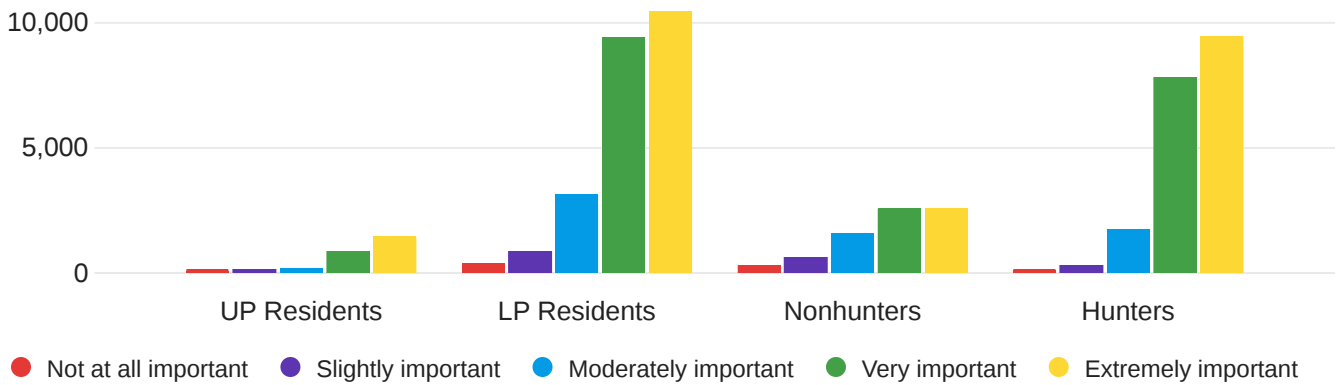


# Deer and Deer Management in Michigan: Residents' Interests & Concerns

Results below reflect the raw results from the an April 2024 public survey conducted in support of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Deer Management Initiative. Results are raw data and do not reflecting any weighting. The survey was open from April 2 through April 16, 2024. We received 27,109 usable survey responses.

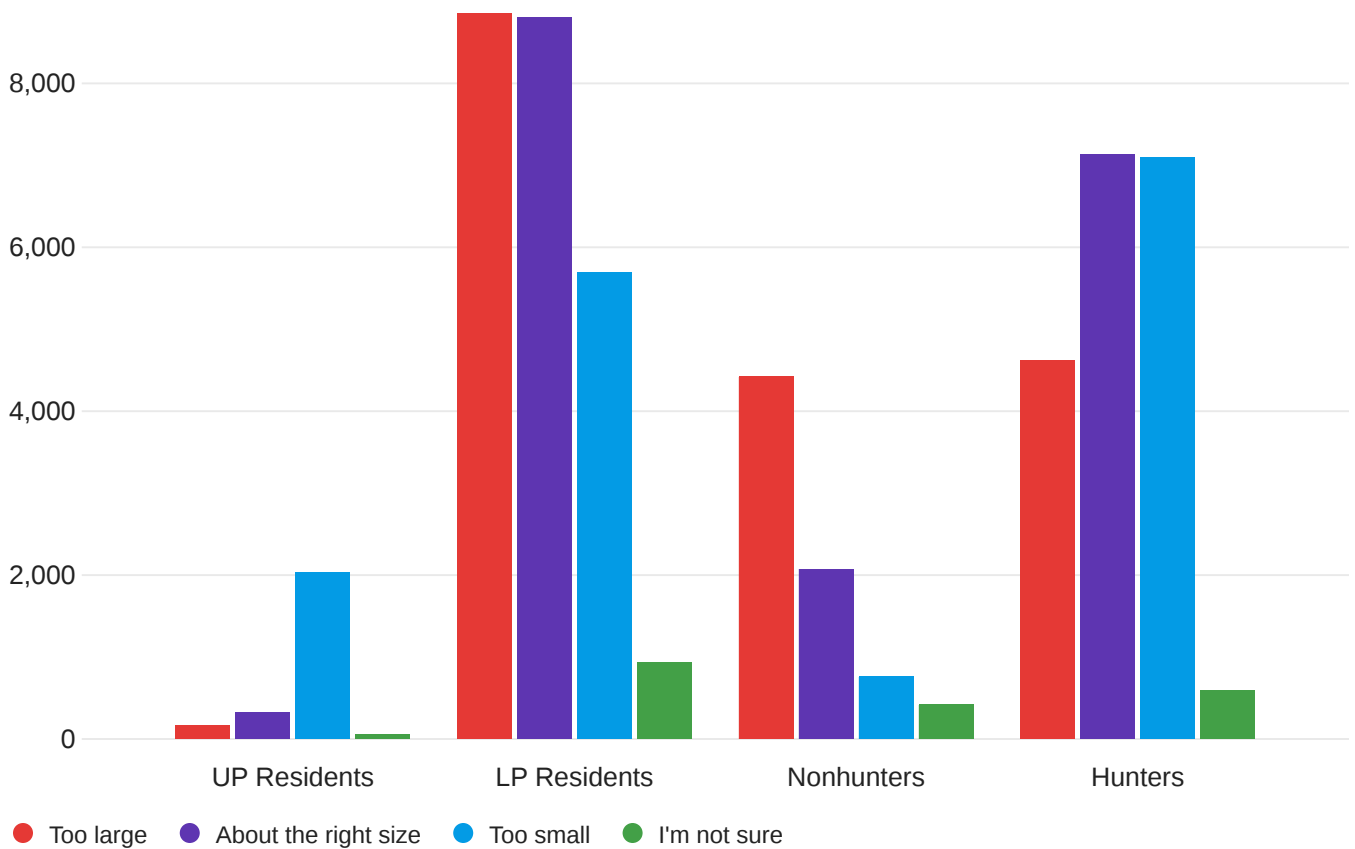
## Q1. How important is the issue of deer management to you, personally? Select one option.

Field	Choice Count
Not at all important	2% 415
Slightly important	3% 915
Moderately important	12% 3,336
Very important	38% 10,397
Extremely important	44% 12,045
<b>Total</b>	<b>27108</b>



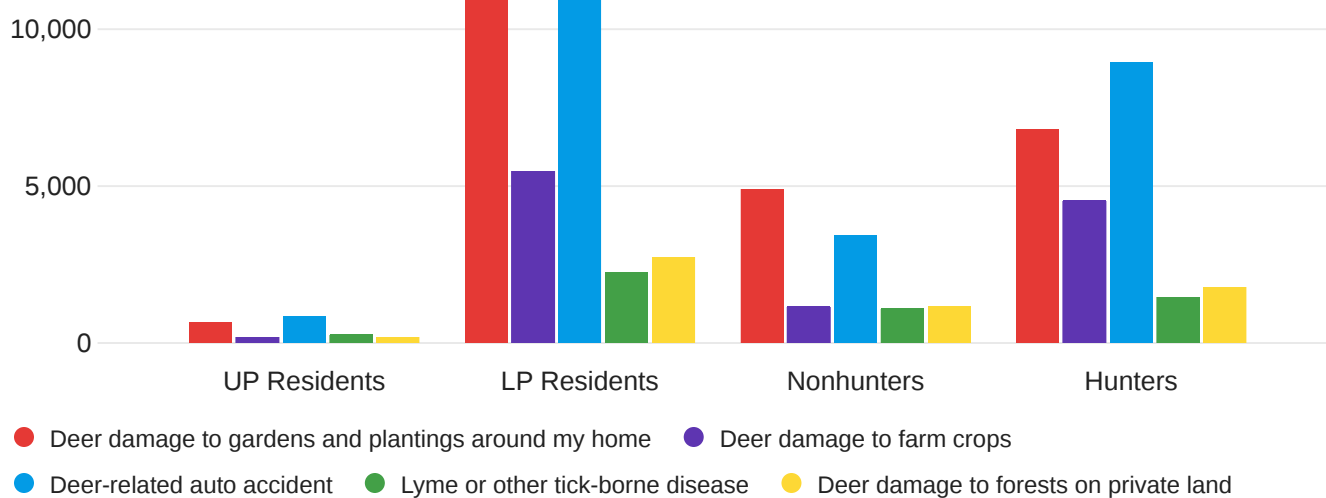
**Q2. In your opinion, is the deer population in your area too large, too small, or about the right size? Select one option.**

Field	Choice Count
Too large	33.37% 9,045
About the right size	33.94% 9,201
Too small	28.98% 7,856
I'm not sure	3.71% 1,007
Total	27109



**Q3. Which of the following deer-related problems have you or a close family member personally experienced in the last 5 years? Select all options that apply.**

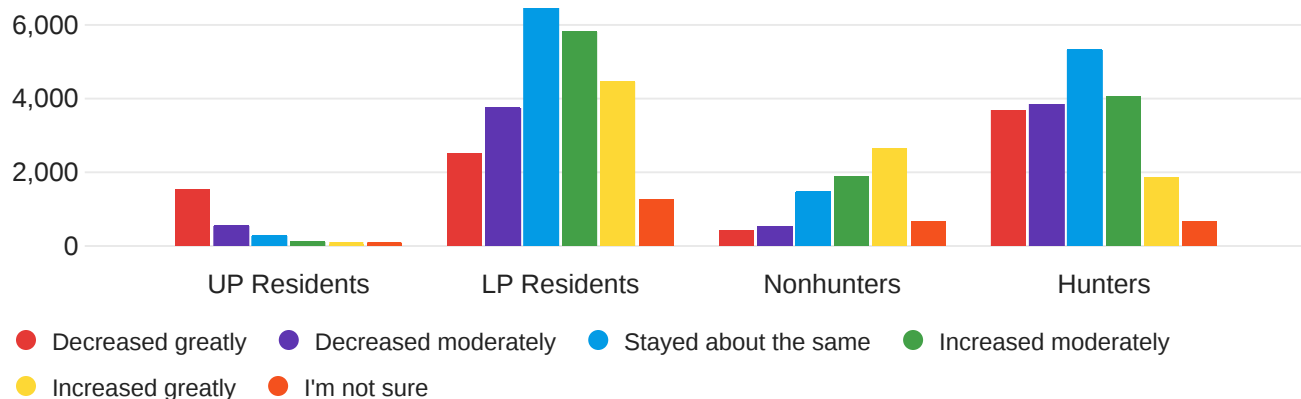
Field	Choice Count
Deer damage to gardens and plantings around my home	58% 11,719
Deer damage to farm crops	28% 5,689
Deer-related auto accident	62% 12,367
Lyme or other tick-borne disease	13% 2,549
Deer damage to forests on private land	15% 2,921
Total	20035



**Q7. To your knowledge, how has the deer population in your area changed over the last 5 years? Select one option.**

Field	Choice Count
Decreased greatly	15% 4,103
Decreased moderately	16% 4,373
Stayed about the same	25% 6,799
Increased moderately	22% 5,957
Increased greatly	17% 4,510
I'm not sure	5% 1,331
Total	27073

**To your knowledge, how has the deer population in your area changed over the last 5 years? Select one option.**

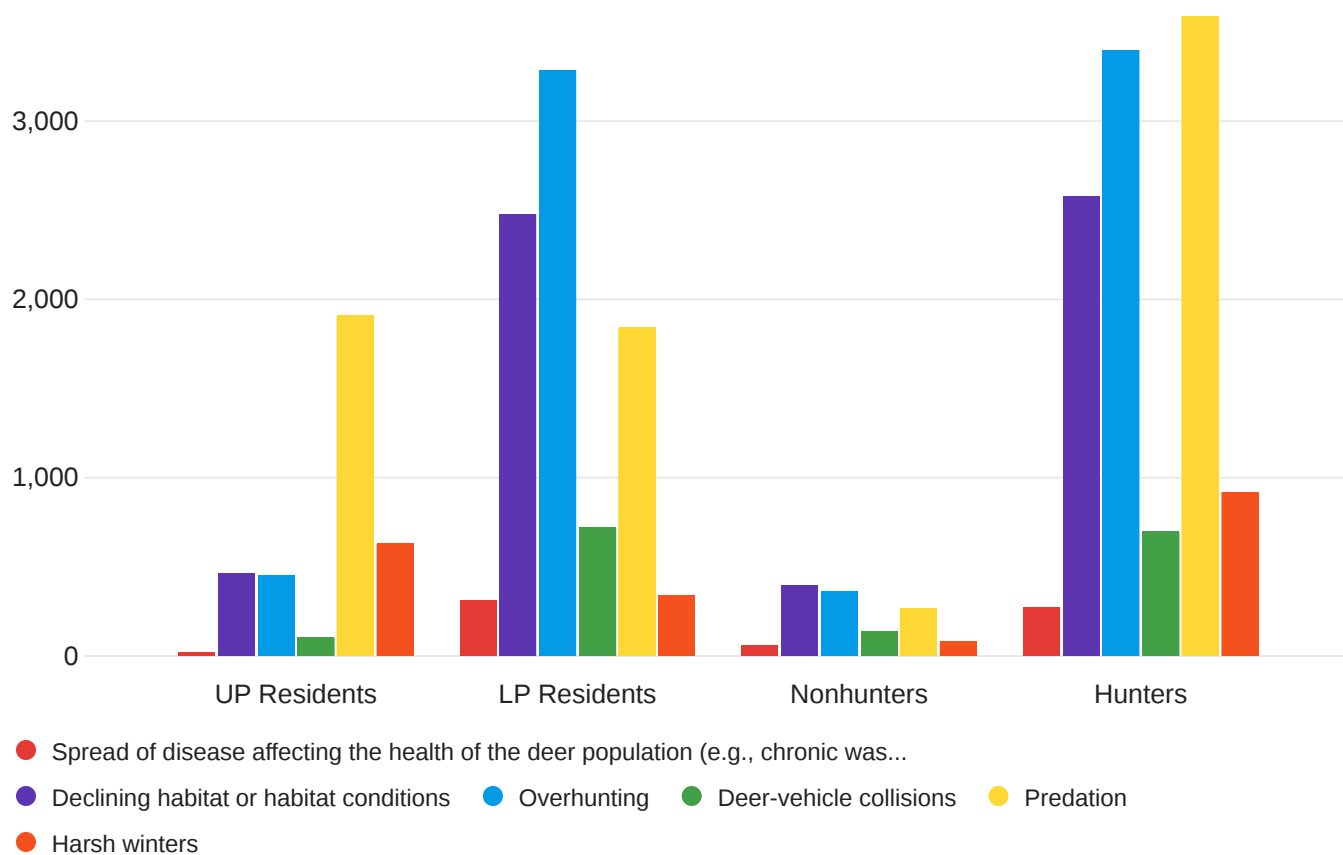


**Q5. You indicated that the deer population in your area has declined over the last 5 years.**

**What do you feel are the reasons for that decline? Select all options that apply.**

Spread of disease affecting the health of the deer population (e.g., chronic wasting disease)	4.06%	334
Declining habitat or habitat conditions	36.08%	2,970
Overhunting	45.64%	3,757
Deer-vehicle collisions	10.14%	835
Predation	46.85%	3,856
Harsh winters	12.17%	1,002
<b>Total</b>		<b>8231</b>

You indicated that the deer population in your area has declined over the last 5 years. What do you feel are the reasons for that decline? Select all options that apply.

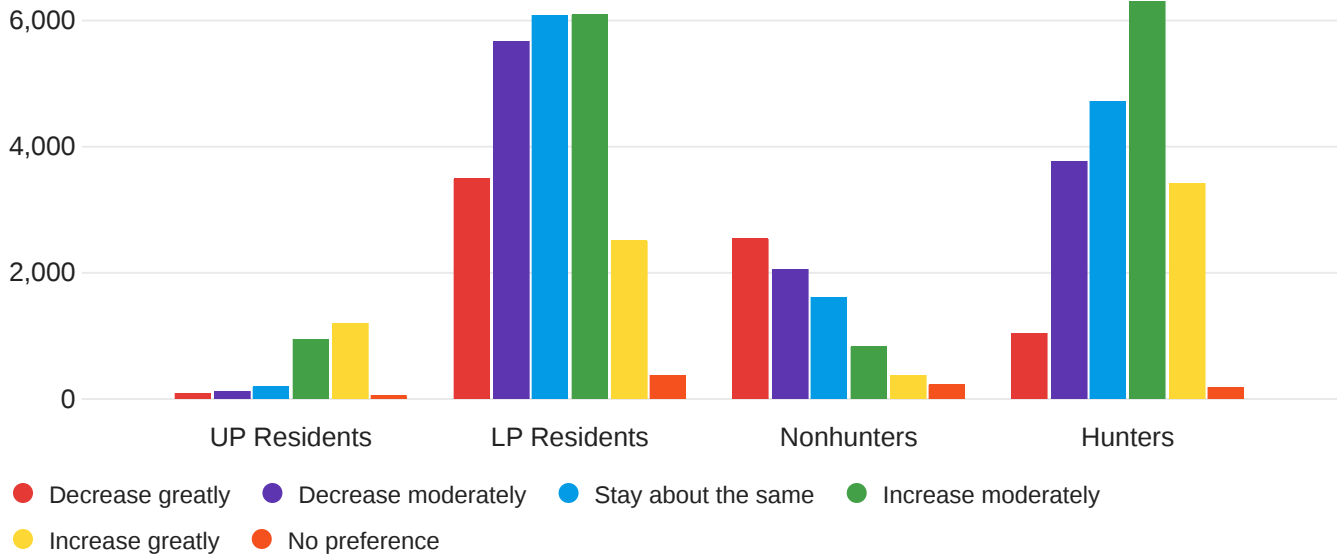


**Q6. How would you prefer the deer population in your area to change in the next 5 years? Select one option.**

Field	Choice Count
Decrease greatly	13.25% 3,585
Decrease moderately	21.48% 5,814
Stay about the same	23.40% 6,334
Increase moderately	26.37% 7,136
Increase greatly	14.02% 3,794
No preference	1.48% 400
Total	27063

### How would you prefer the deer population in your area to change in the next 5 years?

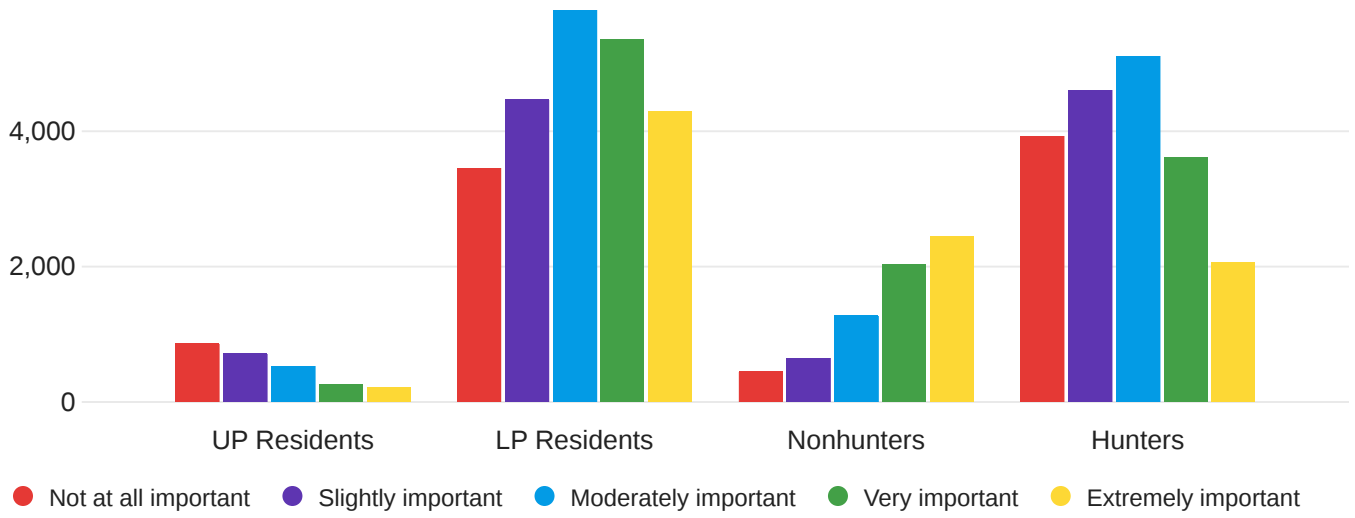
Select one option.



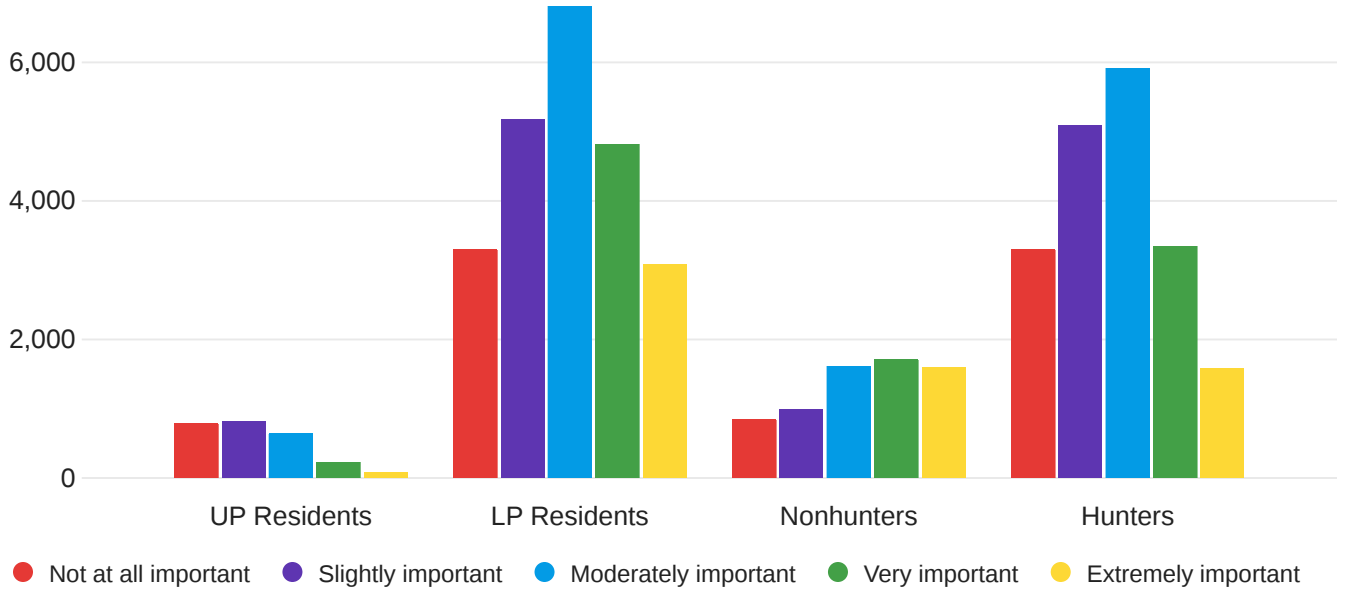
### Q7. How important is it to you that deer managers address each of the following...

Field	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important	Total
Deer-vehicle collisions	16.71% 4,370	20.08% 5,251	24.39% 6,380	21.59% 5,646	17.24% 4,509	26156
Deer damage to farm crops/agriculture	15.98% 4,149	23.37% 6,070	28.95% 7,519	19.47% 5,057	12.23% 3,175	25970
Deer damage to gardens and plantings around homes	35.67% 9,295	22.06% 5,749	20.08% 5,232	11.73% 3,057	10.46% 2,726	26059
Deer damage to natural plants and forests	27.46% 7,127	24.47% 6,351	24.83% 6,445	14.36% 3,726	8.88% 2,304	25953
Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses	12.07% 3,143	18.85% 4,908	25.10% 6,535	24.79% 6,454	19.19% 4,996	26036
Deer health and well being	2.52% 657	5.79% 1,508	19.08% 4,973	43.82% 11,419	28.79% 7,504	26061
Deer viewing opportunities	22.55% 5,851	18.32% 4,754	26.75% 6,940	21.37% 5,544	11.00% 2,854	25943
Deer hunting opportunities	9.71% 2,527	4.89% 1,271	13.54% 3,522	31.11% 8,095	40.75% 10,603	26018
Disease that affects the health of deer (e.g., chronic wasting disease, etc.)	5.86% 1,525	10.87% 2,828	20.82% 5,418	32.07% 8,347	30.39% 7,909	26027
Other (please specify)	16.24% 1,057	3.95% 257	9.41% 612	18.89% 1,229	51.51% 3,352	6507

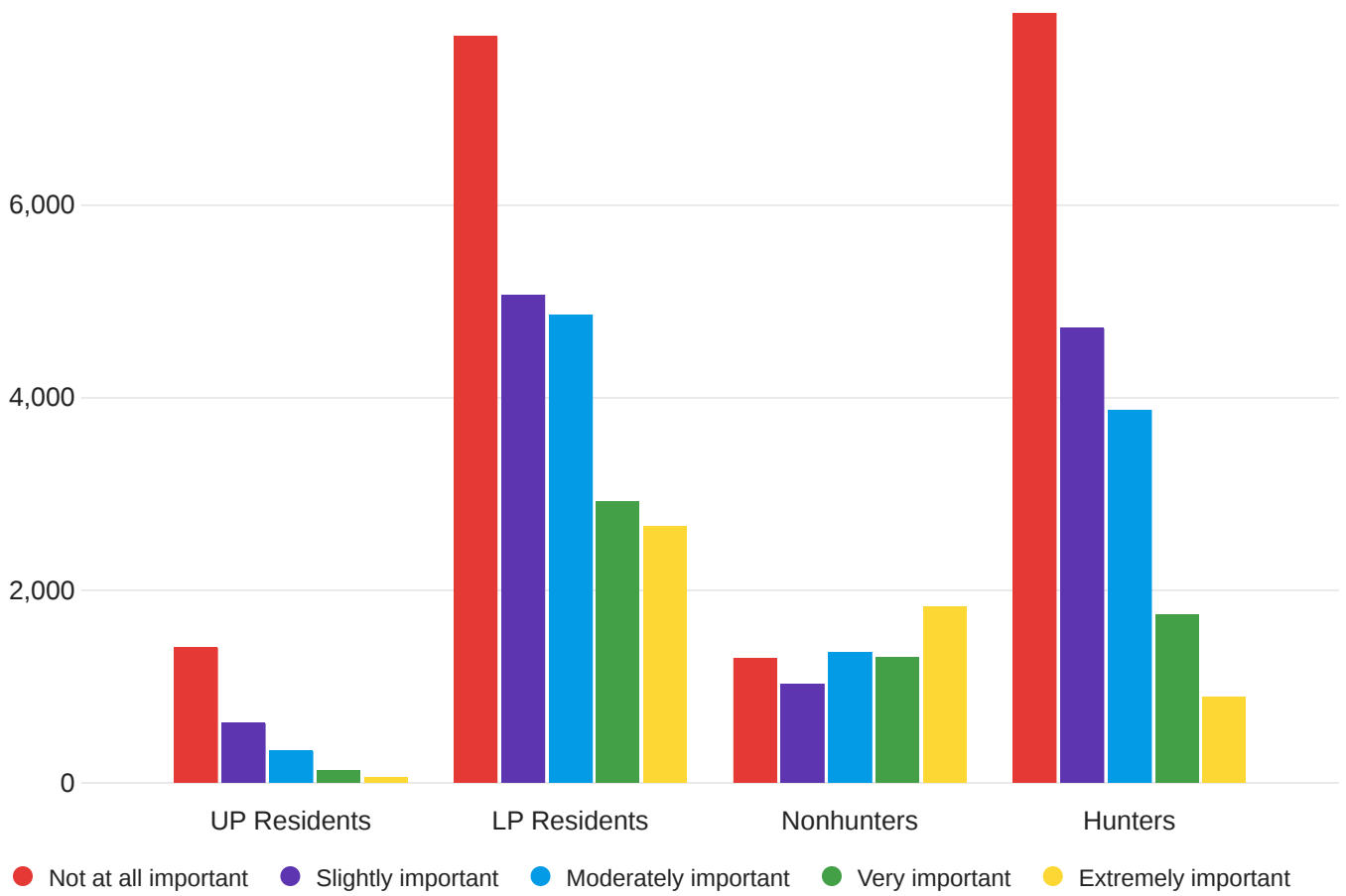
### Deer-vehicle collisions importance



### Deer damage to farm crops/agriculture importance

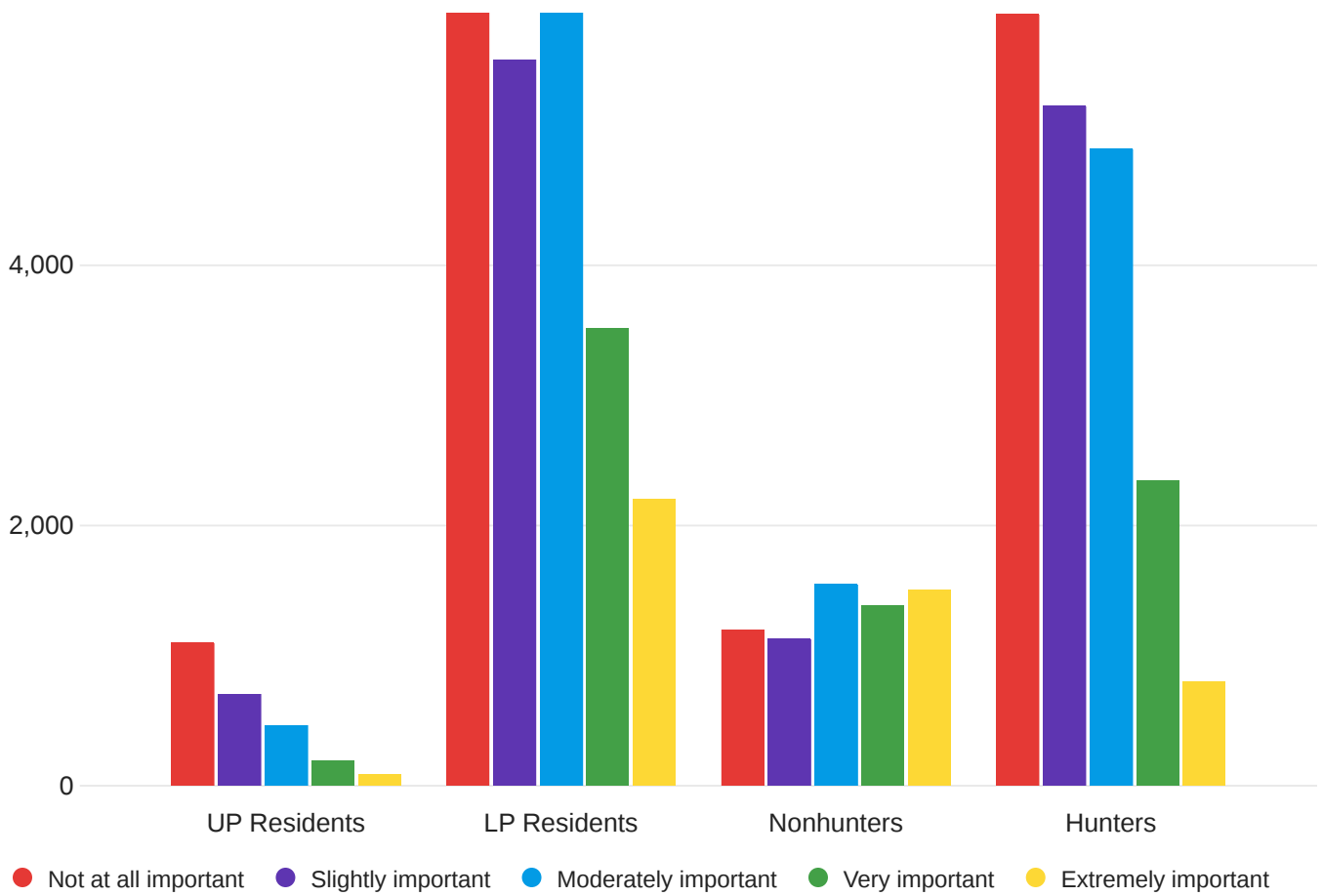


### Deer damage to gardens and plantings around homes importance

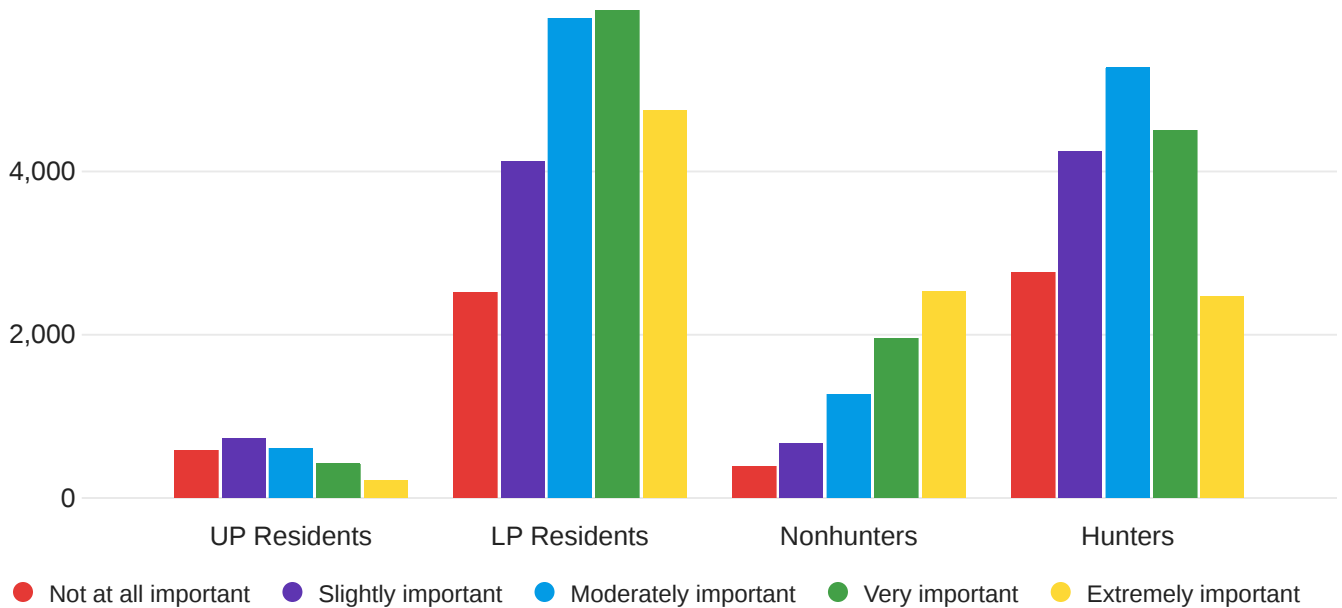




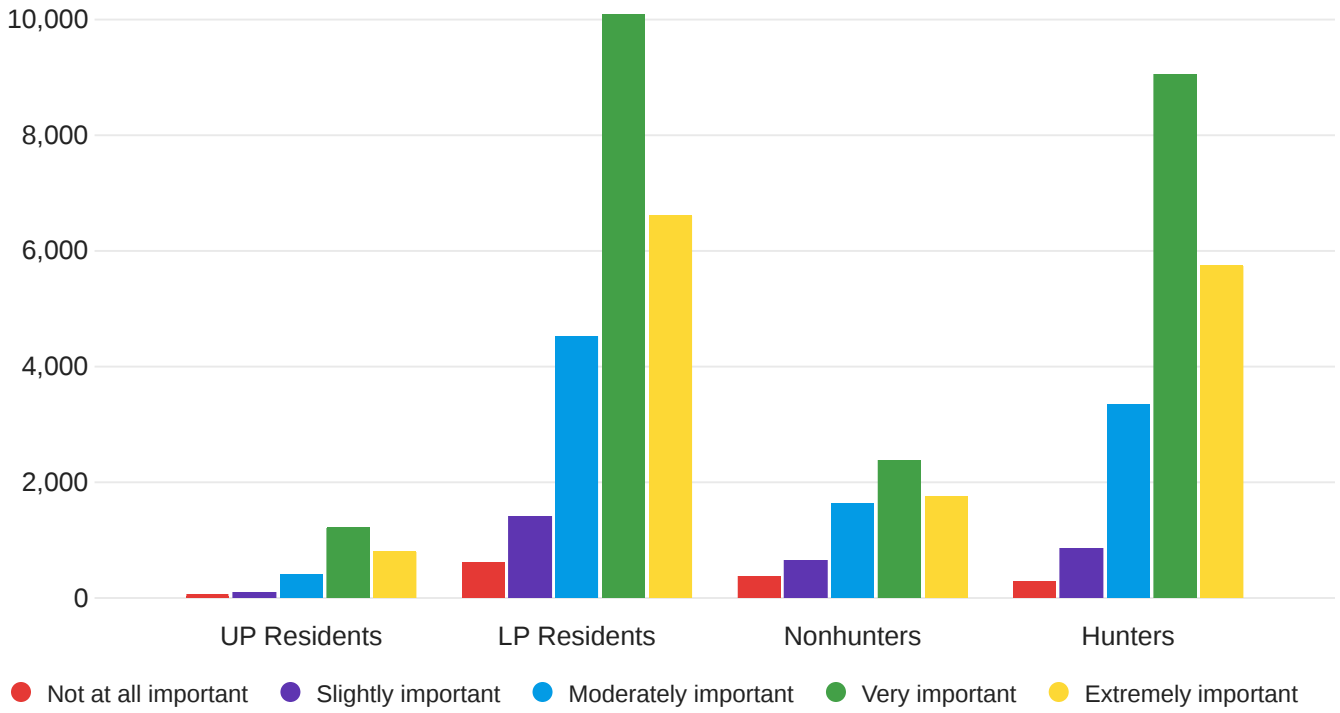
### Deer damage to natural plants and forests importance



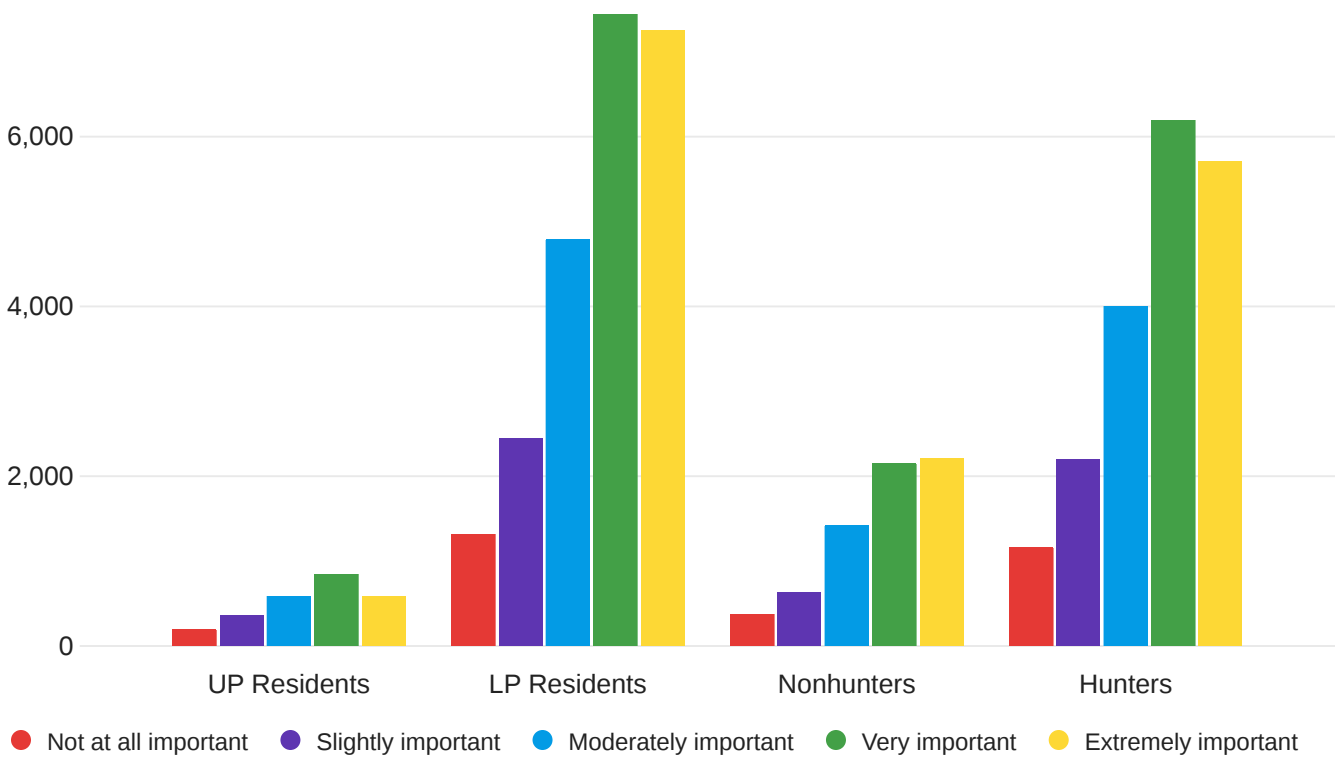
### Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses importance



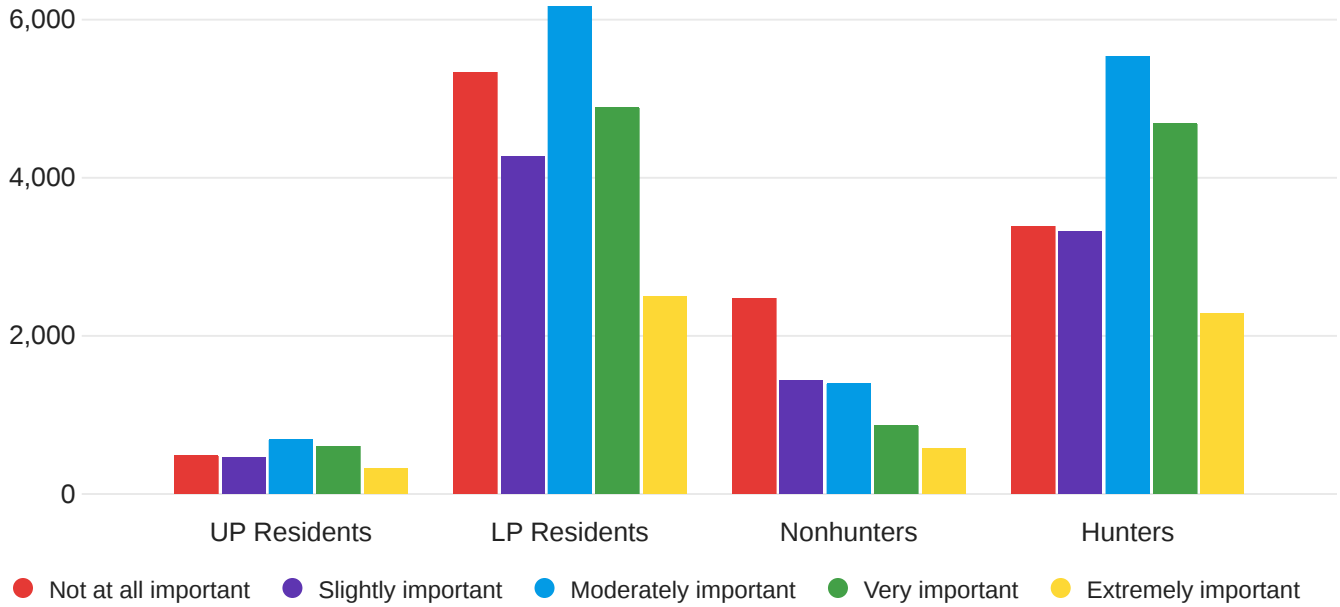
**Deer health and well being importance**



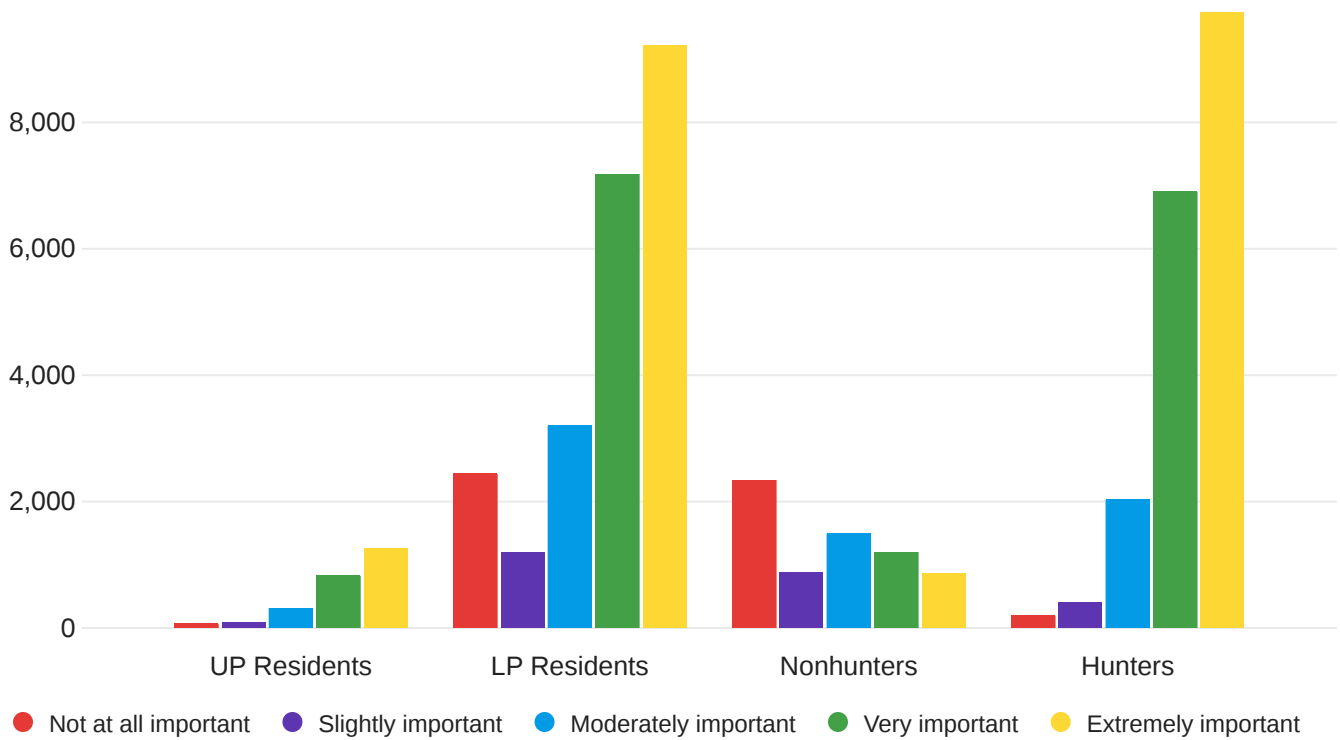
**Disease that affects the health of deer (e.g., chronic wasting disease, etc.) importance**



### Deer viewing opportunities importance

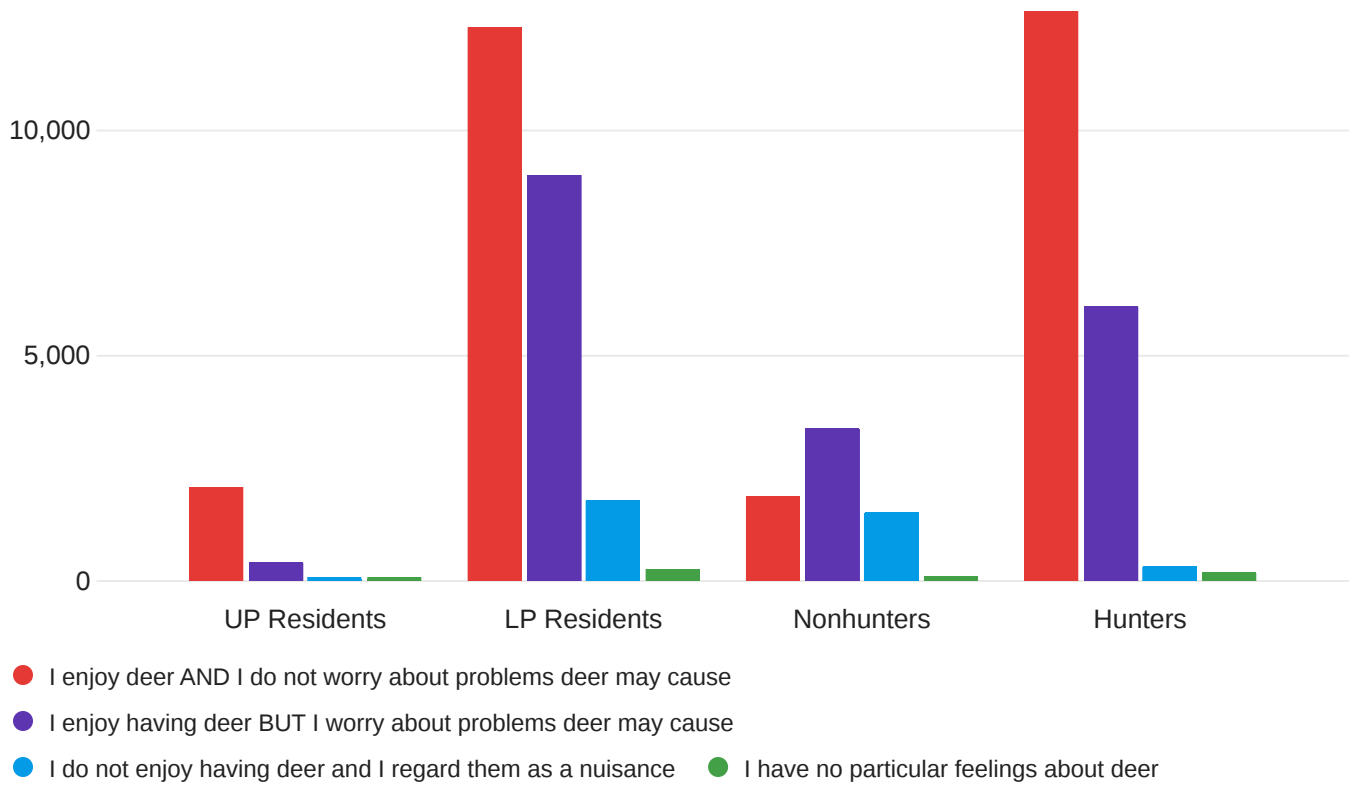


### Deer hunting opportunities importance



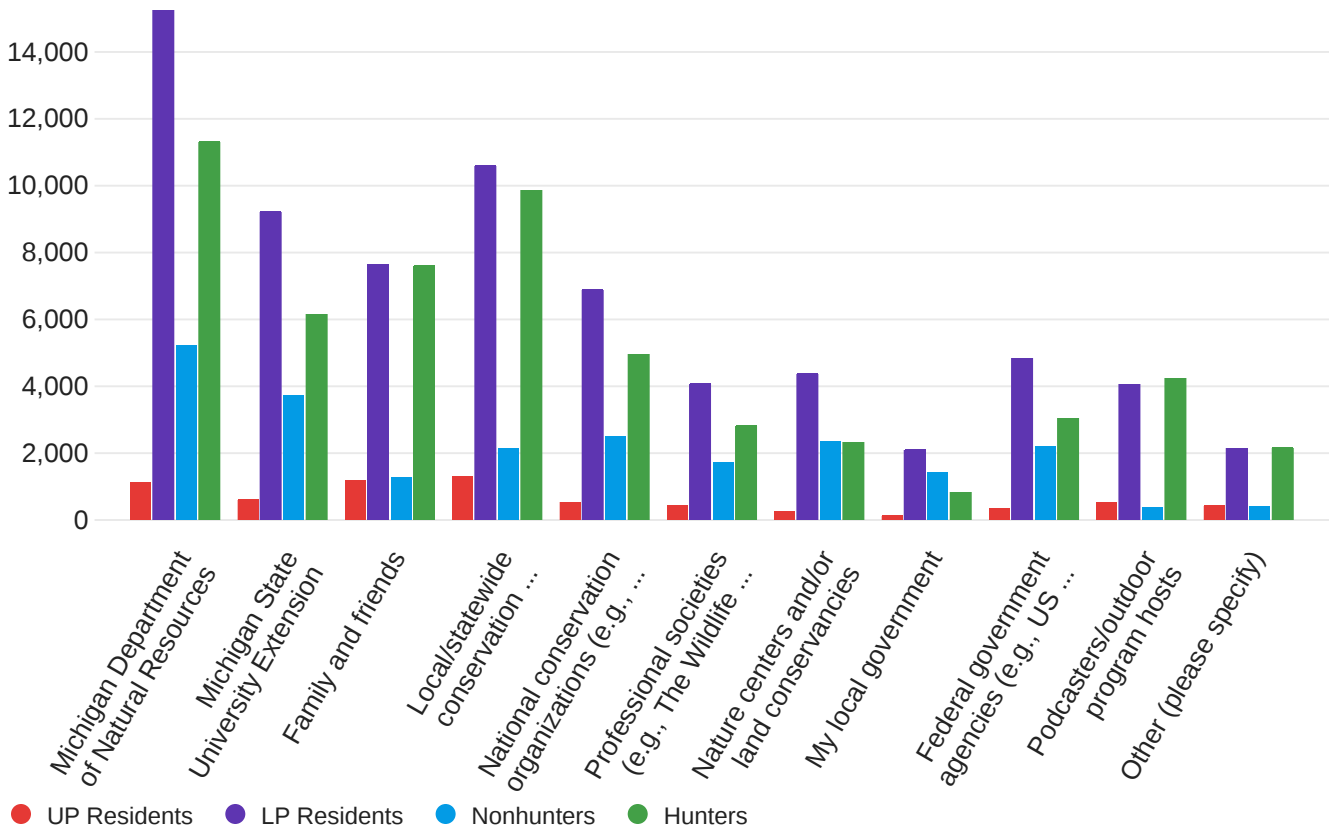
**Q8. Generally, how do you feel about having deer in your local area? Select one option.**

Field	Choice Count
I enjoy deer AND I do not worry about problems deer may cause	56% 14,529
I enjoy having deer BUT I worry about problems deer may cause	36% 9,483
I do not enjoy having deer and I regard them as a nuisance	7% 1,825
I have no particular feelings about deer	1% 289
Total	26126



**Q9. Please indicate which of the following sources you trust to provide accurate information about deer. Select all that apply.**

Michigan Department of Natural Resources	65%	16,535
Family and friends	35%	8,908
National conservation organizations (e.g., National Wildlife Federation; The Nature Conservancy; National Deer Association)	47%	11,988
Professional societies (e.g., The Wildlife Society; Society of American Foresters)	29%	7,460
Nature centers and/or land conservancies	18%	4,668
My local government	9%	2,236
Federal government agencies (e.g., US Fish and Wildlife Service)	18%	5,214
Podcasters/outdoor program hosts	18%	4,609
Other (please specify)	10%	2,577
<b>Total</b>		<b>25608</b>

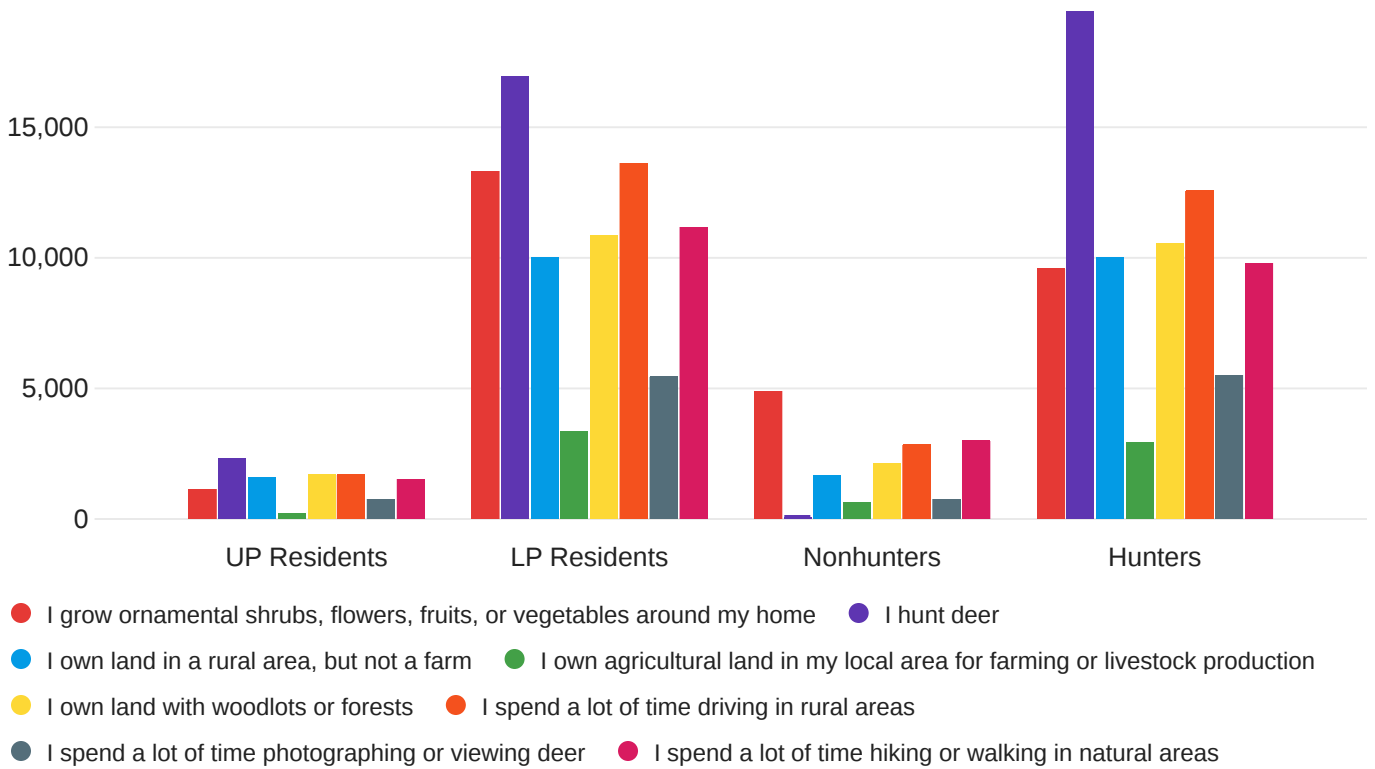


**Q10. Where is your primary residence? Select one response.**

Field	Choice Count
Upper Peninsula	10% 2,587
Northwest	14% 3,518
Northeast	10% 2,558
Southwest	23% 6,029
Southeast	42% 10,945
I do not live in Michigan	1% 238
Total	25875

**Q11. Which characteristics listed below apply to you personally? Select all that apply to you.**

I grow ornamental shrubs, flowers, fruits, or vegetables around my home	56% 14,472
I hunt deer	75% 19,452
I own land in a rural area, but not a farm	45% 11,694
I own agricultural land in my local area for farming or livestock production	14% 3,583
I own land with woodlots or forests	49% 12,679
I spend a lot of time driving in rural areas	60% 15,406
I spend a lot of time photographing or viewing deer	24% 6,231
I spend a lot of time hiking or walking in natural areas	50% 12,798
Total	25771



**Q12. In the previous question, you indicated that you hunt deer. Where do you hunt deer?**

Field	Choice Count
Upper Peninsula	21% 4,002
Northwest	31% 5,972
Northeast	24% 4,630
Southwest	24% 4,655
Southeast	29% 5,718
I hunt in a state other than Michigan	8% 1,533
Total	19426

**Q13. Do you own a cottage, camp, or second home from which you hunt deer?**

Field	Choice Count
Yes	39% 7,606
No	61% 11,785
Total	19391

**Q14. What is your gender? Select one option.**

Field	Choice Count
Male	78% 20,286
Female	18% 4,720
Non-binary / third gender	0% 41
Prefer not to say	2% 597
Prefer to self describe	1% 227
Total	25871

**Q15. What is your age in years?**

Field	Mean	Median	Standard Deviation	Responses
What is your age in years?	55.39	58.00	14.89	24377