

IMPORTANT NOTICE

After careful consideration and in consultation with the Rose Valley Environmental Advisory Council, Rose Valley Borough Council has authorized selected hunters (primarily comprised of local law enforcement personnel) to conduct a limited deer hunt on Borough-owned parkland: the Saul Wildlife Preserve, the Chadwick (Long Point) Wildlife Preserve, and the Todmorden Woods. From October 8 through November 26, excluding Sundays, these areas will be closed to the public except for the hours of 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The preservation of our woodlands in their natural state for the benefit of current and future Borough residents and all forms of native flora and fauna, as well as the safety of people living in or passing through Rose Valley, are the paramount reasons for reducing (not eliminating) the current deer population. The lack of natural predators has allowed the deer population to reach ecologically unsustainable levels. Deer browsing has resulted in the loss of native species of plants and trees, which destroys the habitat and food sources for a variety of birds and other animals, including the insects that are a vital link in the food chain. The damage is cumulative as the native plants are replaced by non-native invasive plants that have little value to wildlife. Additionally, deer are increasingly seeking food sources outside of the parklands, which causes roadway accidents and promotes the transmission to humans of serious deer tick-borne diseases, such as Lyme disease.

The hunt will be by archery only. No hunting with firearms on Borough-owned property is permitted. The hunt is not open to the general public. Only hunters specifically authorized by the Borough are eligible to participate.

Residents should be aware that harassment of legal hunters is a crime under Pennsylvania law. Residents who observe hunting on Borough-owned lands outside of the permitted hours, with unauthorized weaponry, or by persons not expressly authorized by the Borough are strongly encouraged to contact the Pennsylvania Game Commission at 610- 926-3136 (press zero for a dispatcher). Residents should NOT personally confront anyone they suspect of unauthorized or illegal activity.

The Borough is prohibited under state law from regulating hunting on private property within Rose Valley. However, any resident who conducts or permits lawful hunting on his or her property is cautioned to advise their hunters not to hunt on Borough-owned property. Additionally, residents are requested to advise their private hunters to avoid crossing into their neighbors' property. Finally, residents who permit lawful hunting on their property are encouraged to report the number of deer taken to the Borough office (610-566-2040). Any deer taken on private land within Rose Valley counts toward reduction of the Borough's deer population and may reduce the number of deer targeted for removal in a given year on Borough-owned lands.