



CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATION 2024

WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Deer Management Program

Presentation Goals

Update City Council regarding our current Managed Lands Deer Program.

- Committee Members
- Historical Milestones
- Deer Count 2024
- Inventory Report 2024
- Harvest Sites
- Program Participation

Granite Shoals Wildlife Advisory Committee

Current Members 2024

- Peter Hutnick – Chair
- Scott Morgan – Vice Chair
- Jeff Herzog – Secretary
- Brad Hammel
- Keith Rogers
- David Nobles
- Mark Henshaw
- Tommy Moore – Alternate
- Brian Edwards – CC Liaison

* All members are volunteers and concerned property owners/residents of Granite Shoals



Historical Milestones



- The WAC was formed in March 2014 by Ord. 639 to design a deer management program that would work for the city and citizens and not induce a financial strain on Granite Shoals
- They spent more than a year working with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to achieve this goal
- They started by surveying the citizens in 2015 with paper and online surveys
- They held Town Hall Meetings on Deer Issues in May of 2015, June of 2016, June of 2017 and July of 2018

Historical Milestones

Comments from the 2015 Citizen Surveys

- There are too many deer.
- The deer are over-populated according to a deer survey.
- The deer are not healthy.
- The deer are starving.
- The “browse line” is evidence deer don’t have enough to eat.
- The deer might develop “deer wasting disease”.
- The deer could spread Lyme disease from ticks.
- The deer eat landscaping plants.
- The deer “enter my garden and eat my sweet corn.”
- The deer poop in my yard is annoying.
- My dog eats the deer droppings, and sometimes he rolls in it.
- Collisions with vehicles cause vehicle and property damage.

Historical Milestones



- The “Pilot Program” of Archery-Based Deer Management was authorized by City Council – Ord. 685, from October 2016 to January 2017.
- Year two in 2017 – Ord. 710
- Year three in 2018 – Ord. 733 established the Deer Management Program as a continuing program, no longer required to be authorized each year with a new ordinance

Historical Milestones



This program works under the direction and guidance from TPWD biologists and game wardens under the Managed Lands Deer Permit (MLDP) program

All program activities require the approval of the City Council and coordination with the City Manager and Police Department

Historical Milestones



- A successful harvesting program was started in 2016 and continued through 2019
- A combination of volunteer harvesters decrease in participation and COVID caused a pause in the program in 2020
- In 2023 a group of citizens approached the City Council to activate the committee and harvesting program again
- The current committee as been working with the city and TPWD to bring the program back on-line

Historical Milestones

Previous Year Harvest Statistics

Year	Deer Harvested	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Value to City	Amount of Venison Harvested	Processed Value
2016-17	75	786	\$19,367	1,485 lbs	\$19,290.15
2017-18	130	1,498	\$37,600	2,512 lbs	\$32,626.46
2018-19	100	792	\$20,172	2,001 lbs	\$25,998.74

- ❖ Volunteer Hours does not include this committee's time or time delivering for processing
- ❖ Volunteer Value is based on the Independent Sector Value of Volunteer Time Report numbers for Texas
- ❖ By State Law, this venison cannot be sold!
- ❖ If processed under 'Hunters for the Hungry' donation program, processing fees are \$45.00 per deer. All meat is ground.

DEER COUNT 2024

- IAW TPWD guidance, three consecutive yearly Whitetail Deer surveys must be performed, and the results reported to them to analyze and formulate recommendations for management before any harvesting activities will begin
- This year's survey was conducted on three consecutive Monday evenings in August with varying weather conditions



DEER COUNT 2024+

Granite Shoals Wildlife Advisory Committee TP&W Deer Survey Data

Survey Year	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Un-Identified	Total Deer	Acres Sampled	Does/Buck	Fawn Crop	Acres/Deer
2015	108	480	178	12	778	1,737	4.44	37%	2.23
2016	224	683	296	5	1,208	1,737	3.05	43%	1.44
2017	173	539	251	13	976	1,737	3.12	47%	1.78
2018	273	683	234	0	1,190	1,737	2.50	34%	1.46
2019	199	525	235	0	959	1,737	2.64	45%	1.81
2020	309	540	300	30	1,179	1,737	1.75	56%	1.47
2021	202	575	246	36	1,059	1,737	2.85	43%	1.64
2023	356	700	495	0	1,551	1,737	1.97	71%	1.12
2024	398	1,104	525	0	2,027	1,737	2.77	48%	0.86
2025	0	0	0	0	0	1,737	0.00	0%	0.00

* Three surveys are done each year. These numbers are a total of the three surveys.

** TP&W Requires three consecutive annual surveys for participation in the management program

*** A survey was not conducted in 2022

INVENTORY REPORT 2024

- Our initial program goal is to have 10 harvest sites set up throughout the city and available to volunteers by the opening of the 2025 season
- Each site will have a hunting stand (either a free-standing “tripod” or a tree-stand), a feeder with appropriately located back stop and a game camera to monitor site activities



INVENTORY REPORT 2024

Tree Stands

- **Nine each 9-foot tree stands**
- Fabric seat covers torn
- Safety harnesses and straps dry-rotted
- **One each tripod stand**
- Wood seat
- Safety harness and straps dry-rotted



INVENTORY REPORT 2024

Feeder Systems

- **Five 50lb bucket feeders in unknown condition**
- **6V and AA batteries needed to assess status of timers and thrower motors**
- **Eight feeder mounting poles**
- **Twenty T-Posts to secure shooting backstops**



INVENTORY REPORT 2024

Processing Equipment

- **Large Steel A-Frame for processing harvest**
- **Walk-in freezer for storage**



INVENTORY REPORT 2024

Miscellaneous

- Unknown quantity of broad-heads
- Unknown quantity of string-trackers



INVENTORY REPORT 2024

Future Needs

- Hunting stands
- Feeders
- Game Cameras
- Scale
- Broadheads
- String Trackers
- 4'x 8' plywood backstops
- Target backstops
- Targets
- Feed Corn

 HOT DEAL



Academy Sports + Outdoors Deer
Corn 40 lb Bag

★★★★☆ 3.5 (106)

\$8.99 ~~\$9.99~~
SAVE \$1.00 (10%)

Harvest Sites

Historical Sites

- Previous years sites were a mix of city owned properties and privately owned properties
- Privately owned properties required to complete a Land Use Permission Form
- Any occupied dwelling within 75 yards of a harvest site was requested to fill out an Animal Retrieval Permission Form



Harvest Sites

Proposed Sites

- Current planning has identified 10 different City owned properties for harvest sites
- Each site will be surveyed to establish boundaries
- Any occupied dwellings within 75 yards of the harvesting site will be contacted to inform them of the program
- Permission to retrieve expired animals will be requested from those citizens



Harvest Sites

Proposed Sites

- Sites will be set up by members of the WAC and monitored for serviceability
- Feeders will be filled by members of the WAC and other volunteers
- All sites may be monitored by members of the committee, any city employee and specifically the GSPD
- Harvesting will be done by means of MLDP tags issued by TPWD only



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Wildlife Harvest Team

- 10-15 Members with 2-3 Alternates
- Local residents have priority
- Minimum 21 years of age
- Possess a Crossbow with minimum 120lb draw weight
- Possess a Texas Hunting License
- Possess a Texas Bowhunter Education Certificate



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Wildlife Harvest Team

- Possess a Cell/Smart Phone with Camera and Texting or Email ability
- Possess a valid Texas Drivers License and their own transportation
- Attend an overview of the Wildlife Management Program Goals, Requirements and the Law
- Pass a 15-question examination with 100% passing score



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Wildlife Harvest Team

- Pass a 10 photo Shoot or Don't Shoot examination with 100% passing score
- Successfully complete a proficiency shooting evaluation
- Use minimum 1 ½" Fixed or Mechanical Broadhead
- Use Game Tracker Model 2500 Professional Unit String attached to arrow



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Wildlife Harvest Team

- Monthly Proficiency Testing and Briefings
- Use Lighted Arrow or Bolt nock
- Must sign a liability waiver upon registration
- Must register with GSPD
- Must provide their own Safety Harness and use it at all times



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Procedures

- Stands shall be no less than 8' elevated and no shot shall be more than 20 yards
- Harvesters must be parked in a conspicuous location at or adjacent to the harvesting location when hunting occurs
- All animals harvested must be cared for in accordance with State Law



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Procedures

- 'One Shot' program – Once a shot has been taken, the Arrow/Bolt will be recovered and if a successful shot was made, the deer must be recovered before another shot will be attempted
- All hunting equipment must be stored in harvester's vehicle while recovery process is taking place
- If the deer expires on occupied private property, every attempt must be made to contact the owner prior to recovering the animal



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Procedures

- All harvesters must dispose of deer carcasses appropriately
- The Wildlife Advisory Committee shall at all times have the discretion to revoke one's hunting privileges if the committee determines that such revocation is in the best interest of the city and/or the integrity of the program



CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATION 2024

Questions?