Lower Gwynedd Township EAC Meeting Agenda

January 8, 2025, 7:00 PM Township Building Conference Room

Zoom Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81797920800?pwd=thfRzdd05Df5GFsNRAAtroYbdM9d1t.1

Meeting ID: 817 9792 0800 Passcode: 637306 Call in: 646-931-3860; 929-205-6099

- 1. Call to order
- 2. Approval of prior meeting minutes
- 3. Request to move items from Consent Agenda to Regular Agenda, and any other items to be considered as part of the Regular Agenda
- 4. Approval of Regular Agenda
- 5. Consent agenda: prior Meeting Minutes, Deer Management Update
- 6. Election of Vice Chair
- 7. Old Business
 - a. Birdtown Update
 - b. Deer Management Update
 - c. Going Green Award Presentation at January 28 Board of Supervisors Meeting
 - d. We Conserve Membership
 - e. Monthly Meeting Schedule
 - i. February- Single Use Plastics (planning meeting)
 - ii. March Regular Meeting
 - iii. April Single Use Plastic Community Round Table Discussion
 - iv. May Regular Meeting
- 8. Standing Items Committee and Liaison updates
 - a. Parks & Recreation Department & Staff Liaison report review
 - i. Review 2025 Calendar
 - b. Planning Commission liaison
 - c. LGT Comprehensive Plan liaison
- 9. Points of interest/General comments
 - a. Other meetings of interest

Next meeting: February 12, 2025

Lower Gwynedd Township

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes November 13th, 2024

Meeting was all Zoom Members in Attendance: Mark Schafer, Chair Rea Monaghan, Vice Chair Maureen Nunn

Brenda Doll Lisa Brown Marianne Grey

Associate Members: Rich Valiga, Suzanne Smith Board Of Supervisors Liaison: Tessie McNeely Staff in Attendance: Sandi Feight

- Call to Order, attendance, introductions of new members, participants, or visitors - Metting was called to order at 7:00 PM & Melinda Wolff was welcomed as a guest.
- 2. Request to move items from Consent Agenda to Regular Agenda, and any other items to be considered as part of the Regular Agenda
 - a. Lisa asked to discuss the EAC paying to be a member of We Conserve PA
- 3. Approval of Regular Agenda approved.
- 4. Approval of October 9th, 2024, Meeting Minutes approved as presented.
- 5. New Business
 - a. Republic Services Recycling Plant Tour Update Members, Tessie & Lisa attended with Melinda Wolff, Ed Grear & Whitpain EAC member, Erin Crump. Melinda Wolff gave a presentation on the tour at Republic Recycling Center. The tour was conducted by Charles Noble, the Head of Operations. It was noted that workers hand sort and pull out whatever should not be in there. Full plastic bags are not opened, they are tossed in with regular trash. The recycling center did notice with the increase of municipalities placing a ban on single use plastic bags, there has been a decrease of plastic bags coming through. The attendees did learn the recycling center will take plastics numbered 1 through 7 and there is a market for it. Plastics are sorted and bailed by number and sold to mills. The mills clean and shred it and ship it off to recyclers. Beginning next year Republic will have a new Polymer Center which will break down the material and sell directly to manufacturers, which will eliminate the mills. There was a discussion regarding recycling plastic bottles, you should empty the bottles before putting them in the recycling containers, avoid crushing the bottles and keep the lids on

the bottle or throw the caps in the trash, not recycles. Suggestions for aluminum and tin recycling were, empty bottles and cans of any liquid or food, do not flatten the bottles or cans and to keep the lids on the containers. A few items that are not allowed with aluminum and tin are pie plates and aluminum foil. Suggestions for paper recycling are to open all junk mail and separate the paper contents from non-paper items which includes address labels, medallions and magnets and throw that stuff in the trash. No shredded paper at all. Suggestions for cardboard recycling are to breakdown and flatten and to remove any packing tape before putting into the recycling container. As far as your recycling bins are concerned, make sure the lid is closed to keep the contents dry and help maintain the quality of the recyclables. Pizza boxes should not be recycled because of the grease and food. Styrofoam cannot be recycled either, but polystyrene can. It was suggested that the Township educate residents best by putting out the best recycling practices.

6. Old Business

- a. Program Planning Guide All the members have contributed to the guide and feel it should be ready to go as a guide for the EAC. Mark asked everyone to just review their section one more time and thanked Rea for putting it all together.
- b. Going Green Award Selection Interviews were conducted this month. There were specific ground rules for the interview to be followed by the committee, and Maureen thanked everyone for adhering to them and being prepared. The selection criteria were the advantages and disadvantages of sustainable activity, considering the value to the township and to the EAC. Foulkeways at Gwynedd was nominated, the committee combined everything together which included energy, water, land, waste minimization and community outreach. Journeyworks has consultations and workshops to help homeowners, neighborhoods, groups, schools, municipalities, and congregations to plan native plant installations, they give presentations to talk with Township EAC's, plan installations of native plants and host Not-a-Lawn parties where they discuss about alternatives to lawns in your yard. The members discussed the award and the idea of having 2 categories and decided to keep it as 1st place honorable mention. There will be one more meeting for the committee and the award will be given in January at a BOS meeting. Sandi will get the plaques ordered. Mark thanked Maureen for all her time and effort with this award.
- c. RF100 Criteria Update The April 2025 meeting will be dedicated to the RF100 workshop. Rea did some research and attached to this packet about entities that should be a part of it and steps that should be a part of the planning process. She prepared a draft list of potential stake holders including township

staff and sample plans from another township so everyone can read and be ready for RF100.

- d. Single Use Plastics Update The February 2025 meeting will be dedicated to the Single Use Plastics workshop. Rea provided an overview of 2 different scenarios sending a survey out to the business owners here in the township after approval by the BOS or engaging the business owners in the township with a list of questions. Everyone was asked to gather a list of questions or concerns they had.
- e. WHS Natatorium Garden Update All plants have been planted, there are volunteers to water it and Brenda is working with Sandi on a sign for it.
- 7. Standing Items Committee and Liaison updates
 - a. Parks & Recreation Department & Staff Liaison Park & Rec board has been tasked with the planning of the former Texaco property. Gilmore has been working on the Woodland Evaluation, and they have not received anything from that yet.
 - b. Planning Commission Liaison Looked at the Gwynedd Estates job again because there was a change in the some of the storm water management. They also reviewed an amendment to the zoning for 321-323 Norristown Road where they are trying to put in a smaller version of a Promenade which would require a zoning change so they looked at the wording and will meet again on this, but they told them what info they needed. Work Force Housing will be part of this Promenade but also retail stores with apartments above and with parking in the middle.
 - c. LGT Comprehensive Plan Liaison Open House was held on 10/28 planners for Montgomery County were there with staff. There were boards with presentations of the draft plan with pictures and stations where residents could ask questions and take notes. There will be additional draft recommendations worked into the plan moving forward. There has not been a meeting since the Open House, but they will meet in January, a date has not been set yet. On 12/10 a presentation will be given to the BOS regarding the status of the Comp Plan rewrite and comments made at the Open House. There is a link on the townships website for anyone who wants to offer their questions or concerns.

8. Points of Interest/General comments/Any other Business -

a. Lisa asked if the EAC could join We Conserve as a group. There was a discussion regarding the cost. Lisa was tasked with finding out the actual cost and what defines "1% of average annual conservation and/or environmental operational expenditures." b. Tessie informed the EAC about the new Public Works building and its progress & thinks it is important for the EAC to make a recommendation to the BOS for green principles for the new building if RF100 is in place. It was also recommended for one member to speak with Mimi to bring the EAC's concerns or advice to the process of the building of the new Public Works building.

Meeting concluded: 8:40 PM

Next Meeting: The EAC will not be meeting in December.

M. B. Nunn

Update

Summary

Deer

Deer Responsible Agency:

• Pennsylvania Game Commission- Resources insufficient for individual municipalities,...

Other helpful Agencies:

- U.S. Forest Service,
- Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources,
- Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Penn State University,
- Responsive Management,
- Game Commission's Bureaus of Information and Education,
- Wildlife Habitat Management, and
- Wildlife Management.

Local Programs Identified:

- Wissahickon Trails
- Upper Dublin

Recognized Experts:

• Cornell University (Upper Dublin mentioned on Cornell's website)

Sample Report: Upper Dublin 2023-2024 Report Included

Methods of Control

- Lethal
- Non-lethal

Both are needed to decrease numbers. Since deer are adaptable, you need to continually change your approach. Costs increase as naïve deer eliminated and remaining deer adapt.

Easy to Implement Ideas

- Check to see if Lower Gwynedd Police keep track of deer related calls (See Upper Dublin Report)
- Contact Upper Dublin Experts
- Implement a do not feed the deer legislation or campaign if no ordinance is currently on the books
- Remind motorist during deer mating season
- Encourage using deer resistant plantings
- Plant closer to the house

- Repellents (Chemical, Irish Spring,...)
- Hazing (Noise)
- Fencing
- Netting over plants discourages deer
- 30 lb Fishing line 3 ft. off the ground and below

2023 Residents Opinion on Deer-Human Conflicts WMU 5D (Caution: Does not add up to 100%)

- Too high 26%
- Just right 53%
- Too low- 13%

Therefore, the current program is to keep the deer numbers stable.

Going Green Award

Both nominees will participate. Nominees are Journeyworks and Foulkeways. Committee interviews will be conducted 11/4/2024.

Deer

IntegratedApproachForManagingWTDeerInSuburbanEnvironments-28ax086.pdf (cornell.edu)

White-tailed Deer Characteristics:

- **Appearance:** Coat is grey-brown in winter and turns red-brown in summer.
- Size: Average weight 100 pounds for females (does) and 150 pounds for males (bucks). Average height is around 36 inches at the shoulder.
- **Antlers:** Males grow antlers in spring, fully formed by fall. Antlers are used in fights to establish dominance.

Sensory Abilities:

- Deer perceive a different color spectrum than humans and excel at detecting movement.
- They rely heavily on scent and hearing for navigation.
- When threatened, they can reach speeds of 36 miles per hour and jump over obstacles up to 8 feet high.

Adaptation to Suburban Areas:

• White-tailed deer thrive in suburban environments due to reduced predation (including fewer hunters), abundant food sources from gardens and parks, and occasional feeding from residents (though this is illegal in New York).

- Under optimal conditions, adult deer can produce twins or even triplet fawns.
- In suburban settings, deer that navigate traffic successfully can live over 12 years; some have been recorded at 13 years.

Home Ranges:

- Young males typically disperse from their birth areas to establish their own home ranges, which are generally smaller in suburban areas compared to rural ones.
- Female home ranges average about 140 acres in suburban areas and are typically smaller than those of males.

Mortality Causes:

- In rural landscapes, hunting is the primary cause of deer mortality.
- In suburban areas, deer are more frequently killed in vehicle collisions.

Authors caution the reader that no single density estimate translates to deer impacts in all cases. Throughout this publication they stressed the importance of local deer impact reduction vs. arbitrary number reduction goals. Upper Dublin uses police responses.

Deer Control

Lethal Control

- Translocation- Capture and moving deer, included under lethal control due to high mortality rate.
- Predator reintroduction
 - Mountain lion & wolves effective
 - Coyotes ineffective
- Regulated Hunting
- Capture & Euthanize Most effective on naïve deer
 - o Drop nets
 - o Clover trap
 - Darting to euthanize (meat unusable)
 - Penetrating active bolt
 - Exsanguination (draining blood)
 - o Firearms
 - o Chemical Euthanasia
 - Bait & shoot (deer adapt)
- Regulated Commercial Hunting- illegal in most states
- Driver Vehicle Collision (DVC)-cruel and expensive

Non-lethal

• Changing Ornamental Planting Regimes-Caution: planting a few resistant plants will greatly reduce local biodiversity and can have consequences for native insects & birds that require native species for food.

- Repellant short term effect
 - Chemical
 - Physical (fences)
- Deer fertility control-requires 90% of the females to stabilize population
 - o Dart
 - o **Tubular**
- Steroidal contraceptive drugs, and vaccines:
- Limitations: cost, scale, permitting, and access to deer. Booster shots required every year of tow. Experienced deer become bait shy requiring additional effort.
 - o GnRH (GonaConTM) or
 - Porcine Zona Pellucida (PZP).
- GonaConTM is not currently registered in New York State,
- Many state wildlife agencies consider the GonaConTM vaccine experimental, and as for surgical sterilization, a research license (LCP) is required to capture, tag, and treat free-ranging deer. Initially, this may cost about \$400 to \$500 per deer, but as for surgical sterilization, the costs increase as a higher percentage of the herd is vaccinated.

Porcine Zona Pellucida (PZP) is the most commonly used immunocontraceptive vaccine for deer and other wildlife. A research permit is required to treat female deer in New York.

The Humane Society of the United States is currently studying a longer-lasting adjuvant that could provide multiple-year effects with fewer booster doses. Preparation of a reliable, single-dose immunocontraceptive vaccine has been difficult, and at this time, none are currently available.

Acontragestation (abortion) agent (prostaglandin $F2\alpha$) has proven to be safe and highly effective in deer.- It is experimental r& equires research permit.

Currently, darting and hand-injection are the only potential methods for delivering immunocontraceptive vaccines.

The NWRC has a goal of developing an orally effective immunocontraceptive vaccine for deer. To date, this has not been feasible, as it is difficult to get drugs through a ruminant digestive system, and have the drugs absorbed in suitable doses. A delivery system (e.g., feeders available only to deer) would also have to be designed to avoid the unintentional contraception of other non-target wildlife species.

Pictures of Deer Damage in Forest



Figure 5. Overbrowsed forest in our region (top) with no herbaceous vegetation or tree seedling recruitment, compared to a healthy forest with multiple layers of herbs, shrubs, and trees of different heights and ages (bottom). *Photos – B. Blossey.*

Captive-Bolt

The captive-bolt technique provides for instantaneous euthanization of restrained deer, while allowing human consumption of the meat. Traps can be set at dusk and checked for deer the following morning before sunrise. If deer were in a trap, we would collapse it to restrain the deer, allowing for safe and efficient euthanization. The time from determining a deer was in the trap to euthanasia was approximately 30 seconds.

Authors **CAUTION** the reader that no single density estimate translates to deer impacts in all cases. Throughout this publication we stress the importance of local deer impact reduction vs. arbitrary number reduction goals.

Although deer populations have always been managed for sustainability, recognize that game management laws were developed in a time of deer scarcity. Game law changes since the early years of management have made progress, but they have not adequately evolved to address current deer management challenges in all areas. Push for continued adaptation and progression of laws and regulations.



Figure 6. Collapsible clover traps used to live-capture deer. Door open ready to release a deer (top), and collapsed with captured deer (bottom). *Photos – P. Curtis.*

Use of a captive bolt was controversial. Communities that choose to use lethal control may be subjected to intense controversy and need to be prepared. Cornell suggested legal counsel before proceeding.

2024 Deer Population Report and Antlerless Allocations.pdf (pa.gov)

Pennsylvania Game Commission Bureau of Wildlife Management Deer and Elk Section

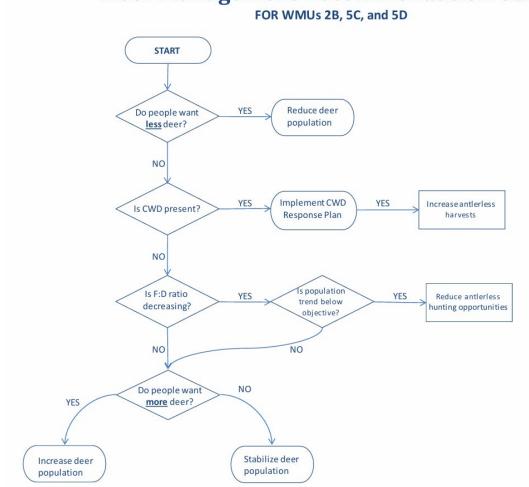
Wildlife Management Unit (Lower Gwynedd should be 5D See map below) These units are used to determine deer management.

Official Plans for each WMU

- 5C Stable Stabilize 70,000 79,000 Keep population stable. Increased allocation needed to meet harvest target. (Included for comparison)
- 5D Stable Stabilize 29,000 29,000 Keep population stable. (Lower Gwynedd & Philadelphia, See map below.)

Data presented in this report represent collaborative efforts between the U.S. Forest Service, Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Penn State University, Responsive Management, and the Game Commission's bureaus of Information and Education, Wildlife Habitat Management, and Wildlife Management. For more information on the deer management program and data and methods used to assess progress towards management goals, visit the Game Commission's website, www.pgc.pa.gov, to find the "2009-2018 White-tailed Deer Management Plan".

White-tailed Deer Management Plan

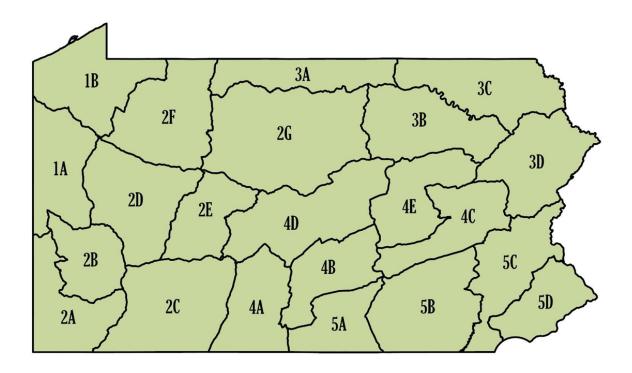


Deer Management Recommendation Guide

This methodology is different for our area since there is no forest data available in these highly populated areas.

Pennsylvania Resident Opinions on Deer Populations, 2023

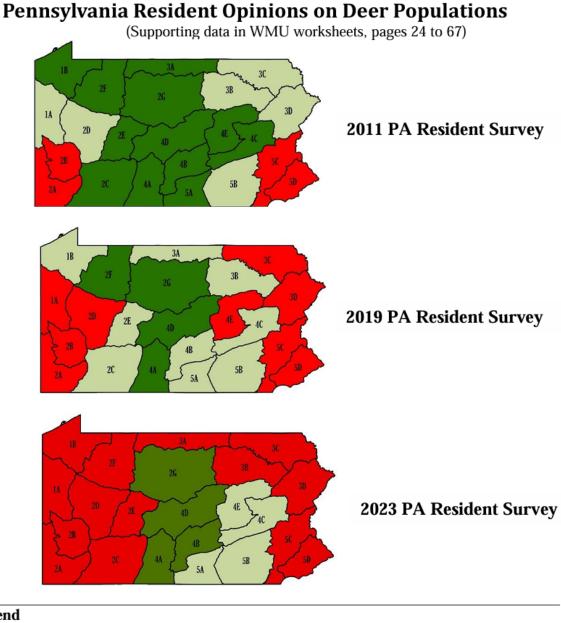
(Supporting data in WMU worksheets, pages 24 to 67)



Legend

Most Residents Say Deer Population Too High Most Residents Say Deer Population Just Right Most Residents Say Deer Population Too Low

Please note that the 5D area contains some very urban areas.



Legend

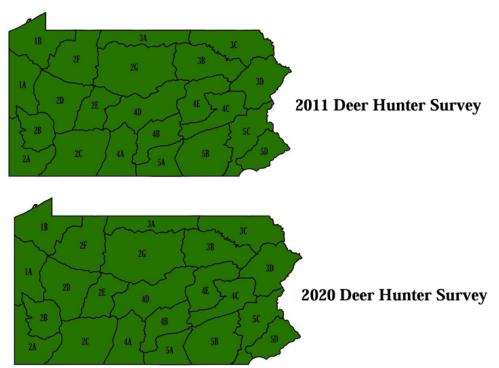
More than 25% say Deer Population Too High

Less than 25% say Deer Population Too High and less than 25% say Too Low

More than 25% say Deer Population Too Low

Although the majority say the population is fine, over 25% say deer is a problem. I questioned if the highly populated city might skew the numbers.

Deer Hunter Opinions on Deer Populations 2011 vs. 2020



*Note: data come from general firearms season respondents. When looking at archery season respondents, WMUs 1B and 5D had less than 25% say Too Low and would be light green.

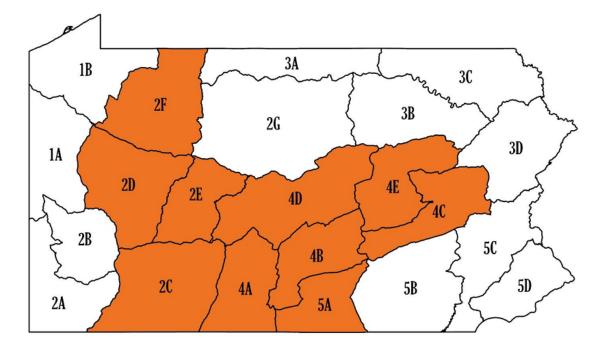
**Preliminary results from the <u>2023 Deer Hunter Survey</u> show all WMUs except 5D have more than 25% of firearms hunters that say the deer population is too low. 5D had less than 25% say Too Low and would be light green.

Legend

More than 25% say Deer Population Too High Less than 25% say Deer Population Too High and less than 25% say Too Low More than 25% say Deer Population Too Low

Hunter generally feel the deer population is too low.

Chronic Wasting disease something considered important for determine deer management. It is not a factor in our area.



Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), as of April 2024

Legend

WMUs with CWD Detected in Wild Deer WMUs with No CWD Positive Wild Deer Detected

CWD= Chronic Wasting Disease

WMU 5C for Comparison has much less development

2024-25 Pennsylvania Game Commission Antlerless Allocation Worksheet

WMU

5C

WMU Characteristics							
% Developed	% Forest	%Ag/Field	%Public	Area (sq mi)			
27%	37%	31%	1%	1,982			
Approximate	ely 1% of W	MU is within	CWD DM/	A (as of April 2024			

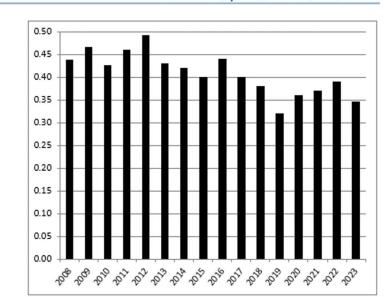
Year	Antlered	Antierless	Allocation	Lic/Deer ¹					Antl	ered	Han	vest	Esti	mat	e			
2005	7,701	17,589	71,000	3.9	12,000													
2006	7,708	16,123	79,000	4.8	12,000													
2007	6,526	18,864	84,000	4.3														
2008	8,729	20,238	92,000	4.4	10,000	-												
2009	7,566	23,214	113,000	4.8						_								ſ
2010	9,400	23,977	121,960	4.7				Τ.		L								
2011	8,928	24,234	117,000	4.4	8,000					Т	. 1		_					_
2012	7,825	23,648	111,000	4.5						L		L						
2013	8,096	21,711	103,000	4.7	6,000			_		⊢	▐─▋	-	_	_	_		-	
2014	8,035	22,152	95,000	4.3						L								
015*	7,416	13,551	70,000	5.1						L								
2016	8,328	15,643	70,000	4.4	4,000					-	H	-	-				-	
2017	8,846	15,644	70,000	4.4						L								
2018	7,584	16,400	70,000	4.2	2,000							_						
2019	7,646	14,364	70,000	4.8	ĺ					L							L	
2020	8,352	15,194	70,000	4.6						L								
2021	6,580	14,665	70,000	4.8		. .			,		,		. '		, ,	-	, ,	,
2022	7,199	16,665	70,000	4.2		Ś	2001	-0 ⁶	, s	57	02	202	Ξ,	pî1	00	, ~	SV.	202
2023	9,111	13,081	70,000	5.3			*	v				2		v	v			0

* WMU Boundary Change

WMU 5C

DEER HEALTH: Fawn to Doe Ratio²

2008	0.44
2009	0.47
2010	0.43
2011	0.46
2012	0.49
2013	0.43
2014	0.42
2015	0.40
2016	0.44
2017	0.40
2018	0.38
2019	0.32
2020	0.36
2021	0.37
2022	0.39
2023	0.35



6-yr Trend Stable

DEER-HUMAN CONFLICTS

Citizen Survey Results Just Right

Year	% Too high	% Just right	% Too low
2011	30%	55%	9%
2019	33%	51%	8%
2023	28%	53%	14%

Antlerless Allocation

Objective: Stabilize

Deer Harvest

79,000

¹ - The number of antierless licenses sold that it takes to harvest an antierless deer. The number sold will differ from the allocation.

 2 - Harvest fawn to doe ratio is calculated as percent of fawns in the antlerless harvest.

5D (Lower Gwynedd & Philadelphia..) is more developed.

WMU	5D							
		WMU Characteristics						
		% Developed	% Forest	%Ag/Field	%Public	Area (sq mi)		
		61%	18%	11%	0%	1,327		

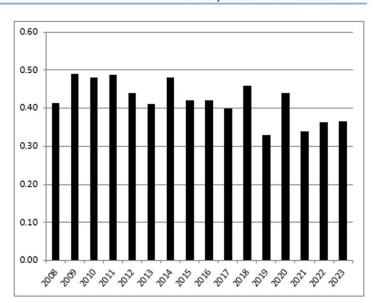
Year	Antlered	Antierless	Allocation	Lic/Deer ¹	Antlered Harvest Estimate
2005	1,460	4,166	20,000	4.5	12,000
2006	1,315	4,074	20,000	4.7	12,000
2007	977	5,185	20,000	3.8	
2008	1,343	4,533	22,000	4.7	10,000
2009	1,130	3,911	22,000	5.2	
2010	1,144	3,721	22,000	5.1	8.000
2011	1,156	3,827	22,000	4.7	8,000
2012	1,325	3,766	19,000	4.7	
2013	1,589	4,483	18,000	4.0	6,000
2014	1,317	3,788	18,000	4.7	
2015*	2,191	5,172	24,000	4.6	
2016	2,908	6,452	30,000	4.6	4,000
2017	3,327	7,526	30,000	3.9	
2018	2,631	6,001	28,000	4.6	2,000
2019	2,488	6,721	29,000	4.3	
2020	2,164	6,479	29,000	4.4	
2021	2,636	6,273	29,000	4.6	· +••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••
2022	2,525	6,693	29,000	4.3	40° 40° 40° 40° 40° 40° 40° 40° 40°
2023	2,938	6,660	29,000	4.3	· · · · · · · · · · · · ·

• WMU Boundary Change

DEER HEALTH: Fawn to Doe Ratio²

```
6-yr Trend Stable
```

Year	Total
2008	0.41
2009	0.49
2010	0.48
2011	0.49
2012	0.44
2013	0.41
2014	0.48
2015	0.42
2016	0.42
2017	0.40
2018	0.46
2019	0.33
2020	0.44
2021	0.34
2022	0.36
2023	0.37



DEER-HUMAN CONFLICTS

Citizen Survey Results Just Right

Year	% Too high	% Just right	% Too low
2011	25%	55%	18%
2019	33%	51%	8%
2023	26%	53%	13%

Antlerless Allocation

Objective: Stabilize 29,000

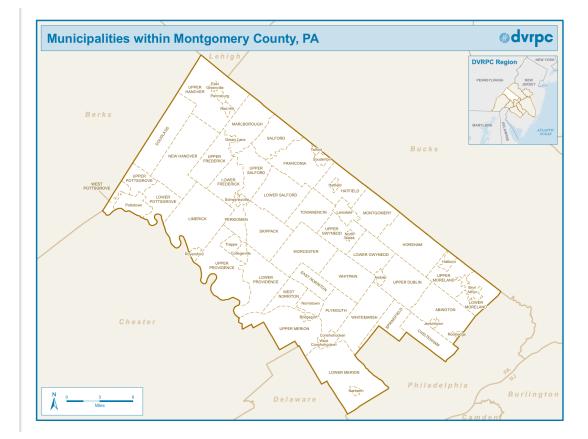
¹ - The number of antlerless licenses sold that it takes to harvest an antlerless deer. The number sold will differ from the allocation.

² - Harvest fawn to doe ratio is calculated as percent of fawns in the antlerless harvest.

WMU map pa 2024-2025 - Google Search



Montgomery_MCDs_8.5x11.pdf (dvrpc.org)





Microsoft Word - Township Hunting Report - 2024 (upperdublin.net)

Deer Management Program (wissahickontrails.org)

Wissahickon Trails – Deer Management

Hunting takes place at Armentrout Preserve, Briar Hill Preserve, Camp Woods, Crossways Preserve, Dodsworth Run Preserve, Four Mills Nature Reserve, Penllyn Natural Area, Piszek Preserve, Timoney Preserve, Willow Lake Farm, and along the Green Ribbon Trail from Route 202 to Gwynedd Valley Train Station.

Pennsylvania has the second highest rate of deer-related accidents in the country. Residents have a one in 70 chance of being involved in an accident caused by deer. And <u>PA Insurance</u> <u>Department</u> data from 2016 shows that Montgomery County had one of the highest rates of deer-related accidents in the state.