Herd Reduction Option: Capture and Release

Process:

Wild deer are captured, transported, and released into a location different from which they came, but where the species may occur naturally by trained professionals.
The main standard methods used by trained professionals to safely catch and restrain large mammals are: trapping, netting and/or immobilizing with tranquilizers.

Anticipated Result:

- An immediate reduction of the general population of deer within the Town limits.
- Relocated deer would remain and thrive in the habitat around or near the release site.

PROS

- Capture and relocation techniques are generally accepted by the public.
- Gardens, parks, and trees in the community and on private property in the town would be spared damage from deer browsing and rubbing.
- Capturing deer may offer an opportunity to treat animals infected by disease and/or parasites before relocating to their new habitat.

CONS

- DNRR does not recommend the Capture and Relocation management option.
- Land-use conflicts and disease concerns caused by relocated deer could lead to questions of liability for the Town.
- Every handling step from capture to release is stressful and risky for animals and handlers.
- High post-release mortality is attributed to stress caused by capture and the animal's unfamiliarity with the release site
- Capture and release will have little benefit if deer populations can quickly re-establish in the capture area.
- Costly option

