



# WILDWOOD

## MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Bowlin and City Council Members  
From: Rick C. Brown, Director of Public Works / City Engineer  
Date: September 8, 2023  
Re: Deer Management Update

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The Department is working with White Buffalo Inc. (WB), to plan the winter 2024 deer reduction effort, which is scheduled to begin in January 2024.

**Program Summary:** The goal of initial 2024 effort is to cull about 300 deer to reduce the deer density to approximately 40 deer per square mile within the area “Northeast 1” (“NE1”). The culling would be completed by three sharpshooters working over 26 nights. NE1 is the area of highest density deer population, based on the 2020 deer population counts completed by the Wildwood Precinct. NE1 has deer density of 94 deer per square mile, and thus an excess population of 54 deer per square mile. The NE1 area, which is shown as **Exhibit A**, is generally bounded by Route 100 on the south, Route 109 and Shepard Road on the West/North and Strecker/Valley Road on the North to the City limit/Route 100 on the East/South. The area totals 5.53 square miles in size. To achieve a meaningful reduction of the deer population citywide, from an overall level of approximately 73 deer per square mile to a goal of 40 deer/mi<sup>2</sup>, will require a multi-year effort. Assuming a five-year deer reduction program, WB would hunt each winter within one of five designated areas of the City to cull a total of about 1,000 deer over 30 square miles of the City.

**Current Efforts:** We are currently focused on identifying potential properties and property owners that are receptive to allowing WB to operate. Deer will be drawn to those properties by baiting, which will commence a minimum of 2 weeks prior to sharpshooting. Upwards of 40 properties may be necessary, within the NE1 area, for WB’s efforts this winter. Work to identify those properties has begun, and former Wildwood Precinct Sargent Brad Wendling is assisting in that effort in coordination with WB. Consent from property owners to allow access will be required in advance of the baiting. We are focused on obtaining the necessary property owner consent in the coming months. The baiting effort may begin as soon as December 26<sup>th</sup>, pending authorization by the Missouri Department of Conservation. The culling should begin by January 15<sup>th</sup> and would wind down by the end of February.

**Communication:** Efforts to communicate the program to residents are also commencing. The Gazette, which will be reaching households this week, includes an article about the deer reduction program effort, which we expect will result in resident inquiries. Our website is being updated to reflect the pertinent details of the program. The Department will also be posting updates on the program via Facebook, Instagram, and X (formerly Twitter). Lastly, the City will provide updates on the program via the weekly E-Newsletter. Initial communication efforts will prioritize informing the community about the program’s objectives and aims to engage property owners in permitting the use of their land for sharpshooting activities conducted by White Buffalo. City Administrator Thomas Lee and I will be available for discussion or questions pertaining to this matter at the September 11, 2023, City Council meeting.

RCB



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Exhibit A – Northeast 1 Area

