



March 2025

Our Growing Deer Population: What to Do?

I want to take a moment to address an issue that has been increasingly affecting our community, the growing deer population. Over the past few years, we have observed a significant increase in the number of deer within Peachtree Corners, leading to heightened concerns about public safety, property damage, and ecological impacts. I want to share what we are doing to address these challenges and how you can be part of the solution.

The surge in the deer population poses several threats to our community:

1. **Landscape Damage:** Deer feeding on ornamental plants, shrubs, and trees results in significant property damage and costly repairs for homeowners.
2. **Increased Risk of Deer-Vehicle Collisions:** Frequent road crossings, often under low visibility conditions, pose serious safety risks to drivers and passengers.
3. **Adverse Ecological Impacts:** Excessive browsing by deer diminishes plant diversity, impacting the availability of food for other wildlife.
4. **Public Health Concerns:** High deer densities contribute to an increase in ticks, elevating the risk of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses.

To address these challenges, the City of Peachtree Corners is collaborating with wildlife officials from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GADNR) Urban Wildlife Program and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Services. These partnerships are vital, as GADNR holds primary authority over wildlife management, while USDA brings extensive experience in urban wildlife management. By working together, we aim to develop a comprehensive approach tailored to our community's unique needs.

Based on recommendations from our partners, the City is actively developing a comprehensive deer management plan. The plan aims to mitigate the public safety, property damage, ecological, and public health impacts caused by the growing deer population. Here's what we are doing:

1. **Population Surveys:** Utilizing advanced tools like trail cameras and thermal imaging to accurately assess deer numbers.
2. **Habitat Assessments:** Evaluating the impact of the deer population on local vegetation and biodiversity.
3. **Community Involvement:** Updating the "PTC Report It" app to allow residents to report deer-related concerns and submit photographs.
4. **Data Analysis:** Collaborating with federal and state partners to analyze data and determine a sustainable deer population for our community.

Once the assessment phase is complete, the City will adopt a deer management plan. Since many deer reside on private property, the plan will offer property owners City-supported options for managing deer. This includes

educational programs, habitat modification techniques, and access to targeted population reduction initiatives. Our goal is to facilitate relationships between wildlife officials and residents to ensure a balanced approach that protects public safety, preserves property, and maintains ecological integrity.

Here are a few ways you can help.

- **Complete the Deer Impact Survey:** Available online at <https://www.peachtreecornersga.gov/FormCenter/City-Council-8/Peachtree-Corners-Deer-Impact-Survey-57>. Your input will help us gather valuable data on deer population densities and their impact.
- **Report Concerns:** Use the “PTC Report It” app or go online at <https://www.peachtreecornersga.gov/234/Report-an-Issue---Fix-It> to report deer-related issues and share photos.
- **Stay Informed:** Follow our updates and participate in any upcoming GADNR workshops to stay informed about deer management efforts.

I truly appreciate your support and cooperation as we work together to address these challenges and protect the quality of life in Peachtree Corners. Thank you for being engaged and committed to our community.