

**City of East Lansing's
Deer Management
Community Meeting**

Meeting Logistics

- Date: October 30, 2014
- Time: 7:00pm to 9:00pm
- Total attendees: 26
- Meeting facilitator: Jordan Burroughs
- Panel members: Henry (Rique) Campa III (MSU),
Cathy DeShambo (City of East Lansing),
John Niewoonder (DNR)
- Special guests: George Lahanas & Scott House

Audience Demographics

- Majority (61%) reside in the Northwest part of town (North of Saginaw/West of Abbott)
- 65% have lived in EL for >20 years; 17% have lived in EL between 1-5 years
- 61% see approx. 1 to 5 deer per week at their residence; 30% have not seen deer in the last week

Question to the audience #1: What is your biggest deer-related concern?

- Growing size of the deer herds
- Damage (& cost to replace) landscape vegetation
- Fearless deer on the streets and in neighborhoods
- Increasing number of deer-vehicle accidents
- Residents' lack knowledge about deer population dynamics
- Disease concerns from dead deer and deer feces on property

Question to the audience #2: How do the deer in East Lansing affect your quality of life?

- Cost to replace browsed landscaping and gardens
- Loss of vegetable gardens, reducing ability to be self-reliant
- Fear of being involved in a deer-vehicle accident
- Costs of repairing cars after deer-vehicle accidents
- Cost to the city to replace browsed vegetation in city parks
- Some residents stated that they enjoy seeing deer on their property and in city parks

Results from Audience Polling

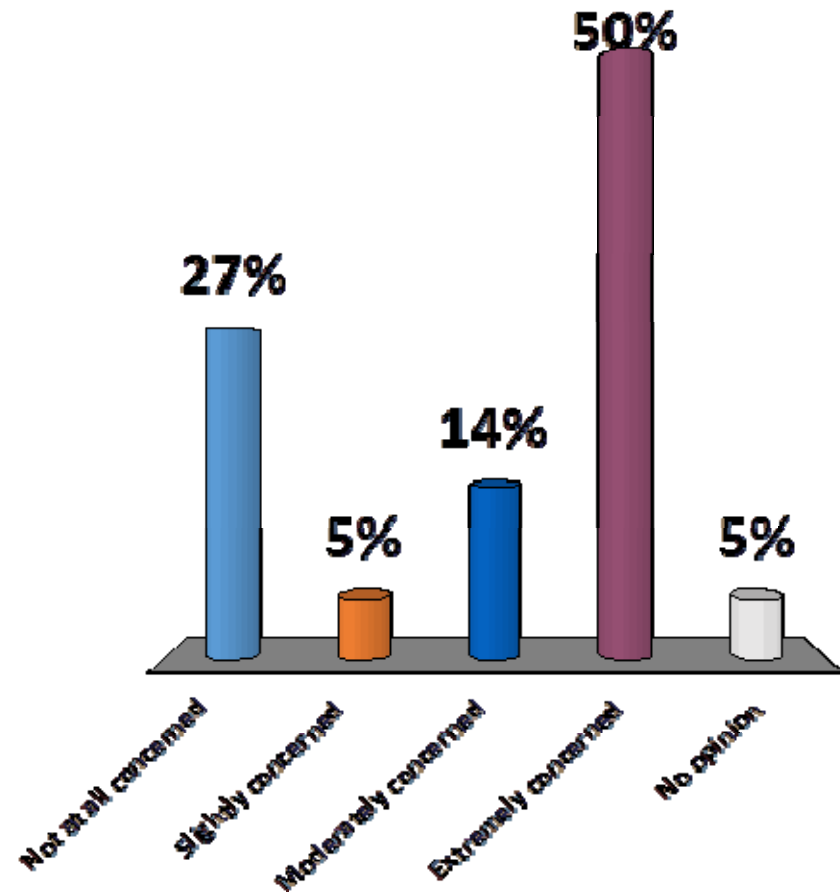
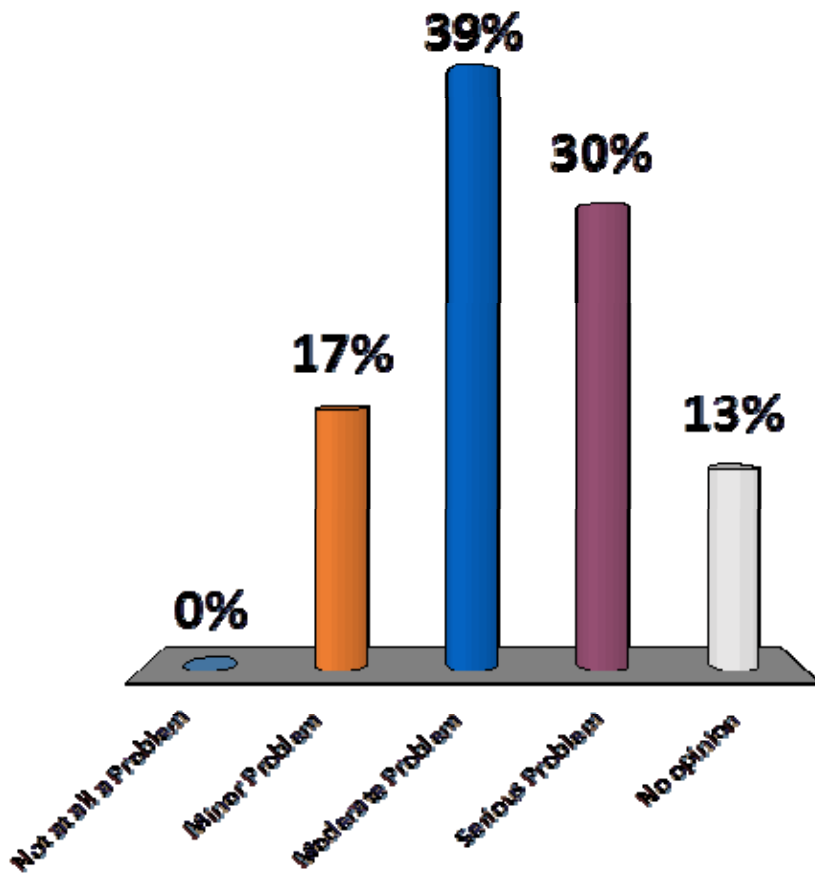
- 54% visited an East Lansing park 1 to 5 times during Sept.
- 68% believe the deer population is too high; 23% believe the deer population is just right
- 32% enjoy seeing and having deer around; 41% enjoy seeing a few deer, but worry about the problems they cause

The next several slides will show a comparison between what participants generally **perceive to be a deer-related problem in EL** and their **personal concern related to that deer issue.**

Deer damage to landscape or garden plants

Problem in
East Lansing

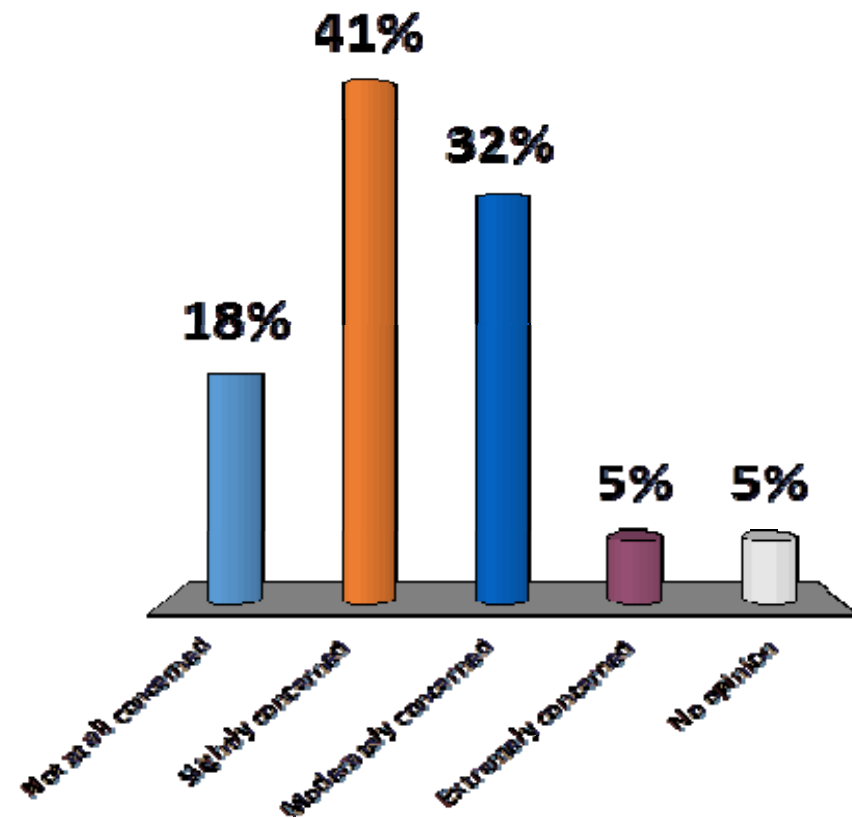
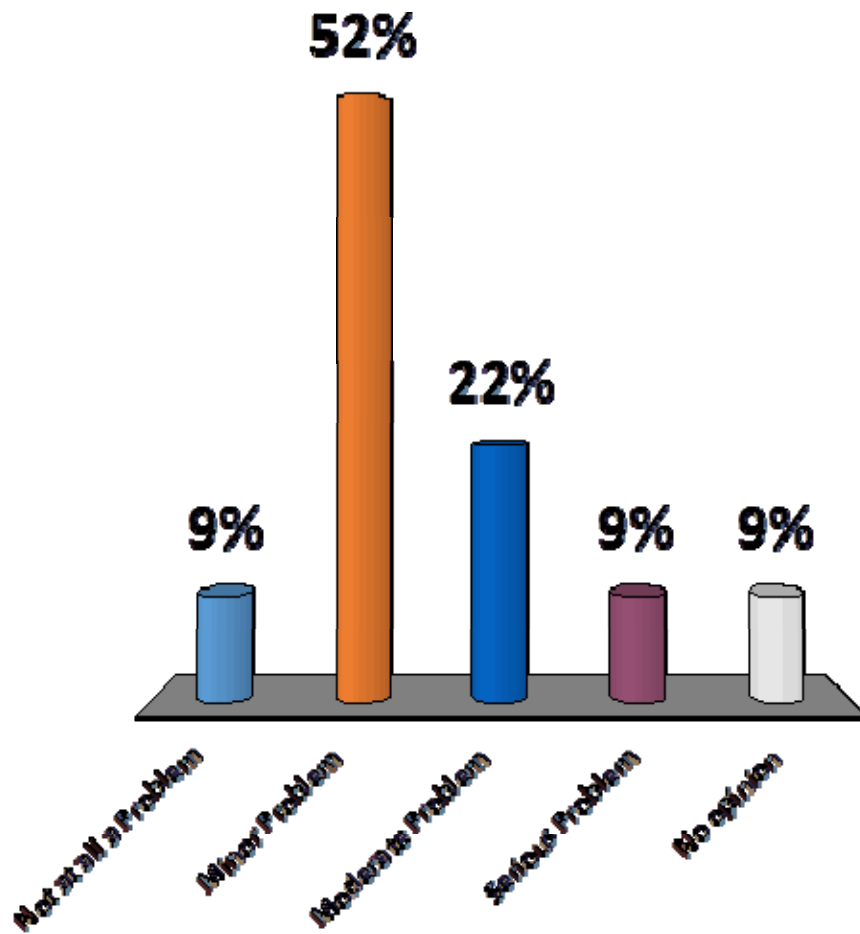
Personal
Concern



Deer vehicle accidents

Problem in
East Lansing

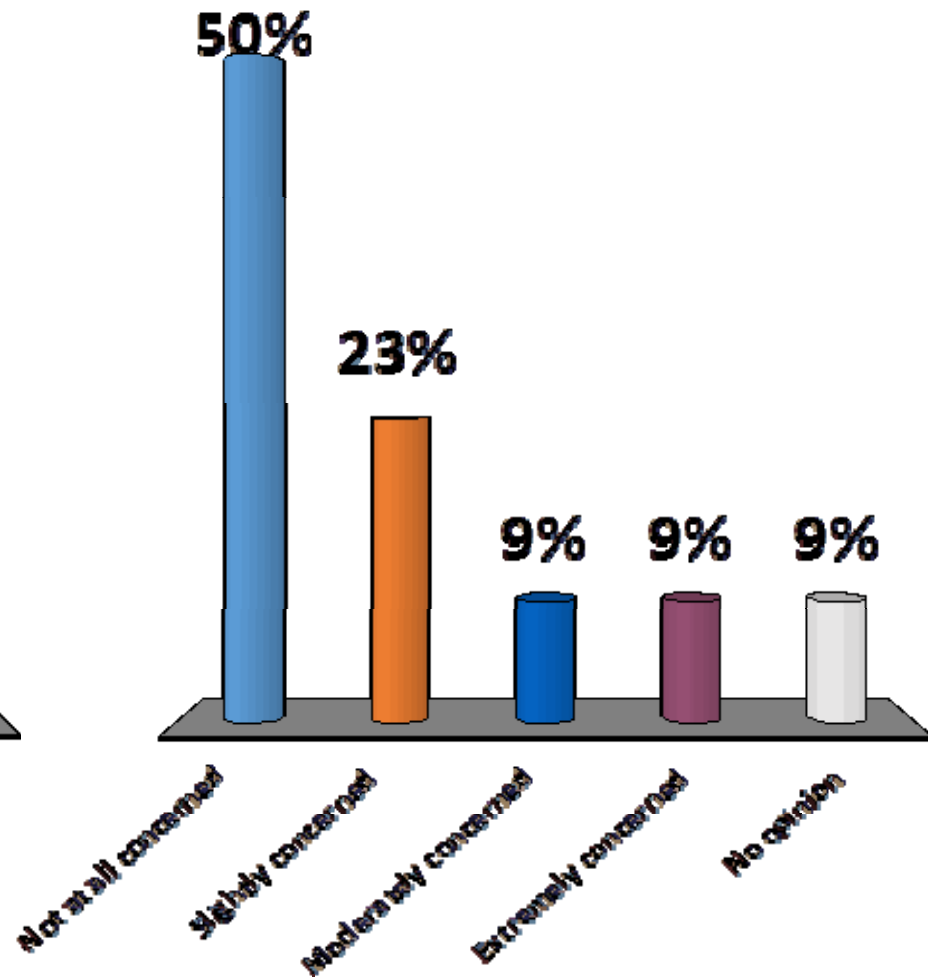
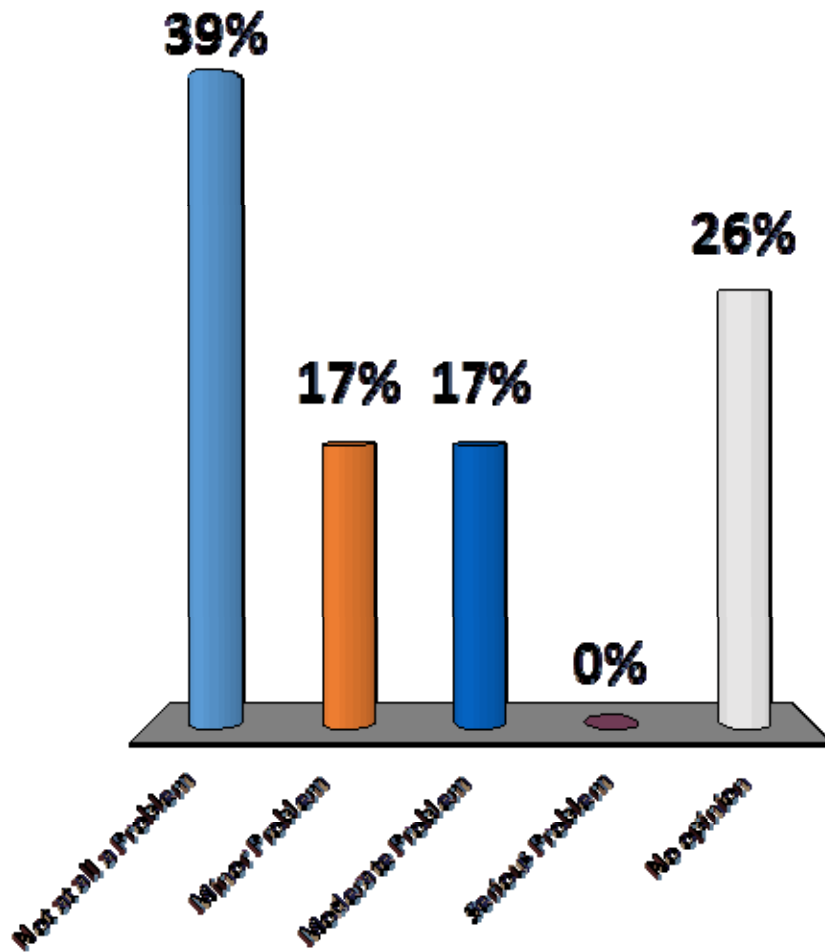
Personal
Concern



Transmission of diseases

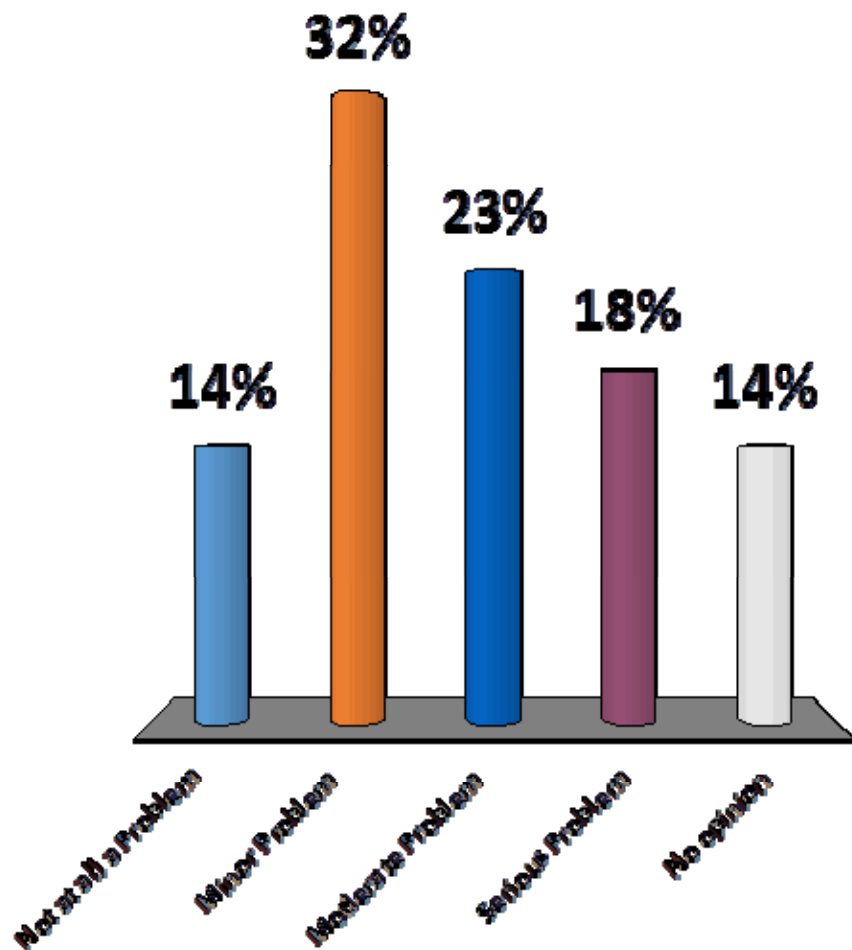
Problem in
East Lansing

Personal
Concern

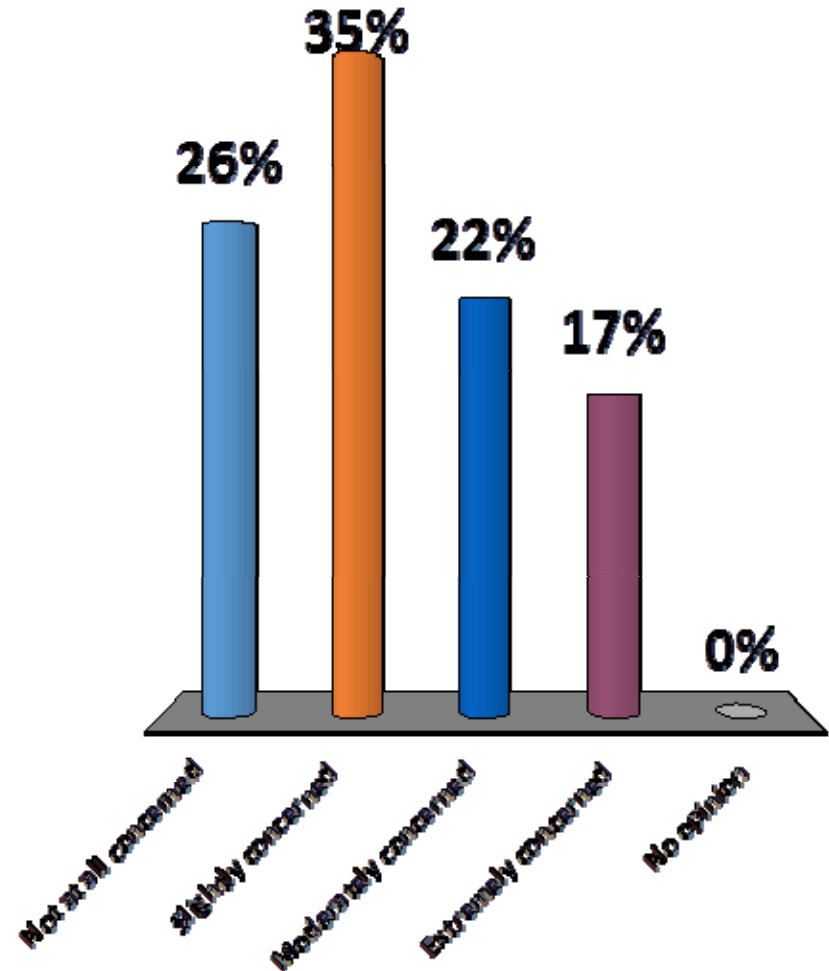


Damage to park ecosystems by browsing on vegetation

Problem in East Lansing



Personal Concern



Audience Questions to the Panel

- If development of forested areas increase the number of deer, why are they just now getting here?
- Are the deer management practices in Meridian Township affecting the herds in East Lansing?
- Majority of people agree there are too many deer; is there a way to monitor them and control the number of offspring? Do we have a wildlife strategy?
- What is the purpose of creating the feeding ban?

Audience Questions to the Panel

- Are cameras an option to count the deer herd?
- How do the deer negatively impact a forest?
- Can we make plant beds that are not deer friendly?
- What does the deer productivity look like?
- Do the deer droppings in my backyard carry diseases?

Audience Comments

- A Meridian resident participated in their deer cull, and hasn't had any nuisance deer. Can East Lansing do something similar?
- MSU property should be included in the survey.
- Citizens want a feeling for a timeline; they don't want the city to drag their feet.

Next Steps

- Metrics of success meetings
- Minimum count estimates

Thank you