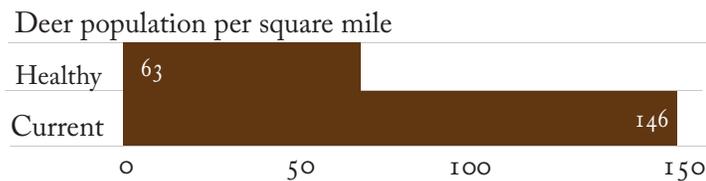


# HELP!

## Solebury Township Deer Management Program

### THE PROBLEM

Based on the 2017 deer count by USDA, the estimated deer population in Solebury Township is *146 per square mile – almost two and a half times greater than what is considered to be environmentally sustainable.*



### THE CONSEQUENCES



1. **Deer-Vehicle Collisions.** 10% of all claims filed in the United States are in Pennsylvania. *Overall Pennsylvania is #4 in the nation for deer-vehicle collisions and Bucks County is #2 county in the state.*

2. **Disease.** Deer ticks commonly feed on white-tailed deer and are transmitters of a host of diseases including ehrlichiosis, anaplasmosis, babesiosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever and, most commonly, Lyme. *Pennsylvania has led the nation in confirmed cases of Lyme disease for three straight years.*



3. **Agricultural Losses.** A USDA / Pennsylvania Game Commission report issued January 2015 estimates that in Pennsylvania alone deer cause \$100 million in damage to agricultural productivity. Damage to landscaping and ornamental plants, while not quantified, is significant.

4. **Environmental Degradation.** Over-browsing by deer is a key cause of the depletion of our local woodland understory. With abundant food sources in the summer, deer proliferate; during winter deer feeding decimates native plants and saplings. Plant life plays an essential role in storm water management, facilitating the absorption of ground water. Studies have shown that over-browsing by deer decreases tree reproduction, understory vegetation, plant density and diversity, with subsequent declines in birdlife. *Our forests are losing the ability to regenerate; when current tree growth dies back due to age there will be no new growth to replace it.*

### THE SOLUTION

Study after study has shown that a managed program is the only method demonstrated to affect significant and sustained deer population reduction.

Solebury has adopted a community-wide approach to reducing deer damage. The program's long-term success depends on the active involvement of more Solebury landowners who are willing to allow sport hunting on their properties.

If you are a landowner, we will match you up with hunter(s) who have been screened, licensed, trained, and committed to the legal and humane harvest of deer. If you already allow hunting, by enrolling your property in the program and registering your hunters they will have access to additional doe tags available through the Township.

Positive relationships among hunters and landowners foster an environment in which deer are harvested free of charge as well as in a manner that is mutually beneficial to both hunters and landowner.

For more information about how you can become involved in the program please contact the Township at 215-297-5656 or [deercommittee@soleburytwp.org](mailto:deercommittee@soleburytwp.org) or complete the Deer Management Application Form.

