



Upper Dublin Township Police Department

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MEMORANDUM

To:	Daniel Wade, Deputy Chief of Police	Date:	4/18/2019
From:	Christopher D. Hagggar, Patrol Officer	Case:	N/A
Subject:	2019 Deer Management Program – Summary of Sharpshooting	Page:	1
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As the coordinator of the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program, I have completed a brief summary of the efforts of the United States Department of Agriculture with regards to the sharpshooting of deer that took place in Upper Dublin Township in both February and March of 2019.

Goal

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

Background

The Upper Dublin Township Board of Commissioners, Administration, and Police Department have recognized deer over-population within Upper Dublin Township as a major problem and have sought to control it in the most cost effective manner. As a result, in 2009 the Upper Dublin Township Police Department was commissioned by the Upper Dublin Township Board of Commissioners to create and supervise a “Community Managed Deer Hunt.”

Authorization for Sharpshooting and Pre-Planning

In December 2018, the Upper Dublin Township Board of Commissioners and Township Administrators authorized a contract with the USDA to assist with the culling of the deer population through the use of sharpshooters.

Through working with USDA staff, utilizing locations from last year’s sharpshooting, and working with land owners in Upper Dublin Township, a list of Upper Dublin Township properties that sharpshooting could take place was vetted. This was to ensure the safety of township residents and the general public.

The USDA, on behalf of Upper Dublin Township, submitted an application to the Pennsylvania Game Commission for the authorization to conduct the sharpshooting of deer within Upper Dublin Township.

On February 8th, 2019 a site visit with USDA personnel was attended by myself and township staff. This included visiting each bait site location to ensure safe shooting areas were selected for the sharpshooting effort. It was decided township staff would bait this year’s locations.

Township personnel marked the locations for subsequent baiting during the site visit. One private property and one additional property were included in the program. The properties were large in size, offered safe shooting positions, and were accessible by vehicle. All other township properties included during 2018 were included this year as well.

Authorized Upper Dublin Township Properties

Upper Dublin Township owns and therefore is responsible for maintaining approximately 610 acres of “Open Space.” Based upon a variety of factors for the scheduled dates of sharpshooting, there were eleven locations selected for sharpshooting. The locations are listed in Table 1.

Table 1.

Properties	
Manufacturers’ Golf Course	Robbins Park
Camphill & Highland Athletic Complex	Rose Valley Preserve
Dublin Hunt Open Space	Sandy Run Park
Henry Lee Willet Park	Tannerie Run West
Pine Run Park	Upper Dublin (Twining Valley) Golf Course
Edward’s Field	

Dates, Times, and Outcomes of the Sharpshooting

The dates, times, and outcomes of the sharpshooting are listed in Table 2.

Table 2.

Day	Date	Scheduled Time of Detail	Actual Time Spent Sharpshooting	Notes	Deer Harvested
Wednesday	February 27 th	2100-0500	2200-0500	N/A	21
Thursday	February 28 th	2100-0500	2200-0500	N/A	12

Monday	March 18 ^h	2100-0500	2200-0500	N/A	10
Tuesday	March 19 th	2100-0500	2200-0500	N/A	26
Totals		36 Hours	28 Hours		69

It should be noted that approximately the first hour of each detail was spent reviewing safety procedures and checking equipment, whereas, the last hour of each detail was spent transferring the deceased deer to a refrigerator trailer, cleaning equipment, and de-briefing.

Community Safety

Due to safety concerns, it was determined and subsequently approved by Mr. Leonard, that no community notifications would be done specifying the dates, times, or locations of the sharpshooting. It is important to note that each sharpshooter is specially trained and utilizes equipment (i.e. firearms, ammunition, etc.) that is specifically designed for the purpose of sharpshooting deer.

“Calls for Service” or Complaints, etc. specific to each Sharpshooting Event

All Upper Dublin Police personnel who were scheduled to work a shift on which sharpshooting would be taking place were advised accordingly. In addition, either Lieutenant Darren Nyce or Officer David Madrak was present with the USDA representatives when the sharpshooting took place. No police overtime was spent as a result of the sharpshooting due to schedule adjustments.

There was a single noise complaint during the sharpshooting. The cause was quickly determined, and the effort continued soon after. There was no danger to the public.

Statistical Data

Reference attached document that was created by the USDA for statistical data concerning the results of the sharpshooting.

It should be noted that multiple deer were not shot by the sharpshooters even though the deer were on authorized sharpshooting locations. Each time a deer was seen on an authorized sharpshooting location, a safety assessment was made by all of the involved individuals. As a result, at the time each of the above referenced deer were seen, a determination was made that each deer was not in a safe location to be shot. It was evident throughout the duration of the sharpshooting that public safety was of the highest priority.

Donation

Each deer that was harvested was removed in its entirety from the location of the sharpshooting and brought to a refrigerator trailer for transport to a venison processor. The venison processor butchered the deer and then provided the meat, which was in excess of 2,000lbs., to a food

pantry, as this is standard practice and welcomed by the food pantries to which the meat is donated.

United States Department of Agriculture

The USDA submitted to the Pennsylvania Game Commission a summary report of the sharpshooting that took place within Upper Dublin Township. In addition, these same documents as well as some additional documentation were supplied to Upper Dublin Township.

Future Considerations

The 2019 Sharpshooting can be considered a success. With the addition of the two new properties, we were able to harvest multiple deer from areas of the township not utilized last year.

It is strongly recommended by USDA staff that the landowners of private property (regardless of acreage) within Upper Dublin Township be contacted by Township staff to discuss the possibility of sharpshooting taking place on their property. In order for the program to continue to be an option for the township, adding additional properties is imperative.

At the request of USDA staff, they ask UDT make a decision regarding sharpshooting for 2020 no later than October 2019. This will allow for better scheduling options and room to adjust if there is bad weather.

Conclusion of the 2018-2019 Deer Management Program (Archery/Sharpshooting)

Based off of data collected by Upper Dublin Township Police Department, it appears we have seen a reduction in deer/motor vehicle collisions. The initial goal, as set by the township, was to reduce collisions with deer to 50% from 2016.

Information on deer vehicle collisions (DVC's) for 2017 indicated the initial goal has been reached. There were 48 deer vs. vehicle incidents during 2017, which is a 50% reduction from the 98 that occurred during 2016. During 2018, there were 40 DVC's recorded, a further reduction from 2017

The combined effort between the UDT managed archery hunt and USDA sharpshooting efforts harvested a total of 117 deer for the 2018-2019 Deer Management program.