

Ad Hoc Wildlife Management Committee



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

- ❑ Some urban wildlife species are particularly valued by some Village residents, just as those same species are seen as particularly troublesome or dangerous to other Village residents, such as the White Tail Deer
- ❑ The Village Board of Trustees approved the establishment of an ad hoc committee to address wildlife management issues

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE & RESPONSIBILITY

- ❑ The ad hoc committee operates through the existing Village Board Public Safety Committee
- ❑ The committee is charged with researching issues of wildlife management in the Village of Elm Grove
- ❑ The committee is responsible for identifying the species currently present in the Village and specific health, safety, or economic issues in relation to those species

Committee Members

- ❑ Chairman Jeff Hughes
- ❑ Trustee Jan Schoenecker
- ❑ Susan Saucier, RN - resident
- ❑ Holly Houston - Elmbrook Humane Society
- ❑ Dr. David Haskell - resident
- ❑ Laurie Reinders – resident
- ❑ Bill Kolstad – City of Brookfield Parks, Rec, & Forestry Director
- ❑ Lt. Bruce Schell – City of Brookfield Police Lt.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

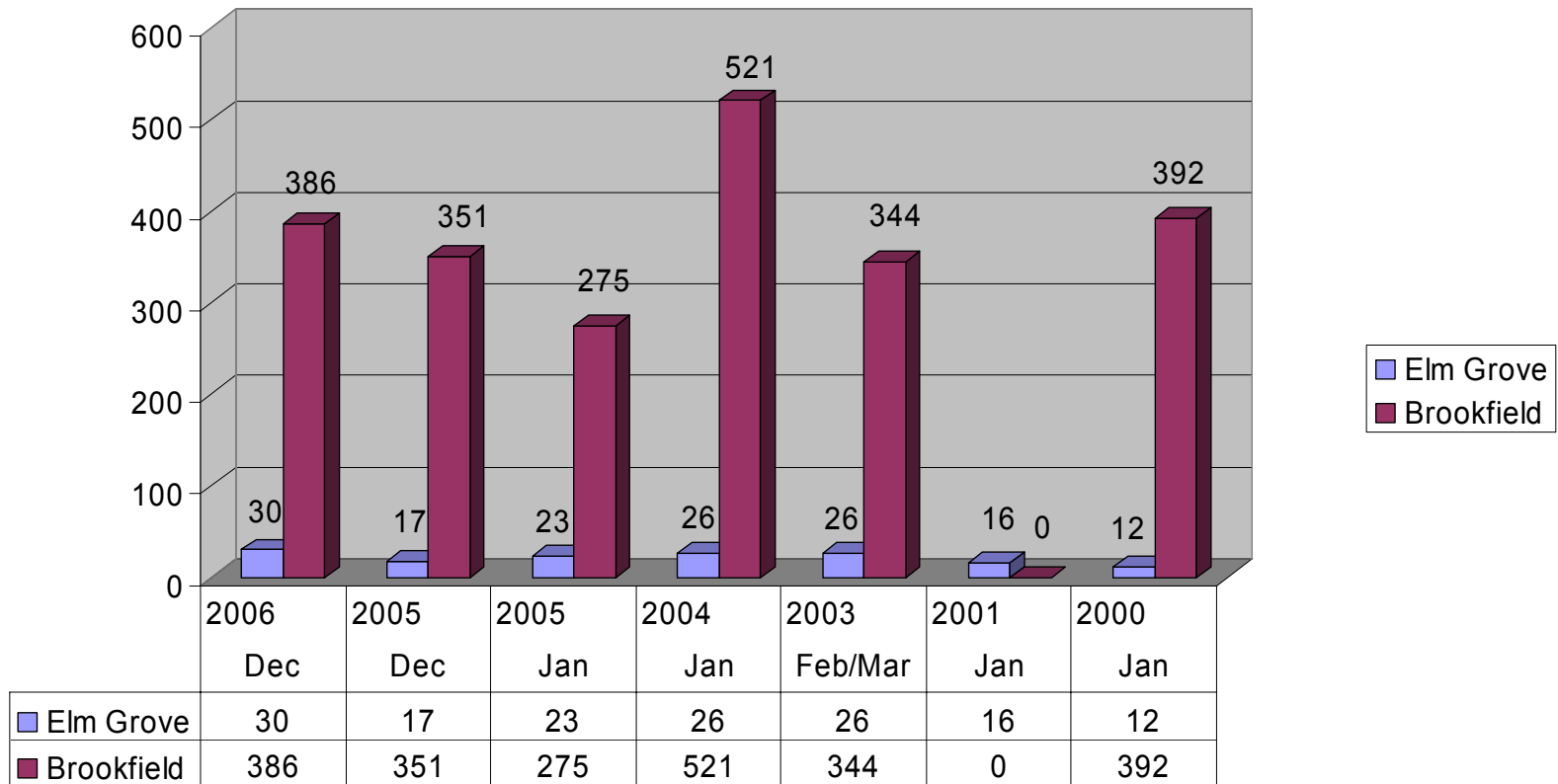
- ❑ Designed to provide Village residents and the Village government recommendations and resources on how to support responsible and ongoing wildlife management
- ❑ Will provide guidance on how the Village Board might establish a threshold of when to consider active management of specific species and describes the approved methods
- ❑ Separates the species that can be managed individually by residents and those aspects that will be controlled Village wide by Village officials and staff

WHITETAIL DEER CONTROL

- Current deer presence in Elm Grove has contributed to complaints of nuisance, health, safety concerns, and plant species eradication
- Current deer populations in Elm Grove and Brookfield increase the chance of vehicular accidents.
- Due to the abundance of complaints expressed by Village residents, Elm Grove seeks to annually monitor the deer population in the Village

DEER COUNTS

Brookfield/Elm Grove Deer Counts



*There was no count in Brookfield due to weather in 2001
There were no deer counts in 2002*

What is the Impact on Vehicle Accidents in Elm Grove?

- ❑ 1992 to 2006 average – 10 car vs. deer accidents per year.
- ❑ 2006 Totals:
 - 3 car vs. deer accidents, of 234 total accidents (1.3%)
 - ❑ All three on Bluemound Road.
- ❑ 2007 Totals, so far:
 - Two from Jan. to Sept. 2007.
 - ❑ One on Pilgrim Pkwy. and the other on Highland Dr.



DEER POPULATION GOAL

- ❑ The goal population for deer within the Village borders is 25 deer per square mile of habitat
- ❑ Population goal was established by referencing the Milwaukee Metro Unit whose deer population had been similarly established (Southeastern Wisconsin Urban Deer Taskforce Final Report 1994)
- ❑ Population goals range from 10-35 deer per square mile of habitat throughout the state depending on habitat, climate, and human condition

DEER HABITAT AREA

- The deer habitat area consists of the following roads as boundaries: Lilly to Marcella to San Fernando, to Underwood Creek to Hollyhock to Bluemound along the edge of UPS to just past the Southeast Detention facility to the Village Hall along the eastern edge of the Indian Hills neighborhood to Marilyn

DEER HABITAT AREA CONT.

- ❑ Elm Grove's deer habitat includes the area of .79 square miles or 504 acres
- ❑ Therefore, if the deer population increases to more than 25 deer per square mile of habitat, or 20 deer, then the deer should be actively managed
- ❑ In order to determine the quantity of deer in the Village, an aerial deer count survey should be continued in conjunction with the City of Brookfield each winter

RECOMMENDATIONS TO MANAGE DEER

- ❑ If active management is needed, the Village should obtain a permit from the DNR
- ❑ Once the Village has the permit, a sharp shooter can be hired to control deer in safe locations such as the Department of Public Works Yard
- ❑ Final locations will be recommended to the Public Safety Committee for approval by the Police Chief
- ❑ Area residents in the areas must be notified in advance of when the deer management will occur
- ❑ Individual neighborhoods may continue trapping deer with or without active management by the Village

How other communities address the issue of deer control

- Brookfield
 - Sharp shooting program (\$209 per deer for 2006)
 - Trapping (\$375 per deer for 2006)
- Chenequa
 - Sharp shooting program
- River Hills
 - Trapping and sharp shooting
- Fox Point
 - Sharp shooting and netting

Sharp Shooting

- **Is it safe?**
 - **Very Safe.** To date, I have not found any reports of injuries, damage or misplaced shots, covering thousands of harvested deer for a twenty year period.
- **Where can one shoot?**
 - **Several areas throughout Village are safe locations.** For example, the Village Grounds and/or the DPW grounds
- **What does it cost?**
 - **Approximately \$100 to \$200 per deer.** Brookfield estimated \$209 per deer in 2006 (figure represents total cost of program, including surveys, and meat processing).
- **Is it effective?**
 - **Very effective – In some cases several deer may be harvested in one night at a bait site through selective targeting.**
- **Disadvantages?**
 - **Negative perception with some members of the public.**
 - **May create some negative media attention.**
 - **May create an eye sore, dependant on the type of blind used.**
- **What happens to the deer?**
 - **Harvested for food pantries.**
- **Who does it?**
 - **Independent contractors:**
 - **Wildlife Management Services**
 - **Urban Wildlife Specialists**

Sharp Shooting - How do they do that?

- ❑ The company approves each site for safety, along with a village representative (police chief).
- ❑ Private property requires permission of the homeowner and surrounding homeowners.
- ❑ Dependant on location, the blind may be on ground level, or on a pole or tree, eight to ten feet off the ground.
- ❑ A bait pile is set days in advance of the shoot, approximately 25 yards from the blind.
- ❑ Ammunition varies, from a .22 mag. to a .223 round. Both may be silenced.
- ❑ More than one deer may be harvested at one time.
- ❑ Generally, the shoot site becomes less productive as deer respond to hunting pressure.
- ❑ The deer will relocate, as hunting pressure increases in surrounding communities. For example, a shooting program in Brookfield will displace deer into Elm Grove.
- ❑ The deer is removed and dressed at an off-site location. The remainder of the deer is harvested for a food pantry.

Trapping and Netting



Trapping and Netting

- **Is it safe?**
 - **Very safe – no reports of any injuries in Brookfield, River Hills and Fox Point.**
- **What does it cost?**
 - **Can be very expensive – up to \$400.00 to \$750.00, per deer.**
- **Is it effective?**
 - **Both are effective, with the following limitations:**
 - **Trapping requires regular checking and immediate response of staff.**
 - **Netting is monitored continually at a bait site. Sometimes more than one deer is captured in a single netting.**
- **Disadvantages?**
 - **Eye sore cages – requires regular checking – high maintenance.**
 - **Netting may get one or two deer, per net – generally, one attempt per night.**
- **What happens to the deer?**
 - **It is moved to another location and harvested for a food pantry.**
- **Who does it?**
 - **Trapping -- River Hills does their own trapping (Handled by Hwy Dept. Staff).**
 - **Netting – independent contractor – Kiwi Capture.**

CANADIAN GEESE CONTROL

- ❑ Residents have been and are intent on reducing the population of Canadian geese within the Village of Elm Grove
- ❑ Since 2000, the Village has applied for the Urban Wildlife Abatement and Control Grant and has received funding for many of the past years
- ❑ The Village seeks to maintain a consistent level of abatement procedures

CANADIAN GEESE ABATEMENT TECHNIQUES USED IN THE PAST

- ❑ Goose repellent spray
- ❑ Frightening geese
- ❑ Loud noises
- ❑ Tall grasses at water's edge
- ❑ Dogs on the loose
- ❑ Egg depredation with a permit
- ❑ Bird relocation with a permit

CANADIAN GEESE CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❑ Goal population of 35 adults and 15 juveniles
- ❑ It is recommended to continue egg depredation, bird relocation, loud noises, and leaving tall grasses at the water's edge
- ❑ If the goal population increases, the Village should hire a company that sets dogs loose to frighten the geese away
- ❑ An ordinance banning waterfowl feeding on public and private property should be developed and approved by the Legislative Committee and Board of Trustees to be enforced by complaints to the Police Department

COYOTE CONTROL

- ❑ Coyote do not pose a major wildlife concern in the Village presently, they are being included in the wildlife management plan as a species to monitor
- ❑ Control:
 - Noise-making devices and flashing lights may be used to provide temporary protection in small areas
 - Combinations of frightening devices used at irregular intervals should provide better protection than a single device

SPECIES TO BE CONTROLLED BY RESIDENTS ON THEIR OWN PROPERTY

- Fox
 - Feral Cats
 - Raccoons
 - White-footed mice
 - Gray Squirrels
- To see control methods for these species, please visit the Village website at www.elmgrovetwi.org and click on the Wildlife Management link.



Conclusion

- ❑ White Tail Deer and Canadian Geese will be actively managed by the Village when the population reaches a set point established in the Wildlife Management Plan.
- ❑ Coyote will be monitored by the Village.
- ❑ Fox, feral cats, raccoons, white-footed mice, and gray squirrels may be controlled by individual property owners.

Sources

- ❑ Robert Douglas – Chief of Police/Village Manager, Village of Chenequa.
- ❑ Thomas Rischmann, Chief of Police, Village of River Hills.
- ❑ Kurt Frederickson – Department of Public Works, Village of River Hills.
- ❑ Thomas Czaja – Chief of Police, Village of Fox Point.
- ❑ Bill Kolstad – City of Brookfield.
- ❑ Ricky Lein – Department of Natural Resources.
- ❑ Tammy Ryan – Department of Natural Resources.
- ❑ Andy Ladron – Wildlife Management Specialists.
- ❑ Mike Wilson – Wildlife Management Specialists.