

Martin's Landing Urban Deer Management FAQ

What is the goal of the deer management effort?

The goal is to balance deer populations in Martin's Landing and the surrounding Roswell area to maintain healthy wildlife, reduce conflicts with residents, and protect our shared ecosystem. The program follows Georgia DNR guidance, emphasizing conservation, education, and science-based management.

Why is deer management necessary?

Deer populations in urban areas like Martin's Landing have few natural predators and limited hunting pressure, leading to overpopulation. This causes declines in vegetation, increased deer–vehicle collisions, property damage, disease spread, and loss of biodiversity. Without management, populations can grow exponentially.

What factors make Martin's Landing ideal deer habitat?

Edge habitats, forest canopy, and proximity to the Chattahoochee River create perfect conditions for deer—ample food and water, dense cover, and safe corridors for movement.

What are the main impacts of overpopulation?

Environmental Impacts: Forest regeneration failure, soil erosion, invasive plants, loss of native wildlife.

Human Impacts: Property damage, deer–vehicle collisions, disease risk, and pet–wildlife conflicts.

Can't nature just balance itself out?

Not in urban environments. Predators like red wolves, cougars, and bears are long gone, and coyotes primarily eat rodents. Hunting is restricted in Metro Atlanta, so deer numbers remain unchecked.

How many deer are in Georgia today?

Georgia's deer population is stable at approximately 1.3 million statewide. In suburban pockets like Martin's Landing, densities are far higher due to limited hunting access and abundant food sources.

What are the legal and safe management options?

Non-lethal methods (repellents, fencing, relocation, fertility control) have limited success and are often illegal or cost-prohibitive. Controlled archery programs remain the most effective, humane, and science-backed approach.

How does a controlled archery program work?

1. HOA partners with the DNR's Urban Wildlife Program to identify areas and safety parameters.
2. Qualified, licensed hunters are screened and approved.
3. DNR staff supervise all activity and collect biological data.
4. Local law enforcement may assist.
5. Venison is donated to programs such as Hunters for the Hungry.

Is it safe to allow managed archery in our neighborhood?

Yes. Controlled hunts use only archery equipment under strict safety supervision. Hunters must pass DNR qualifications. Georgia's liability law (O.C.G.A. § 51-3-20) protects landowners and HOAs from legal claims except in cases of proven malicious intent.

What are the benefits of responsible deer management?

Improved forest and habitat health, reduced vehicle collisions, fewer disease risks, protection of landscaping, contribution to food programs, and strengthened partnership with DNR.

What's next for Martin's Landing?

The DNR's Urban Wildlife Program plans to expand outreach and support community-led management practices with local leadership to ensure ongoing, ethical, and data-driven efforts.

Where can I learn more?

- Georgia DNR – Wildlife Resources Division: <https://georgiawildlife.com/about/what-we-do>
- Urban Wildlife Program: <https://www.urban-wildlife.org>
- DNR Annual Reports:
 - Wildlife Conservation: <https://view.publitas.com/georgia-department-of-natural-resources/dnr-2024-wcs-comprehensive-report/page/1>
 - Game Management: <https://view.publitas.com/georgia-department-of-natural-resources/wrd-gm-annual-report-fy24-final/page/1>