

2013 WATCHUNG BOROUGH RESIDENT DEER SURVEY TABULATION
WATCHUNG BOROUGH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. Do you feel the deer population in Watchung is over abundant?

	Replies	Yes	No	% Believe Yes
2013	489	384	105	78.53
2008	674	526	148	78.04

2. Has anyone in your family had a car accident within the Borough, involving deer, in the last three years?

	Number
2013	40
2008	104

3. Do you feel the current deer population leads to a higher than normal level of Lyme disease in the community?

	Replies	Yes	No	% Believe Yes
2013	448	283	165	63.17
2008	636	498	138	78.30

4. On a scale of one (no damage) to five (severe damage), please indicate the severity of any damage deer have caused to your trees, shrubs, and garden plantings and estimate an average annual cost of damage, if possible.

	Replies	Responses Per Group				
		1	2	3	4	5
2013	620	132	101	141	118	128
2008	650	81	73	102	117	277

Damage estimates range from \$0 to \$20,000.

7. Have you noticed any change in the number of deer feeding on your property during the past year?

	Replies	More	less	No Change
2013	442	133	98	211
2008	Not the Same Question in 2008			

5. Have you used any methods of protecting vegetation?

6. Were you aware that Watchung had a controlled hunt for the past 10 years?

8. Has the change had any effect on the damage to your shrubs and plants?

Answers to questions 5, 6, and 8 were not tabulated. The answers generally followed the way questions 4 and 7 were answered.

9. Will you support continuing a managed harvest using a controlled hunt as a method to reduce the local deer population in an effort to bring about regeneration of our forest?

	Replies	Yes	No	% In Support	Not Sure
2013	652	450	117	79.37	85
2008	679	508	100	83.55	71

10. State law prohibits firearm hunting within 450 feet of a habitable building without the owner's permission. In order to comply with State regulations, please indicate whether you would grant permission to the Borough, or its appointed agents, to reduce the herd by hunting on your property or within 450 feet of your house?

	Replies	Will	Won't	%Will Allow	Not Sure
2013	663	263	320*	45.11	50
2008	668	290	269	51.88	109

11. The Watchung Borough Ordinances prohibit all bow hunting within the Borough. Would you support an amendment to the Borough bow-hunting ordinance to allow cross bow hunting for deer culling purposes only within the Borough?

	Replies	Yes	No	% In Support	Maybe Not Asked
2013	620	365	255	58.87	
2008	675	276	280	49.64	119

12. State law prohibits cross-bow hunting within 150 feet of a habitable building without the owner's permission. If the borough amends its bow hunting ordinance to allow for cross-bow hunting, please indicate whether you would grant permission to the Borough, or its appointed agents, to reduce the herd by hunting on your property or within 150 feet of your house?

	Replies	Will	Won't	%Will Allow	Maybe
2013	615	195	364*	34.88	56
2008	Question not asked in 2008				

* A Number of Respondents indicated their property is too small to hunt on!