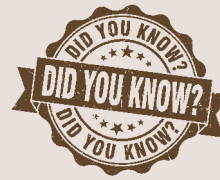




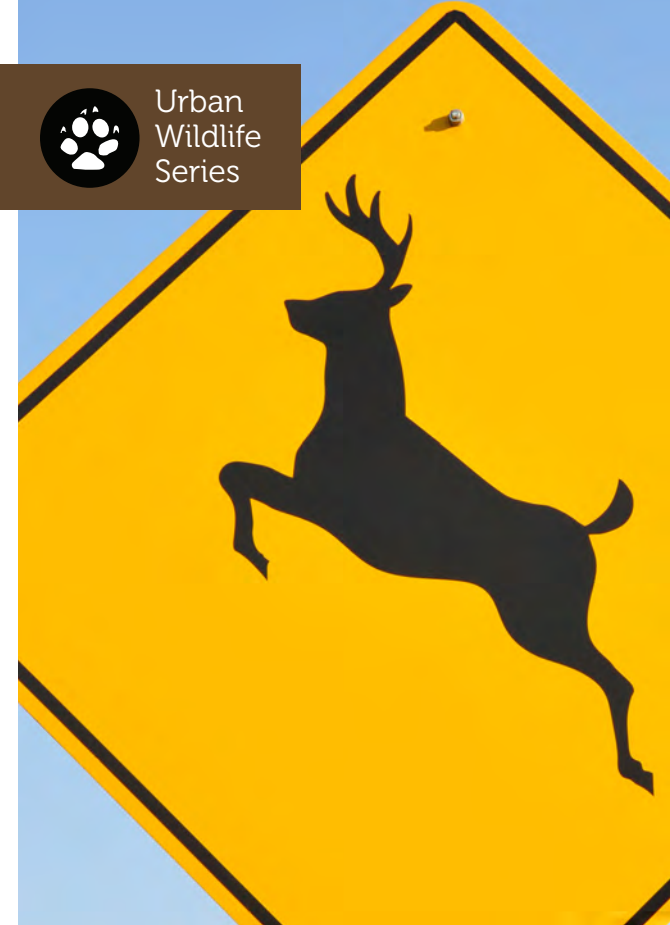
Washtenaw County Road Commission Placement of Deer Crossing Signs



The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration's Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) provides information regarding Deer Crossing signs throughout the state. However, it does not provide criteria for the installation and removal of these signs. Therefore, Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC) defines the criteria to be used in the installation and removal of Deer Crossing signs.



Urban Wildlife Series



WCRC Deer Crossing Sign Procedure

A deer-car accident history is researched for the stretch of road in question. Installation of deer crossing signs is warranted if five deer car related accidents have occurred in a twelve month period. Placement of the signs should be reviewed every third year. Any necessary adjustments in the placement or removal of the sign should be made according to the following guidelines:

- A deer-car accident study should be conducted for the stretch of road encompassing the deer crossing area and one mile to either side of the area.
- The placement of signs shall be adjusted to reflect any change in the concentration of deer-car accidents in the study area.
- When the accident study shows that no deer-car related accidents have occurred in the study area in a minimum of twelve month period, the sign may be removed at the discretion of the WCRC.

This policy shall be superseded by any and all changes to the Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices which affect the criteria and/or placement of deer crossing signs.

For the latest information, or to request a study in your area, please visit WCRC's website at www.wcroads.org or (734) 761-1500.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Pittsfield Dept. of Utilities & Municipal Services
(734) 822-3105 ~ www.pittsfield-mi.gov

Michigan Deer Crash Coalition (MDCC)
www.michigandeercrash.org

Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC)
www.wcroads.org

Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG)
www.semco.org

Department of Transportation (DOT)
<http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/index.htm>

Living with Urban Wildlife

DEER CROSSING SAFETY

www.pittsfield-mi.gov



Pittsfield Charter Township

6201 W. Michigan Avenue | Ann Arbor, MI 48108
www.pittsfield-mi.gov | info@pittsfield-mi.gov



Deer Crossing Safety

Vehicle-deer crashes deserve the attention of the motoring public. These crashes take lives and cause thousands of severe injuries resulting in hundreds of millions of dollars in damages. The Michigan Deer Crash Coalition reports that about 50,000 vehicle-deer crashes occur each year in Michigan. As many as half of all vehicle-deer crashes may not be reported, so the actual number is likely much greater.

According to a study released by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), there were approximately 925 deer crashes in Washtenaw County in 2012 out of a total 10,007 total crashes, 66 of those deer crashes were in Pittsfield Township.

Although the percentage of crashes has dropped over the last few years, drivers are encouraged to be alert and watch for deer all year, especially in the fall when the largest percentage of deer crashes occur. More than 90% of vehicle-deer crashes occur on two-lane roads at dusk and dawn. Knowing how to react to deer on, or next to the road, is critical to the safety of drivers and their passengers.

Statistics show that in most deer-vehicle crashes, deaths and injuries occur when drivers veer from their lane hitting another vehicle or a fixed object such as a tree. You and your passengers' safety is important, so brake firmly while staying in your lane even if it means you are going to hit the deer. Hold on to the steering wheel and bring the vehicle to a controlled stop. Hitting the deer is often the safest action according to the Michigan Deer Crash Coalition.



What can you do?

- Buckle up, stay alert, and slow down, remembering that safety belts are the best defense in any collision.
- Be alert for deer in the fall, especially at dawn and dusk, and heed deer crossing and speed limit signs, particularly on two-lane roads.
- Do not swerve out of a lane to avoid a deer. Instead, brake firmly while securely gripping the steering wheel to bring the vehicle to a controlled stop. Then safely steer the vehicle off to the side of the road.
- It is generally safer to hit the deer than run off the road or risk injuring another motorist.
- Deer frequently travel in groups. If you see one deer slow down. Chances are there are others nearby.
- Do not rely on deer distractors - flashing your high-beam headlights or honking your horn will not deter deer.
- Use high beam headlights and additional driving lights when possible.
- Motorcyclists should wear protective gear at all times and if riding in a group, spread out riders in a staggered formation (if one rider hits a deer, this will lessen the chance that other riders will be involved).

