

Laurel Park Police Department

Important Updates on Wildlife Feeding and Deer Population Management

In response to ongoing concerns about the local deer population, the Town of Laurel Park has taken steps to naturally reduce deer numbers and address public safety and environmental balance. As part of these efforts, a new Town Ordinance has been adopted prohibiting the feeding of wildlife with specific exceptions noted below.

Ordinance

Feeding of Wild Animals Prohibited

Passed 6-17-2025

It shall be unlawful for any person to intentionally feed any wild animal within Town limits. This provision excludes the feeding of wild birds, squirrels, and pollinators.

Violation Penalty (§ 91.99):

Any violation of this ordinance constitutes a Class 3 misdemeanor. Upon conviction, violators may be subject to a fine ranging from \$50 to \$500, or as amended, in accordance with G.S. §§ 14-4 and 160A-175.



We understand that deer and bears may occasionally access bird feeders. However, the ordinance targets intentional feeding, such as placing corn or other food specifically for deer. If you are currently feeding deer, we ask that you gradually reduce the amount of food offered over several weeks. This allows deer time to adjust their browsing behavior and return to more natural food sources.



In addition to changes regarding wildlife feeding, the Town Council has consolidated and updated three previously existing ordinances 130.35 (Projectiles Restricted) and two versions of 130.36 (Discharge of Firearms)--into a single ordinance to ensure clarity and public safety.

Updated Ordinance
FIREARMS AND OTHER WEAPONS
Passed 6-17-2025

(A) No person shall shoot, discharge, or release within the town limits any firearms, spring-propelled devices, or guns, including bows that discharge sharp-pointed arrows designed to penetrate. This section does not apply to law enforcement officers or authorized governmental representatives acting within the scope of their official duties.

(B) This section also does not apply when acting in defense of life. Furthermore, to promote the public health, safety, and welfare of the Town, it does not preclude officers or persons designated by the Town under a depredation permit issued by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission or through participation in the Commission's Community Deer Management Assistance Program.

At this time, there are no plans to enact a depredation permit. If that process becomes necessary, I will ensure that all residents are informed and involved in the discussion.

Thank you to everyone who has shared input, concerns, and expertise. Your involvement is essential in helping us make thoughtful, balanced decisions for our community.

Bobbie Trotter
Chief of Police