

Science-based, non-lethal deer management for Oak Bay



Deer Plan Oak Bay

A campaign of the
URBAN WILDLIFE
STEWARDSHIP SOCIETY

deerplanoakbay.ca

March 21, 2016



Urban Wildlife Stewardship Society

Non-profit

Community-based

Volunteer-powered



Urban Wildlife Stewardship Society

Broad spectrum of community members

Experienced wildlife biologists

Educators

Business professionals

Communications specialists



UWSS Science Advisory Group

University of Victoria faculty

Camosun College faculty

Advisor – BC Provincial Veterinarian



UWSS goals



UWSS Goal #1

Develop and deliver
—in partnership—
humane, science-based
alternatives to a cull



UWSS Goal #2

Gather scientific information on:

- ▶ Attitudes of residents toward deer
- ▶ Urban deer population dynamics and ecology



UWSS Goal #3

Showcase what is possible when
the community works together
and thinks long-term



UWSS five-point program



UWSS five-point program

Submitted to Oak Bay Council Jan. 25, 2016

Effective public education

Population model

Survey of attitudes

Deer abundance estimation

Immuno-contraception



Consistent with provincial advice

Local governments experiencing urban deer issues are encouraged to develop detailed community management plans that include:

- ✓ Education on conflict reduction
- ✓ Resident opinion surveys
- ✓ Deer population estimates

January 2015 Provincial Fact Sheet



What would it cost?



2016 budget

▶ Effective public education	\$4,500
▶ Population model	\$10,000
▶ Survey of attitudes	\$16,000
▶ Deer abundance estimation	\$5,000
▶ Immuno-contraception	\$50,000
▶ Total	\$85,000
▶ Cost to District	\$38,250



2016 budget assumptions

- ▶ All projects implemented
- ▶ Program cost-shared among:
 - Province \$20,000
 - UWSS \$2,250
 - Other partners \$25,000



2017–2020 budget

Estimated annual cost to District
\$27,250

(assumes on-going \$20,000
contribution from the province)



If we get started now

- ▶ Reduced human–deer conflict – summer 2016
- ▶ Identification of, and progress on, shared goals without dividing the community
- ▶ Positive action
- ▶ Little draw on staff time
- ▶ Reduced fawn births by spring 2017, even more pronounced in 2018



and...

- ▶ Full and public endorsement from the BC SPCA
- ▶ Partnership with scientists and educators from the University of Victoria and Camosun College
- ▶ Opportunity for broad citizen engagement



Let's move forward together

We ask for...

A formal partnership between UWSS and the District of Oak Bay for the management of urban deer

Budget allocation of \$38,250 for 2016, and \$27,250 for the next four years (2017–2020)



Thank you!



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