



Feeding deer harms them *and our communities*

Like many urban areas, the Town of Boone is experiencing deer overpopulation. The absence of natural predators and community members actively feeding them are two key causes of increased deer numbers. The negative effects of too many deer include more deer-related vehicle accidents; property damage, and increased risk of tick-borne disease.

The deer population in western North Carolina is at or near an all time high.

NC Wildlife Resources Commission



Reasons to NOT feed deer

Feeding deer increases the risk of deer-vehicle collisions as deer cross roadways they would not if they foraged.

Feeding deer makes them less willing to forage for themselves, making them less resilient.

Feeding deer encourages them to seek food in other yards / gardens causing significant damage.

Human-provided food sources are often less nutritious than food deer would find on their own.

Deer digestive systems are adapted to adjust as their diet changes throughout the year. Eating corn out of season can cause severe illness or even death.

Feeding deer can increase disease risk. Deer come into closer contact with each other at food piles than if they forage and this spreads pathogens.

Feeding deer leads to deer overpopulation.

Deer overpopulation increases the risk of tick-borne diseases for people and pets.

Deer overpopulation can decrease songbird populations, as deer eat habitat the birds prefer.

Deer-vehicle collisions caused more than \$146 million in damages between 2016 and 2018.

NC Dept. of Transportation



Deer are wild animals, not pets.

To help deer and avoid deer-human conflict, keep deer dependent on their natural food sources.

For more information:

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

<https://www.ncwildlife.org/>

1-800-662-7137

Duke University, Wildlife Management

<https://dukeforest.duke.edu/management/wildlife-management>



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