



SUBURBAN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS, LLC

2020-2021 ARCHERY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
FINAL REPORT

MT. LEBANON, PA

FEBRUARY 20, 2021



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

With the overall goals of reducing deer-vehicle collisions by 50% as well as limiting negative citizen interactions with deer, Mt. Lebanon Commissioners have chosen to continue with the deer management program. Archery hunting remains an important aspect of the program and continues to provide a safe and effective way to reduce the number of deer in and around the public and private properties of the municipality.

With the goals of the municipality in mind, the staff of Suburban Wildlife Management Solutions LLC (SWMS) has continued our interaction and collaboration with private property owners and municipal government to develop the safest and most successful program possible. Effective communication between property owners, SWMS staff, and archers has proven to be essential to the overall success of the program.

Private property access is vital to the success of the program. Mt. Lebanon's use of social media and other public information outlets has greatly assisted in community outreach and involvement. Private property owners continue to provide practical insight into the effectiveness of the program. In addition, they have expressed very positive opinions of the deer management program with nearly all reporting a reduced number of deer sightings. The collaboration among private property owners has also been instrumental in arranging access to additional properties for hunting or deer recovery.

Private property locations remained consistent for the 2020-2021 season with a few exceptions. Multiple requests for property donation were received during the 2020-2021 season. However, SWMS property evaluations found all to be unfeasible for archery hunting. This was primarily due to a property size and/or a high volume of pedestrian traffic. Both are common challenges presented in densely populated areas. One private property utilized in the past was not used this year due to increased hunting pressure by hunters outside of the management program. Regardless of the increased challenges, private property harvests were similar to years past as they accounted for approximately 38% of deer harvested.

Public property locations included McNeilly Park, Robb Hollow Park, Mt. Lebanon Golf Course, and the Conservation District. These areas continue to be productive for archery hunting as they offer larger tracts of open land. As with the 2019-2020 season, pedestrian traffic through and around Twin Hills Park resulted in this area being ineffective for archery deer management efforts.

Overall, the archery deer harvest numbers for the past few seasons continue to be consistent. With the deer population declining in hunted areas, the goal now becomes maintenance of the reduced population. This is only accomplished through continued, cooperative efforts between private property owners, the municipality, and the deer management company. Therefore, SWMS recommends continuing deer management efforts to maintain the goals of the municipality while providing a comprehensive, fiscally responsible deer management program.

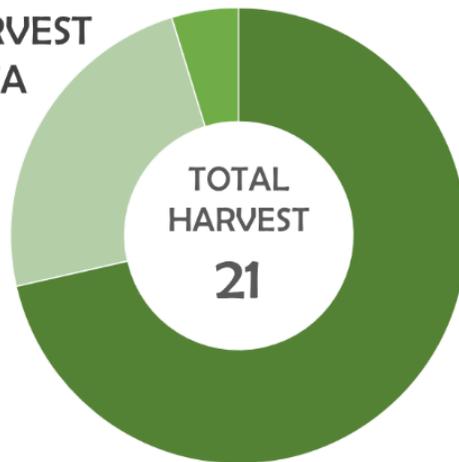


SEASON BREAKDOWN

SWMS archers harvested **21 deer**, during the 2020-2021 season.

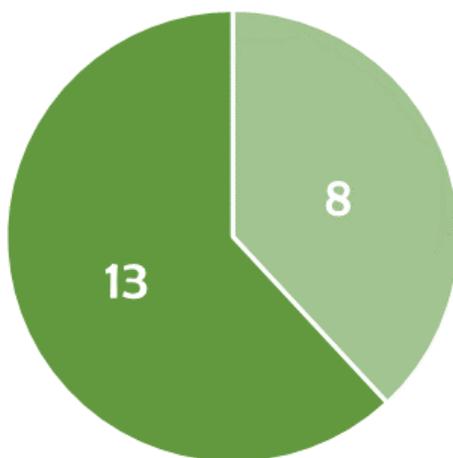
As in years past, private property owners have been vitally important to the overall success of the program with **38%** of the total harvests taking place on private property.

HARVEST DATA



Public vs Private Harvest

Private Public



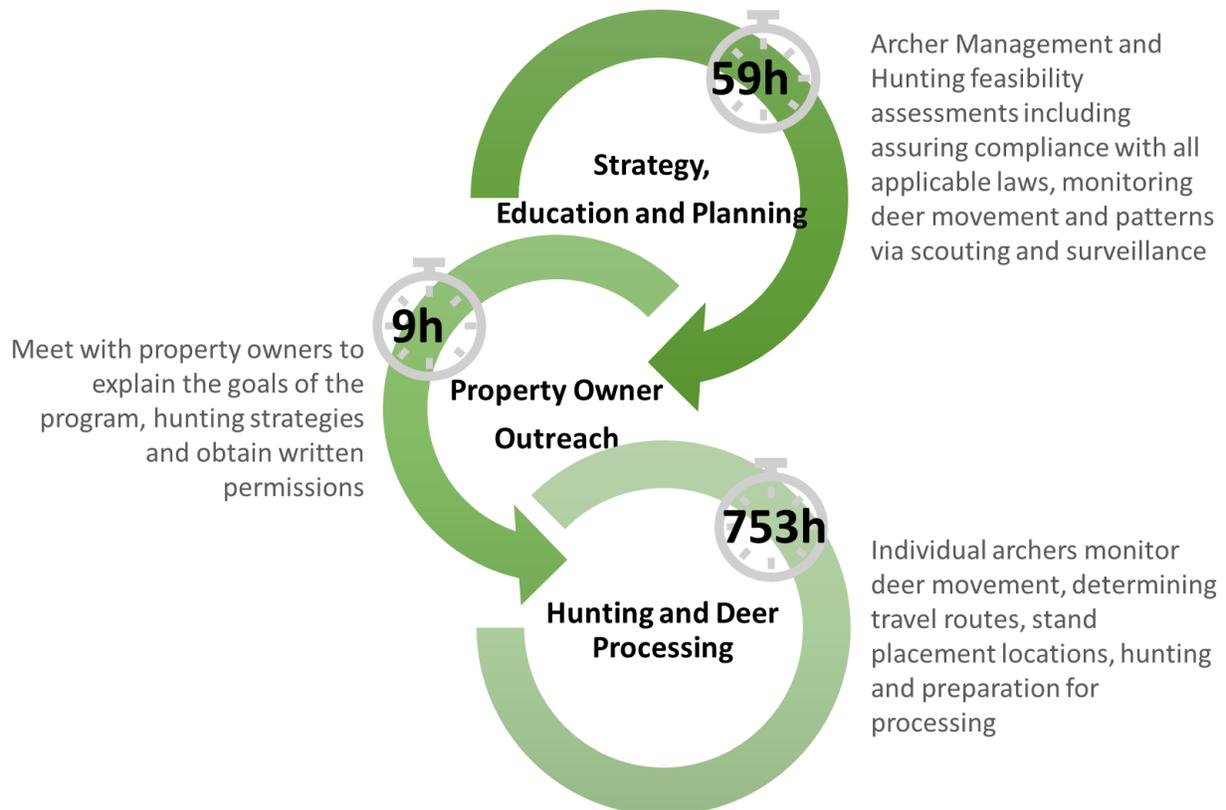
Public Property Breakdown

Twin Hills - 0
McNeilly Park - 4
Robb Hollow Park - 3
Conservation District - 3
Mt. Lebanon Golf Course - 3



SEASON BREAKDOWN

With a continued reduction in the number of deer in hunted areas, archers were again required to spend additional time to locate and pattern deer movement. As a result, archers volunteered approximately 753 hours for strategy development, hunting and deer processing. SWMS Management spent approximately 68 hours for archer management and training as well as hunting feasibility assessments, property owner outreach, education and planning. This reduction was due primarily to a decrease in new private properties and the utilization of archers from the 2019-2020 season. Due to the lack of new properties, no new archers were added to the program for the 2020-2021 season.





GIVING BACK

In addition to accomplishing the primary goals established by the municipality, an added benefit of the Mt. Lebanon deer management program is the assistance provided to Pennsylvania residents living in hunger. Mt. Lebanon and SWMS Management have accomplished this through collaboration with Hunters Sharing the Harvest, a non-profit organization that coordinates venison donations throughout Pennsylvania.

“ In Pennsylvania

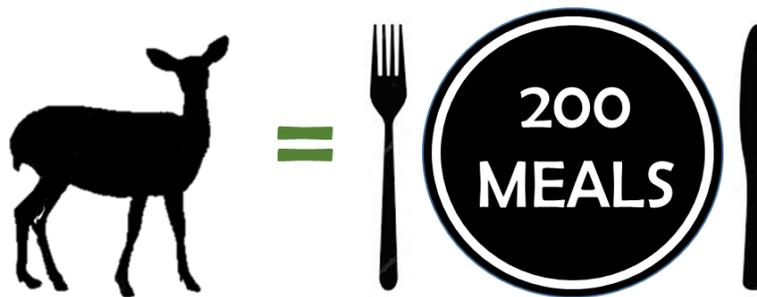
1.5 Million

Families

are in need of
Food Assistance”

Sharedeer.org

According to the Hunters Sharing the Harvest website, “an average-sized deer will provide enough highly nutritious, low-cholesterol meat for 200 meals”. **During the 2020-2021 season, SWMS Management and volunteer archers donated 14 harvested deer from the Mt. Lebanon community to this cause; resulting in 2,800 meals provided to Pennsylvanians in need!**



2,800 MEALS DONATED

BY MT. LEBANON AND SWMS
THROUGH **HUNTERS SHARING THE HARVEST**©

*estimated calculation retrieved from sharedeer.org