

Deer Facts

Deer Biology

- There are approximately 90,000 deer in Massachusetts.
- The home range of a deer is usually 2 to 3 square miles.
- A single deer eats 5 pounds of forage each day.
- Deer function in matrilineal groups. At Weston's latitude (42°), approximately 70% of female deer remain in or near the area where they were born. Males tend to disperse from their mother's home range.
- In one controlled study, 6 deer increased to an estimated 222 in seven years in a fenced reserve. Suburban deer herds can double in size every 2 to 5 years.

Weston Statistics

- The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) estimate there are 20-30 deer per square mile in Zone 10, which includes Weston and other suburbs west of Boston. DFW's management goal for Zone 10 is 6-8 deer per square mile.
- An average of 34 deer-vehicle collisions per year were reported to the Weston police from 2001-2010.
- Based on reports by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, an average of 48 Weston residents contracted Lyme disease each year from 2005 to 2011.

Weston Conservation Commission is asking residents to report deer sightings and take a quick survey*

- Help the town gather information about Lyme disease, deer/car collisions, and other deer-related issues: www.tinyurl.com/deerimpact.
- Help the town track deer. Report your deer sightings here: www.tinyurl.com/deersighting.
- For information about deer and upcoming workshops, check our deer web page at: www.tinyurl.com/westondeerinfo.
- Email the Conservation Commission at: conservation@westonmass.org for more information or to be added to our mailing list.

*Information collected between November 1st and January 31st will be presented at a second Deer Forum planned for early February.

References

"Managing White-Tailed Deer in Suburban Environments: A Technical Guide." Anthony J. Nicola, Kurt C. VerCauteren, Paul D. Curtis, Scott E. Hygnstrom, 2000.

"Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife 2011 Guide to Hunting, Freshwater Fishing and Trapping" prepared by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.