



Upper Dublin Township Police Department

801 Loch Alsh Avenue
Fort Washington, Pennsylvania 19034-1697
Voice: 215-646-2101 Fax: 215-628-8976
www.UpperDublin.net



Terrence P. Thompson
Chief of Police

MEMORANDUM

To:	Terrence P. Thompson, Chief of Police	Date:	01/31/2017
From:	David E. Madrak, Professional Standards Officer	Case:	N/A
Subject:	Analysis of Deer Management Program 2016-2017	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 2016-2017 Deer Hunting Season.

Deer Hunting Season

The Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program began with the scheduled start of Pennsylvania’s 2016-2017 Deer Hunting Season, on Saturday, September 17, 2016 and ended on Saturday, January 28, 2017.

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 Hunter Education Course. There were two courses offered for the 2016-2017 Deer Hunting Season, the first on Sunday, August 28, 2016 and the second on Saturday, September 10, 2016. 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. All 44 individuals who sought to be participants in the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program during the 2016-2017 Deer Hunting Season successfully completed the tests and were invited to participate.

Participants

During the 2016-2017 Deer Hunting Season there were 44 participants of which 35 “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 2016-2017 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 204.94 acres (34%) 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 nine Upper Dublin Township properties on which hunting was permitted during the 2016-2017 Deer Hunting Season; five (indicated in Table 1. with an *) were added at the request of the Upper Dublin Township Parks and Recreation Director and with the approval of the Upper Dublin Township Manager.

Table 1.

Properties Approved For The 2016-2017 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program	
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

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 on Monday, September 12, 2016, which was prior to the start of the 2016-2017 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 6, 2017 (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 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.

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.

Data

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 For The 2016-2017 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program	
Participants	44
“Active” Participants	35
Deer Harvested	35
Hunting Trips	419
Time Spent Hunting	1,306.5 Hours

Table 3.

Hunting Trips Taken By “Active” Participants During The 2016-2017 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program	
Total	419
Average	11.97

Table 4.

Time Spent Hunting By “Active” Participants During The 2016-2017 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program	
Note	Participants were requested to have 15-20 hours of time spent hunting
Total	1,306.5 Hours
Average	37.32 Hours

Table 5.

Properties Frequented By Participants During The 2016-2017 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program		
Property	Total Hunting Trips	Percentage of Hunting Trips (Rounded)
Aidenn Lair Woods*	8	2%
Camphill & Highland Athletic Complex (Vicinity of Public Works Facility)*	52	12%
Dillon Road Woodlands*	71	17%
Dublin Chase & Dublin Hunt Open Space	144	34%
Pine Run Park	58	14%
Robbins Park (Rear of Property: Meadow & Immediate Tree Line)*	14	3%
Rose Valley Preserve	46	11%
Sandy Run Park	11	3%
Susquehanna Woods*	15	4%
Total	419	100%

Table 6.

Deer Harvested During The 2016-2017 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program	
Sex	Harvest
Female (Doe)	26
Male (Buck)	9
Total	35

Table 7.

Deer Harvested From Each Property During The 2015-2016 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program		
Property	Female	Male
Aidenn Lair Woods*	2	0
Camphill & Highland Athletic Complex (Vicinity of Public Works Facility)*	3	2
Dillon Road Woodlands*	6	0
Dublin Chase & Dublin Hunt Open Space	6	4
Pine Run Park	2	0
Robbins Park (Rear of Property: Meadow & Immediate Tree Line)*	2	0
Rose Valley Preserve	3	1
Sandy Run Park	0	1
Susquehanna Woods*	3	1
Total	26	9

Table 8.

Hunting Trips and Time Spent Hunting Amongst Participants Who Successfully Harvested A Deer During The 2016-2017 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program	
Hunting Trips	305
Time Spent Hunting	922.5 Hours

Table 9.

Average Hunting Trips Taken By Participants Who Successfully Harvested A Deer During The 2016-2017 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program	
Total	305
Average	16.94

Table 10.

Average Time Spent Hunting By Participants Who Successfully Harvested A Deer During The 2016-2017 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program	
Total	922.5
Average	51.25 Hours

Table 11.

Properties Frequented By Participants Who Successfully Harvested A Deer During The 2016-2017 Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program		
Park	Total Hunting Trips	Percentage of Hunting Trips (Rounded)
Aidenn Lair Woods*	7	2%
Camphill & Highland Athletic Complex (Vicinity of Public Works Facility)*	42	14%
Dillon Road Woodlands*	60	20%
Dublin Chase & Dublin Hunt Open Space	93	30%
Pine Run Park	47	15%
Robbins Park (Rear of Property: Meadow & Immediate Tree Line)*	7	2%
Rose Valley Preserve	29	10%
Sandy Run Park	5	2%
Susquehanna Woods*	15	5%
Total	305	100%

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 properties. 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, and any deer, regardless of sex, should be allowed to be harvested.

Future Considerations

I, along with Lieutenant Darren Nyce and Patrol Officer Thomas Szybowski, both of whom assisted with the 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.

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

Since 2005, the Upper Dublin Township Police Department has responded to 1,353 “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 has revised the coding and recording procedures in order to improve the accuracy of the data concerning “deer” related “Calls for Service” in Upper Dublin Township; recording of records in reference to “Deer” related “Calls for Service” was revised for tracking purposes beginning in 2010.

Table 12.

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

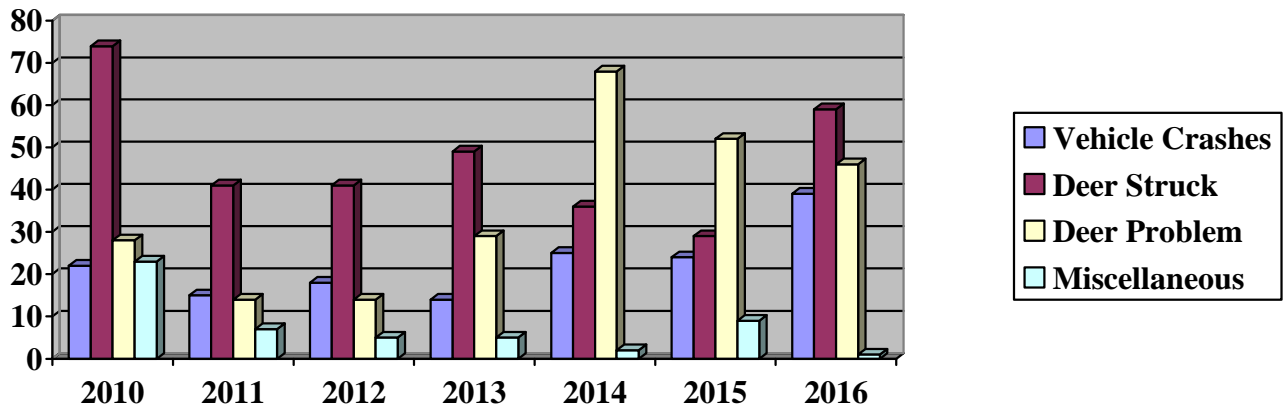
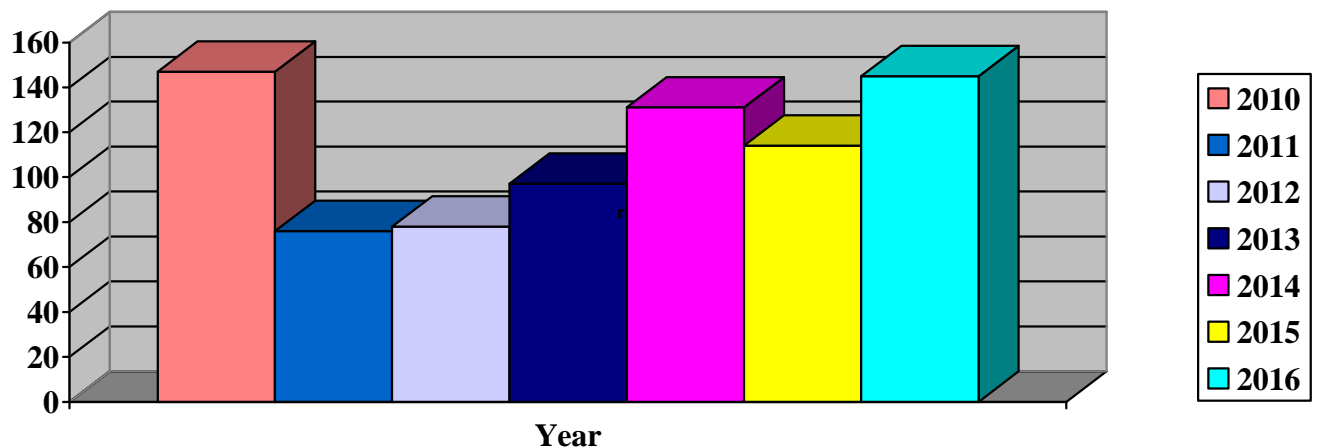


Table 13.

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



United States Department of Agriculture

On Thursday, November 10, 2016, I attended a meeting in which a representative (i.e. biologist) from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) was present. Information was provided to the USDA concerning the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program as well as information related to Upper Dublin Township Police Department "Calls for Service" concerning "deer." The USDA is tentatively scheduled to conduct a deer survey in March of 2017 and will submit a report to Upper Dublin Township shortly thereafter. Once the USDA report has been received, I will review it and determine what, if any, recommendations are specific to the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program itself.

Goal

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