



*Photo showing example of deer damage*

## **Proposal to Reduce Deer Population on Broadmead Property**

### **Overview**

The following is a Buildings and Grounds Committee recommendation to allow limited deer hunting on Broadmead property. It was adopted with unanimous consent at our monthly meeting on October 19, 2023. It is being presented to Broadmead management for approval and to the Board of Trustees for their comments.

### **Background**

A proposal to find a way to reduce the devastation on the Broadmead Campus has been discussed on numerous occasions at Buildings and Grounds meetings. Residents are upset and angry that deer are destroying our gardens. Many are finding that even “deer resistant” plants, like azaleas and rhododendrons, are being eaten by voracious deer. Flowers of all kinds including our state flower, the Black-Eyed Susan, are especially attractive to deer. And during the fall mating season, bucks mark their territory by rubbing the bark off trees with their antlers; we have at least three young inventoried trees that have sustained significant damage, two of which probably will not survive. The author was also witness to a buck crashing into the side of a parked car in the KL parking lot.

Erecting a fence around Broadmead is not a feasible solution. Spraying repellent on our plants during the year is not cost effective. Finally, no type of birth control has been shown to be effective.

### **Overpopulation of Deer**

We are not alone in our concern regarding the harm caused by overpopulation of deer. Hayfields County Club just on the west side of I-83, Oregon Ridge Nature Center (Baltimore County), Loch Raven Reservoir (Baltimore City), and Towson University all have addressed this issue by thinning the herd on their property.

In addition to the harm to our community gardens a number of other concerns are being voiced.

Our forest is dying. Take a look at the hillside above Copper Beech Lane to the north of our campus. You'll see older tall trees, but no understory. The deer have eaten everything within their reach on the hillside. This has the effect of eventually destroying our forest. New seedlings may sprout, but are immediately eaten. Older trees die and fall as can be readily seen but no new trees are replacing those that fall.

Erosion is a serious concern. Again, because of the lack of an understory, erosion is occurring especially around the trails in the woods. Our Trails Committee spent a significant sum this year to repair the damage caused by erosion by creating diversions for the cascading water. This process will need to be addressed each year. During the past several years, actions have been taken to address erosion issues at Hill House, including building a berm, a retaining wall and installing a bio retention system to divert water.

Deer are suffering as well. On the average property, it takes around 25 acres of native woods or 5 acres of openings (re-growth) to support a single deer in good health. While no estimate of our deer population is known, we certainly have far more deer than that in our vicinity. The deer don't want to come into our campus. They have to because they are starving.

## **Our Proposal**

We have made contact with two hunters that are used by Hayfields Country Club, just to our west. They are licensed hunters who would, along with their two sons and two other friends, be permitted by a written document to hunt with bows on our property. They would obey all state and local laws and erect a tree stand on what is known as the Provenza property to our north. They would notify us at least a day in advance of their intention to hunt, whether at dawn or dusk, and which two hunters would be on our property. They would access our property by use of the old Provenza driveway, erect a tree stand, spread corn on the ground, and shoot down, not across the landscape. Any deer killed would be removed by them in a discrete manner. They eat the venison themselves, give it to friends, and provide the excess to food kitchens. There is little chance that a wounded deer would come onto our campus as they typically run away from populated areas, not toward them. The hunters will attempt to track down any wounded deer.

Generally, deer season in Maryland runs from September through January. We would not see a meaningful reduction of the population for a year from the start of their service.

They would be no charge for their service.

Submitted by Eric van den Beemt  
Chair – Buildings and Grounds Committee  
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