



Upper Dublin Township Police Department

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Terrence P. Thompson
Chief of Police

MEMORANDUM

To:	Terrence P. Thompson, Chief of Police	Date:	01/29/2015
From:	David E. Madrak, Professional Standards Officer	Case:	N/A
Subject:	2014-2015 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program - Analysis	Page:	1 of 6
Approved:		Total Pages:	6

As the Coordinator of the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program, I have completed an analysis of the 2014-2015 deer hunting season. Four members of the Upper Dublin Township Police Department assisted me with administering the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program: Lieutenant Darren Nyce, Officer Thomas Szybowski, Officer Stephen Nick, and Police Communications Officer Tegan Wendell.

History

The Upper Dublin Township Board of Commissioners authorized and approved the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program in 2009. The Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program is archery only, community managed deer hunt with the goal of reducing human-deer conflict. Since then, the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program has developed into a well organized and respected deer management program that follows the rules and regulations established by the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Upper Dublin Township Board of Commissioners.

Pennsylvania Game Commission

The dates and times for the Pennsylvania deer hunting season are established by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. The Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program began with the scheduled start of Pennsylvania’s 2014-2015 deer hunting season, on Saturday, September 20, 2014, and ended on the scheduled end date of Saturday, January 24, 2015. The daily “start” (i.e. ½ hour before sunrise) and “end” (i.e. ½ hour after sunset) times established by the Pennsylvania Game Commission were followed; however there was a limitation on the number of hours permitted to be hunted during the mid-day.

Participants

The Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program has been well received by archery hunters throughout southeastern Pennsylvania. During the 2014-2015 deer hunting season there were 39 participants, many of who were Upper Dublin Township residents, employees, or fire department personnel from the Fort Washington Volunteer Fire Company. During the 2014-2015 deer hunting season, I maintained contact with each participant via telephone or email. In addition, there are approximately 70 individuals who have been placed on a “Waiting List.”

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 2014-2015 deer hunting season, the first on Sunday, August 24, 2014, and the second on Sunday, September 7, 2014. Each of these courses took approximately 4-6 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. All of the individuals, who sought to be participants in the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program during the 2014-2015 deer hunting season, successfully completed the tests and were invited to participate.

Properties

The Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program has successfully harvested deer on carefully selected and authorized Upper Dublin Township owned properties. Each of the selected properties consist of at least 20 acres of land. During the 2014-2015 deer hunting season, there were six Upper Dublin Township owned properties on which hunting was permitted on.

Table 1.

Properties Approved For The 2014-2015 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program	
Property	Note
Dublin Chase	N/A
Dublin Hunt	N/A
Mondauk Woods Open Space	N/A
Pine Run Park	Limited Area
Rose Valley Preserve	Restricted Access
Sandy Run Park	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”*

Statistics

All 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. The data provided on the “Hunting Report” forms permits for an evaluation of each hunting trip.

- *Note: When appropriate numbers have been rounded.*

Table 2.

General Statistics For The 2014-2015 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program	
Participants	39
Deer Harvested	27
Hunting Trips	414
Time Spent Hunting	1,390 Hours

Table 3.

Hunting Trips Taken By Participants During The 2014-2015 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program	
Total	414
Average	11

Table 4.

Time Spent Hunting By Participants During The 2014-2015 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program	
Total	1,390Hours
Average	36 Hours

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

Table 5.

Properties Frequented By Participants During The 2014-2015 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program			
Property	Total Hunting Trips	Percentage of Hunting Trips	Notes
Dublin Chase	2	<1%	N/A
Dublin Hunt	165	40%	N/A
Mondauk Woods Open Space	103	25%	N/A
Pine Run Park	76	18%	Limited Area
Rose Valley Preserve	32	8%	Restricted Access
Sandy Run Park	36	9%	N/A
Total	414	100%	

- *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 2014-2015 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program	
Sex	Harvest
Female (Doe)	21
Male (Buck)	6
Total	27

Table 7.

Average Hunting Trips and Time Spent Hunting Amongst All Participants That Resulted In A Deer Being Harvested During the 2014-2015 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program	
Hunting Trips	11
Time Spent Hunting	36 Hours

Table 8.

Deer Harvested From Each Property During The 2014-2015 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program		
Property	Deer Harvested	Notes
Dublin Chase	0	N/A
Dublin Hunt	12	N/A
Mondauk Woods Open Space	9	N/A
Pine Run Park	4	Limited Area
Rose Valley Preserve	1	Restricted Access
Sandy Run Park	1	N/A
Total	27	

- *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 2014-2015 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program	
Total	302
Average	17

Table 10.

Time Spent Hunting By Participants Who Successfully Harvested A Deer During The 2014-2015 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program	
Total	1,042 Hours
Average	58 Hours

Table 11.

Properties Frequented By Participants Who Successfully Harvested A Deer During The 2014-2015 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program			
Park	Total Hunting Trips	Percentage of Hunting Trips	Notes
Dublin Chase	0	0%	N/A
Dublin Hunt	126	42%	N/A
Mondauk Woods Open Space	76	25%	N/A
Pine Run Park	67	22%	Limited Area
Rose Valley Preserve	16	5%	Restricted Access
Sandy Run Park	17	6%	N/A
Total	302	100%	

- *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”*

Communications

Throughout the 2014-2015 deer hunting season contact was made via email or telephone with Upper Dublin Township residents who sought to express their approval or disapproval of the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program or just had general questions. Each of the inquiries was addressed in a timely manner. In addition, there was a letter received from The Board of Trustees of The Montessori School at 1701 Jarrettown Road, Dresher which formally stated their opposition to the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program.

Law Enforcement

Prior to the start of the 2014-2015 deer hunting season, there was an incident involving two Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program participants which resulted in me recommending to you that these two individuals be removed as participants. You agreed with my assessment of the situation and recommendation and as a result, both of the participants were advised by me via mail and email that they were no longer participants of the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program. There were no further issues involving Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program participants during the 2014-2015 deer hunting season.

There were three law enforcement related incidents on authorized Upper Dublin Township owned properties that took place during the 2014-2015 deer hunting season. One of the incidents resulted in an Upper Dublin Township Police Officer citing a non-hunting individual for harassing an Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program participant and the other two incidents were subsequently turned-over-to the Pennsylvania Game Commission for further investigation. Neither of those two incidents involved Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program participants, but are worthy to note since it demonstrates that unauthorized individuals continue to hunt on Upper Dublin Township owned properties even though they are not permitted.

Safety Enhancements

The following safety enhancements were implemented for the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program during the 2014-2015 deer hunting season.

1. Provided notification of the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program to the public via the following sources:
 - Website: www.upperdublin.net
 - Closed-Circuit Television
 - Parks and Recreation Leisure Guide
 - Enhanced signage at each authorized Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program property
2. Provided a more comprehensive list of the rules and regulations pertaining to the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program on the website.
3. Recognizing the importance of the parks and the perceived “fear” expressed by a limited number people, the hours in which Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program participants were permitted to hunt on each authorized property were limited and subsequently reduced.

- Participants were no longer permitted to hunt for the entire day (i.e. from the Pennsylvania Game Commission's (PGC) start time of ½ hour before sunrise to the end time of ½ hour after sunset)
- Participants must stop hunting at 9:30AM and may not resume hunting until 2:30PM
 - These time restrictions enabled the public to “freely” utilize the parks, without fear of hunting taking place while in the park

4. Enhanced signage at each authorized Upper Dublin Township Deer Management property.

- Reflective signs were placed at pre-determined locations (typically at commonly utilized entrance/exit points) for each authorized Upper Dublin Township Deer Management property. The signs state as follow:

“Upper Dublin Township Controlled Deer Hunt In Progress”

- Signs were placed at pre-determined locations (typically at commonly utilized entrance/exit points) for each authorized Upper Dublin Township Deer Management property. The signs state as follow:

“No Hunting on Sundays. Hunting Hours are from one half hour before sunrise (per PGC) until 9:30am (per U.D. Twp) and from 2:30pm (per U.D.Twp) until one half hour after sunset (per PGC) Visit www.upperdublin.net for more information.”

In the months to come, I, along with those who assisted me with administering the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program, will further evaluate the 2014-2015 deer hunting season and the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program as a whole to determine if further operational and safety enhancements are needed for the future.