

Deer and Vehicles

Please keep in mind that there are two times a year when deer auto collisions increase dramatically: October through December, when deer are in rut, and May through June, when young from the previous year are out on their own and when does are with fawns and thus slower and less agile.

What you Can Do

- » Stay aware, alert, and always use your safety belt. Reduce your speed, and watch for deer on the edge of the road, especially at dawn and dusk.
- » Observe deer crossing signs and posted speed limits. Make a note of where you have seen deer before. Be careful when going around curves or when approaching favored deer crossings.
- » If you see a deer cross safely in front of your car, slow down and expect more to come. Don't assume that a deer that is in the road will run off as you approach. Flashing your high-beam headlights or honking will not deter deer.

If a Crash is Unavoidable

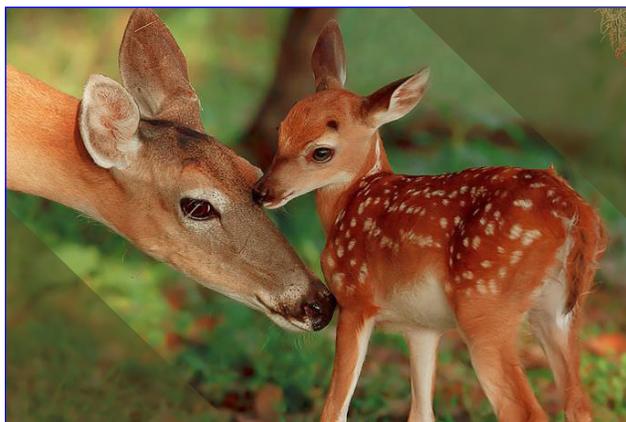
- » Don't swerve! Brake firmly, hold on to the steering wheel, stay in your lane and bring your vehicle to a controlled stop.
- » Pull off the road, turn on your emergency flashers and be cautious of other traffic.
- » Don't attempt to remove a deer from the roadway and report the crash to the nearest police agency.



Information and Assistance

For more information and assistance regarding suburban and overabundant deer issues, please contact:

City of Rochester Hills
Department of Parks and Natural Resources
Natural Resources Division Wildlife Unit
1000 Rochester Hills Drive
Rochester Hills, Michigan 48309
248-656-4775
www.rochesterhills.org/deer



Coexisting with

WHITE-TAILED DEER

in Rochester Hills



The white-tailed deer is one of the most recognizable species of wildlife in Michigan. They are an increasingly common animal in and around Rochester Hills, and in surrounding urban and suburban communities; leading to certain challenges.

White-Tailed Deer in Michigan

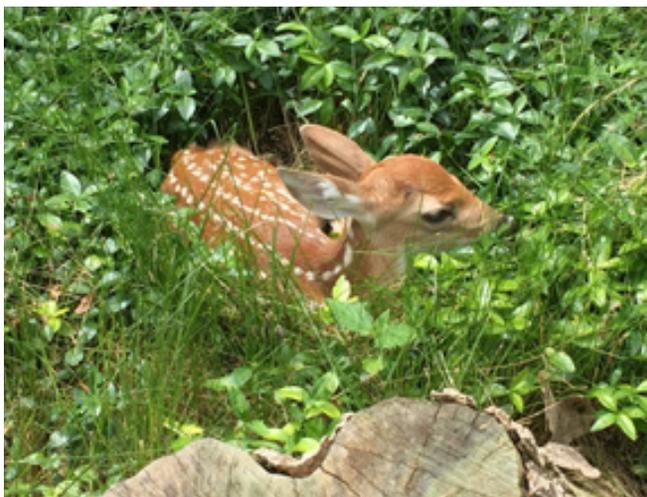
White-tailed deer can be found in every county throughout the State of Michigan and they use a variety of habitat types. Their preferred habitat consists of woodlands, farm and pasture lands, brushy areas, and dense thickets. However, they are an opportunistic species, and with our changing landscape in portions of the state, deer are now found residing in urban and suburban areas in high numbers. Being larger herbivores, adult deer have very few natural predators, especially here in southeast Michigan.

Fawns

White-tailed deer fawns are born in the spring, typically May and June. Does are very protective of their fawns and can be overly aggressive towards humans and pets.

It is important to note that does leave newborn fawns for long periods of time, usually returning at dawn and dusk to nurse them. This strategy helps keep the fawn safe from detection.

If you discover a fawn, the mother is almost always nearby. Enjoy them from a distance but take care not to disturb the fawn.



Gardening

There are very few plants that are completely deer resistant. Here are some suggestions for selecting plants that are less likely to be eaten.

- Plants with prickly foliage or brambles (e.g. Globe thistle)
- Plants with furry leaves (e.g. Lambs Ear)
- Plants with strong scents or tastes (e.g. Rosemary, Garlic)

For a complete list, please visit:

www.rochesterhills.org/deer

Along with choosing deer resistant plants, fencing, repellents, and scare tactics can be effective. A multi-faceted approach using a variety of techniques such as motion activated sprinklers, coyote decoys, other deterrents, and repellents that are applied often, especially after it rains can be a solid deer deterrent plan.



Being persistent and changing strategies frequently will improve your chances of successfully living and gardening with wildlife.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the City's Natural Resources Divisions Wildlife Unit at 248-656-4673.

Summary

- Use deer repellents on a regular basis, not just occasionally. Start early in the spring, applying twice a week. Repeat after a rain.
- Add plants that are deer-resistant, many of which have distinctive odors.
- Put up high fences or other barriers to protect against deer when possible.
- On the roads, “don’t veer for deer,” according to the Michigan Deer Crash Coalition. Swerving could cause an even more serious crash. Slow down and stay in lane.

For additional information, please visit:
msue.anr.msu.edu/news/discouraging_deer_year_round_in_your_yard_facts_versus_fantasies

Ordinance Information

City Ordinance: *The City of Rochester Hills prohibits the feeding of deer or hunting of any kind within the city.*

Section 14-91 Deer Feeding Prohibited

“No person may place or permit placement on the ground or within five feet of the ground any fruit, berries, grain, vegetables, nuts, salt or other edible material or bait which may reasonably be expected to attract or feed deer unless such materials are covered or protected in a way to prevent deer from feeding on them.”

Section 70-1 Hunting

“No person shall hunt wild game or fowl or in any manner carry any gun, weapon or firearm within the city for the purpose of hunting any wild game or fowl at any time.”