



## Living With Deer on Staten Island

Over the past several years, the population of white-tailed deer has increased in Staten Island (Richmond County) and that trend is expected to continue. In consideration of potential deer management options, the **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation** has developed the following survey to assess the general attitudes of Staten Island residents towards white-tailed deer. If you would like to complete this survey online please go to: <http://www.surveymoz.com/s/112345/living-with-deer-on-staten-island>

**1. Do you live in Staten Island?**

Yes  No (If so, then do not go any further.)

**2. Do you own or rent your home?**  Own  Rent

**3. How many years have you lived in Staten Island?** \_\_\_\_\_

**4. What is your zip code?** \_\_\_\_\_

### People and Deer

**5. Generally, how do you personally feel about deer in Staten Island?** (Check one.)

- I enjoy the presence of deer AND I do not worry about problems deer may cause.  
 I enjoy the presence of deer BUT I worry about problems deer may cause.  
 I do not enjoy the presence of deer and regard them as a nuisance.  
 I have no particular feelings about deer.

**6. Generally, how do/would you feel about having deer on your property?**

- I would not contact any authorities.  
 I would inform the authorities about the deer and ask what I should do.  
 I would ask/tell some authority to do something about the deer.

**7. How do you feel about the number of deer on Staten Island?** (Circle one response.)

Needs to Increase      Needs to Decrease      Needs to remain as is      No opinion

**8. Please rate how concerned are you and your family about the following potential impacts from deer in Staten Island.** (Circle only one number for each impact.)

a. Deer-car collisions or accidents	Very Concerned	Concerned	Not Very Concerned	Not Concerned At All
b. Lyme disease transmission	Very Concerned	Concerned	Not Very Concerned	Not Concerned At All
c. Damage to vegetable gardens	Very Concerned	Concerned	Not Very Concerned	Not Concerned At All
d. Damage to yard plantings	Very Concerned	Concerned	Not Very Concerned	Not Concerned At All
e. Damage to plants in public parks	Very Concerned	Concerned	Not Very Concerned	Not Concerned At All

9. If you expressed concern for more than one response in Question 8, which item is of greatest concern to you?

\_\_\_\_\_ (Please write one letter from the list above.)

**10. Deer Damage and Impacts You Have Encountered**

a. Have you ever experienced a problem at or around your home that resulted from deer or deer activity? (Check one answer)

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

b. During the last two years how many times have you experienced damage from deer?

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of times

c. Overall, how would you describe the severity of the problems you have experienced with deer during the past 2 years? (Circle one number)

Light            1        2        3        4        5        Severe

11. Many considerations may enter into a person’s attitude about methods that should be used to manage the size of a deer herd. How important is each of the following considerations when you think about the methods that can be used for deer management in Staten Island? (Please circle one number to rate how important each of the following considerations is to you.)

<i>How Important is it to you that a deer management method:</i>					
a. Maintains a healthy deer population	Extremely Important	Moderately Important	Slightly Important	Not Important At All	No Opinion/ Don't Know
b. Maintains a diversity of plant and animal species in Staten Island	Extremely Important	Moderately Important	Slightly Important	Not Important At All	No Opinion/ Don't Know
c. Minimizes health and safety risks to people	Extremely Important	Moderately Important	Slightly Important	Not Important At All	No Opinion/ Don't Know
d. Minimizes the suffering of deer	Extremely Important	Moderately Important	Slightly Important	Not Important At All	No Opinion/ Don't Know
e. Minimizes human influence on the deer population	Extremely Important	Moderately Important	Slightly Important	Not Important At All	No Opinion/ Don't Know
f. Minimizes economic costs to society	Extremely Important	Moderately Important	Slightly Important	Not Important At All	No Opinion/ Don't Know
g. Minimizes economic costs to individuals	Extremely Important	Moderately Important	Slightly Important	Not Important At All	No Opinion/ Don't Know
h. Maximizes economic benefits for society	Extremely Important	Moderately Important	Slightly Important	Not Important At All	No Opinion/ Don't Know
i. Maximizes economic benefits for individuals	Extremely Important	Moderately Important	Slightly Important	Not Important At All	No Opinion/ Don't Know
j. Maximizes the use of deer as a public resource	Extremely Important	Moderately Important	Slightly Important	Not Important At All	No Opinion/ Don't Know

12. In the table below is a list of five suggested management options for deer. We would like to know how acceptable these options are to you *personally* for Staten Island. (Please indicate the acceptability of the options by circling one number for each option.)

a. Allow nature to take its course	Extremely Acceptable	Moderately Acceptable	Slightly Acceptable	Not Acceptable At All	No Opinion/ Don't Know
b. Educate property owners about fencing, repellents and plant species that is less desirable food for deer	Extremely Acceptable	Moderately Acceptable	Slightly Acceptable	Not Acceptable At All	No Opinion/ Don't Know
c. Support research for birth control sterilization techniques to reduce the number of fawns born	Extremely Acceptable	Moderately Acceptable	Slightly Acceptable	Not Acceptable At All	No Opinion/ Don't Know
d. Hire sharpshooters to shoot deer and donate the meat to local food pantries	Extremely Acceptable	Moderately Acceptable	Slightly Acceptable	Not Acceptable At All	No Opinion/ Don't Know
e. Trap and euthanize deer and donate the meat to local food pantries	Extremely Acceptable	Moderately Acceptable	Slightly Acceptable	Not Acceptable At All	No Opinion/ Don't Know

### Information About You (Optional)

13. In what year were you born?

19\_\_\_\_\_

14. Are you female or male?

\_\_\_\_\_ Female

\_\_\_\_\_ Male

15. How often do you engage in hunting activities?

\_\_\_\_\_ Never

\_\_\_\_\_ Occasionally (once every few years)

\_\_\_\_\_ Often (once a year)

\_\_\_\_\_ Very Often (more than once a year)

16. Please check you highest completed level of education. (Check one answer)

\_\_\_\_\_ Less than high school

\_\_\_\_\_ Completed high school or GED

\_\_\_\_\_ Vocational or trade school

\_\_\_\_\_ Some college

\_\_\_\_\_ Two-year degree

\_\_\_\_\_ Four-year degree

\_\_\_\_\_ Graduate school

17. Which category best describes your total 2008 household income before taxes and other deductions? (Check one answer.)

- Less than \$15,000/year
- \$15,001 - \$30,000/year
- \$30,001 - \$60,000/year
- \$60,001 - \$90,000/year
- \$90,001 - \$120,000/year
- More than \$120,000/year

18. Which of the following best describes your ethnic background? (Check one answer)

- White
- Hispanic
- Black (African-American)
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Native American (American Indian)
- Other

*Thank you for participating in this survey.*

**Please return this survey:**

By mail to: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Region 2  
c/o Joseph Pane  
47-40 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Long Island City, NY 11101

Or by e-mail to: [R2NatRes@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:R2NatRes@gw.dec.state.ny.us) (Subject: Deer attitude survey 2009)

Or by fax to: (718) 482-4502 (Subject: Deer attitude survey 2009)