



Upper Dublin Township Police Department

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Terrence P. Thompson
Chief of Police

MEMORANDUM

To:	Terrence P. Thompson, Chief of Police	Date:	02/04/2016
From	David E. Madrak, Professional Standards Officer	Case:	N/A
Subject:	Analysis of Deer Management Program 2015-2016	Page:	1 of 5
Approved:		Total Pages:	5

As the Coordinator of the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program, I have completed an analysis of the 2015-2016 Deer Hunting Season.

Deer Hunting Season

The Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program began with the scheduled start of Pennsylvania’s 2015-2016 Deer Hunting Season, on Saturday, September 19, 2015 and ended on Saturday, January 23, 2016.

Hunter Education Course

Prior to being a participant in the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program, each participant must successfully complete an Upper Dublin Township sponsored Hunter Education Course. There were two courses offered for the 2015-2016 Deer Hunting Season, the first on Sunday, August 16, 2015 and the second on Sunday, September 13, 2015. Each of these courses took approximately 3 hours to complete. At each of these courses the rules and regulations of the Pennsylvania Game Commission and those instituted by the Upper Dublin Township Board of Commissioners were reviewed, along with the proper use of archery and tree stand equipment. Written and practical tests were also administered. Of the 47 individuals who sought to be participants in the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program during the 2015-2016 Deer Hunting Season, all of them successfully completed the tests and were invited to participate.

Participants

During the 2015-2016 Deer Hunting Season there were 34 participants, many of who were Upper Dublin Township residents, employees, or fire department personnel from the Fort Washington Volunteer Fire Company that actively participated in the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program. During the 2015-2016 Deer Hunting Season I maintained contact with all of the participants via telephone or email. There were no reported incidents involving Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program participants and as a result there was no need for formal action to be taken against any Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program participant as a result of their activity during the 2015-2016 Deer Hunting Season.

Authorized Upper Dublin Township Properties

The Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program has successfully harvested deer on carefully selected and authorized Upper Dublin Township properties. Each of the selected properties consists of at least 20 acres of land. During the 2015-2016 Deer Hunting Season, there were 6 Upper Dublin Township properties on which hunting was permitted.

Table 1.

Properties Approved For The 2015-2016 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program	
Property	Note
Dublin Chase	
Dublin Hunt	
Mondauk Woods Open Space	
Pine Run Park	
Rose Valley Preserve	Limited to Select Participants
Sandy Run Park	

- *Dublin Chase and Mondauk Woods Park are both located along the same swath of Upper Dublin Township property, as a result participants usually refer to the property as-a-whole as “Mondauk Woods Park”*

Community Notification

Each of the Upper Dublin Township properties that were approved for hunting were posted with signs that alerted individuals of the hunting that was permitted on the properties as well as the times in which hunting may be taking place. The signs were posted on Friday, September 19, 2015, which was prior to the start of the 2015-2016 Deer Hunting Season. These signs remained in place for the duration of the Deer Hunting Season and will most likely be removed during the week of February 1, 2016 (weather permitting). These signs were placed at what are considered by both the Upper Dublin Township Parks and Recreation Department and the Upper Dublin Township Police Department to be primary entrance/exit points to each property. In addition, notification of the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program was provided via Upper Dublin Township Closed Circuit Television and website.

Participant Hunting Reports

All Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program participants were required to go to the Upper Dublin Police Department’s Communications Center and sign-in and sign-out on the “Hunting Report” form prior to and after their hunt on an Upper Dublin Township property.

Data

The “Hunting Report” form allows the Upper Dublin Police Department to gather information as it relates to each hunting trip (i.e. which authorized properties are being utilized as well as dates and times). As a result of the data supplied on the “Hunting Report” form, an evaluation of each hunting trip and an analysis of the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program as a whole is able to take place.

Table 2.

General Statistics For The 2015-2016 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program	
Participants	47
“Active” Participants	34

Deer Harvested	27
Hunting Trips	383
Time Spent Hunting	1296 Hours

Table 3.

Hunting Trips Taken By Participants During The 2015-2016 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program	
Total	383
Average	8

Table 4.

Time Spent Hunting By Participants During The 2015-2016 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program	
Total	1296 Hours
Average	28 Hours

- *Participants were requested to have 15-20 hours of time spent hunting*

Table 5.

Properties Frequented By Participants During The 2015-2016 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program			
Property	Total Hunting Trips	Percentage of Hunting Trips (Rounded)	Notes
Dublin Chase	1	0%	
Dublin Hunt	202	53%	
Mondauk Woods Open Space	75	20%	
Pine Run Park	40	10%	Limited to Select Participants
Rose Valley Preserve	22	6%	
Sandy Run Park	43	11%	
Total	383	N/A	

- *Dublin Chase and Mondauk Woods Park are both located along the same swath of Upper Dublin Township property, as a result participants usually refer to the property as-a-whole as “Mondauk Woods Park”*

Table 6.

Deer Harvested During The 2015-2016 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program	
Sex	Harvest
Female (Doe)	22
Male (Buck)	5
Total	27

Table 7.

Average Hunting Trips and Time Spent Hunting Amongst All Participants That Resulted In A Deer Being Harvested During the 2015-2016 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program	
Hunting Trips	263
Time Spent Hunting	896 Hours

Table 8.

Deer Harvested From Each Property During The 2015-2016 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program		
Property	Female	Male
Dublin Hunt	11	2
Mondauk Woods Open Space	6	2
Pine Run Park	2	1
Sandy Run Park	3	0
Total	22	5

- *Dublin Chase and Mondauk Woods Park are both located along the same swath of Upper Dublin Township property, as a result participants usually refer to the property as-a-whole as “Mondauk Woods Park”*

Table 9.

Hunting Trips Taken By Participants Who Successfully Harvested A Deer During The 2015-2016 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program	
Total	263
Average	15

Table 10.

Time Spent Hunting By Participants Who Successfully Harvested A Deer During The 2015-2016 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program	
Total	896
Average	53 Hours

Table 11.

Properties Frequented By Participants Who Successfully Harvested A Deer During The 2015-2016 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program		
Park	Total Hunting Trips	Percentage of Hunting Trips (Rounded)
Dublin Chase	1	0%
Dublin Hunt	148	56%
Mondauk Woods Open Space	61	23%
Pine Run Park	29	11%
Sandy Run Park	24	10%
Total	263	N/A

- *Dublin Chase and Mondauk Woods Park are both located along the same swath of Upper Dublin Township property, as a result participants usually refer to the property as-a-whole as “Mondauk Woods Park”*

Table 12.

Average Hunting Trips and Time Spent Hunting amongst Participants Who Successfully Harvested A Deer During The 2015-2016 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program	
Hunting Trips	15
Time Spent Hunting	37 Hours

Possible Recommendations

The Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program is more restrictive when compared to “general” hunting within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The restrictions put in place, were done so as a result of recommendations from the Upper Dublin Township Board of Commissioners, the Township Manager, and the residents themselves. As a result, it is more difficult than normal to successfully harvest a deer within authorized Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program. If more deer are sought to be harvested, then the times restrictions that have been put in place should be removed, the number of participants in the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program should be increased, additional authorized Upper Dublin Township properties should be considered (i.e. smaller acreage), and any deer, regardless of sex, should be allowed to be harvested first.

Future Considerations

In January of 2016, communication amongst Upper Dublin Township administrators, Board of Commissioners, and the police department began to take place concerning the future of the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program. I expect that this communication will continue to take place throughout the next six to nine months. In the meantime, I, along with Lieutenant Darren Nyce and Patrol Officers Thomas Szybowski and Stephen Nick, all of who assist with administration of Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program, will continue to review and evaluate the operational and safety procedures currently in place within the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program.