



# City of Columbus

## 2025 Deer Survey Findings Summary

*Prepared for:* Columbus City Council; City of Columbus Department of Neighborhoods

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Cover photograph: Esther DeBusk, August 2021. Artwork depicted: Terry Allen, *Scioto Lounge* (2013–2014), commissioned by the City of Columbus. (Scioto Mile, Columbus, Ohio)

## How to Use This Report

This document summarizes resident-reported experiences and perspectives from the 2025 City of Columbus Deer Survey. It is intended to provide descriptive information that can support informed and transparent decision-making.

### Survey at a Glance

- Survey open: June 11 to August 22, 2025 (voluntary online survey).
- Promotion channels: the City's website, social media channels, neighborhood and civic organization communications, and community meetings.
- Responses received: 3,524 submitted; 373 excluded as blank or incomplete; 3,151 valid responses included in this analysis.
- Not all respondents answered every question, so totals vary by survey item.
- Geographic grouping for analysis: Citywide, Clintonville, and areas outside Clintonville.
- Survey instrument: Developed in Spring 2025 by an ENR 4900.01 capstone team in collaboration with the faculty advisor.
- Survey lineage: Informed by earlier capstone survey work conducted for the City of Worthington (2024) and related survey development efforts.
- Scope of this report: The Fall 2025 capstone team analyzed and summarized responses collected in Summer 2025.

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## Executive Summary

In 2025, the City of Columbus conducted a voluntary public survey to better understand residents' experiences with deer. The survey asked about perceived deer presence, reported impacts (including damage and costs), and views on potential management approaches.

A total of 3,151 valid responses were included in this analysis. Responses were not evenly distributed across the city: 2,166 valid responses came from Clintonville. As a result, the clearest neighborhood-specific patterns in this report are for Clintonville, while results from outside Clintonville are best understood as directional context rather than a neighborhood-by-neighborhood picture.

Across questions, many respondents described frequent deer sightings and perceived recent population increases, particularly in Clintonville. Feelings about deer were often mixed. A substantial share of respondents reported enjoying seeing deer while also expressing concern about impacts.

Reported impacts were uneven across the city. Respondents in Clintonville more commonly reported deer-related damage and related expenses than respondents outside Clintonville. Most reported costs fell in lower ranges, but a smaller number of respondents reported higher expenses, including for vehicle repair or injury-related costs.

Management preferences also varied. Non-lethal approaches generally received broad support among respondents, including education, deterrents, and ordinances that reduce attractants (such as a no-feeding ordinance). Support for population reduction approaches using lethal methods was more variable and appears more closely tied to respondents' lived impacts.

This survey should not be interpreted as a mandate for any specific action. It provides a descriptive snapshot of the experiences and opinions of participating residents and can be used alongside other information sources to inform communication and decision-making.

## **About the Survey**

The 2025 Columbus Deer Survey was developed to gather information about residents' experiences with deer across the city, including perceptions of deer presence, reported impacts, and perspectives on potential deer management approaches.

This report was prepared by the ENR 4900.01 Capstone team (School of Environment and Natural Resources, The Ohio State University) under faculty review. The named authors and editors are responsible for the analysis, interpretation, and final wording in this document.

The survey was distributed through the City's website, social media channels, and neighborhood-based outreach. A total of 3,524 responses were submitted; 373 were excluded as blank, incomplete, or duplicates, resulting in 3,151 valid responses included in this analysis. Not all respondents answered every question, so totals vary by item.

Survey responses were geographically concentrated, with a majority originating from Clintonville and nearby neighborhoods along the Olentangy River corridor. Because participation was voluntary and demographic information was not collected, results should not be interpreted as statistically representative of the entire Columbus population. Additional technical notes on exclusions, location grouping, and figure construction are included in Appendix D.

## **How Location Groups are Used in this Report**

- Citywide results describe patterns among all survey respondents who answered a given question.
- Clintonville results are shown separately in some places because a large share of responses came from Clintonville, allowing for clearer description of reported experiences within that neighborhood.
- Outside Clintonville results summarize responses from a wide mix of neighborhoods and are included to provide context and directional comparison. Because responses outside Clintonville were dispersed across many areas, results shown as "outside Clintonville" should not be interpreted as representing any single neighborhood or as identifying where concerns are most concentrated outside Clintonville.

This survey was not designed to produce neighborhood-by-neighborhood estimates across the entire city. The strongest location-specific detail in this report is presented for Clintonville because of the number and nature of responses from that neighborhood.

When patterns outside Clintonville point in the same direction as Clintonville (for example, increased deer sightings, reported damage, or support for particular approaches), those results suggest that similar concerns may be present in other parts of the city. They do not identify which specific neighborhoods are most affected.

The survey included questions about residents' general perceptions of deer, reported experiences with deer-related damage and costs, and levels of support for a range of deer management approaches. Findings are presented primarily as descriptive percentages of valid responses, with sample sizes noted in figure titles or captions.

### **Scope of This Summary**

This report summarizes responses to survey items prioritized for near-term communication and decision support, including resident perceptions, reported deer-related damage and costs, and opinions on potential management approaches. It does not attempt to estimate the true prevalence of deer impacts citywide, and it should be interpreted alongside other City data sources and professional expertise. The survey also asked additional questions (for example: concern ratings, feeding norms, deterrence actions, and open-ended comments) that are not summarized here and were not prioritized for near-term decisions. Answers to non-prioritized questions may be analyzed in future reports or decision-making processes as appropriate.

## **Deer Presence, Perceptions, and Reported Impacts**

This section summarizes what respondents reported about deer presence in their neighborhood and how they feel about deer overall. It provides context for the reported damage and cost results that follow.

### **How to interpret location-based results**

Survey participation was concentrated in Clintonville, which makes the Clintonville response group large enough to describe patterns within that neighborhood with more stability than elsewhere in the dataset. Responses from outside Clintonville are equally valid and reflect real experiences and concerns across the city. However, because responses outside Clintonville are more geographically dispersed, results for “outside Clintonville” should be interpreted as a broad comparison group rather than as a single neighborhood or a citywide control group. Additional neighborhood-level conclusions outside Clintonville would require more location-specific data than is available in this survey.

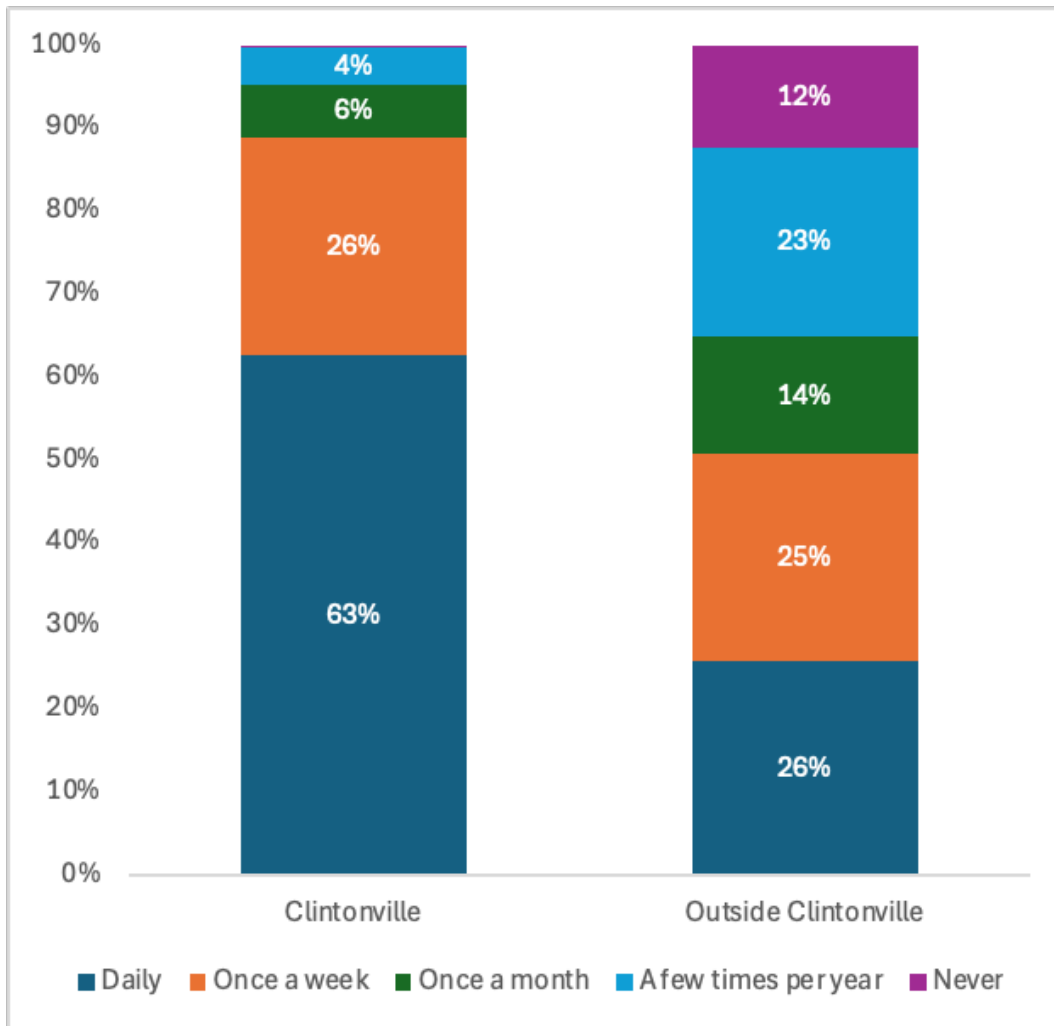
## Reported Deer Presence and Recent Population Change

Across the city, respondents commonly reported frequent deer sightings and perceived increases in the deer population. These patterns were more pronounced among Clintonville respondents, but they were also visible among respondents outside Clintonville.

### *Deer sightings (last year)*

More than six in ten Clintonville respondents reported seeing deer daily (62.8%), compared to about one-quarter of respondents outside Clintonville (25.8%). Outside Clintonville, about two-thirds of respondents reported seeing deer at least monthly (daily, weekly, or monthly).

Figure 1 shows how frequently respondents reported seeing deer over the past year.



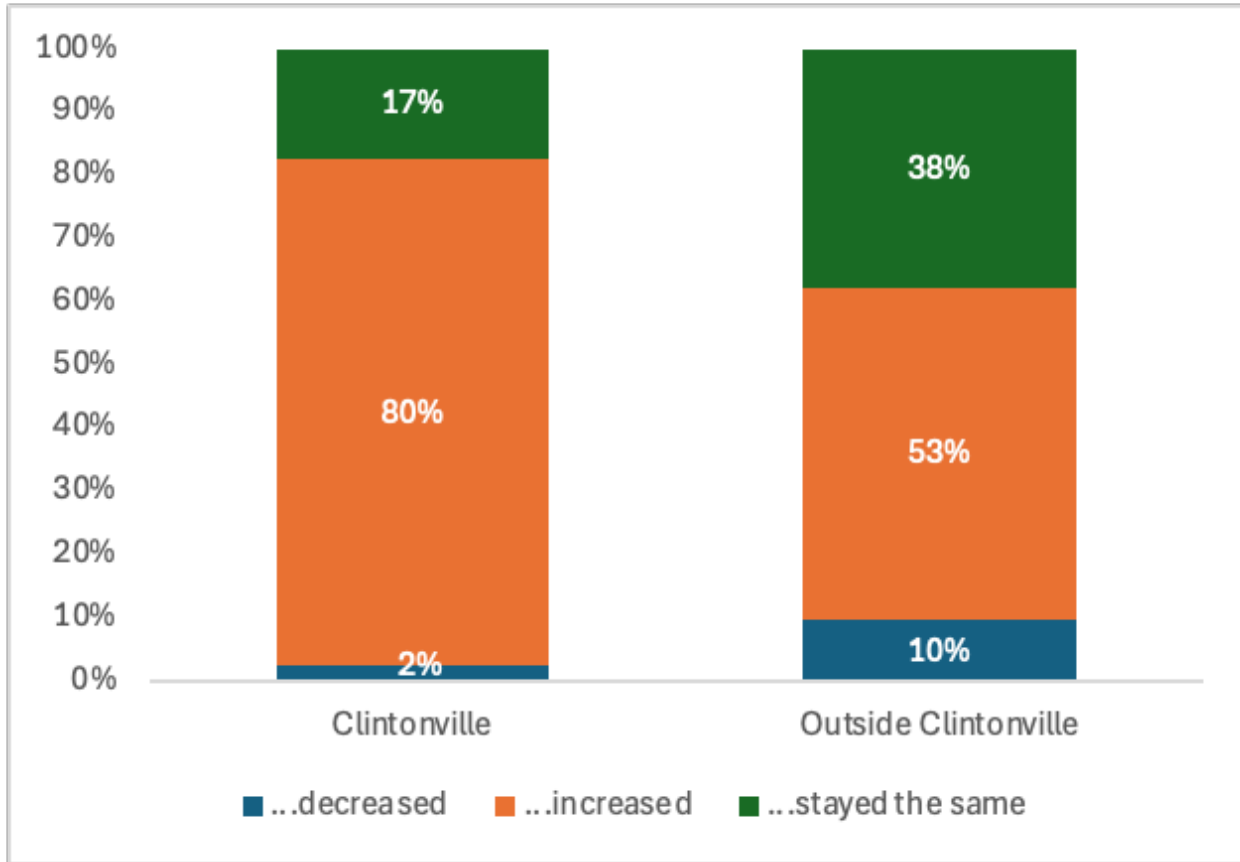
**Figure 1. Frequency of deer sightings in the last year (Clintonville vs. outside Clintonville)**

*Notes: Percentages exclude blank responses. Clintonville n = 2,145; outside Clintonville n = 970.*

**Perceived change (last three years)**

Most respondents citywide reported that deer numbers have increased in their neighborhood (71.7%). The share reporting an increase was higher in Clintonville (80.2%) than outside Clintonville (52.7%).

Figure 2 summarizes how respondents described changes in deer population over the past three years.



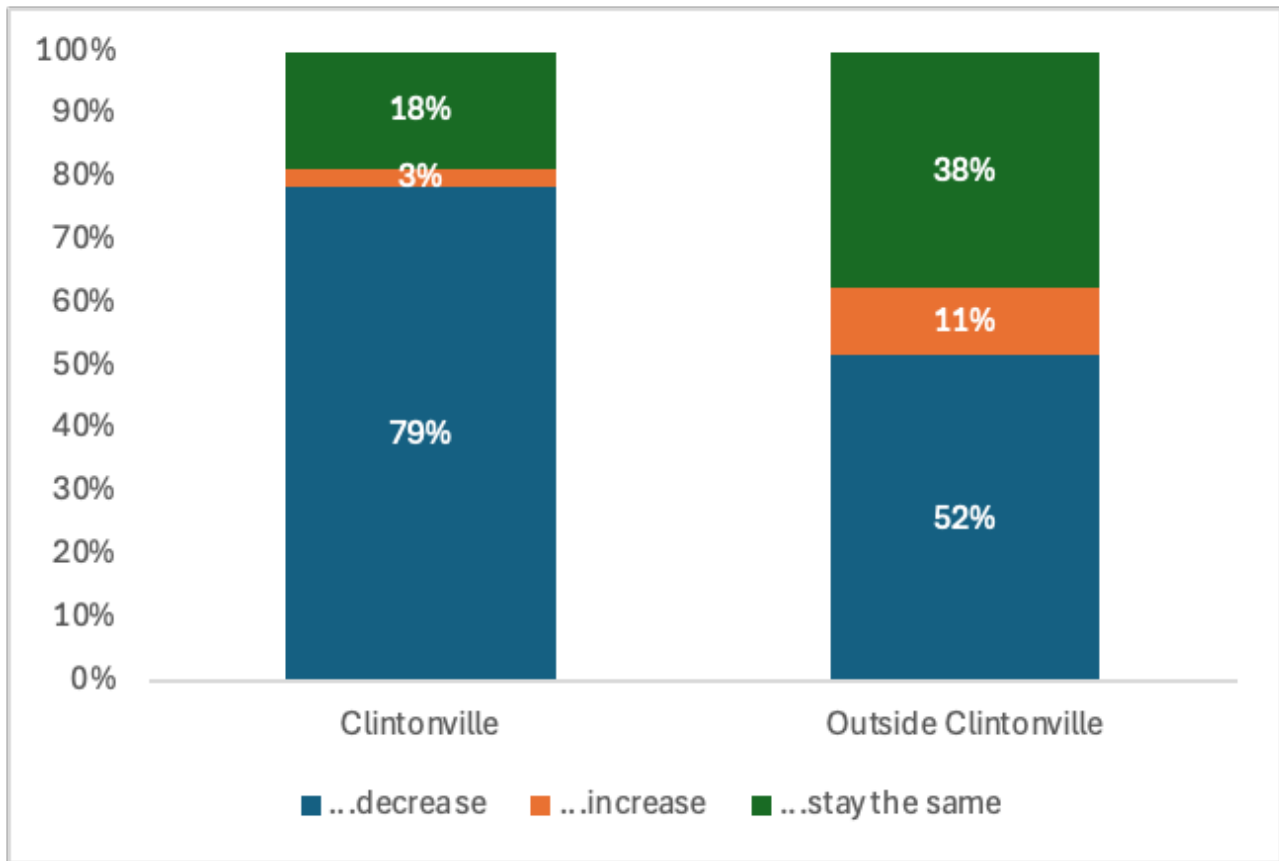
**Figure 2. Perceived change in deer population over the last three years (Clintonville vs. outside Clintonville)**

*Notes: Percentages exclude blank responses. Clintonville n = 2,141; outside Clintonville n = 970.*

**Desired change (next few years)**

Citywide, most respondents indicated they would like to see the deer population decrease (70.2%). Support for a decrease was higher in Clintonville (78.6%) than outside Clintonville (51.9%), where a substantial share of respondents preferred the population stay the same (37.5%).

Figure 3 shows what respondents indicated they would like to see happen to the deer population in the next few years.



**Figure 3. Desired change in deer population in the next few years (Clintonville vs. outside Clintonville)**

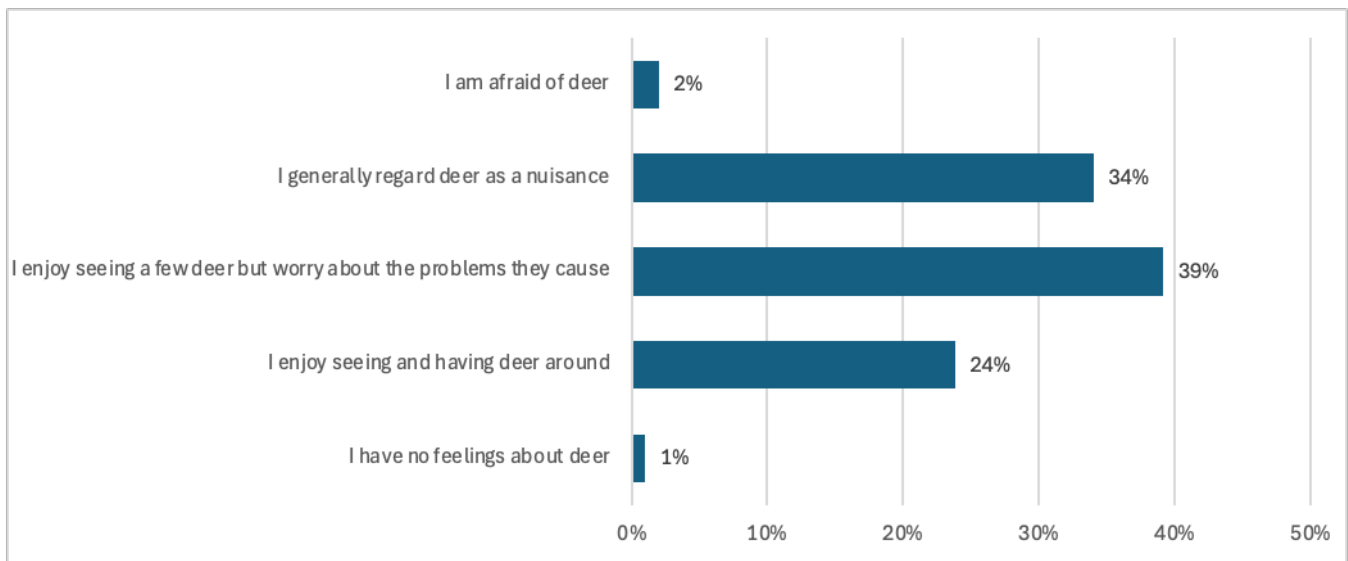
*Notes: Percentages exclude blank responses. Clintonville n = 2,136; outside Clintonville n = 968.*

## How Respondents Feel about Deer

After reporting deer presence and perceived changes, respondents were asked to select the statement that best reflects how they feel about deer in their neighborhood. Key patterns (all respondents, n = 3,151):

- Nearly 40% of respondents enjoy seeing a few deer but worry about the problems they cause.
- About 34% generally regard deer as a nuisance.
- Fewer than one-quarter report enjoying seeing and having deer around.
- Smaller shares of respondents reported being afraid of deer or having no particular feelings.

Figure 4 summarizes how respondents described their overall feelings about deer in their neighborhood.



**Figure 4. Distribution of respondent perceptions of deer (citywide)**

*Notes: Percentages reflect the share of respondents selecting each perception statement. Percentages exclude blank responses. Valid responses n = 3,146; blanks = 5.*

## Reported Deer-Related Damage

Survey responses show a clear relationship between how residents perceive deer in their neighborhood and whether they report experiencing deer-related damage. While respondents expressed a range of feelings about deer, experiences with damage were strongly associated with more negative perceptions.

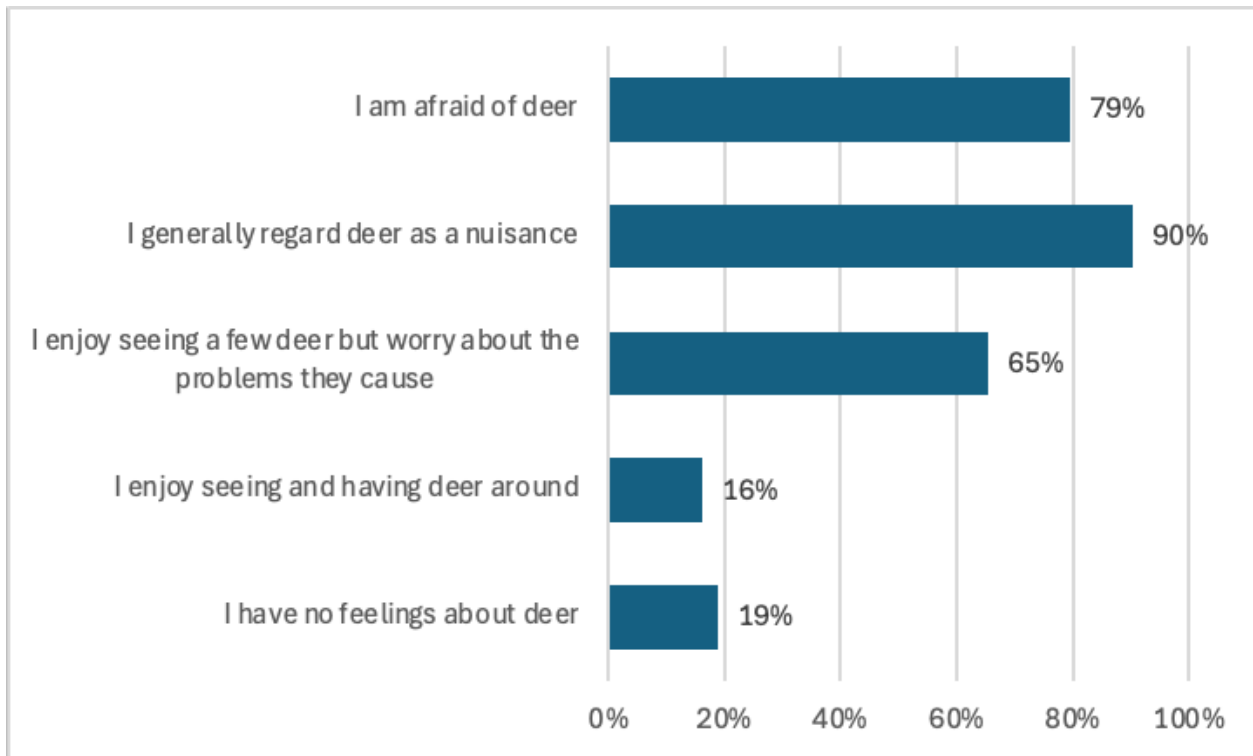
**Deer-related damage, any type (valid n = 3,074; blanks = 77)**

Overall, 63.4% of respondents reported experiencing deer-related property damage, vehicle accidents, or injury within the past three years.

**Relationship between perception and reported damage (among respondents answering both items):**

- Among respondents who generally regard deer as a nuisance, 91.2% reported experiencing damage.
- Among those who enjoy seeing a few deer but worry about problems, 67.0% reported damage.
- Among respondents who enjoy seeing and having deer around, 16.7% reported damage.

Figure 5 illustrates the share of respondents within each perception category who reported experiencing deer-related damage within the past three years.

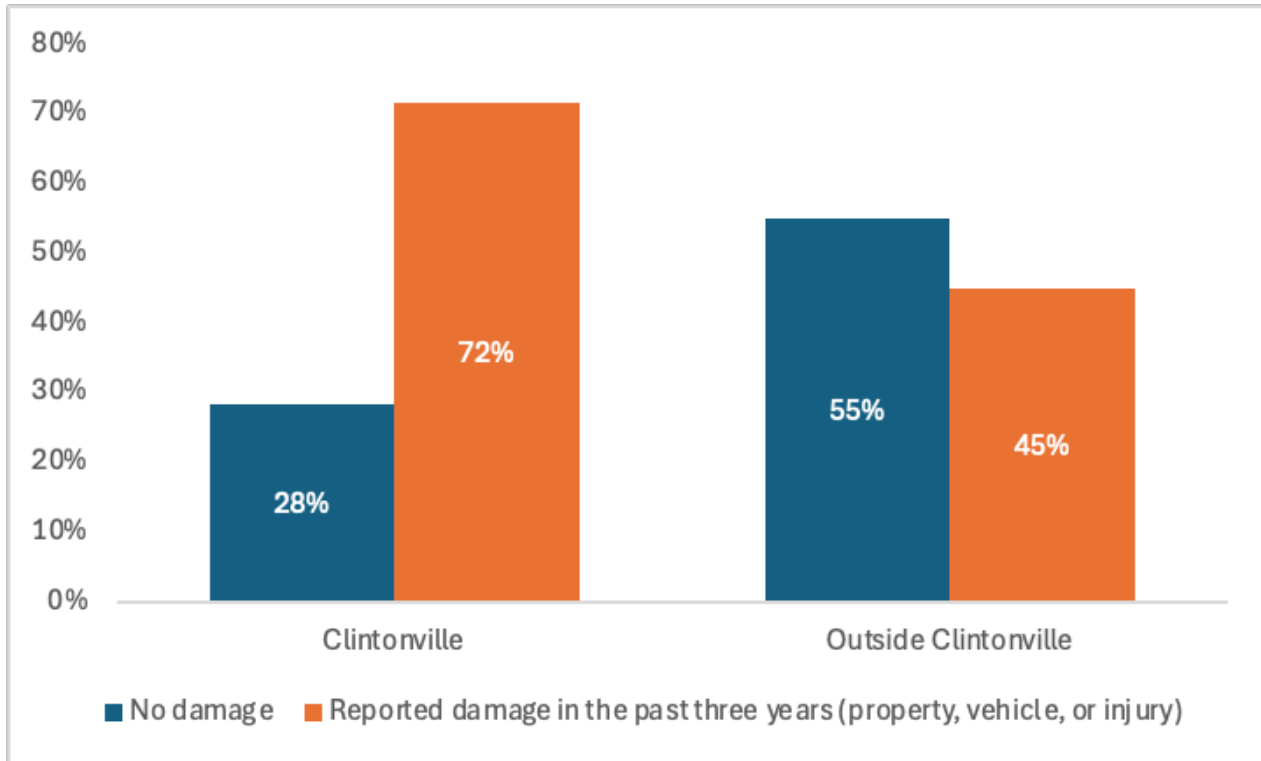


**Figure 5. Reported deer-related damage by resident perception of deer**

Notes: “Any damage” includes property damage, deer-involved vehicle incidents, or deer-related injury in the past three years. Percentages reflect the share of respondents within each perception category who reported any damage. Valid responses for the damage item n = 3,074 (blanks = 77). Percentages are calculated within perception categories among respondents who answered both items.

### ***Reported damage by location***

Reported damage also differed by location group. Figure 6 compares the share of respondents in Clintonville and outside Clintonville who reported any deer-related damage in the past three years.



**Figure 6. Reported deer-related damage by location (Clintonville vs. outside Clintonville)**

*Notes: “Any damage” includes property damage, deer-involved vehicle incidents, or injury in the past three years. Percentages exclude blank responses. Clintonville n = 2,124; outside Clintonville n = 950.*

### **Financial Impacts Reported by Respondents**

Survey responses indicate that deer-related impacts are associated with direct financial costs for many respondents. These include both property-related damage and prevention costs and, less frequently, costs related to vehicle incidents or injuries. Costs should be interpreted as respondent-reported estimates rather than audited expenses.

#### ***Property-related costs***

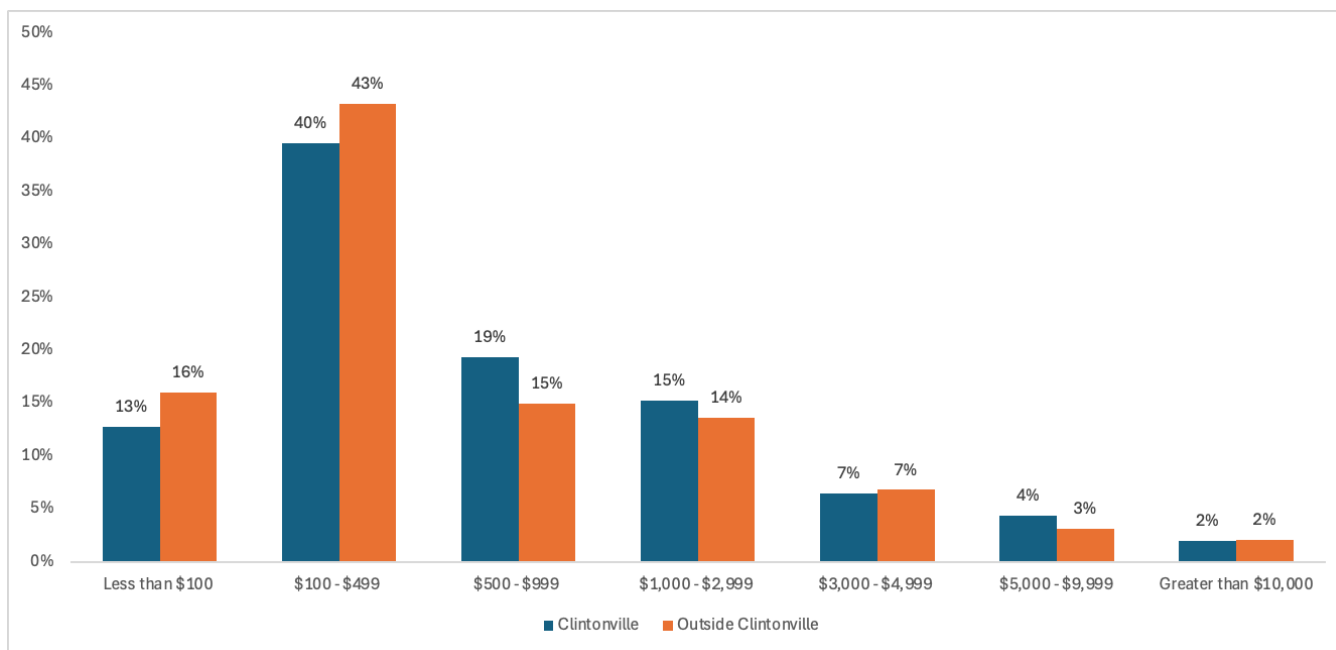
The following results reflect only respondents who reported experiencing property damage or incurring costs to prevent deer-related damage.

Among all respondents, 68.1% of Clintonville respondents reported incurring some level of financial cost due to property damage from deer or expenses incurred to prevent such damage, compared to 38.9% of respondents outside Clintonville.

Among respondents reporting property-related costs, the most commonly reported cost range was \$100–\$499, accounting for approximately 40% of reported cases in both Clintonville and areas outside Clintonville. However, a notable share of respondents reported higher expenses.

Approximately 28% of Clintonville respondents reporting property-related costs indicated expenses of \$1,000 or more, including about 6% who reported costs exceeding \$5,000. Outside Clintonville, approximately 26% of respondents reporting property-related costs indicated expenses of \$1,000 or more, including about 5% who reported costs exceeding \$5,000. While high-cost incidents were less frequent, they represent substantial financial impacts for affected households.

To further illustrate the scale of property-related financial impacts, Figure 7 presents the distribution of reported property damage and prevention costs by location among respondents who reported incurring such costs.



**Figure 7. Distribution of property-related costs by location among respondents reporting costs**

*Notes: Property-related costs include costs attributed to deer-related property damage and/or expenses to prevent such damage. Percentages reflect the distribution of reported cost ranges among respondents who reported any property-related costs. Clintonville n = 1,474; outside Clintonville n = 383.*

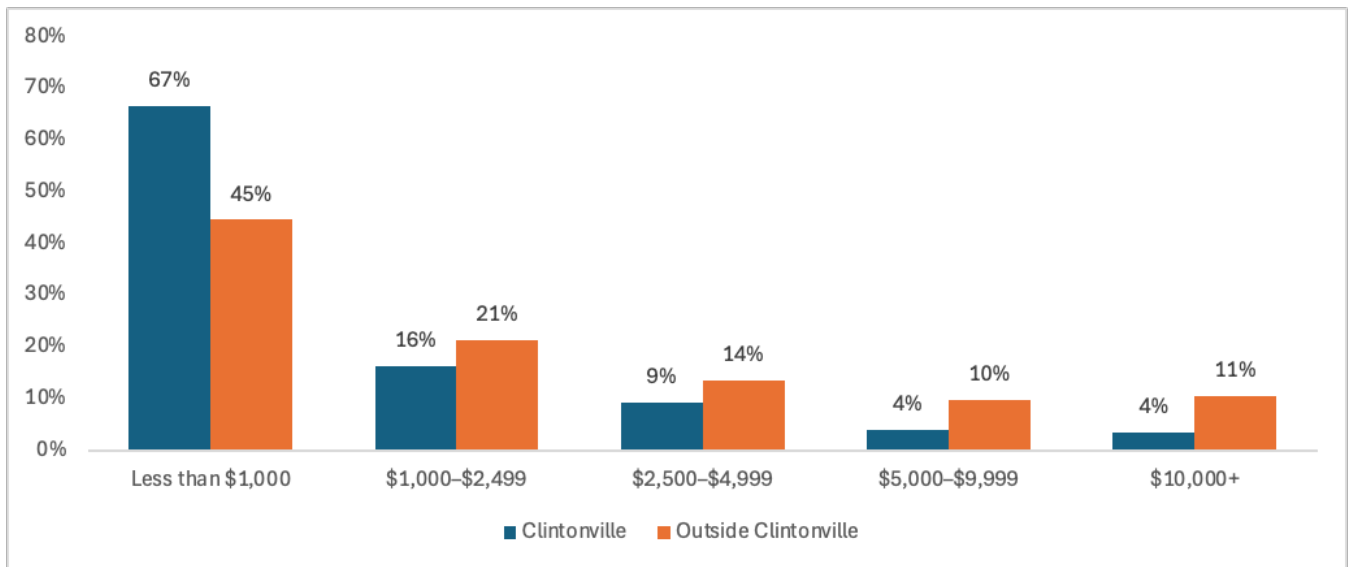
### ***Vehicle repair and injury-related costs***

The following results reflect respondents who reported vehicle repair costs or injury-related expenses resulting from deer incidents.

Vehicle repairs and injury- or medical-related costs were reported by a smaller share of respondents. Approximately 10% of respondents, both inside and outside Clintonville, reported incurring costs related to deer-involved vehicle incidents or injuries.

Among respondents who reported these costs, most reported expenses under \$1,000. However, about 22% of respondents reporting vehicle or injury-related costs reported expenses of \$2,500 or more, including about 6% who reported costs exceeding \$10,000. Although these incidents were less frequent, they represent higher-severity financial impacts when they occur.

Figure 8 shows the distribution of reported vehicle repair and injury-related costs among respondents who indicated experiencing deer-involved vehicle incidents or injuries. The figure highlights differences in cost ranges reported by location among those respondents.



**Figure 8. Distribution of reported vehicle and injury-related costs by location among respondents reporting vehicle or injury costs.**

*Notes: Vehicle and injury-related costs include costs attributed to deer-involved vehicle incidents and/or deer-related injury or medical expenses. Percentages reflect the distribution of reported cost ranges among respondents who reported any vehicle or injury-related costs. Clintonville n = 225; outside Clintonville n = 103.*

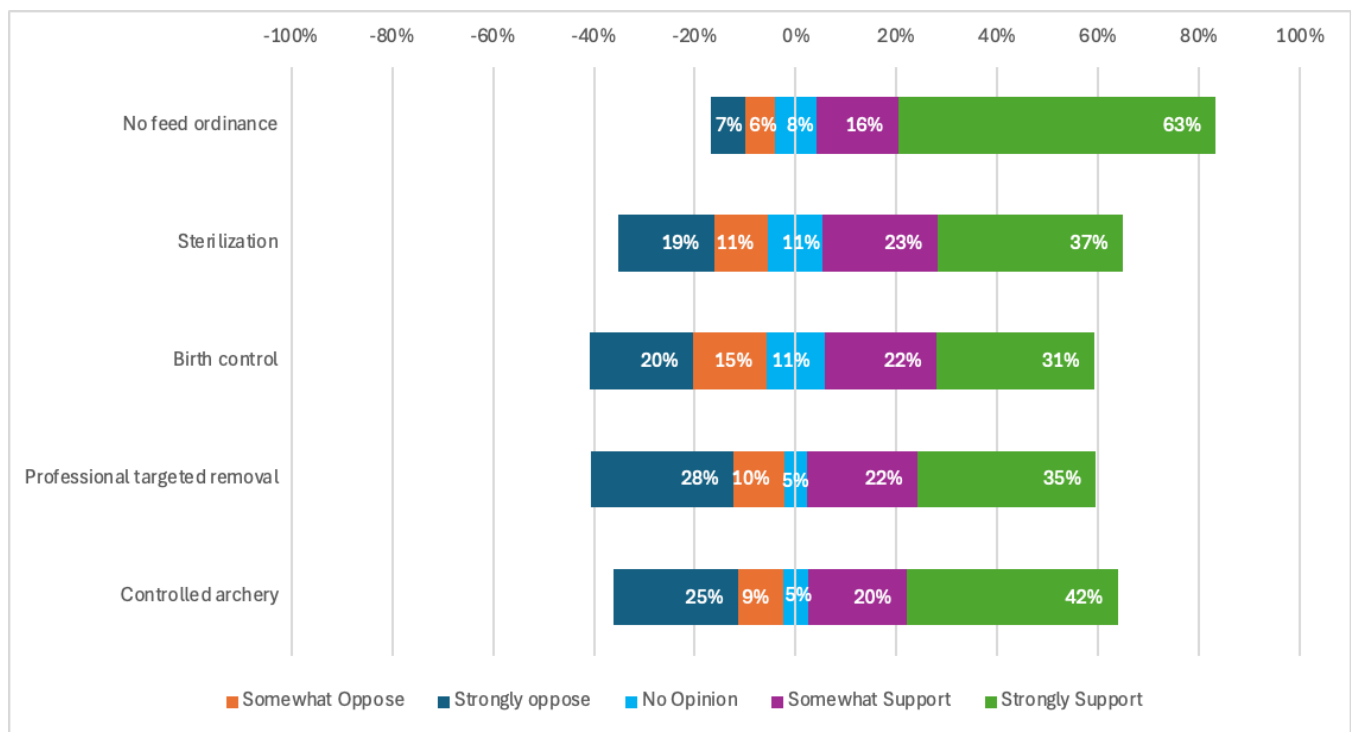
**Interpretation note:** Reported costs reflect self-reported estimates selected from predefined cost ranges. Findings should be interpreted as indicative of the types and scale of costs experienced by survey respondents rather than as precise measures of total economic impact across the city.

## Public Perspectives on Deer Management Approaches

Responses in this section reflect residents’ comfort levels, concerns, and perceptions regarding different deer management approaches. These survey items were not intended to function as a vote, ranking, or decision mechanism. Instead, they provide context for understanding where approaches may be more or less acceptable to residents and where additional communication or education may be needed if specific strategies are considered in the future.

Because responses were geographically concentrated in Clintonville, results are presented citywide with Clintonville context shown where it adds clarity.

Figure 9 provides a citywide overview of respondent support, opposition, and neutrality across the deer management approaches included in the survey. Results are shown as the share of valid responses indicating support, opposition, or no opinion for each approach.



**Figure 9. Overall respondent support or opposition levels across each deer management approach (citywide, valid responses).**

*Notes: Support includes “Somewhat Support” and “Strongly Support.” Opposition includes “Somewhat Oppose” and “Strongly Oppose.” Percentages reflect the share of valid responses for each approach; blank responses are excluded. Valid n and blanks vary by approach (see item summaries in the text).*

## Support for Population Reduction Approaches Using Non-Lethal Methods

Survey results show strong support for non-lethal strategies, particularly a no-feeding ordinance. Responses for fertility-control approaches (birth control and sterilization) show majority support overall, with higher opposition outside Clintonville. Exact survey text can be found in Appendix B.

### **No Feeding Ordinance** (citywide, valid n = 3,007; blanks = 144)

Among valid responses citywide, 79.1% supported a no-feeding ordinance (Somewhat Support + Strongly Support), 12.5% opposed, and 8.3% reported no opinion.

- *Clintonville* (valid n = 2,088): 83.4% supported, 9.4% opposed, 7.2% no opinion
- *Outside Clintonville* (valid n = 919): 69.4% supported, 19.7% opposed, 10.9% no opinion

### **Birth Control** (valid n = 2,988; blanks = 163)

Among valid responses citywide, 53.5% supported birth control, 35.0% opposed, and 11.4% reported no opinion.

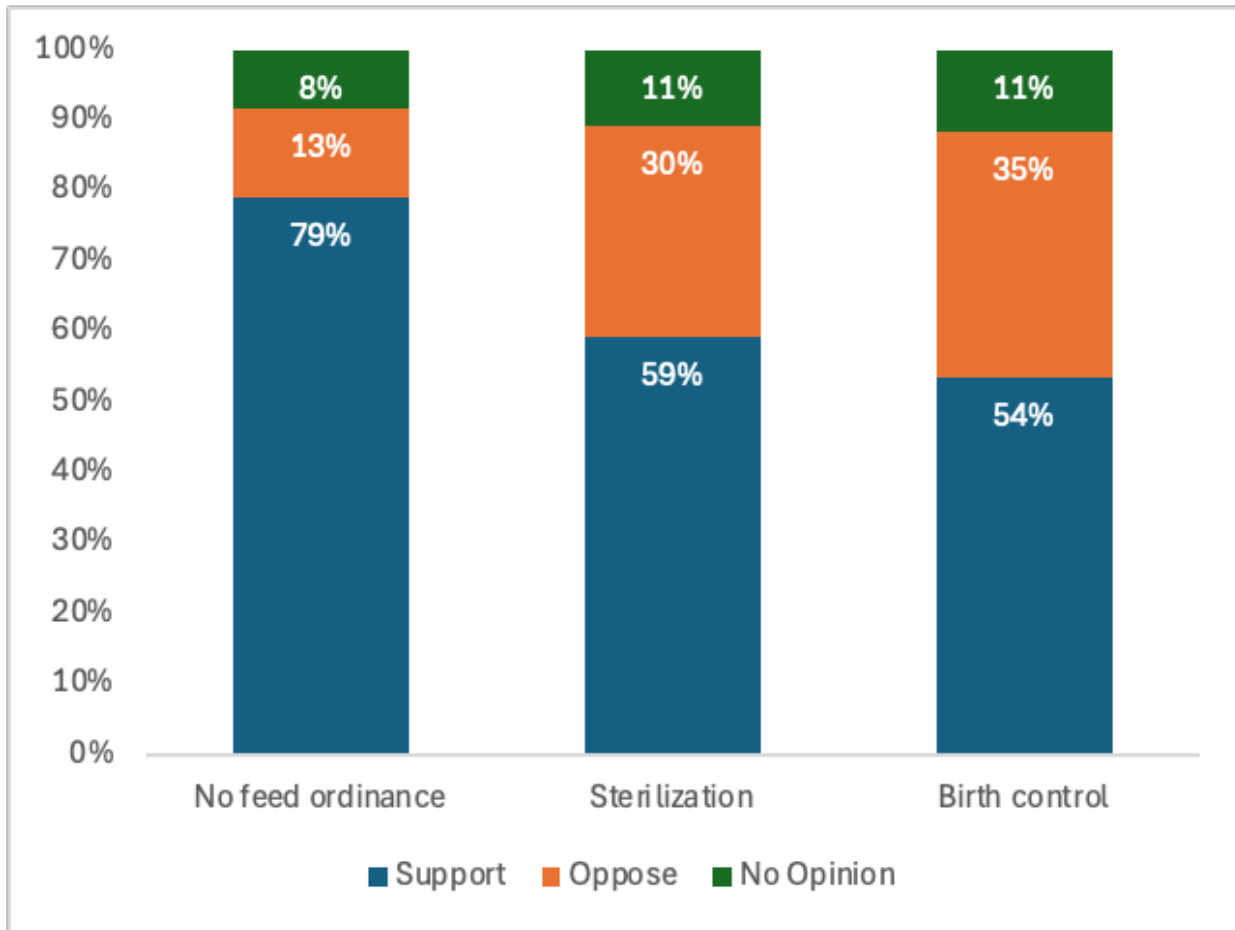
- *Clintonville* (valid n = 2,070): 57.3% supported, 31.1% opposed, 11.6% no opinion
- *Outside Clintonville* (valid n = 918): 45.1% supported, 44.0% opposed, 10.9% no opinion

### **Sterilization** (valid n = 2,997; blanks = 154)

Among valid responses citywide, 59.4% supported sterilization, 29.8% opposed, and 10.8% reported no opinion.

- *Clintonville* (valid n = 2,079): 63.6% supported, 26.0% opposed, 10.4% no opinion
- *Outside Clintonville* (valid n = 918): 50.0% supported, 38.2% opposed, 11.8% no opinion

Figure 10 summarizes citywide support, opposition, and neutrality for non-lethal deer management approaches, including a no-feeding ordinance, birth control, and sterilization, based on valid survey responses.



**Figure 10. Support for non-lethal deer management approaches (citywide, valid responses).**

*Notes: Support includes “Somewhat Support” and “Strongly Support.” Opposition includes “Somewhat Oppose” and “Strongly Oppose.” Percentages reflect the share of valid responses for each approach; blank responses are excluded. Valid n and blanks for each approach are reported in the text.*

**Notes on interpretation:** Responses related to fertility-control approaches are best interpreted as indicators of resident comfort with non-lethal strategies, rather than determinations of feasibility. These results can help identify where additional explanation or engagement may be needed regarding what fertility-control approaches can and cannot achieve in practice, including cost, implementation, and time constraints.

Higher support indicates greater public comfort with non-lethal approaches; higher opposition indicates areas where more information or engagement may be helpful if these options are considered in the future.

## Support for Population Reduction Approaches Using Lethal Methods

Survey items also asked about two population reduction approaches that use lethal methods under controlled and limited conditions. These items were included to assess public comfort with different population reduction strategies, not to determine which methods should be used. Exact survey text can be found in Appendix C.

To support clear public understanding, results are reported separately for each approach.

***Professional targeted removal (firearms, contracted specialists)*** (valid n = 2,998; blanks = 153)

Among valid responses citywide, 57.2% supported this approach, 38.2% opposed, and 4.5% reported no opinion.

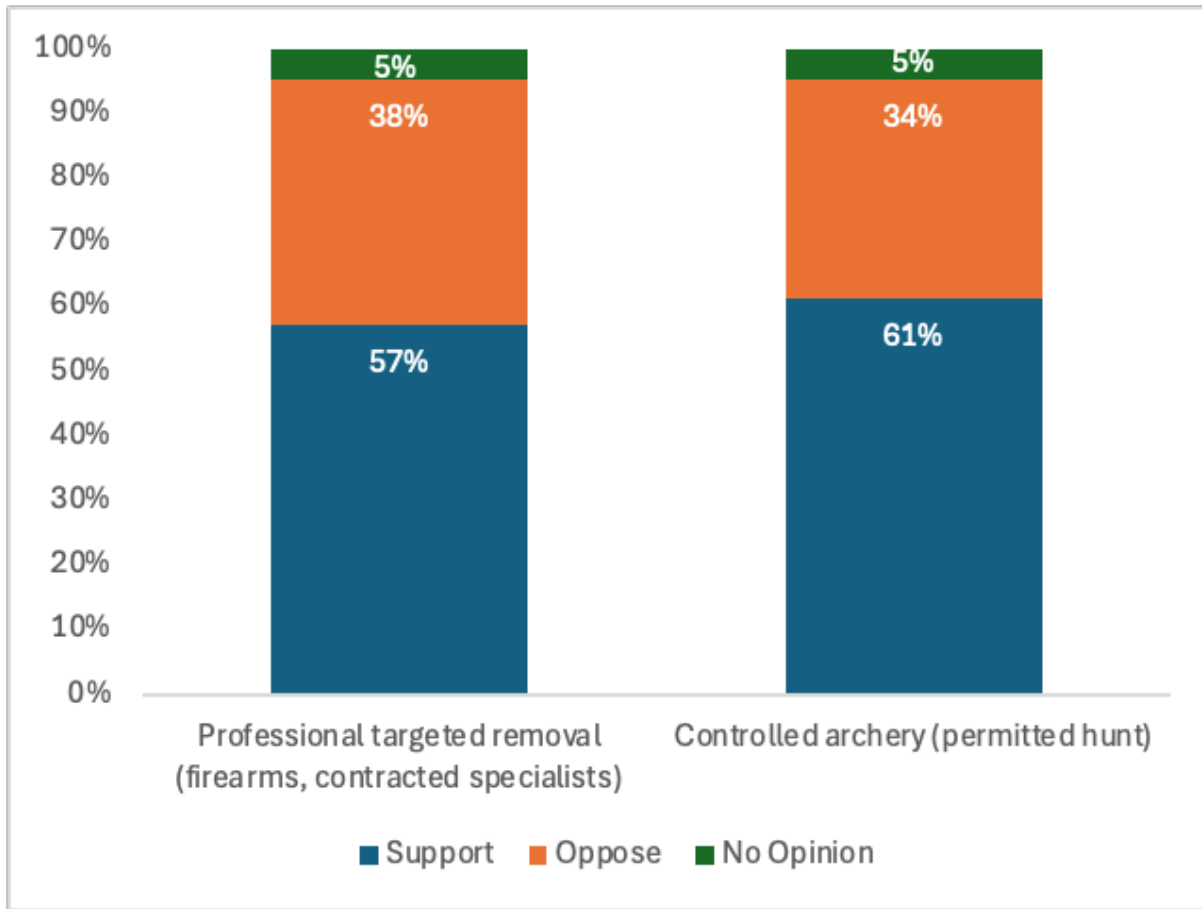
- *Clintonville* (valid n = 2,077): 61.5% supported, 34.2% opposed, 4.3% no opinion
- *Outside Clintonville* (valid n = 921): 47.7% supported, 47.3% opposed, 5% no opinion

***Controlled archery (permitted hunt)*** (valid n = 3,000; blanks = 151)

Among valid responses citywide, 61.5% supported this approach, 33.8% opposed, and 4.7% reported no opinion.

- *Clintonville* (valid n = 2,079): 63.9% supported, 31.2% opposed, 4.9% no opinion
- *Outside Clintonville* (valid n = 918): 55.9% supported, 39.7% opposed, 4.4% no opinion

Figure 11 presents citywide levels of support, opposition, and neutrality for two population reduction approaches that use lethal methods under controlled conditions: professional targeted removal using firearms and controlled archery through permitted hunts.



**Figure 11. Support for population reduction approaches using lethal methods (citywide, valid responses).**

*Notes: Support includes “Somewhat Support” and “Strongly Support.” Opposition includes “Somewhat Oppose” and “Strongly Oppose.” Percentages reflect the share of valid responses for each approach; blank responses are excluded. Valid n and blanks for each approach are reported in the text.*

**Interpretation:** Support for population reduction approaches varies more by geography than support for non-lethal approaches, with higher support observed in areas reporting higher deer-related impacts.

**Context for Reading Population Reduction Results**

Survey questions related to population reduction approaches were intended to gauge public comfort with different management strategies, not to function as a vote or selection process. In practice, any population reduction efforts within city limits would be subject to established regulatory requirements, defined constraints, and professional oversight. As with non-lethal

approaches, responses to population reduction methods reflect perceived acceptability and concern rather than a selection or endorsement of specific actions.

### **Connection Between Experience and Acceptability of Population Control**

Across the survey, respondent experiences (including reported damage and financial impacts) align with differences in acceptability of management approaches. In general, respondents reporting deer-related impacts show higher support for more intervention, including population reduction approaches, while respondents reporting fewer impacts show higher comfort with deer presence and greater opposition to lethal methods.

### **Conclusion and How to Interpret These Findings**

The 2025 Columbus Deer Survey provides a descriptive snapshot of how participating residents experience and perceive deer across different parts of the city. The findings show clear geographic patterning in the responses received, with higher reported deer presence and higher reported impacts in Clintonville than outside Clintonville.

At the same time, the survey makes clear that residents' views are not uniform. Many respondents described mixed feelings: enjoyment of seeing deer alongside concern about damage, safety, or costs. Preferences for management approaches also vary, with broad support for many non-lethal approaches and more variable support for population reduction approaches using lethal methods.

Interpretation needs to stay aligned with the survey design. This was a voluntary public survey and is not statistically representative of the entire Columbus population. It is not a vote, a mandate, or a decision-making mechanism. It is best used to understand what participating residents report experiencing, where concerns show up most frequently in the response set, and what approaches people are more likely to accept or oppose.

The survey findings underscore that deer-related impacts in Columbus are experienced unevenly across the city and that residents' perceptions and preferences are closely tied to those experiences. This report is intended to inform ongoing discussion and evaluation by providing a clearer understanding of resident-reported conditions and perspectives, while recognizing the limits of voluntary survey data.

## Appendix A: Questions directly analyzed in this summary:

### Your Thoughts on Deer in Your Neighborhood

Select the option that most closely describes your feelings about deer in your neighborhood:

- I enjoy seeing and having deer around
- I enjoy seeing a few deer but worry about the problems they cause
- I generally regard deer as a nuisance
- I am afraid of deer
- I have no feelings about deer

### Personal Engagement with Deer

What changes, if any, have you noticed in the deer population in your neighborhood in the last three years? The number of deer in my neighborhood has...

- ...increased
- ...decreased
- ...stayed the same

What would you like to see happen to the deer population in your neighborhood in the next few years? I would like to see the deer population...

- ...increase
- ...decrease
- ...stay the same

In the last year, how often have you seen deer on your property or street?

- Daily
- Once a week
- Once a month

- A few times per year
- Never

*The following questions are only meant to help the City understand general trends and neighborhood-level impacts. You will not be asked for any personal or insurance information.*

Have you suffered property damage or other property expenses due to deer in the last 3 years?

- Yes
- No

How much financial cost have you incurred due to property damage from deer or in order to avoid property damage by deer?

- Less than \$100
- \$100 - \$499
- \$500 - \$999
- \$1,000 - \$2,999
- \$3,000 - \$4,999
- \$5,000 - \$9,999
- Greater than \$10,000

In the past three years, has anyone in your household been involved in a car-deer incident within the City of Columbus?

- Yes
- No

How much financial cost have you incurred due to vehicle repairs or injury/medical bills due to any incidents with deer within Columbus?

- Less than \$1,000
- \$1,000 - \$2,499
- \$2,500 - \$4,999
- \$5,000 - \$9,999
- Greater than \$10,000

As the City of Columbus explores potential deer management options, what is your opinion about use of non-lethal methods for reducing the local deer population in Columbus, assuming regulations are established for safety?

	Strongly Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	No Opinion	Somewhat Support	Strongly Support
No Feeding Ordinances	○	○	○	○	○
Birth Control	○	○	○	○	○
Sterilization	○	○	○	○	○

As the City of Columbus explores potential deer management options, what is your opinion about use of lethal methods for reducing the local deer population in Columbus, assuming safety rules are in place to protect people and neighborhoods?

Strongly Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	No Opinion	Somewhat Support	Strongly Support
-----------------	-----------------	------------	------------------	------------------

Lethal Means -  
Firearms:  
Professional  
sharpshooters  
to cull a set  
number of deer

Lethal Means –  
Archery:  
Qualified,  
permitted  
hunters using  
archery  
equipment for a  
limited time  
period

## Appendix B. Survey-provided description of non-lethal options (reproduced text)

The following descriptions are included for reference because they reflect explanatory language presented within the survey instrument. They are provided here to document what respondents were reacting to when answering survey items. These descriptions are not evaluated or validated in this report.

*These are the four primary non-lethal methods of managing deer populations:*

1. **Relocation:** Moving deer to a different location (relocation) is currently banned in Ohio because up to 80% of relocated deer do not survive the move and moving increases the potential for spreading disease.
2. **No-feeding ordinances:** Feeding deer leads to more frequent deer presence, which can increase damage and costs for residents. If the City of Columbus creates a rule that makes it illegal to feed deer, the city would first send a warning letter to the individual. If intentional feeding continues, civil penalties may follow.
3. **Birth control:** Experts inject deer with a birth control vaccine. One vaccine has 33% effectiveness, and two shots have 86% effectiveness. The cost per deer averages around \$5,000 per deer annually, depending on labor costs. There is a 13% chance of mortality, generally due to vehicle collisions.
4. **Sterilization:** Experts perform a surgery on female deer to prevent them from having fawns in the future. This is a one-time cost around \$1,200 per deer. There is less than 1% mortality.

## Appendix C. Survey-provided description of lethal removal methods (reproduced text)

The following descriptions are included for reference because they reflect explanatory language presented within the survey instrument. They are provided here to document what respondents were reacting to when answering survey items. These descriptions are not evaluated or validated in this report.

*These are the two primary lethal methods of deer management:*

1. **Firearms:** Professional sharpshooters would be hired to selectively cull\* white-tailed deer in targeted areas. Specific dates and times would be clearly communicated in advance to residents living near the affected areas. This method generally costs between \$600 per deer annually. There have been 0 human injuries amongst over 73 removal programs of this type across Ohio. For comparison, removal programs are safer than all recreational activities – including golf.
2. **Archery hunting:** Permitted individual hunters would be authorized to hunt using bows on designated private properties. Regulations would specify minimum property sizes and safe distances from pedestrian areas. Hunters would be required to pass background checks and archery skill tests, and would hunt from elevated platforms for additional safety. This method is generally free for the City to implement, with a maximum potential total annual cost of \$1,000.

*\*To cull: to kill members of a species to reduce population in an area.*

## **Appendix D. Technical Notes on Data Handling and Figure Construction**

Data cleaning and exclusions: Responses were included in the analysis if they contained usable survey content. Submissions that were blank or incomplete were excluded (373 total), resulting in 3,151 valid responses included in this report.

Item-level denominators: Not all respondents answered every question. For each figure and summary, percentages are calculated using the number of valid responses to that specific item. Blank (no response) entries are excluded from denominators and are noted where applicable (e.g., “valid n” and “blanks”).

Location grouping: Respondents were grouped based on their self-reported location. This report highlights Clintonville separately due to the volume of responses. Results outside Clintonville combine responses from many neighborhoods and are presented for context and directional comparison, not as neighborhood-specific estimates.

Figure construction: Figures were produced from item-level response counts using spreadsheet pivot tables and percentage calculations. Comparisons between Clintonville and outside Clintonville use the same response options and the same denominator approach (valid responses for that item). Cost figures reflect the survey’s cost-range response categories; distributions are shown only for respondents who reported a cost in that category.

Rounding: Percentages may not sum to exactly 100% due to rounding and/or the inclusion of response options such as “no opinion” where applicable