



White-Tailed Deer Task Force Executive Summary

During 2010, the Mayor and Council instructed staff to form the White-Tailed Deer Task Force (WTDTF), whose purpose was to update the current White-Tailed Deer Control Policy (WTDCP), study and analyze white-tailed deer population data and study the impacts, positive and negative, of the white-tailed deer population on the Rockville community.

Task Force members included local experts, Rockville residents and staff. Rockville residents interested in participating were asked to complete and submit an Expression of Interest Application. All applications received were sent to the Recreation and Parks Advisory board for review and approval/denial.

TASK FORCE OBJECTIVES

- The task force studied local management plans, including Montgomery County and Howard County, as well as available and current pertinent information from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife and Heritage Service.
- The task force evaluated local and State of Maryland data on deer populations, and determined what further research or data was needed to assess current conditions in Rockville. If further data was needed, the task force established the type of data needed and its collection process, and incorporated the data into its analysis
- The task force analyzed all impacts associated with deer population and determined if any actions or new management practices are warranted. If new management practices were determined to be warranted, the task force studied and developed recommendations to implement proven, local control and management methods and measures ("Best Management Practices").
- Based on the analysis, the task force developed recommendations for a comprehensive management plan, with the overall goal of maintaining a population of white-tailed deer at a level that is ecologically sound and socially acceptable to most Rockville residents. The management plan included the process for ongoing data collection, and associated evaluation and recommendation methods.
- The task force will assist with the public process of adopting a management plan. The plan will replace any current policies and be carried out by the City's Recreation and Parks Department with cooperation from the Police Department/Neighborhood Services Division (Animal Control) and any other necessary departments and divisions

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- The task force worked with the City's Communication Team to provide white-tailed deer educational materials and information to the general public.
- The task force will meet biannually to evaluate the effectiveness of the ongoing management plan and to make recommendations for future adjustments

TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP

Advisory Members

- Maggie Brasted, The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) – Original member. Resigned November 2011.
The HSUS does not concur with the lethal recommendations contained in the task force draft plan and recommendations to the Mayor and Council.
- * Rob Gibbs, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Montgomery Parks – Original member.
- * Christine Davidson McCord, Environmental Commission – Original member. No longer on the Environment Commission. Requested to remain as a resident member.
- Marsha Douma, City of Rockville's Recreation and Parks Advisory Board (RPAB) – Original member. Resigned October 2010 and was replaced by Kate Savage.
- * Kate Savage, City of Rockville, RPAB – Replaced original RPAB member, Marsha Douma.
- * George Timko, Maryland Department of Natural Resources – Original member.

Rockville Residents

- * Justin Joseph Bedard – Replaced Michael Chervenak. Approved by the RPAB June 2010.
- Michael Chervenak – Original member approved by the RPAB. Resigned May 2010.
- * Stuart Hagen – Original member approved by the RPAB.
- Audra Lew – Original member of the staff group. Left City employment and requested to remain as a resident member. Resigned September 2011.
- * Christine Davidson McCord – After leaving the Environmental Commission, remained as a resident member per her request.
- Yasmin Nasser – Original member approved by RPAB. Resigned May 2010.
- Jackie Raiford – Original member approved by the RPAB. Relocated out of state and resigned September 2011.
- * Sherry L. Stuesse – Approved by the RPAB. Replaced Yasmin Nasser, June 2010.

- * Mathew Von Hendy – Original member approved by the RPAB.

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City of Rockville Support Staff

- * JoAnn Grbach, Public Information Office
- * Mark Kibiloski, Recreation and Parks Department
- * Steve Mader, Recreation and Parks Department
- James Marren, Environmental Division – Resigned. Left City employment October 2011.
- * Freddie Mowell, Neighborhood Services Division

Note:

* Denotes current member.

PROCESS

1. General

All task force members were encouraged to attend all meetings and were invited to actively participate in the meetings.

Advisory members made presentations with respect to their expertise, knowledge and experience related to white-tailed deer management.

City staff was responsible for arranging meetings, presentations, providing information and organizing drafts, notes and minutes.

2. White-Tailed Deer Task Force Meetings

- **Meetings 1 – 5 (May - October 2010)**
Staff provided all task force members a notebook with local management plans, research data, reports and statistics. Staff organized presentations by DNR, Montgomery County, Howard County, the Humane Society of the United States and Suburban White-Tailed Deer Management.
- **Meetings 6 – 12 (October - December 2010 and January - June 2011)**
Additional information continued to be provided as resident task force members began to outline a new policy utilizing the current policy as a base. Through this process, the outline underwent several drafts and revisions, and the task force developed a new management plan including seven recommendations.
- **Mayor and Council Meeting (July 11, 2011)**
The task force presented the White-Tailed Deer Management Plan Draft to the Mayor and Council (M&C). The M&C opened a public comment period to allow the public to comment on the draft plan.

- **Task Force Meeting 13 (September 2011)**

The task force was provided all the comments received during the public comment period. The task force discussed the comments and proposed revisions to the draft plan.

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- **Task Force Meeting 14 (November 2011)**

The task force finalized the draft WTDMP and recommendations.

- **Future Mayor and Council Meeting (December 12, 2011)**

The staff and task force will present the final draft WTDMP and recommendations to the Mayor and Council.

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