



# Upper Dublin Township Police Department

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## MEMORANDUM

<b>To:</b>	Daniel Wade, Deputy Chief of Police	<b>Date:</b>	2/18/2019
<b>From:</b>	Christopher D Hagggar, Patrol Officer	<b>Case:</b>	N/A
<b>Subject:</b>	Analysis of the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program for 2018-2019	<b>Page:</b>	1
<b>Approved:</b>		<b>Total Pages:</b>	8

As the coordinator of the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program, I have completed an analysis of the 2018-2019 deer hunting season.

### Deer Hunting Season

Hunting in Pennsylvania is governed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC). The PGC has established Wildlife Management Units (WMU) throughout Pennsylvania. Upper Dublin Township is located within WMU 5D. As a result of being located within WMU 5D, the following dates for deer hunting were established by the PGC for the 2018-2019 deer hunting season:

- ▶ Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 through Saturday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- ▶ Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 through Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- ▶ Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 through Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019

It is important to note that there is no hunting on Sunday, per the PCG.

### Hunter Education Course

Prior to being a participant in the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program, each participant had to successfully complete an Upper Dublin Township sponsored Participant Safety course. The Participant Safety courses were scheduled as follows:

- Sunday, August 26, 2018 @ 07:00-10:30 hours
- Saturday, September 6, 2018 @ 07:00-10:30 hours

At each of these courses the rules and regulations of the PGC 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. Each of the individuals who sought to be participants in the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program during the 2018-2019 deer hunting season successfully completed the tests and were invited to participate.

**Participants**

During the 2018-2019 deer hunting season there were 58 participants of which 43 “actively” participated; many of who were Upper Dublin Township residents, employees, or fire department personnel from the Fort Washington Volunteer Fire Company. I maintained contact with all of the participants via telephone or email. There were no reported formal complaints or incidents involving Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program participants during the 2018-2019 deer hunting season.

**Authorized Upper Dublin Township Properties**

Upper Dublin Township owns and therefore is responsible for maintaining approximately 610 acres of “Open Space.” The Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program is authorized to harvest deer on 228.04 acres (37%) of that “Open Space.” Historically the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program has successfully harvested deer on those carefully selected and authorized Upper Dublin Township properties. There were twelve Upper Dublin Township properties on which hunting was permitted during the 2018-2019 Deer Hunting Season.

**Table 1.**

<b>Approved Properties</b>	<b>Acreage</b>
Aidenn Lair Woods*	7.2
Camphill & Highland Athletic Complex (Vicinity of Public Works Facility)	17.0
Dublin Hunt Open Space	77.6
Dillon Road Woodlands	10.9
Henry Lee Willet Park*	13.0
Loch Alsh Reservoir (Rear of Property)*	3.1
Pine Run Park	22.5
Robbins Park (Middle to Rear of Property)*	14.1
Rose Valley Preserve	27.4

Sandy Run Park	21.9
Susquehanna Woods	6.34
Upper Dublin (Twining Valley) Golf Course (Rear of Property)*	7.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>228.04</b>

### **Tracking Deer Harvested on Private Property**

Over the years of participating in this program, I learned many of the UDT Deer Management participants also have access to private property within UDT. I requested participants with this access report their harvests to me so they may be included in this report.

### **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 by the Upper Dublin Township Parks and Recreation Department during the week of September 10th, 2018 which was prior to the start of the 2018-2019 deer hunting season. These signs remained in place for the duration of the Deer Hunting Season and were removed during the week of January 28, 2018.

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 as primary entry/exit points to each property. In addition, notification of the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program was provided via the Upper Dublin Township Closed Circuit Television, Leisure Guide, and website.

### **Community Support**

Over the course of 2018 I received numerous phone calls, emails, and in-person contacts from members of the Upper Dublin community voicing support of deer management in Upper Dublin. They raised concerns of Lyme disease, plant destruction, and vehicle vs. deer accidents.

I received phone calls from numerous citizens offering their properties for hunters to utilize for hunting. I was able to refer hunters from the UDT Management program to the property owners, who allowed the hunters to harvest multiple deer.

I hope to continue building positive relationships with the citizens of Upper Dublin Township to ensure this program continues to be successful.

## Participant Hunting Reports

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

The “Hunting Report” form allows the Upper Dublin Police Department to gather information as it relates to each individual’s 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 are able to take place.

**Table 2.**

General Statistics	
Participants	58
“Active” Participants	43
Deer Harvested	48
Hunting Trips	540
Time Spent Hunting	1,996 Hours

**Table 3.**

Time Spent Hunting By “Active” Participants During	
Note	Participants were requested to have 15-20 hours of time spent hunting
Total	1,996 Hours

**Table 4.**

Properties Frequented By Participants		
	Property	
	Aidenn Lair Woods	49
	Camphill & Highland Athletic Complex	40
	Dublin Hunt Open Space	215
	Dillon Road Woodlands	25
	Henry Lee Willet Park	0
	Loch Alsh Reservoir	11
	Pine Run Park	38

Robbins Park	35
Rose Valley Preserve	60
Sandy Run Park	40
Susquehanna Woods	9
Upper Dublin (Twining Valley) Golf Course	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>540</b>

**Table 5.**

<b>Deer Harvested During</b>	
<b>Sex</b>	<b>Harvest</b>
Female (Doe)	40
Male (Buck)	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>

**Table 6.**

<b>Deer Harvested From Approved Property</b>	
<b>Property</b>	<b>Number of Deer Harvested</b>
Aidenn Lair Woods	1
Camphill & Highland Athletic Complex	5
Dillon Road Woodlands	3
Dublin Hunt Open Space	9
Henry Lee Willet Park	0
Loch Alsh Reservoir	3
Pine Run Park	3
Robbins Park	1
Rose Valley Preserve	7
Sandy Run Park	1
Susquehanna Woods	3
Upper Dublin (Twining Valley) Golf Course	0

UDT Private Land	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>

### **Changes Made for the 2018-2019 Hunting Season**

As a way for hunters to have increased opportunities to harvest a deer for the program and to ensure hunters remained encouraged to hunt throughout the hunting season, a new rule was implemented for the 2018-2019 hunting season. If a hunter obtained more than 20 hours of hunting time, but did not harvest a doe, they were permitted to harvest a legal buck. This opened up numerous opportunities for the hunters, and was successful. I will keep this rule in place for the 2019-2020 hunting season.

### **Possible Recommendations**

At the beginning of this hunting season, I was requested by UDT to review potential properties to allow all day hunting. I provided the following properties highlighted in yellow;

<i>Aidenn Lair Woods</i>
<i>Camphill &amp; Highland Athletic Complex (Vicinity of Public Works Facility)</i>
<i>Dillon Road Woodlands</i>
<i>Dublin Chase &amp; Dublin Hunt Open Space</i>
<i>Henry Lee Willet Park</i>
<i>Loch Alsh Reservoir (Rear of Property)</i>
<i>Sandy Run Park</i>
<i>Susquehanna Woods</i>
<i>Upper Dublin (Twining Valley) Golf Course (Rear of Property)</i>

I believe these properties should still be considered by UDT Staff and Commissioners for all day hunting. I believe it will increase the opportunities for the hunters to harvest a deer, and add to the success of the program.

### **Future Considerations**

I, along with Lieutenant Darren Nyce and Patrol Officer Tegan Timcho, will continue to review and evaluate the operational and safety procedures currently in place within the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program.

I will be investigating whether UDT can work with the PA Game Commission to have an extended archery hunting season with the UDT Staff and BOC permission. I will also be investigating whether UDT Deer Management participants can bait in select locations.

I would also like to continue the working relationship with the UDT BOC and Staff to ensure the continued success of this program.

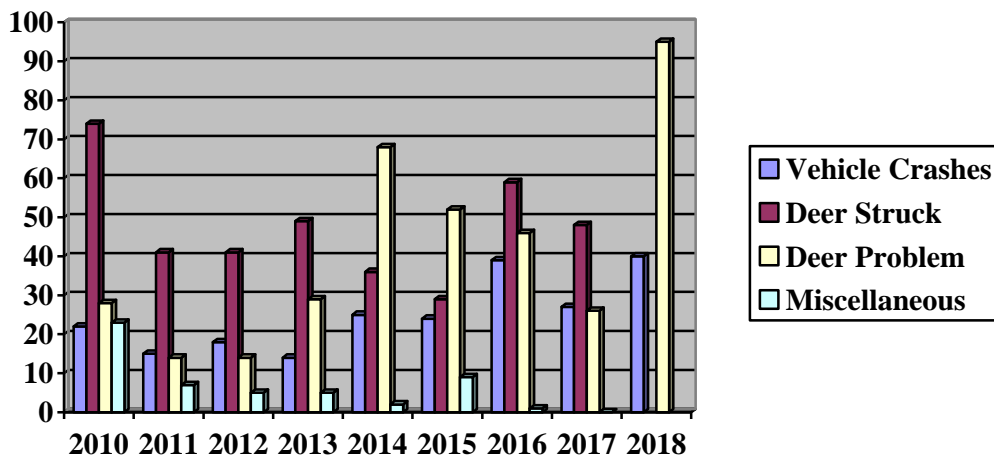
**“Calls for Service” to the Police Department – “Deer” Related**

Since 2005, the Upper Dublin Township Police Department has responded to over 2,000 “deer” related “Calls for Service”. On average an Upper Dublin Police Officer spends approximately 30 minutes on each “deer” related “Call for Service.” “Deer” related “Calls for Service” typically involve dead or injured deer that have been struck by vehicles, which in turn causes damage to the vehicle that has been struck by the deer and in some cases injury to the occupant(s) of the vehicle.

The Upper Dublin Township Police Department’s record management system changed midway through 2018. The following statistics were extracted using the best available data:

- 2018
  - Vehicle Crashes: 40
  - Deer Problem (Includes injured deer, deceased deer, complaints of deer): 95
  - Total: “Calls for Service” (Deer-Related): 135

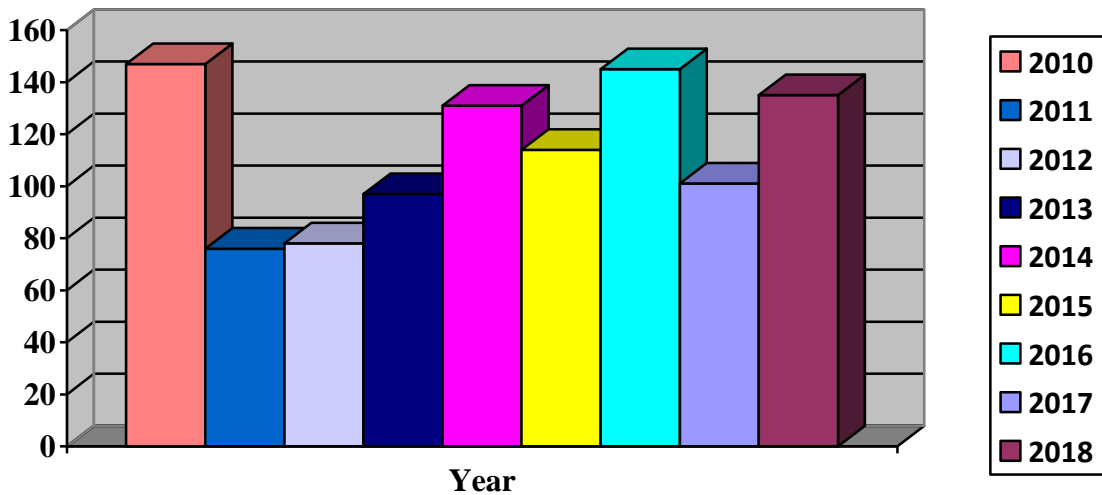
**Table 6.**



**Deer Related "Calls for Service" by “Type” from 2010-2018**

\*\*\*\* Deer struck, deer problem, miscellaneous, will be reported under one category\*\*\*\*

**Table 7.**



**Deer Related "Calls for Service" by Total from 2010-2018**

**United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

The USDA on behalf of Upper Dublin Township submitted to the Pennsylvania Game Commission a request for permits for deer culling. Upper Dublin Township was granted 100 permits. In addition, the USDA has proposed a budget of \$13,379.85 for culling deer through the use of the permits. This cost does not include butchering or any costs incurred by the police department; it is estimated that these additional costs will amount to approximately \$6,000 – primarily the cost of butchering each deer (the processed venison will be donated to charity). The Upper Dublin Township Board of Commissioners did approve the contract with the USDA and venison processor. Finally, the USDA is currently in the process of taking the steps necessary to cull deer within Upper Dublin Township; culling is expected to take place over four (4) nights in mid-to-late February and/or March.

**Goal**

The goal of the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program is to limit the number of deer/human conflicts in Upper Dublin Township