

Overview of edits to the first draft of the White Tailed Deer Management Plan and Task Force Recommendations

On July 11, 2011, the WTDTF presented the first drafts of the WTDMP and the WTDTF Recommendations to the Mayor and Council. At that meeting, the Mayor and Council directed staff to address the following concerns:

- Within the plan, explain in more detail the concept of managed hunts.
- The reference to hunting was too soft.
- Develop a public information process.
- Establish a public comment period.

After the completion of the public comment period, the task force met on September 24, 2011 and November 15, 2011 to review all public comments and make changes/edits to the first draft of the WTDMP. Along with some minor adjustments, significant changes to the first draft of the WTDMP included the following:

- Added information concerning the source of data and organizations who made presentations to the task force.
- Added a statement that the task force recommends Lyme disease not be the major factor in determining management strategies.
- Clarified the future role of the task force.
- Included an annual report and recommendations section.
- Included additional information explaining Forward Looking Infrared Radar.
- Made clarifications to the Procedures for Decision Making section.
- Provided more information on fertility controls.
- Added a section related to trapping and relocating deer.
- Provided more details related to direct reduction using lethal measures.
- Provided a criteria for implementing direct reduction measures in City parks.
- Added a reference section.

Major changes to the WTDTF Recommendations included the following:

- Removed recommendation number 4, which would have increased the height of backyard fences to 10 feet. Current code allows for 8-foot high fences.
- Changed recommendation number 5 to include the words, using "lethal methods".