

ALL ABOUT THE NO DEER FEEDING ORDINANCE #680:

At the City Council meeting July 12, 2016, the Council adopted Ordinance #680 **No Deer Feeding Ordinance**. There is a built in 60-day 'Education Period' for this ordinance, before any citations are written. So, until September 12, 2016, this Ordinance would not be enforced. After the education period, the Ordinance would have had administrative penalties starting with a warning for the first violation (no fine), \$50.00 for the second, \$200 for third, fourth and fifth violations, and then up to \$1,000 for the sixth violation, as long as it was in the same 12 month period.

This Ordinance is part of the overall deer management plan, as recommended by the biologists at the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife. You can see the Archery-Based Deer Management Pilot Program Ordinance #685 on the city website.

Dr. Erin Wehland with the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife explained at the most recent Town Hall Meeting regarding the Urban Deer Issue, that supplemental feeding of the deer is detrimental to them because it encourages them to congregate in groups making transmission of parasites a concern. Dr. Wehland stated that deer corn is not nutritionally valuable for them, it is more like candy. You can see the pamphlet she recommends it is called '*Killing Them With Kindness*'. <http://www.graniteshoals.org/DocumentCenter/View/712>

Prior to the adoption of the No Feeding the Deer Ordinance, the City's Wildlife Advisory Committee conducted a citizen survey. In response to the question, "Would you support a city ordinance/law to ban feeding of deer in Granite Shoals, if it were part of a deer management program," 70% of those who responded said, "Yes." For results of the 2015 City-Wide Citizen Survey on the Deer, it is also on the city's official website at <http://www.graniteshoals.org/DocumentCenter/View/375>

After Ord. 680 passed, citizens were asked, on the city's Facebook page, to please remove any deer feeders and refrain from supplemental deer feeding.

On August 9, 2016, a petition signed by at least 58 registered voters was presented to the City Secretary. This petition triggered the Referendum feature of the city's charter. Ordinance #680 – No Deer Feeding Ordinance (only) is being referred to the voters for approval. The Pilot Program for Archery based Deer Management is still moving forward.

Until the voters vote on the Deer Feeding Ban ordinance #680 on November 8, 2016, the No Feeding the Deer ordinance is **suspended**. If the voters approve it on November 8th, it will take effect as soon as the election results are approved. If it is not approved by the voters, it will not go into effect.

Responses to Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Deer Feeding Ban Ordinance:

- There is no jail time associated with the ‘criminal penalty’ of Ord. 680. Violation of the Ordinance more than 6 times in a 12 month period might cause a criminal penalty, instead of or in addition to the administrative penalty. It is a class ‘C’ misdemeanor. It is a ‘fine-only’ offense.
- The No Deer Feeding Ordinance describes the behavior that is considered ‘Feeding the Deer’. The following are **not violations**: putting birdseed in a bird feeder, having dog food in the dog’s bowl, having cat food in the cat’s bowl, planting a shrub that the deer eat or putting table scraps in a composter.
- The adoption of a No Deer Feeding Ordinance was the recommendation that the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists made to the City when the City began researching the Urban Deer Problem.
- Surrounding cities such as Horseshoe Bay, Lakeway, and Georgetown have No Deer Feeding Ordinances. This is not a unique Ordinance to the City of Granite Shoals.

The City Council did not pass a No Deer Feeding Ordinance until they approved the Pilot Program for Deer Management.

If you have any questions about Ord. 680, or about the Deer Management program, or about the Referendum Election, please contact the City Secretary.