



Overabundant Deer

*Managing wildlife to
keep people and
animals safe*

City of Hudson Oaks
**210 N. Lakeshore Drive
Hudson Oaks, TX**

The information in this brochure was assembled using data from:
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
and
Texas A&M University
AgriLife Extension

City of Hudson Oaks

210 N. Lakeshore Drive
Hudson Oaks, TX 76087
682-229-2400
www.hudsonoaks.com

How You Can Help Keep People and Animals Safe

Public safety is the top priority for the City of Hudson Oaks.

The community is facing growing concern caused by more frequent interactions between the public and area wildlife. Traffic accidents, the threat of rabies, and costly property damage being caused by an overabundant deer population have prompted the Hudson Oaks City Council to action.

In a resolution adopted in November 2012:

“The City Council of the City of Hudson Oaks hereby strongly urges and encourages the citizens of the City of Hudson Oaks to cease all supplemental feeding of deer and other wildlife in the City. Supplemental feeding includes the placing, depositing, distributing, or leaving of any fruit, grain, corn, vegetable, mineral, salt, or other food of any kind or nature, or providing water, with the intent to attract or feed white-tailed deer or other wildlife on any public or private lands in the City.”

By voluntarily ceasing all supplemental feeding of wildlife, you can help keep both the animals and the people in the community safe. For more information about this issue, please read the enclosed material. Then, if you have questions, please contact the City of Hudson Oaks or officials with Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Concerns

**Threat of disease
Traffic accidents
Costly property damage**

Solutions

**Eliminate wildlife feeding
Deer-resistant landscaping**

Striking a Balance



Living in Hudson Oaks offers a unique opportunity to be near modern conveniences while maintaining a somewhat rural lifestyle. Part of that lifestyle involves living near natural habitats for several types of wildlife, especially white-tailed deer. Although the deer are an aesthetically pleasing element of the community, the interactions between these animals and the people now living near them can create conflict.

These conflicts have become a concern in Hudson Oaks, and the City Council has begun to examine and implement programs for addressing problems such as deer-vehicle collisions, the spread of rabies and other diseases, and the loss of landscaping and gardens in residential areas.

Supplemental Feeding

According to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, “the prohibition of feeding deer is critical to solving [the problem of] overabundance.”

The Hudson Oaks City Council has chosen to take the introductory step of adopting a resolution, which “strongly urges and encourages the citizens of the City of Hudson Oaks to cease all supplemental feeding of deer and other wildlife in the City.” This resolution was adopted by the City Council in November 2012.

Why Stop Feeding?

Providing supplemental feed to wildlife, especially deer, does more harm than good, both for the animals and the people living near them.

- The corn-based feed typically put out for these animals is very high in carbohydrates and does not contain the proteins and roughage that come from the animals’ natural diet in the wild. The animals become exclusively dependent upon this feed, which can lead to bloating and other **health issues** for them; traits that are passed along to their offspring.
- Supplemental feeding encourages deer herds to settle within residential areas rather than naturally migrate to undeveloped lands where natural vegetation is available to eat and where fawning would be safer. This leads to **increased deer populations** living in proximity and conflict with increasing human populations and their vehicles.
- Although deer are attractive and fun to observe, they do carry and transmit **diseases** that can put humans and their domestic pets at risk, including rabies and Lyme Disease.

Is Feeding Banned?

Not yet. The Hudson Oaks City Council has adopted a resolution asking residents to voluntarily stop feeding wildlife as a first step in addressing the issue of overabundant deer. However, if people continue to feed wildlife, the City Council may consider enacting local prohibitions to address public safety concerns.



Feeding wildlife is discouraged, whether with homemade or commercially manufactured feeders.

Landscaping Options

A key problem related to overabundant deer is the damage they can do to landscaping. Although there are no plants that deer will always avoid, there are some that are less desirable to deer. Planting these species may alleviate unwanted damage to landscaping and planting beds.

Shrubs—Boxleaf, Japanese Boxwood, Oleander, Primrose Jasmine, Soft Leaf Yucca, Reeve’s Spirea, Texas Mountain Laurel, and Yaupon Holly

Ground Cover—Prostrate Rosemary, German-der, Gray Santolina, Thyme, Wedelia, and Pigeonberry

Perennials—Amaryllis, Angel Trumpet, Blue Plumbago, Elephant Ears, Jerusalem Sage, Lantana, Mexican Brush Sage, Mexican Honeysuckle, Split Leaf Philodendron, Wormwood, and Evergreen Pavonia

Ornamental Grasses—Pampas Grass, Purple Fountain Grass, Inland Sea Oats, and Maiden Grass

Flowers—Indigo Spires, Larkspurs, Marigolds, Mealy Cup Sage, Periwinkles, Zinnias, and Spider Flowers

For additional information about deer-resistant plants, visit the websites for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department or Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Information is also available by researching “Texas Wildscapes.”



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