

Urban Deer Task Force (UDTF)

Committee Type	Task Force				
Purpose	To provide advice, information, ideas/models/tools, and other needed support to the Town of Okotoks in preparing an Urban Deer Strategy and Action Plan, and to support communication and engagement efforts to ensure the resulting Strategy and Action Plan is effectively implemented.				
Membership	<p>The Task Force will be comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to a maximum of seven (7) community members who meet some or all of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specific experience, education, knowledge and/or networks relevant to wildlife and conservation issues; • are drawn from the general public, in order to provide a “sounding board” as well as local knowledge and experience; • provincial wildlife or Fish & Game Association representative; • one (1) Town staff liaison. <p>The Chair and Vice Chair for the Task Force will be elected by members.</p>				
Authority	<p>The UDTF will report to Council once every three months.</p> <p>This Council-appointed Task Force’s overarching responsibility is to assist the Town in researching all aspects of urban deer management and developing recommendations for an Urban Deer Strategy and Action Plan that reflect best practices and align with provincial regulations.</p> <p>This Task Force will have a one-year term with clearly defined roles and responsibilities and a specific focus on the topic area.</p> <p>The Task Force will establish a schedule for meeting days and times.</p> <p>The following timeline of actions is to be utilized as a guideline for the Task Force:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Timeline</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Actions</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">3 months</td> <td>Review the current status of urban deer in Okotoks including: deer population, public survey data, and number/type of complaints.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Timeline	Actions	3 months	Review the current status of urban deer in Okotoks including: deer population, public survey data, and number/type of complaints.
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	<p>Undertake inter-municipal research to explore strategies and tactics used by other municipalities to manage urban deer.</p> <p>Develop an inventory of deer management strategies and alternative options that align with provincial regulations.</p>
6 months	<p>Identify challenges and issues with current public perception of Okotoks' urban deer and provide recommendations on potential solutions.</p> <p>Review Okotoks' public education materials (printed and electronic) regarding urban deer and methods of sharing information; identify gaps/opportunities to improve effectiveness of public outreach.</p> <p>Review Okotoks bylaws and policies related to wildlife/deer, identify potential gaps or opportunities.</p>
9 months	<p>Identify potential public participation strategies that involve the general public or other stakeholders on urban deer management.</p> <p>Provide guidance and support for the Town's public participation activities.</p> <p>Attend public participation events.</p>
12 months	<p>Provide recommendations to Council that will be considered for inclusion in an Okotoks Urban Deer Strategy and Action Plan. The recommendations must include a clear timeline or logical sequence for implementing any actions, bylaws or activities, as well as an assessment of associated costs (if any).</p>

Term

Unless extended through Council resolution, this Task Force's term expires after a one (1) year period.

Meeting Frequency

As needed and determined by the UDTF.

Funding

Minimal expenses to cover expert speaker travel costs and other meeting expenses drawn from existing budget.