

NORTH OAKS ORDINANCE PROHIBITS FEEDING DEER  
North Oaks Natural Resources Commission

North Oaks Ordinance No. 90.01 prohibits the feeding of deer within the city of North Oaks. This includes any grain, fodder, salt licks or any other food including feed for birds, which may reasonably be expected to result in deer feeding (that means all food for birds must be placed at least 4 feet above the ground surface). Bird feeders that allow a lot of spillage not only attract deer but also mice, voles, rabbits, and wild turkeys. This will also attract predators such as coyotes; all of these animals can carry ticks infected with Lyme disease, Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis, and Powassan Encephalitis. In addition, deer feeding in close proximity increases the chance of spreading diseases such as CWD (chronic wasting disease) to the deer herd.

In the early 1900's about 500,000 white tailed deer lived in the United States. Today that number has grown to about 25 million. The large deer population that is present in urban areas has destroyed much of our native plants and trees through overgrazing; native species are then replaced by buckthorn, which the deer do not eat, and most of us do not like. You can effectively discourage deer from damaging your North Oaks property by accessing the helpful information available on the Internet. Just Google DEER DAMAGE PREVENTION.

There are many ways to discourage deer. There are two types of deer repellants. Contact repellants are applied directly to plants causing them to taste bad. Area repellants are placed in a problem area and repel by their foul odor.

Tubes of VEXAR netting around individual seedlings are an effective method to reduce damage to small trees. Tubes placed around trunks of larger trees will help prevent trunk damage. Shrub jackets are also available.

There are lists of plants to avoid that are often browsed by deer, such as sunflowers, tulips, apple trees, and yew trees compared to plants that are rarely browsed by deer including black-eyed Susans, daffodils, purple coneflowers and thyme.

The new NORTH OAKS NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION is concerned with managing our wildlife, forests and water quality. It does this following an inscription that is literally "etched in stone" at the FDR memorial monument in Washington DC. This is a quote from a 1935 message to Congress.

"Men and nature must work hand and hand. The throwing out of balance of the resources of nature throws out of balance also the lives of men."