

Molly Harris

From: Marvin Eng [REDACTED]
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To: Council
Subject: Deer Fencing Policy Development

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I am in favour of allowing fence heights tall enough to exclude deer.

Aside from the obvious benefit, that people who are disturbed by deer in their yards would be able to exclude them, I think this would have 3 other possible benefits

1. Vegetation that would act as habitat for birds and insect pollinators would be increased.
2. Some people would grow vegetables behind these fences, increasing the Island's food security.
3. If enough fences were erected the decrease in deer habitat may have the effect of lowering the deer population.

In my opinion, any amendment to the definition of a fence should allow deer fencing in all of the back, front and side yards and no setbacks should be required.

The amendment would have to be mindful of the need to prevent 'fortress' style or otherwise 'imposing' fencing. I think this could be done by requiring a minimum mesh size. An appropriate mesh size could also prevent 'not target' species like birds and bats from becoming entangled in the mesh.

The example on pages 4,5,6 and 7 are what I would consider to be good deer fences.

Marvin Eng
[REDACTED]