

Tewksbury Township

Deer Management Program

Annual Report 2018 – 2019

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Program Summary

This report provides a summary of the Tewksbury Township 2018 - 2019 Deer Management Program. Key points from this report are as follows.

2018/2019 Program Overview

- Eleven areas were included in the program
- Five areas had both firearm and bow hunting
- 2,142 total available hunting days (1,518 bow and 624 firearms)
- 596.62 acres were included in the 2018 - 2019 program
- Permit fees were \$20.00 for Township Residents and Township Employees, \$25.00 for Non-Residents
- In exchange for posting services the permit fee was waived for the active members (as of June 11, 2018) of the Four Season Sportsman Club
- Thirty-six persons picked up applications, two persons were denied permits, two choose not to participate, thirty-two persons received permits
- 15 permittees were Township residents, 1 was a Township Employee, 17 were non-residents, 13 were active members of the Four Season Sportsmen Club
- \$1,660 in permit fees was collected

2018-2019 Program Results

- 29 of 32 hunters returned end-of-season surveys
- The 3 hunters who failed to return their end-of-season surveys will not be able to participate in the 2019-2020 program
- 134 of 152 permit end-of-season surveys were returned
- 6 permits were never utilized

- 32 deer were harvested
- 22 female deer were harvested, 68.75% of the total deer harvested
- 10 male deer were harvested, 31.25% of the total deer harvested
- The highest total of deer harvested was at Pottersville Reservoir (8).
- The lowest total of harvested deer was at Hell Mountain Preserve (1).
- Five properties had 0 deer harvested

Hunter Productivity

- 12 Hunters harvested at least one deer
- For the bow program the most deer were harvested during the month of October, and Monday was the most productive day of the week for bow hunters.
- For the firearms program the most deer were harvested during the month of December, and Friday was the most productive day of the week for firearms hunters.

Weapons Analysis

- Shotgun hunters were responsible for 95.24% of the firearm harvest and 62.5% of the total deer harvest.
- Muzzleloader hunters were responsible for 4.76% of the firearm harvest and 3.125% of the total deer harvest.
- Bow hunters were responsible for 34.375% of the total harvest.

I. Background

Tewksbury Township is currently responsible for over 1007 acres of park land and open space. A controlled hunt program is currently the most efficient and effective way to minimize the severe threats posed to the biodiversity of native flora and fauna by an overabundant white-tailed deer population. The controlled hunts are specifically used as a population management tool and do not represent recreational hunting opportunities.

II. History of the Deer Management Program

The first controlled hunting program in Tewksbury Township was initiated at the Christy Hoffman Farm Park, the Pascale Farm Park, and the Fairmount North Park during the late 1990's. The program operated according to the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's (NJDFW) standard hunting regulations.

With the success of the program additional hunting properties have been added over the years. The program currently includes eleven properties. In order to offset the costs of managing the Deer Management program a permit fee was established in 2018. Township residents and Township employees pay \$20.00 per permit, and non-residents pay \$25.00.

Licensed hunters are selected for participation through an application process on a first come first served basis. Hunters that were enrolled in the program in prior years, and who demonstrated good effort and results are given preference to participate in subsequent years. Preference is then given to new hunters in the following order: 1) Township Residents, 2) Township Employees, 3) Residents of Neighboring Municipalities, 4) Hunterdon County Residents, 5) State of New Jersey Residents. A limited number of permits are distributed for each park. This number is generally set at one hunter per 15 acres of huntable land. The deer hunting area excludes all land within 450 feet of any potentially occupied structure for firearm hunting and 150 feet for bow hunting.

III. 2018 – 2019 Program Overview

A. Hunt Schedule and Hunting Areas

The Tewksbury Township Committee passed Ordinance 6-2018, Deer Management Program, on June 12, 2018, and Resolution 99-2018 on July 10, 2018. Included in Resolution 99-2018 is the schedule for the 2018 – 2019 Deer Management Program. The schedule was established using dates within legal hunting seasons for deer management area 8 in accordance with NJDFW regulations. A total of eleven areas were included in the 2018 – 2019 program: six had bow hunting and five had both firearm and bow hunting.

Table 1 lists the size of each Tewksbury Township Deer Management area and indicates how much area in each was included in the 2018 – 2019 program. In total, the eleven areas included in the Deer Management program account for 717.475 acres. A total of 596.62 acres or 83.15% of the land was used for hunting in the Deer Management Program.

Table 1: Amount of land included in the 2018 – 2019 program at each property.

Property	Size of Park (acres)	Huntable Acres	Percentage of Park in Program
Christie Hoffman Farm Park	167.56	139.2	83.07%
Pascale Farm	121.08	77.4	63.92%
Fairmount North	70.09	54.74	78.09%
Pottersville Reservoir	112.6	96	85.25%
Hell Mountain Preserve	112.72	100	88.71%
Pottersville Well Site	14	13.5	96.42%
Sutton Farm Open Space	15.8	15.5	98.1%
Creekside Conservancy	4.2	3.58	85.23%
Bedford Chase West	37.125	37	99.66%
Pace Farm	19.9	18.9	94.97%
Crossroads Greenbelt	42.4	40.8	96.22%
Total	717.475	596.62	83.15%

Parks were open to the public during the 2018 – 2019 hunting seasons. Signs were posted at park kiosks in parking areas cautioning the public that firearm and bow hunting occurs within the park (Figure 1). The program rules and regulations prohibit hunters from discharging weapons across maintained trails.

B. Hunter Registration and Access Permits

Permits for the deer management program are park specific, i.e. a hunter must pay a permit fee for each park and season they want to hunt. Applications were available for pick up at Police Headquarters. Permits were issued giving preference to hunters that participated in the 2017 – 2018 program and were in good standing. Once permits were issued to return hunters, new applicants were processed with preference given in the following order: 1) Township Residents, 2) Township Employees, 3) Residents of Neighboring Municipalities, 4) Hunterdon County Residents, 5) State of New Jersey Residents. Applicants were assigned to their first-choice park whenever possible. Table 2 lists the number of permits held by each hunter in the 2018 – 2019 program.

Table 2: Number of permits held by each hunter in 2018 - 2019

Permits Held Per Hunter	Hunters	Total
1	3	3
2	5	10
3	7	21
4	5	20
5	0	0
6	1	6
7	4	28
8	2	16
9	3	27
10	1	10
11	1	11
		152

Hunters in the 2018 – 2019 program came from 4 New Jersey Counties. There were 2 hunters from outside the state of New Jersey: 1 from Pennsylvania, and 1 from West Virginia. The majority (81.25%) of the registered hunters were Hunterdon County residents. The counties of residence of hunters in the 2018 – 2019 program are listed in Table 3.

Table 3: Counties of residence of hunters registered in the 2018 – 2019 program

County	Hunters	% Total
Hunterdon	26	81.25%
Warren	2	6.25%
Morris	1	3.125%
Passaic	1	3.125%
Out of State	2	6.25%

IV. 2018 – 2019 Program Results

A. End of Season Harvest Report and Hunter Participation

Hunters are required to submit an end of season harvest report to document their harvest totals for the year. Hunters that fail to submit their harvest reports are removed from the program. The harvest reports were provided to each of the hunters when they picked up their permits. March 1, 2019 was established as the deadline for the return of all harvest reports. Hunters who had not returned their harvest reports were sent an email reminder on March 4, 2019, extending the deadline to March 8, 2019. As can be seen in Table 4, 134 of 152 permit surveys (88.16%) were returned. Table 4 also summarizes the number of hunters registered for each property that did not utilize their permits. Of the 134 harvest reports returned, 6 (4.48%) were permits that were never utilized.

Table 4: Number of harvest reports returned and number of hunters that did not utilize their access permit in 2018 - 2019

Property	Available Permits	Issued Permits	Returned Harvest Reports	Permits Not Used
Christie Hoffman	56	18	11	
Pascale Park	34	28	28	3
Fairmount North	34	19	19	
Pottersville Reservoir	48	27	24	
Hell Mountain Preserve	48	37	30	3
Pottersville Well Site	6	6	6	
Sutton Farm Open Space	3	2	2	
Creekside Conservancy	3	0	0	
Bedford Chase	6	6	5	
Pace Farm	3	2	2	
Crossroads Greenbelt	9	7	7	

B. Deer Harvest

The 2018 – 2019 harvest results are summarized in Table 5. A total of 32 deer were harvested during the 2018 – 2019 program: 24 antlerless deer and 8 antlered deer. Antlerless deer represented 75% of the harvest total. Pottersville Reservoir had the highest harvest total (8.) Detailed information about the program results on each property is included in Section C of this report.

Hunters are required to provide the sex information for each deer they harvested. The sex information for the 2018 – 2019 program is summarized in Table 5. Female deer constituted 68.75% of the total deer harvest and 91.67% of the total antlerless deer harvest. Male deer constituted 31.25% of the total deer harvest and 8.33% of the total antlerless deer harvest.

Table 5: Sex information for the 2018 – 2019 program deer harvest

Sex Information	Deer Harvested	% of Total Deer Harvest	% of Antlerless Deer Harvest
Female	22	68.75%	91.67%
Male	10	31.25%	8.33%
Antlered	8	25%	
Antlerless	2	6.25%	

C. Program Results by Property

1. Christie Hoffman Farm Park

A total of 139.2 acres were included in the 2018 – 2019 program at Christie Hoffman Farm Park. This park was open for bow hunting a total of 138 days: 42 during the fall bow season, 55 during the permit bow season, and 41 during the bow season. This park was open for firearms hunting a total of 104 days: 40 for permit shotgun season, 58 for muzzleloader season, and 6 for the six-day firearm season. Hunting on Saturdays was permitted during all three seasons, hunting on Sunday was strictly prohibited.

2 hunters were registered for the bow program, and 4 hunters were registered for the firearms program, and 2 were registered for both the bow and firearms programs at Christie Hoffman Farm Park. 11 permits were issued for the bow program, and 7 permits were issued for the firearms program. There was 61% harvest report return.

A total of 7 deer were harvested at Christie Hoffman Farm Park. 4 were antlerless deer, 3 were antlered. 2 were harvested by bow hunters and 5 were harvested by firearms hunters. 2 or 25% of the hunters at Christie Hoffman Park did not harvest any deer with their permit.

2. Pascale Farm Park

A total of 77.4 acres were included in the 2018 – 2019 program at Pascale Farm Park. This park was open for bow hunting a total of 138 days: 42 during the fall bow season, 55 during the permit bow season, and 41 during the bow season. This park was open for firearms hunting a total of 104 days: 40 for permit shotgun season, 58 for muzzleloader season, and 6 for the six-day firearm season. Hunting on Saturdays was permitted during all three seasons, hunting on Sunday was strictly prohibited.

5 hunters were registered for the bow program, and 4 hunters were registered for the firearms program, and 2 were registered for both the bow and firearms programs at Pascale Farm Park. 18 permits were issued for the bow program, and 10 permits were issued for the firearms program. There was 100% harvest report return. 1 hunter reported they did not use their permits for this park.

A total of 6 deer were harvested at Pascale Farm Park. All 6 harvested deer were female, and all 6 were harvested by shotgun hunters. 5 or 45% of the hunters at Pascale Farm Park did not harvest any deer with their permit.

3. Fairmount North Park

A total of 54.74 acres were included in the 2018 – 2019 program at Fairmount North Park. This park was open for bow hunting a total of 138 days: 42 during the fall bow season, 55 during the permit bow season, and 41 during the bow season. This park was open for firearms hunting a total of 104 days: 40 for permit shotgun season, 58 for muzzleloader season, and 6 for the six-day firearm season. Hunting on Saturdays was permitted during all three seasons, hunting on Sunday was strictly prohibited.

2 hunters were registered for the firearms program and 3 were registered for both the bow and firearms programs at Fairmount North Park. There was 100% harvest report return. 9 permits were issued for the bow program, and 10 permits were issued for the firearms program. There was 100% harvest report return.

A total of 4 deer were harvested at Fairmount North Park. All 4 harvested deer were female, and all 4 were harvested by shotgun hunters. 2 or 40% of the hunters at Fairmount North Park did not harvest any deer with their permit.

4. Pottersville Reservoir

A total of 96 acres were included in the 2018 – 2019 program at Pottersville Reservoir. This park was open for bow hunting a total of 138 days: 42 during the fall bow season, 55 during the permit bow season, and 41 during the bow season. This park was open for firearms hunting a total of 104 days: 40 for permit shotgun season, 58 for muzzleloader season, and 6 for the six-day firearm season. Hunting on Saturdays was permitted during all three seasons, hunting on Sunday was strictly prohibited.

2 hunters were registered for the bow program, and 2 hunters were registered for the firearms program, and 4 were registered for both the bow and firearms programs at Pottersville Reservoir. 18 permits were issued for the bow program, and 9 permits were issued for the firearms program. There was 89% harvest report return.

A total of 8 deer were harvested at Pottersville Reservoir. 5 were antlerless deer, 3 were antlered. 7 were harvested by shotgun hunters and 1 was harvested by muzzleloader hunters. 4 or 50% of the hunters at Pottersville Reservoir. did not harvest any deer with their permit.

5. Hell Mountain Preserve

A total of 100 acres were included in the 2018 – 2019 program at Hell Mountain Preserve. This park was open for bow hunting a total of 138 days: 42 during the fall bow season, 55 during the permit bow season, and 41 during the bow season. This park was open for firearms hunting a total of 104 days: 40 for permit shotgun season, 58 for muzzleloader season, and 6 for the six-day firearm season. Hunting on Saturdays was permitted during all three seasons, hunting on Sunday was strictly prohibited.

6 hunters were registered for the bow program, 1 hunter was registered for the firearms program, and 5 were registered for both the bow and firearms programs at Hell Mountain Preserve. 29 permits were issued for the bow program, and 8 permits were issued for the firearms program. There was 81% harvest report return. 1 hunter reported they did not use their permits for this park.

A total of 1 deer was harvested at Hell Mountain Preserve. The harvested deer was a female and it was harvested by a shotgun hunter. 11 or 92% of the hunters at Hell Mountain Preserve did not harvest any deer with their permit.

6. Pottersville Well Site

A total of 13.5 acres were included in the 2018 – 2019 program at Pottersville Well Site. This park was open for bow hunting a total of 138 days: 42 during the fall bow season, 55 during the permit bow season, and 41 during the bow season. Hunting on Saturdays was permitted during all three seasons, hunting on Sunday was strictly prohibited.

2 hunters were registered for the bow program at Pottersville Well Site. 6 permits were issued for the bow program. There was 100% harvest report return.

A total of 6 deer were harvested at Pottersville Well Site. 4 were antlerless deer, 2 were antlered. 1 or 50% of the hunters at Pottersville Well Site did not harvest any deer with their permit.

7. Sutton Farm Open Space

A total of 15.5 acres were included in the 2018 – 2019 program at Sutton Farm Open Space. This park was open for bow hunting a total of 138 days: 42 during the fall bow season, 55 during the permit bow season, and 41 during the bow season. Hunting on Saturdays was permitted during all three seasons, hunting on Sunday was strictly prohibited.

1 hunter was registered for the bow program at Sutton Farm Open Space. 2 permits were issued for the bow program. There was 100% harvest report return.

A total of 0 deer were harvested at Sutton Farm Open Space. 1 or 100% of the hunters at Sutton Farm Open Space did not harvest any deer with their permit.

8. Creekside Conservancy

A total of 3.58 acres were included in the 2018 – 2019 program at Creekside Conservancy. This park was open for bow hunting a total of 138 days: 42 during the fall bow season, 55 during the permit bow season, and 41 during the bow season. Hunting on Saturdays was permitted during all three seasons, hunting on Sunday was strictly prohibited.

0 hunters were registered for the bow program at Creekside Conservancy. A total of 0 deer were harvested at Creekside Conservancy.

9. Bedford Chase

A total of 37 acres were included in the 2018 – 2019 program at Bedford Chase. This park was open for bow hunting a total of 138 days: 42 during the fall bow season, 55 during the permit bow season, and 41 during the bow season. Hunting on Saturdays was permitted during all three seasons, hunting on Sunday was strictly prohibited.

3 hunters were registered for the bow program at Bedford Chase. 6 permits were issued for the bow program. There was 83% harvest report return.

A total of 0 deer were harvested at Bedford Chase. 3 or 100% of the hunters at Bedford Chase did not harvest any deer with their permit.

10. Pace Farm

A total of 18.9 acres were included in the 2018 – 2019 program at Pace Farm. This park was open for bow hunting a total of 138 days: 42 during the fall bow season, 55 during the permit bow season, and 41 during the bow season. Hunting on Saturdays was permitted during all three seasons, hunting on Sunday was strictly prohibited.

1 hunter was registered for the bow program at Pace Farm. 2 permits were issued for the bow program. There was 100% harvest report return.

A total of 0 deer were harvested at Pace Farm. 1 or 100% of the hunters at Pace Farm did not harvest any deer with their permit.

11. Crossroads Greenbelt

A total of 40.8 acres were included in the 2018 – 2019 program at Crossroads Greenbelt. This park was open for bow hunting a total of 138 days: 42 during the fall bow season, 55 during the permit bow season, and 41 during the bow season. This park was open for firearms hunting a total of 77 days: 13 for permit shotgun season, 58 for muzzleloader season, and 6 for the six-day firearm season. Hunting on Saturdays was permitted during all three seasons, hunting on Sunday was strictly prohibited.

3 hunters were registered for the bow program at Crossroads Greenbelt. 7 permits were issued for the bow program. There was 100% harvest report return.

A total of 0 deer were harvested at Crossroads Greenbelt. 3 or 100% of the hunters at Crossroads Greenbelt did not harvest any deer with their permit.

D. Hunter Productivity

Of the 29 hunters that returned their surveys, 12 or 41% harvested deer during the 2018 – 2019 program. Table 6 lists the number of deer harvested per hunter.

Table 6: Number of deer harvested per hunter in 2018 - 2019

# Deer Harvested	Hunters	% Total Hunters
0	20	62.5
1	5	15.625
2	2	6.25
3	2	6.25
4	2	6.25
5	0	0
6	0	0
7	0	0
8	0	0
9	1	3.125

Table 7 lists the number of deer that were harvested by hunters according to the number of days they hunted.

Table 7: Number of deer harvested in 2018 – 2019 according to the number of hunting days per hunter.

# Hunting Days per Hunter	# Hunters	# Deer Harvested	# Successful Hunters	Success Rates
1-5	10	0	0	0
6-10	5	3	1	3.5%
11-15	5	6	3	10.3%
16-20	3	3	2	6.9%
21-25	6	8	4	13.8%
26-30	1	3	1	3.5%
31-35	1	0	0	0
36 +	1	9	1	3.5%
			Percentage of Successful Hunters	41.5%

Table 8 lists the number of deer harvested during each month of the program. For bow hunt, the most deer (6 deer, 18.75% of the total bow harvest) were harvested during the month of October. For the firearm hunt, the most deer (13 deer, 40.625% of the total firearm harvest) were harvested during the month of December.

Table 8: Number of deer harvested in 2018 – 2019 by month

Month	Deer Harvested	% of Total Bow/Firearm Harvest	Proportion of Antlerless Deer
Bow			
September	2	6.25%	2
October	6	18.75%	4
November	0	0	0
December	1	3.125%	1
January	2	6.25%	2
February	0	0	0
Firearms			
November	0	0	0
December	13	40.625%	10
January	8	25%	6
February	0	0	0

Table 9 lists the number of deer harvested during each day of the week of the program. For the bow program Monday was the most productive day of the week for bow hunters (4 deer, 12.5% of the total bow harvest). For the firearms program Friday was the most productive day of the week for firearms hunters (5 deer, 15.625% of the total firearms harvest).

Table 9: Number of deer harvested in 2018 – 2019 by day of the week.

Day of the Week	Deer Harvested	% of Total Bow/Firearm Harvest
Bow		
Monday	4	12.5%
Tuesday	1	3.125%
Wednesday	3	9.375%
Thursday	1	3.125%
Friday	2	6.25%
Saturday	0	0
Firearms		
Monday	4	12.5%
Tuesday	4	12.5%
Wednesday	4	12.5%
Thursday	1	3.125%
Friday	5	15.625%
Saturday	3	9.375%