

IMPORTANT NOTICE

After careful consideration and in consultation with the Rose Valley Environmental Advisory Council, Rose Valley Borough Council has authorized Eccologix Biodiversity Consulting Group to conduct a limited deer herd reduction (cull) on Borough-owned parkland: the Saul Wildlife Sanctuary, the Chadwick (Long Point) Wildlife Sanctuary and the Todmorden Woods. From February 16 through March 31, seven days a week, these areas will be closed to the public during the hours of active culling, which are 4:00 p.m. to midnight. As always, the parks are closed to public use at night from sundown to sunrise year-round.

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 insects, birds and other animals. 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 cull is allowed by special permit from the Pennsylvania Game Commission and will be by archery only. No discharge of firearms on Borough-owned property is permitted. As hunting season has ended, only staff members of Eccologix are authorized to take deer. Unlike regular hunting, the cull will involve baiting.

Residents should be aware that harassment of legal hunters or personnel authorized to conduct a cull is a crime under Pennsylvania law. Residents who observe hunting on Borough-owned lands outside of the permitted season and hours, with unauthorized weaponry or by persons not associated with Eccologix are strongly encouraged to contact the Pennsylvania State 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 otherwise conducts or permits hunting on his or her property must understand that this cull is taking place outside of the normal hunting season and by special permit. The taking of a deer outside of the deer hunting season on lands not covered by the special permit is illegal under Pennsylvania law and may be prosecuted.