

## From the Superintendent of Park Operations....

Cincinnati Parks is pleased to announce an innovative pilot project to study a non-lethal method for reducing overabundant deer herds that are damaging our parks' eco-systems.

For the past six years, the Parks have worked with carefully selected volunteer bow-hunters to help reduce herds in our larger parks. This cost effective approach continues with our thanks to the volunteers who donate many hours of their time and talent.

In the Fall of last year, the Parks began a collaboration with Clifton residents to investigate alternatives to lethal culling. In February, the Board of Commissioners approved a proposal, endorsed by the Clifton Town Meeting, to study the effectiveness of deer sterilization in three Clifton parks—Mt. Storm, Rawson Woods and Edgewood Preserve. If successful, this method will greatly reduce new fawning in these parks and allow herds to shrink through normal attrition.

The first of its kind in the State of Ohio, the project has been approved by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife as a multi-year research study of migration patterns to determine if population levels can be controlled by reducing doe fertility in open park settings. This understanding could affect any population control methods we employ, including bow-hunting, and advance our ongoing efforts to balance the needs of our plants, animals and citizens.

The project is scheduled to begin in the Fall of 2015 and will be conducted by a team of "capture professionals" to anesthetize the does and veterinarians to conduct "rapid ovariectomies" which are similar to but less invasive than spaying dogs and cats. The project is to be funded entirely through private donations. The Humane Society of the United States is a partner in the project.

We want to thank CTM and the Clifton residents who have generously contributed time, talent and resources to this partnership.

For detailed and up to date information, including volunteer opportunities and ways to make much-needed donations, visit [www.CliftonDeer.org](http://www.CliftonDeer.org).



**We love our deer, just not so many of them!**

*Jim Beaudet*