



Upper Dublin Township Police Department

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MEMORANDUM

To:	Francis Wheatley, Chief of Police	Date:	3/11/2024
From:	Christopher D Hagggar, Patrol Officer	Case:	N/A
Subject:	Analysis of the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program for 2023-2024	Page:	1
Approved:	Sgt. Nick	Total Pages:	7

As the coordinator of the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program, I have completed an analysis of the 2023-2024 deer hunting season.

Goal

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

New for 2023-2024

Upper Dublin Police and Upper Dublin Township Parks and Recreation officially partnered up for this past season. UDT P&R took on numerous responsibilities that helped ease the workload of the Police Department and this partnership will definitely be a benefit for the program for seasons to come. UDPD sends a huge thank you to Tammy Echevarria for all of the help.

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 2023-2024 deer hunting season:

- ▶ Sept. 16-Nov. 24
- ▶ Nov. 25-Dec. 9
- ▶ Dec. 26-Jan. 27
- ▶ Sunday November 12
- ▶ Sunday, November 19
- ▶ Sunday, November 26

Hunter Education Course

Prior to participating in the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program, each hunter had to successfully complete an Upper Dublin Township sponsored Participant Safety Course. Courses were held on:

- **Saturday August 26st, 2023**
- **Sunday September 10th, 2023**
- **Monday September 11th, 2023**

The course covered the rules and regulations of the PGC and those instituted by the Upper Dublin Township Board of Commissioners. The proper use of archery and tree stand equipment was also covered. Written and practical tests were also administered, and all participants passed.

Participants

During the 2023-2024 deer hunting season there were 52 participants, most of who actively participated. Many are Upper Dublin Township residents, employees, or volunteer firefighters. I maintained contact with all of the participants via telephone or email.

Authorized Upper Dublin Township Properties

Upper Dublin Township owns and is responsible for maintaining approximately 610 acres of open space. Historically, the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program has successfully harvested deer on carefully selected and authorized portions of these Upper Dublin Township properties. There were twelve properties on which hunting was permitted during the 2023-2024 Deer Hunting Season.

Table 1.

Approved Properties	Acreage
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
Mondauk Manor	23.9
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
Upper Dublin (Twining Valley) Golf Course (Rear of Property)	7.0
Total	245.6

Tracking Deer Harvested on Private Property

Over the years of participating in this program, I learned many of the Deer Management Program participants also have access to private property within the township. I requested participants with this access report their harvests so they may be included in this report. This again was a successful addition to the hunting program.

Community Notification

Each of the Upper Dublin Township properties approved for hunting were posted with signs that alerted individuals of the hunting permitted on the properties as well as the times in which hunting take place. The signs were posted by the Upper Dublin Township Parks and Recreation Department at least two weeks prior to the start of the 2023-2024 deer hunting season. These signs remained in place for the duration of the Deer Hunting Season and were removed during the week of January 30th, 2024.

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. Additional public notification of the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program was provided via the Upper Dublin Township website.

Community Support

I have received numerous requests for more information and requests to join the program. They were added to the wait list. I received several phone calls and correspondence from residents requesting information on reducing the deer population and expressing support for the program.

I hope to continue building positive relationships with the citizens of Upper Dublin Township to ensure this program continues to be successful. Support from the commissioners and the community is imperative for the success of the hunting program.

Participant Hunting Reports

With the assistance of Upper Dublin Township Parks and Recreation, we rolled out a new online based tracking system, called Ragic! Participants utilized their smart phones to sign in, sign out, and reported their harvests via the Ragic! App. This was a huge success, making tracking stats and hunting much more convenient for the participants and program administrators for the season.

Table 2.

General Statistics	
Participants	52
“Active” Participants	48
Deer Harvested	51
Hunting Trips	775
Time Spent Hunting	2,349 Hours

Table 3.

Properties Frequented By Participants (# of Trips)	
Aidenn Lair Woods	80
Camphill & Highland Athletic Complex	62
Dublin Hunt Open Space	222
Dillon Road Woodlands	55
Henry Lee Willet Park	15
Loch Alsh Reservoir	13
Mondauk Manor (Dog Park)	62
Pine Run Park	61
Robbins Park	52
Rose Valley Preserve	35
Sandy Run Park	34
Twining Valley Park	51
Private Property	33
Total	775

Table 4.

Deer Harvested	
Sex	Harvest
Female (Doe)	36
Male (Buck)	15
Total	51

Table 5.

Locations of Harvests	
Property	Number of Deer Harvested
Aidenn Lair Woods	3
Camphill & Highland Athletic Complex	3
Dillon Road Woodlands	4
Dublin Hunt Open Space	15
Henry Lee Willet Park	0
Loch Alsh Reservoir	1
Mondauk Manor	4
Pine Run Park	0
Robbins Park	4
Rose Valley Preserve	4
Sandy Run Park	3
Twining Valley Park	4
UDT Private Land	6
Total	51

*Active participants must hunt a minimum of 15 hours or harvest a deer

Recommendations

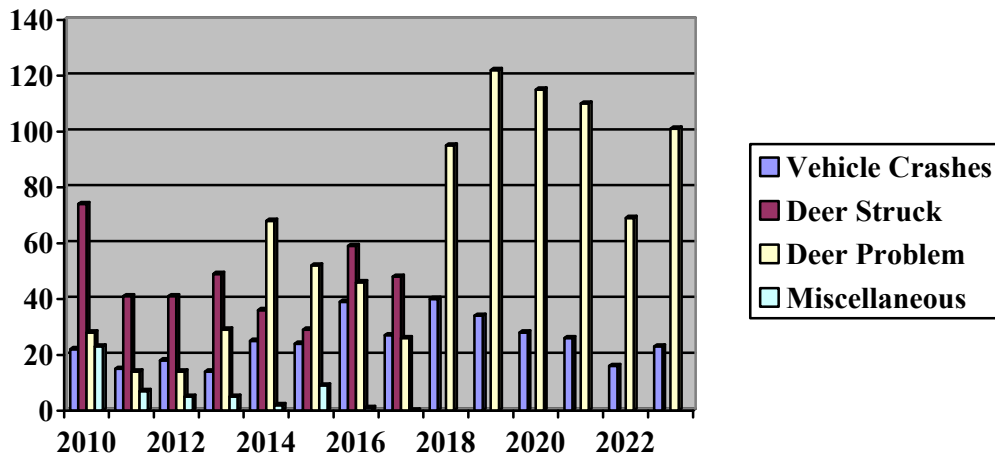
It will be important for UDPD and UDT P&R to seek out and obtain additional hunting locations. We will be working during the off season to identify and obtain permission, if needed, to add properties for the 2024-2025 season.

Police Department Calls for Service– 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. These typically involve dead or injured deer, and vehicle vs. deer crashes in which vehicles are damaged, and in some cases, the occupants are injured.

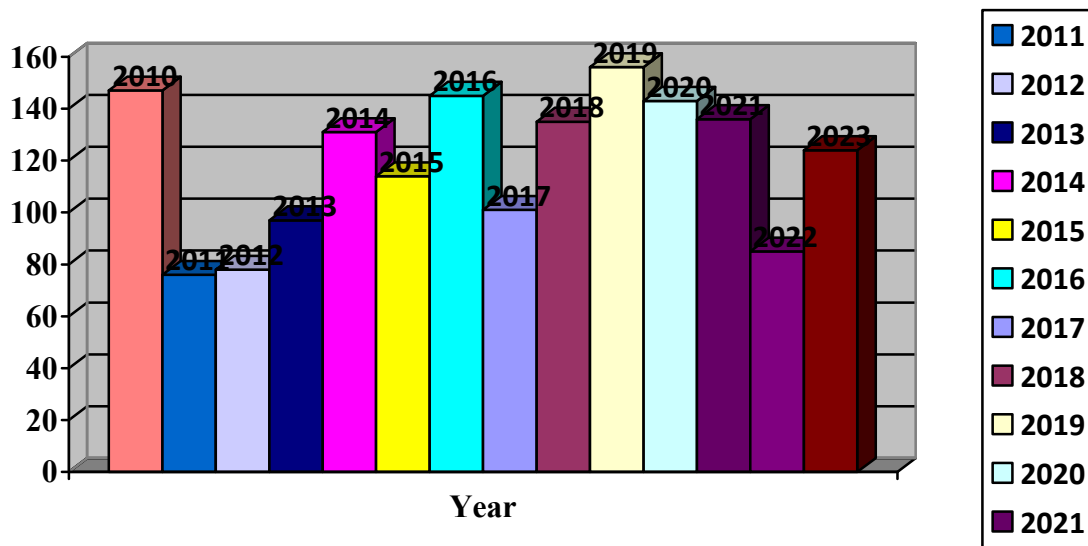
- 2023
 - Vehicle Crashes: 23
 - Deer Problem (Including injured deer, deceased deer, complaints of deer): 101
 - Total: Calls for Service (Deer-Related): 124
- *Some calls are repeat calls for the same deceased deer

Table 6. Deer Related Calls for Service by Type from 2010-2023



* Deer struck, deer problem, miscellaneous, are reported under one category

Table 7. Deer Related Calls for Service by Total from 2010-2023



Program Issues

There was one incident this season involving a participant not following multiple deer management program rules. After an investigation the participant was promptly removed from the program and will not be invited back for future seasons. This incident did not cause any safety concerns for the public or break game laws; however, caused enough issues that warranted the participant's removal.

In February of 2024 a participant's tree stand was stolen and their trail camera was damaged beyond use at Henry Lee Willet Park. The police investigation was closed due to a lack of leads.

It should be noted that each participant's equipment is personally owned. Whenever equipment is stolen or damaged it is at a personal loss to the participant.

Future Considerations

I, along with Lieutenant Darren Nyce, Officer Kevin Spotts, and UDT P&R will continue to review and evaluate the operational and safety procedures currently in place within the Upper Dublin Township Deer Management Program.

I look forward to continuing to build the working relationship with the Township's Board of Commissioners and other staff members to ensure the continued success of this program.

Conclusion

The 2023-2024 Deer Management Program was a successful one. It was a big help to partner with the Parks and Recreation Department. Working with each other going forward will help with the continued success of the program.

Since taking over the Deer Management Program, the safety for the hunters, citizens, and visitors has been my number one priority. Any issues that arise, I immediately address. I can proudly say I have the utmost confidence in our deer management participants, as they prove to be safe, competent, and ethical hunters year after year.

I am also a supporter of transparency; therefore, all information relevant to the Deer Management Program is posted on the township webpage and is available on the game commission website.

The Deer Management Program has little to no cost to Upper Dublin Township, and helps in our pursuit of having the safest community possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Officer Christopher D. Haggart #98