

# Coalition for Responsible Deer Management

Councilman John Olszewski, Sr., Chairman  
Baltimore County Council  
400 Washington Avenue  
Towson, MD 21204

March 28, 2011

Dear Councilman Olszewski and Members of the Baltimore County Council,

The Coalition for Responsible Deer Management is a group of citizens and organizations who have joined to urge public officials to take action regarding the growing problem of deer overpopulation.

As a first step in addressing this problem, we are asking for a **change in the Baltimore County code to permit regulated hunting on parklands**. Without this change, deer population management in the parks and surrounding communities will continue to be impossible.

Dense deer populations have a major negative impact on public health and safety, and on plant and animal communities in Baltimore County. Deer cause **dangerous and expensive deer-car collisions; threaten public health** by spreading Lyme and other diseases; **damage farm crops; ruin residential and commercial landscaping; and hinder forest re-growth and ecological diversity** (including birds and wildflowers). We enclose additional information about the damage, expenses, and suffering caused by excessive numbers of deer.

Baltimore County has spent millions of dollars to purchase natural lands for recreation and to protect the Chesapeake Bay. The County, as the steward of nearly 7,000 acres of county-owned parklands, is a major provider of deer habitat. The County has an obligation to preserve those forests, and to protect the public from the dangers of deer-caused disease and accidents. We can solve these problems only by addressing the deer overpopulation within parks and residential woodlands. Safe, humane, and cost effective solutions include:

- **Update the Baltimore County Code to permit regulated hunting in County parks**
- **Manage County-owned forests responsibly by culling the herds, and monitoring deer populations and plant regeneration.**
- **Reduce barriers to voluntary deer management on private lands.**

We urge you to make this issue a priority.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours truly,

Coalition for Responsible Deer Management

- Janet Cohen, Secretary, Environmental, Education, and Historical Preservation Committee, Robert E. Lee Park, [janetcohen@213141.com](mailto:janetcohen@213141.com)
- Linda Davis, Educator, Natural History Society of Maryland, [lm.davis@verizon.net](mailto:lm.davis@verizon.net)
- Kirsten Johnson, President, Maryland Native Plant Society, [kirsten2622@comcast.net](mailto:kirsten2622@comcast.net)
- Lynn Jordan, Trustee, Irvine Nature Center, [lynnrankinjordan@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnrankinjordan@yahoo.com)
- Eugene Meyer, Retired Instructor of Biology, Loyola University, [eugenermeyer@earthlink.net](mailto:eugenermeyer@earthlink.net)
- Martine Schwarts, Landowner, Greenspring Valley, [qualityoptical@earthlink.net](mailto:qualityoptical@earthlink.net)
- Robert Stanhope, Retired Chief Naturalist, Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks, [stanhopes@verizon.net](mailto:stanhopes@verizon.net)
  
- Blue Water Baltimore (formerly: Jones Falls Watershed Association, Herring Run Watershed Association, Gwynns Falls Watershed Association, Baltimore Harbor Watershed Association, and Baltimore Harbor WATERKEEPER)
- Baltimore Bird Club
- Cromwell Valley Park Council
- Freeland Community Association
- Gunpowder RIVERKEEPER
- Marshy Point Nature Center Council
- Maryland Native Plant Society
- Maryland Ornithological Society
- Mt. Washington Preservation Trust
- North County Preservation
- One Straw Farm
- Oregon Ridge Nature Center Council
- Prettyboy Watershed Alliance
- Rotary Club of Pikesville-Owings Mills
- Sierra Club - Greater Baltimore Group
- Sparks/Glencoe Community Planning Council
- Trout Unlimited, Maryland Chapter
- Valleys Planning Council

Cc: Councilman Tom Quirk  
Councilwoman Vicki Almond  
Councilman Todd Huff  
Councilman Kenneth N. Oliver  
Councilman David Marks  
Councilwoman Cathy A. Bevins  
County Executive Kevin Kamenetz