their importance?	1	2	3	4	5	0
seeks a "win-win" solution?	1	2	3	4	5	0
educates citizens?	1	2	3	4	5	0
considers all citizens' viewpoints?	1	2	3	4	5	0
generates new alternatives to consider?	1	2	3	4	5	0
does <u>not</u> take too long?	1	2	3	4	5	0
does <u>not</u> cost too much?	1	2	3	4	5	0
has a real effect on the decision?	1	2	3	4	5	0
allows input from citizens with relevant views?	1	2	3	4	5	0
improves relationships between the DEC and citizens?	1	2	3	4	5	0
incorporates scientific facts?	1	2	3	4	5	0
reaches a decision quickly?	1	2	3	4	5	0
treats all citizens equally?	1	2	3	4	5	0
improves relationships between citizens with different views?	1	2	3	4	5	0

How important is it to you that a public involvement process	Not At All				Very	Don't
	Important				Important	Know
encourages creative solutions?	1	2	3	4	5	0
does <u>not</u> require spending public funds?	1	2	3	4	5	0
does <u>not</u> deny anyone the right to be heard?	1	2	3	4	5	0
favors those with more at stake?	1	2	3	4	5	0
requires unanimous agreement?	1	2	3	4	5	0
promotes communication between citizens with different opinions?	1	2	3	4	5	0
allows legitimate views to be heard?	1	2	3	4	5	0
gives equal opportunity for all citizens to participate?	1	2	3	4	5	0
significantly affects the decision?	1	2	3	4	5	0
relies on science?	1	2	3	4	5	0
Other. (<i>Please specify:</i> _____)	1	2	3	4	5	0

16. Have you attempted to make your opinions about deer in Cayuga Heights known during the past 2 years? (*Circle one number.*)

1 Yes

2 No -----> SKIP TO QUESTION 18

17. How have you made your opinions about deer in Cayuga Heights known? (*Circle all that apply.*)

1 Discussed deer with friends or neighbors.

2 Contacted the DEC.

3 Attended a public meeting on deer.

4 Wrote letters to the editor or an article to be printed in a newspaper.

5 Contacted a local or state government official.

6 Joined an organization that supports your views on deer.

7 Other (*Please specify:* _____)

18. How much time would you personally be willing to devote to help make decisions about deer management in Cayuga Heights? (*Circle one number.*)

- 1 No time
- 2 One hour per year
- 3 One hour per month
- 4 One hour per week
- 5 More than one hour per week
- 6 Other (*Please specify:* _____)
- 0 Don't know

19. This question asks how you feel about public involvement in wildlife management in general. Which one level of citizen participation do you most prefer for decisions about wildlife management? (*Circle one number.*)

- 1 All planning and decision making should be done by wildlife managers with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) without citizen input.
- 2 All planning and decision making should be done by wildlife managers with the DEC, and the DEC should take into account the views of citizens who make an effort to contact the DEC.
- 3 The DEC should be sure to obtain the views of a wide variety of citizens and then plan and make decisions using the earlier input.
- 4 Citizens should be given opportunities for participation at every step, but the DEC should make the final decisions.
- 5 Citizens should be involved at every step and should make the final decisions with the DEC only supplying necessary scientific data.
- 6 Citizens should be involved at every step and should make the final decisions without any DEC involvement.

WILDLIFE ATTITUDES

20. People have many feelings about wildlife and people's interactions with wildlife. Please express your feelings about wildlife and people's interactions with wildlife by indicating your disagreement or agreement with each of the following statements. (*Circle one number for each statement.*)

	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>		
I notice the birds and wildlife around me every day.	1	2	3	4	5	0
Whether or not I get out to see wildlife as much as I'd like, it's important to know that they exist in New York State.	1	2	3	4	5	0
Humans should manage wild animal populations so that humans benefit.	1	2	3	4	5	0
The rights of wildlife are more important than human use of wildlife.	1	2	3	4	5	0
Hunting is cruel and inhumane to the animals.	1	2	3	4	5	0
It's important to me to know that there are healthy populations of wildlife in New York State.	1	2	3	4	5	0
If animal populations are not threatened, we should use wildlife to add to the quality of human life.	1	2	3	4	5	0
Having wildlife around my home is important to me.	1	2	3	4	5	0
Hunting helps people appreciate natural processes.	1	2	3	4	5	0
Animals should have rights similar to the rights of humans.	1	2	3	4	5	0
An important part of my community is the wildlife I see there from time to time.	1	2	3	4	5	0
Hunting makes people insensitive to suffering.	1	2	3	4	5	0

	Strongly Disagree		Neutral		Strongly Agree	Don't Know
We should be sure future generations of New York State will have an abundance of wildlife.	1	2	3	4	5	0
It is important for humans to manage the populations of wild animals.	1	2	3	4	5	0
I object to hunting because it violates the rights of an individual animal to exist.	1	2	3	4	5	0

BACKGROUND INFORMATION
(Please remember that all your responses are confidential.)

21. Are you ? (Circle one number.)

- 1 Female
- 2 Male

22. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Circle one number.)

- 1 11 years or less
- 2 High school diploma (or GED)
- 3 Some college or vocational training
- 4 College or vocational school graduate
- 5 Post graduate

23. In what year were you born? (Fill in the blank.)

19_____

24. Which of the following best describes your residence? (Circle one number.)

- 1 Owned/mortgaged house or condominium
- 2 Rented house, condominium or apartment
- 3 Other (Please specify: _____)

OVER →

25. Which category best describes the population of the area where you grew up? (*Circle one number.*)

- 1 Rural—lived on a farm or ranch
- 2 Rural—did not live on a farm or ranch
- 3 Small town (less than 5,000 people)
- 4 Small city (5,000 to 50,000 people)
- 5 Large city (over 50,000 but less than 300,000 people)
- 6 Very large city (300,000 people or more)
- 7 Suburb of a large or very large city
- 8 I grew up in many areas with different sized populations

26. Which category best describes your total 1997 household income before taxes and other deductions? (*Circle one number.*)

- 1 Less than \$15,000/year
- 2 \$15,000-\$30,000/year
- 3 \$30,001-\$50,000/year
- 4 \$50,001-\$75,000/year
- 5 \$75,001-\$100,000/year
- 6 \$100,001-\$150,000/year
- 7 \$150,001-\$250,000/year
- 8 More than \$250,000/year

Please use the space below or include a separate sheet of paper for any additional comments that you would like to make.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND EFFORT!

To return this questionnaire, simply seal it in the enclosed postage paid envelope and drop it in the nearest mailbox.

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