

Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program (DMP)



Goal of the DMP



- What is the goal of the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program?
 - Reduction in the number of deer/human conflicts within Upper Dublin Township



Background



➤ “Pilot” Program

- Approved by the Upper Dublin Township (UD Twp.) Board of Commissioners (BOC) in August of 2009
 - Has continued for each deer hunting season since implementation
 - Reviewed and revised on a yearly basis
 - UD Twp.
 - BOC
 - Departments
 - Administration
 - Parks & Recreation
 - Police

Locations



➤ Parks and Open Spaces

- Approximately 610 acres of “Open Space” owned by UD Twp.
 - DMP is authorized to harvest deer on approximately 205 acres of this land, 34%

Properties Approved For The 2016-2017 UD Twp. DMP

Property	Acreage
Aidenn Lair Woods*	7.2
Camphill & Highland Athletic Complex (Vicinity of Public Works Facility)*	17.0
Dillon Road Woodlands*	10.9
Dublin Chase & Dublin Hunt Open Space	77.6
Pine Run Park	22.5
Robbins Park (Rear of Property: Meadow & Immediate Tree Line)*	14.1
Rose Valley Preserve	27.4
Sandy Run Park	21.9
Susquehanna Woods*	6.34
Total	204.94

Participants



➤ 2017

- 44 authorized individuals
 - 35 “actively” participated
 - Current or former residents and employees of UD Twp. as well as the surrounding communities
- Waiting List of approximately 75 interested individuals

Rules & Regulations



➤ Participant Safety Course

- Approximately 3 hour course administered by Upper Dublin Police Officers
- Review of the rules and regulations of the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) and UD Twp.
- Review of archery equipment and tree stands
- Video that pertains to hunter safety
- Written and practical tests
- Waiver of Liability

Safety Measures



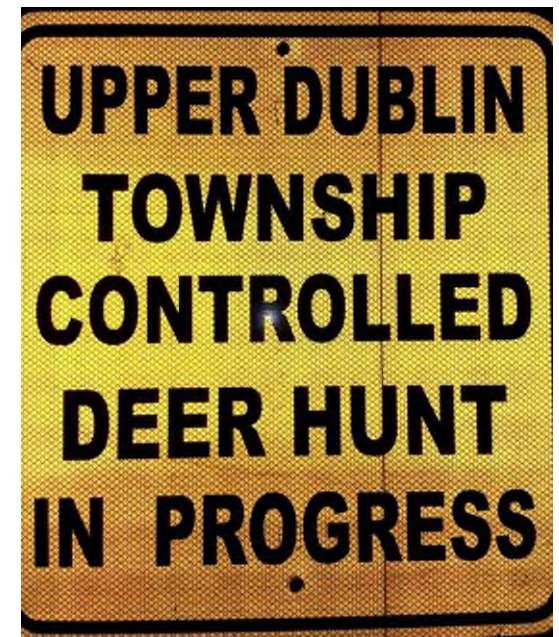
➤ Safety Zones

- Established by the PGC
 - 50 Yards
 - 150 Yards

➤ Current Time Constraints

- Morning
 - 30 minutes before sunrise to 09:30AM
- Afternoon & Evening
 - Approximately 2:30PM to 30 minutes after sunset

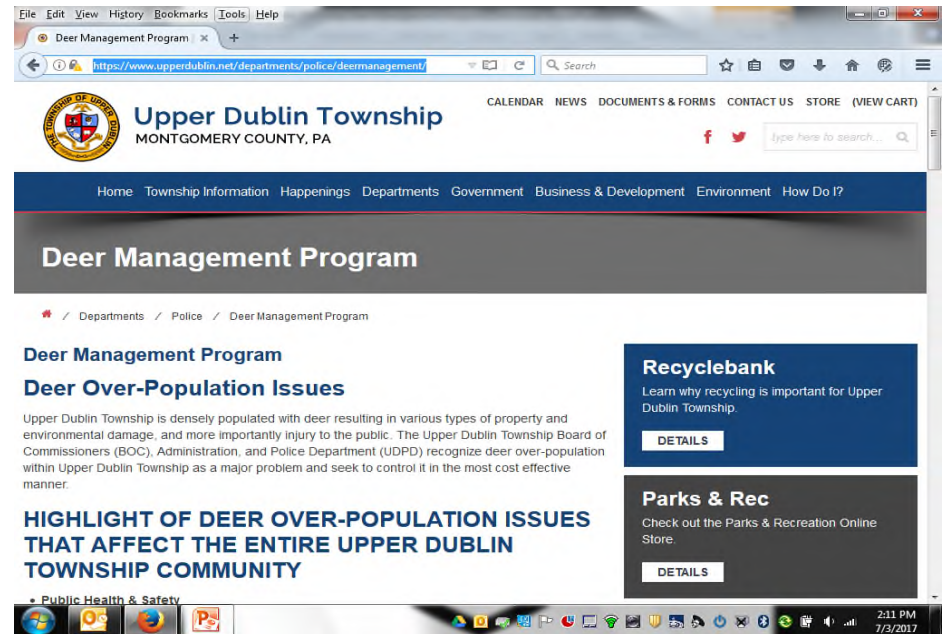
➤ Signs @ Entry & Exit Locations



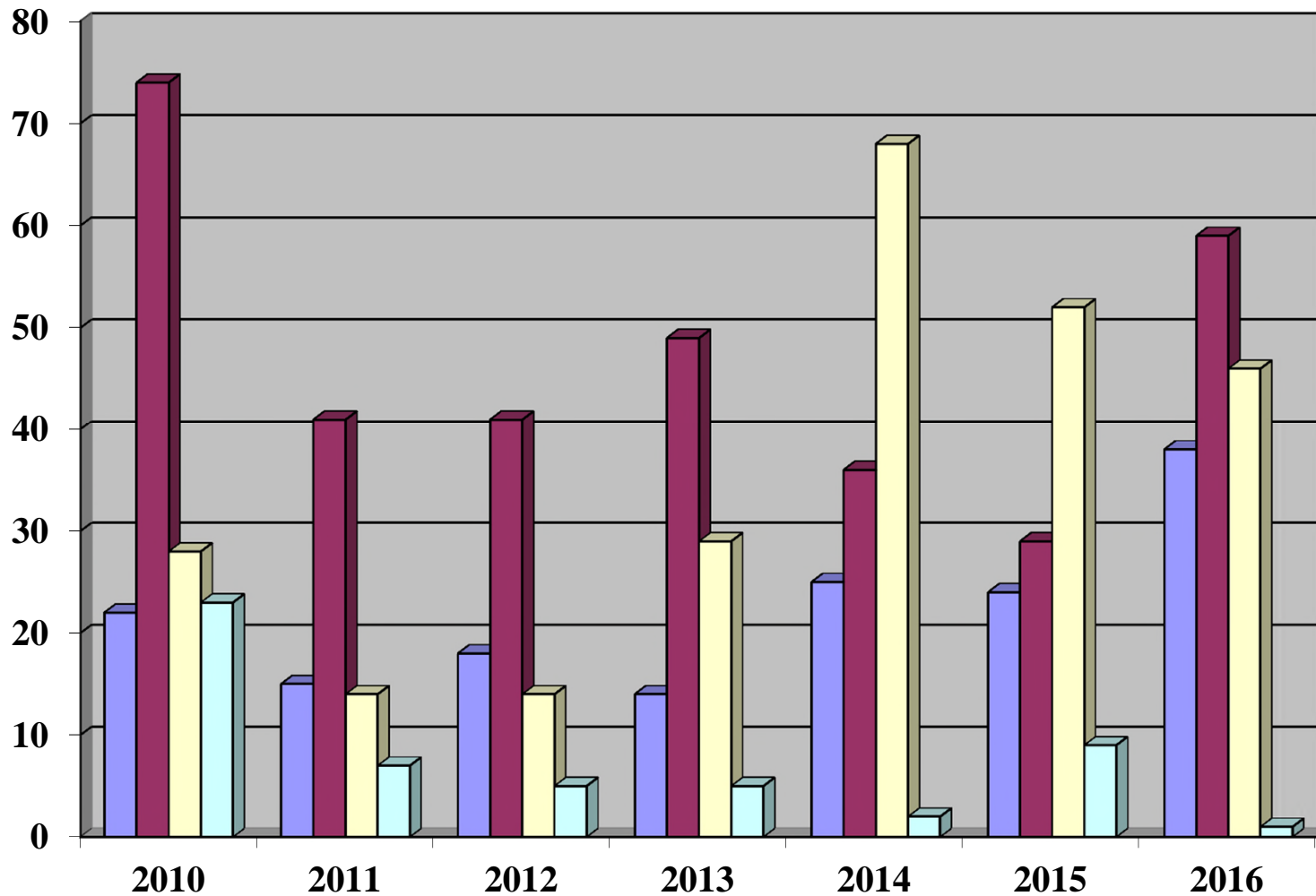
Informational Resources & Public Notice



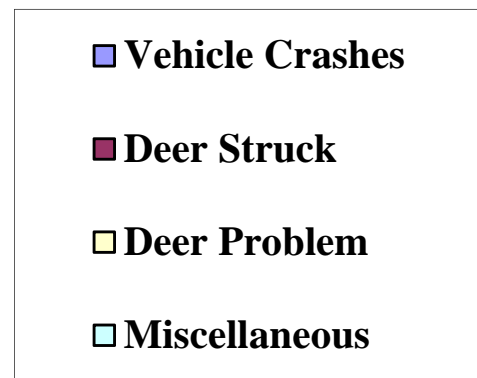
- Leisure Guide
- Website
 - <https://www.upperdublin.net/departments/police/deermanagement/>
 - “Draft” Deer Study
 - “Yearly” Deer Management Analysis
- Case Study for Cornell University and The Nature Conservancy
 - <https://deeradvisor.dnr.cornell.edu/case/upper-dublin-township-pennsylvania#collapse-4-0>



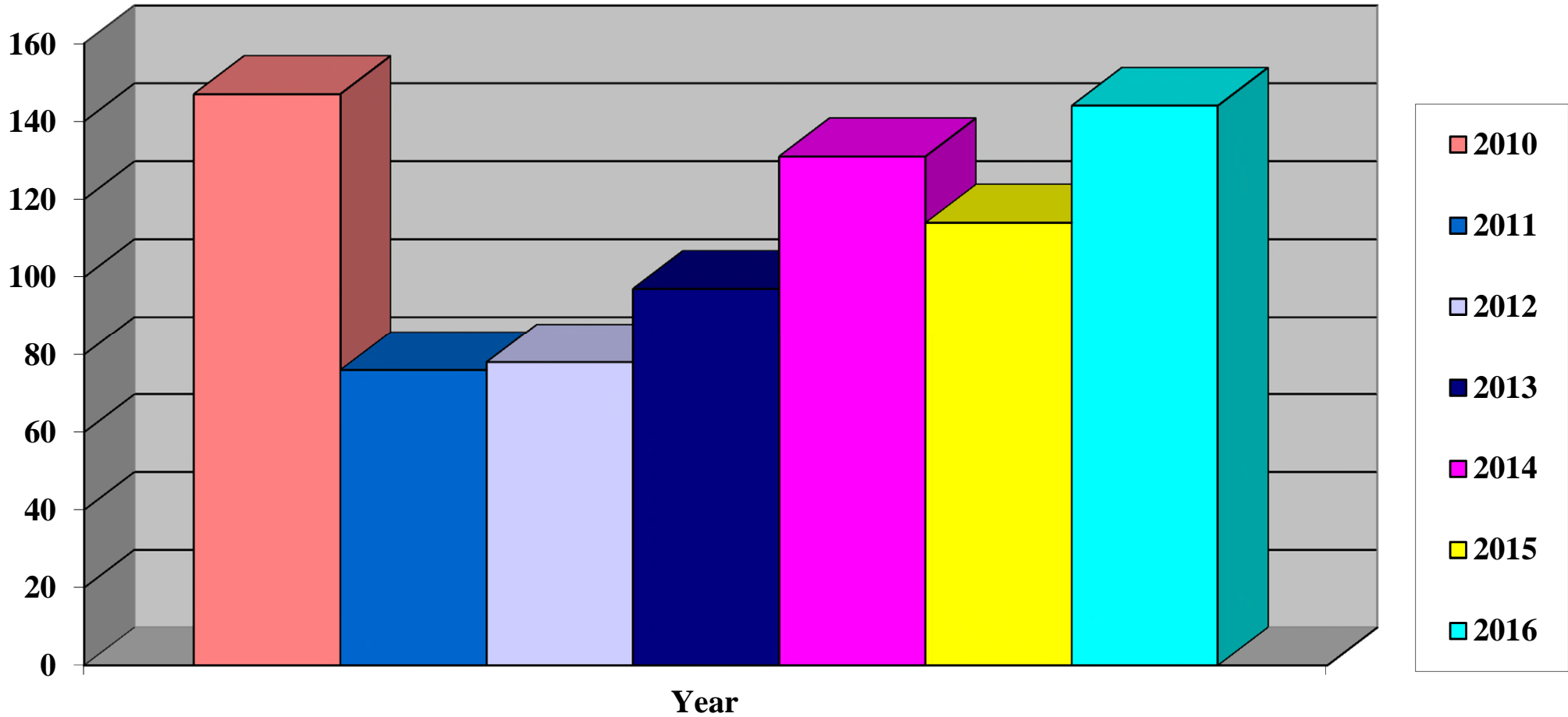
Statistics



**Deer Related
“Calls for Service”
by “Type” from
2010-2016**



Statistics



Deer Related "Calls for Service" by Total from 2010-2016

UD Twp. P & R



- Impact of deer on UD Twp. Properties
 - Over browsing of native shrubs and trees
 - Results in aggressive growth of non-native shrubs and trees = unhealthy forest (lack of tree canopy)
 - Absence of groundcover results in soil erosion and storm water run-off
 - UDP&R and Eagle scout candidates are attempting to plant 3,000 trees over 3 years
 - Significant financial and time resources that deer could thwart due to

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)



➤ Deer Survey

- 52.7 deer per square mile
 - March and April of 2017
- 696 deer within UD Twp.
 - 95% statistical certainty
 - 645 deer and 718 deer
- Fluctuates with birth rate: Approximately 250 additional deer per year



➤ Recommendations

- Educate the residents of UD Twp. regarding deer management
- Discourage the feeding of deer on all properties within UD Twp.
- Expand DMP on UD Twp. owned properties in order to maximize results
- Utilize professional deer removal to augment hunting in UD Twp. in order to manage deer at acceptable levels

USDA – Sharpshooters



- Per the PGC, public hunting must take place on properties that sharpshooters will also hunt on
 - Minimal exceptions
 - Unable to hunt on a property due to safety zones
- Cost?
 - \$200.00-\$300.00 (approximately) per deer
 - Number of deer to harvest?
 - Yearly occurrence?
- Long-term deer management
 - Survey
 - Sharpshooters
 - DMP

Opportunities



- Discontinue the DMP
- Severely restrict the DMP
- Continue the DMP with the currently authorized number of participants and locations
- Enhance the DMP with an increase in the authorized number of participants and locations

Opportunity



➤ Discontinue the DMP

- The deer population within UD Twp. will continue to increase and therefore will most likely result in an increase in:
 - Deer-vehicle collisions
 - Deer damage to the environment
 - Complaints concerning deer
- USDA sharpshooting would not be authorized by the PGC

Opportunity



- **Severely restrict the DMP**
 - Daily removal of tree stands
 - Limit the number of participants
 - Expansion of safety zones
 - Limit the area of hunting within authorized locations
 - Further time restrictions
 - Morning or afternoon hunting only
 - Single day hunting

Opportunity



- Continue the DMP with the currently authorized locations and number of participants
 - 9 authorized locations
 - 45 participants (approximately)
 - 35 deer harvested
 - Prior to 2016-2017 Deer Hunting Season, 27 deer were harvested in each of the three previous deer hunting seasons

Opportunity



- Enhance the DMP with an increase in authorized locations and number of participants
 - Increase the authorized locations to include:
 - Henry Lee Willet Park
 - Loch Alsh Reservoir
 - Mondauk Manor (Bark) Park
 - Limited
 - Robbins Park
 - Expansion
 - Upper Dublin (Twining Valley) Golf Course
 - Encourage private landowners to allow DMP participants to hunt on their private property
 - Increase the number of participants to 60 (approximately)



➤ Comments concerning the DMP

- The Upper Dublin Township Police Department has done an excellent job working with hunters to provide hunting access on selected Twp. owned properties through the DMP. The DMP has assisted in removing 162 deer through 5 hunting seasons.
- “The UD Twp. hunting program is by far the best we have seen...”

~ Carey A. Furlo Wildlife Biologist, USDA
APHIS Wildlife Services Pennsylvania



Questions?