



DO YOU HAVE A DEER PROBLEM?

The information below will help you address many of the problems caused by deer and provide you with the options to address deer-related issues. The City of Parma and Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife believe in giving as many options as possible to deal with deer problems while taking into consideration the residential growth of our city and concerns of our residents.

For More Information

Visit the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife (<http://www.wildohio.com>) for additional tips and information about ways to prevent wildlife nuisances.

Garden Damage



Fences are an option to protecting your garden. The ODNR Division of Wildlife has numerous effective solutions, but some of the fencing solutions may not comply with Parma's fence ordinance. Before erecting a fence of any type, the Parma codified ordinances require that residents obtain a permit. Please contact the Building Department at 440-885-8030.

Landscape Damage

A technique to protect your landscape is to use various sprays to deter the deer from eating your plants. Keep in mind that if a deer is hungry enough and the deterrent is not strong enough, they may still eat your plants. A list of repellent products can be found in the ODNR Division of Wildlife's "Deer Damage Control" publication. In areas where you regularly have deer damage it is recommended to choose plants that tend to be less palatable to the deer. A guide to plants, groundcover and shrubs that are rarely or never eaten by deer are also provided in the ODNR Division of Wildlife's publication. Keep in mind, if a deer is hungry enough they can eat plants that are hard to chew, digest or that tastes bad. Sometimes this is all it takes for deer to go looking elsewhere for food.

(<http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/portals/wildlife/pdfs/publications/wildlife%20management/pub138.pdf>)

Tree Rubbing Damage



Tree rubbing (often called buck rubs) occurs when either a buck is shedding the "velvet" off of their antlers or they are marking territory. There are two easy ways to address tree rubbing.



Install a triangle of posts around the trunk of the tree. Male deer will typically not rub their antlers on metal, but if they do the rubbing will be on the post and not your tree. This is only needed from September 1st to January 31st and can be removed the remainder of the year.

Use rigid tree bark protectors which you can purchase at any home improvement store or by doing a quick search online. Usually using protectors rather than wrappings will provide better results. Use these from where the trunk of the tree meets the ground up about 4 feet. These protect the tree if the deer would attempt to rub on it. In addition, this technique offers trees (especially young trees) protection from squirrels, rabbits, and rodents from chewing the bark which can kill the tree as well. If you use this method, it is recommended to keep the tubing on from at least October 1st to April 1st. However, these can be left on year round if you wish. Once the tree begins to outgrow the tree bark protector, usually when the tree reaches 4 inches in diameter, make sure to remove it so that it doesn't harm the tree as the tree grows. By that time the tree will be large enough that most deer will avoid rubbing it.

Deer Vehicle Accidents



The best way to avoid deer collisions with your vehicle is to be alert for deer crossing and the driver in front of you that may slam on the brakes to avoid hitting a deer. While deer can and do move throughout the day, their primary movement times are at sunrise and sunset. Breeding season (October – November) and birthing season (May -June) are the times you should be extra vigilant in watching for deer along roadways. Hitting a deer can cause serious damage to your vehicle, but you run a higher risk of injuring yourself or someone else by swerving off the road. It is recommended to slow down if you see a deer crossing the road in front of you. If you need to stop quickly to avoid hitting a deer, hit your brakes while maintaining your vehicle in the lane in which you are driving. Remember, deer crossing signs are placed in areas throughout the city that have been identified as areas where deer regularly cross the road. However, deer can cross in front of you on any road throughout the city.

Aggressive Deer Behavior

While deer most times appear to be gentle animals, you must remember that they are wild animals that can be unpredictable. You should always give wild animals their space. If they feel threatened, they can easily cause injuries to humans or pets. If you notice a deer approaching you, make noise and wave your hands so that the deer knows you are there. If the deer continues to approach you, get inside and contact the police department at 440-885-1234.

If you let pets outside, you should always scan the area prior to letting your pet out to ensure no deer are in the yard. Even dogs contained within a buried electric fence will chase after a deer potentially putting the pet at risk of being hit by a car or getting lost. This is specifically important during birthing season (May-June). Occasionally, a doe may perceive your dog as a threat to the fawn and may injure the dog while trying to protect the fawn from the perceived threat.

Normal deer behavior is often confused with a deer acting aggressively. A normal deer reaction is to stomp the ground when they are unsure if something is a threat or not. When you unexpectedly find a deer in front of you, and freeze, the deer will stomp the ground to try to get you to move and determine if you are a threat. As mentioned above, make noise and wave your hands so that the deer knows you are there. The deer should within a few seconds turn and leave the area. Keep in mind that deer in cities regularly see and hear people and that it is common for urban deer to not run away when they see a person.

Artificially Feeding Deer

Many people enjoy watching deer. An easy way to attract deer into areas on your property where they can be viewed is with artificial feed. However, you may not be aware of a Parma codified ordinance that restricts the feeding of any wild or feral animal. See Parma codified ordinance 618.15.

Orphaned Fawns

Birthing season occurs between May – June, and it is not uncommon to find what appear to be orphaned fawns. In fact, a fawn is born without scent and left by its mother to afford them the best opportunity to not be found by predators. Never put bowls of food or water near fawns as that may attract the predators and give away their hiding spot. The best thing you can do is to leave the fawn alone. Usually by the next morning, the doe will have moved the fawn to a new area, again aiding in protection from the fawn being detected by a predator. Keep in mind it is never a good practice to handle wildlife and in the case of fawns, you might actually put the fawn at risk of predators.

