

With More and More Wildlife in the Area

Residents and Motorists Need to Take Precautions



The good news: More and more wildlife is settling into the nearly 2,000 acres of wetland preserves that Weston maintains along the city's western boundary.

With that good news come safety precautions that residents and motorists need to heed, particularly in the areas along Manatee Isles Drive, SW 26th Street, Saddle Club and South Post Roads.

Over the past several months the deer population has become noticeably more apparent with numerous sightings on and along South Post Road and Manatee Isles Drive. During the first week of November a full grown buck was struck and killed by a motorist along the western portion of Manatee Isles Drive. Fortunately there were no injuries to the driver (or passengers) but the vehicle sustained extensive damage.

FACTS :

- Insurance company data shows the total number of deer-vehicle collisions in the US has increased 14.9 percent from five years ago.
- Collisions are more frequent during the deer migration and mating season in October, November and December.
- The combination of growing deer populations and the displacement of deer habitat are producing increasingly hazardous conditions for motorists and deer.

TIPS:

- Always wear your seat belt and observe the speed limits!
- If you see a deer in the roadway, **brake but do not swerve**. Most fatalities and injuries happen when drivers swerve their vehicle and hit a tree, another vehicle or another immovable object.
- Deer are most visible at dusk and at dawn.
- Deer often travel in groups, so if you see one crossing the road, chances are there are more.

For more information on Weston's preservation area and its wildlife, please visit:

http://www.westonfl.org/media/docs/misc/Parks_Brochure.pdf