



The Association of Property Owner's of Riverhill, Inc., is presenting this information to you in response to requests made at the annual meeting in October of 2014 regarding the rules, regulations and costs of controlling the deer population in the Riverhill Subdivision. Subsequent to that meeting a Wildlife Committee was formed.

**The APOR wildlife committee** met to discuss APOR member concerns related to the resident waterfowl and deer population.

The purpose of the APOR wildlife committee is to educate residents and facilitate programs in the effort to sustain a healthy wildlife population in Riverhill.

Regarding the non-native waterfowl, Riverhill Country Club has offered to address this issue.

#### **RH resident deer population:**

As you know, many white tail deer, black buck antelope and other wildlife wander in and out of Riverhill from other areas. The deer are drawn to the abundant foliage, water and feeding by residents.

The committee with guidance from Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD), has determined that there are no effective, safe and affordable "quick fixes" for the situation. Therefore, TPWD has suggested that RH develop a long-term deer management plan with a goal of creating an environment where residents can live safely and peacefully among the deer. TPWD has strict regulations regarding white tail deer population management. The plan involves accurate surveying, documenting and reporting over a period of months beginning in August. Following the reporting period, the committee will begin considering ways to effectively and efficiently manage the herd. In the meantime, the committee is considering offering informational seminars for RH residents conducted by wildlife officials, horticulturalists and companies that specialize in deer landscape deterrents.

*In 2014, The Association of Property Owner's of Riverhill, Inc. obtained a TPWD TTP (Trap, Transport, and Process Permit. This permit involved the cost of hiring a trapper, erection of trap and potential cost of at least \$150.00 per deer plus processing for a total of approximately \$20,000. Due to several limiting and unpredicted factors, last years operation was not successful therefore the committee is researching other options that will serve the community for the long term. The estimated total for an operation like this in Riverhill (based on removal of 100 deer) is approximately \$20,000 plus in 2015 and will increase dues substantially if adopted. THIS WOULD BE AN ANNUAL EXPENSE NOT A ONE TIME EXPENSE.*

**Special Note:** According to TPWD Biologist Rufus Stephens, the best thing Riverhill residents could do for their deer population is to **STOP FEEDING THE DEER!!!**

The committee will keep APOR members updated regarding upcoming meetings and the status of the deer management program. Please check the APOR website for updates and helpful information at [www.riverhillpoa.com](http://www.riverhillpoa.com).

*Helpful information related to wildlife in Riverhill:*

**DEER FACTS: Whitetail deer** are the property of the State of Texas

- Whitetail deer are crepuscular, feeding mainly from before dawn until several hours later, and again from late afternoon until dusk. They rest and are inactive during daylight hours.

- Deer usually cross roadways in numbers so be aware of this when driving.

- **Feeding the deer is dangerous** for the species and for humans. Deer become dependent and unafraid of humans and wander across high-traffic streets at feeding times causing potential auto accidents. The land provides the proper nutrients for the deer. Feeding them inadequate food has a negative effect on the entire species and can cause disease.

- **Doe** (female deer) and their female offspring stay in groups and can live together many years

- **Fawns** (baby deer) are born once a year usually in the spring between March and June. Doe often leave their fawns alone for many hours at a time while they are off feeding. Never approach or touch a fawn as the mother may abandon it. If you encounter a wounded fawn, please contact Freeman Fritz (phone) or Kendalia Wildlife Rescue (phone) or the Kerrville Police Department.

- Riverhill is bordered by two boundaries that naturally deter deer from the neighborhood (Hwy 16 (Medina Hwy) and Hwy 173 (Bandera Hwy)).

**Ways to deter deer from your property:**

- Deer like to eat flowering plants. TPWD suggests planting deer tolerant or native plantings. For a list of deer tolerant plantings: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/archives/parsons/publications/deerbest.html>

- Motion activated water repellent features:

[www.havahart.com/spray-away-motion-activated-sprinkler](http://www.havahart.com/spray-away-motion-activated-sprinkler)

- No feeding of the deer:

[www.farmanddairy.com/columns/feeding-corn-to-deer-could-be-death-sentence/14324.html](http://www.farmanddairy.com/columns/feeding-corn-to-deer-could-be-death-sentence/14324.html)

## HELPFUL INFORMATION

**Kerr County Animal Services:** 830.257.3100 WEBSITE: [facebook.com/KerrCountyAnimalControl](https://www.facebook.com/KerrCountyAnimalControl)

**Kerrville Police Department:** PH: 830.257.8181

**Riverhill Golf Course:** PH: 830.896.1400 WEBSITE: [riverhillcc.com](http://riverhillcc.com)

**The Association of Property Owner's of Riverhill, Inc. Website:** [www.riverhillpoa.com](http://www.riverhillpoa.com)

**Freeman Fritz Animal Shelter (wildlife rehab drop off) PH: 830.257.4500 WEBSITE:** [freemanfritts.com](http://freemanfritts.com)

**Kendalia Wildlife Rescue: PH: 830.336.2725 WEBSITE: wildlife-rescue.org**

**Texas Parks and Wildlife / White tail deer Website:**  
[https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/habitats/trans\\_pecos/big\\_game/wtd/](https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/habitats/trans_pecos/big_game/wtd/)

### **APOR WILDLIFE COMMITTEE**

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