

City of Tega Cay

Wildlife Management Program
After Action Report



February 2024

Acknowledgement

The City of Tega Cay would like to thank our Council, Law Enforcement, Parks & Recreation, Public Works and Social Media Staff, York County Sheriff's Department, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Community for their assistance and support during the Wildlife Management Plan conducted January 22nd-24th and February 5th-7th. The collaborative effort allowed for the Wildlife Management Operations to take place in a safe environment for our citizens and public safety personnel. Their input was reflected in the composition of this After Action Report.

Overview

The City of Tega Cay began monitoring their deer population in 2015 after receiving concerns from residents. The first survey was conducted on December 16, 2015 when SCDNR staff estimated a total deer population of 156 deer. At the time South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) noted “this number would be high for a wildland situation; it is not unusual in a residential situation.” It was also noted that ideally the survey would be conducted over multiple nights but could not be done due to staff availability. No further direction was given from that current Council and no subsequent deer spotlight surveys were conducted from 2016 through 2021. In 2022, Council directed staff to conduct a series of deer spotlight surveys to observe the current deer population after receiving resident concerns regarding the growth of the deer population. The concerns included but not limited to property damage, health of the herd, aggressive deer activity and future environmental factors. The City utilized SCDNR to perform deer spotlight surveys on March 21, 2022 and September 14, 2022. On March 21, 2022 the deer spotlight survey estimated an approximate deer population of 700, a growth of 544 since 2015. The September 14, 2022 deer spotlight survey estimated a deer population of approximately 850, an increase of 150 deer from March 21, 2022. The City contracted Folk Land Management to perform a deer spotlight survey on September 11 and 12, 2023. The deer spotlight survey on September 11 and 12, 2023 estimated the City’s total deer population had increased to 1028 deer. Folk Land Management noted in their report the most common method used to reduce herd abundance is sharpshooting. A goal for year 1 should be removal of 30-35% of the total herd (308-360 deer) with additional culling considered in the following years.

The City held a Special Council Meeting on June 21, 2022 with Dr. Charles Ruth from SCDNR, where he discussed the City’s deer population, the possible challenges of doing nothing and shared with Council possible deer management options approved by the State, which at the time were culling, sterilization, relocating which is a practice strongly discouraged by SCDNR and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) because of the trauma it causes the deer or continue to do nothing. He recommended the City conduct another deer spotlight survey and perform a community survey asking residents for feedback.

In September 2022, residents were asked to participate in a survey regarding the possible use of sharpshooters to reduce the deer population. The City received 2119 responses, of those 93 were removed due to the responses being from outside the City Limits or duplicates. Of the 2026 valid responses 1016 voted yes in favor of using sharpshooters to manage the deer population and 1010 voted no.

At City Council's November 14, 2022 Meeting, Council introduced and approved an Ordinance Amending Chapter 6 of the City's Code of Ordinances as it relates to the Intentional Feeding of Wildlife with 2nd read taking place at the December 19, 2022 Council Meeting.

At the July 10, 2023 City Council Meeting, Council considered and approved a motion to direct the City Manager to apply for an Urban Deer Management Permit Application through SCDNR.

At the July 25, 2023 Budget Workshop, at the direction of Council \$160,000 in funding for a Wildlife Management Program was included in the budget. At the August 21, 2023 Council Meeting, Council approved 1st read of the 2023-2024 budget which included the funding for a Wildlife Management Program with 2nd read taking place at the September 18, 2023 Council Meeting.

On September 20, 2023 the City submitted a Deer Depredation Permit to SCDNR requesting to cull 75-300 deer within the City Limits.

On September 28, 2023 the City of Tega Cay received approval from SCDNR to cull 80 deer within the City Limits between September 28, 2023 and March 1, 2024. The City continued researching possible Wildlife Management Programs including culling and the use of Zonastat-D PZP, a method that at the time was not approved by the State of South Carolina as a Deer Management Option. Clemson University officially permitted the use of Zonastat-D PZP on November 17, 2023.

City Council held a Special Council Meeting on December 11, 2023 to consider the Introduction and 1st read of an Ordinance to Amend Article VI, Division 1, Section 34-121 (Ordinance 70A, Section 70.14.06) of the City's Code as it Relates to the Discharge of Firearms and Firearm-Like Devices and To Allow for Exceptions Pertaining to the Control of Wildlife by the City. 1st read and approval took place at the December 11, 2023 Council Meeting with the 2nd read taking place at the December 18, 2023 Council Meeting.

On December 18, 2023 Council held a regularly scheduled Council Meeting that featured a Special Presentation from Dr. Allen Rutberg, Tufts University, who presented the possible use of Zonastat-D PZP as a birth control measure. At the same meeting Deputy City Manager Joey Blethen presented that evening the estimated cost to implement Zonastat-D PZP and culling 80 deer. Council also discussed and approved an agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to perform the culling of 80 deer for \$47,127.55.

On January 18, 2024 the City of Tega Cay appealed to the SCDNR Board requesting the ability to cull an additional 80 deer before the March 1st deadline. On January 19, 2024 the SCDNR board approved the City's appeal.

At the January 22, 2024 Council Meeting, Council discussed and approved an updated agreement with the USDA to perform the additional culling of 80 deer for a total of 160 deer for \$94,255.10.

On January 22, 2024 the USDA with support from the Tega Cay Police Department and York County Sheriff's Department began the 1st round of the Wildlife Management Plan at the Tega Cay Golf Course.

Deer Totals (January 22-24)						
<u>Date</u>	<u>* Hours of Operation</u>	<u>Female Adults</u>	<u>Male Adults</u>	<u>Female Yearling</u>	<u>Male Yearling</u>	<u>Total Deer</u>
1/22/2024	5.8	3	1	0	0	4
1/23/2024	6.1	10	1	2	0	13
1/24/2024	6.7	2	0	0	0	2

**The hours of operation includes briefing, site set up, operations and site breakdown.*

On February 5, 2024 the USDA with support from the Tega Cay Police Department and York County Sheriff's Department began the 2nd and final round of the Wildlife Management Plan at the Tega Cay Golf Course.

Deer Totals (February 5-7)						
<u>Date</u>	<u>*Hours of Operation</u>	<u>Female Adults</u>	<u>Male Adults</u>	<u>Female Yearling</u>	<u>Male Yearling</u>	<u>Total Deer</u>
2/5/2024	6.5	3	3	0	0	6
2/6/2024	6.5	0	1	0	2	3
2/7/2024	6.5	4	3	1	0	8

**The hours of operation includes briefing, site set up, operations and site breakdown.*

Law Enforcement Staffing					
<u>Date</u>	<u>Hours Worked</u>	<u>*TCPD Command Staff</u>	<u>TCPD Officers</u>	<u>YCSO Deputies</u>	<u>Total Officers Per Day</u>
1/22/2024	57.5	3	6	3	12
1/23/2024	45.5	3	5	3	11

1/24/2024	49.5	3	4	3	10
2/5/2024	50.5	2	5	4	11
2/6/2024	53.5	2	4	4	10
2/7/2024	60	2	5	4	11

**Command Staff work hours are not included in this total. The budget assigned for Wildlife Management Plan was not in any way impacted by TCPD Command Staff Members.*

City of Tega Cay Police Department and York County Sheriff Department utilized a total of 65 law enforcement personnel. Of these, 29 officers represented the Tega Cay Police Department, 15 officers comprised the Tega Cay Police Department Command Staff, and 21 deputies with the York County Sheriff's Office. The officers worked a total of 316.5 hours to secure the multiple sites over January 22-24 and February 5-7.

USDA Total Costs (January 22-24 and February 5-7)	
Salary and Benefits	\$17,155.39
Travel	\$3,955.62
Supplies	\$683.51
Subtotal	\$21,794.52
Pooled Job Costs	\$2,397.39
Indirect Costs	\$3,519.81
Total Costs	\$27,711.72

**Catawba Indian Nation covered \$3,340 in processing fees.*

What Went Well

- The Wildlife Management Program was safely and successfully carried out without loss of life, injury, no arrests or damage to personal property. This operation was deemed a success by our Law Enforcement Personnel.
- Based upon the time constraints and flexibility challenges within the site locations the culling of 36 deer was considered a success by the USDA.
- Through USDA and Catawba Indian Nation arrangement approximately 1200 lbs of deer meat was donated.
- The City was thorough in the collection of Wildlife Management Information. The City conducted multiple deer spotlight surveys, sought community feedback and solicited guidance from experts in the field of Wildlife Management.
- The City utilized various methods (social media, local news media outlets, website, News Flash, physical signage, Code Red (Robo Call) and direct communication with City Staff to communicate with the community.

- The partnership between Tega Cay Police Department, York County Sheriff Department, the USDA and City Staff.
- Community Engagement: The City has and continues to be engaged with experts in the field of Wildlife Management, as well as concerned and educated residents through Council Meetings, Engagement Survey and direct communication with Staff and Council.
- Implementation of the information phoneline to assist staff with the ability to effectively and efficiently address the concerns of the community.

Areas for Improvement

- The time allotted between the execution of the USDA Contract and commencement of the Wildlife Management Plan created the following challenges:
 - Limited the ability to implement a long-term messaging strategy to share with the community.
 - Presented staffing challenges for our Law Enforcement Resources to cover the Wildlife Management Program along with their scheduled shifts.
 - Limited time window to allow for the number of tags permitted to be gathered.
- Begin the process when the permit allows for it. This would allow for feed sites to be established, patterns of deer to be tracked and allow for a less condensed timeline to carry out the permit.
- Allow for greater flexibility to permit culling to take place outside of non-evening hours.
- Limited areas to perform the operations.
- Developing long-term strategies, goals and objectives for what the City hopes to achieve with a Wildlife Management Program.

Future Opportunities

- Continued exploration and possible implementation of Wildlife Management Plans that include administering a birth control vaccine or sterilizations.
- Beginning the Wildlife Management Program process earlier would allow for greater opportunities to reach permitted tags for the season.
- Consideration of mobile culling platform.
- Increased hours of operation if staffing limitations can allow for it.
- Explore lengthening the operational period to assist in overwhelming staff resources.

- Identify alternative sites located in City Greenspaces.
- Allow equipment to be setup and left onsite to reduce setup and breakdown time each evening.
- Comprehensive and timely communication regarding future Wildlife Management Options.

Future Challenges

The challenges listed within this document are not limited to additional challenges that may arise with the implementation of future Wildlife Management Programs.

- A divided community with respect to managing the existing deer population.
- Concerned citizens with houses near site locations.
- An effective Wildlife Management Program requires a long-term financial investment. A true cost for a Wildlife Management Program would vary depending on what program(s) are selected. A birth control (vaccine, sterilization) approach would cost \$117,000 to \$123,000 per year (100 deer) and culling (80 deer) would cost \$45,000 to \$50,000 per year. Both programs would also require additional law enforcement costs of \$15,000 to \$30,000 depending on the options selected.
- There are limited areas to conduct Wildlife Management Programs.
- The deer population currently feels no pressure which allows for them to travel at various times of the day. Only culling during evening hours limits opportunities.

Community Partners

The City of Tega Cay has and continues to engage with private and public stakeholders to explore an effective, long-term deer management program.

Education

The City utilized various methods of communication during the Wildlife Management Plan to inform and educate the community. The types of communication included social media, website, News Flash (emailing), physical signage, Code Red (Robocalls) and direct communication with City Staff.

On January 22nd the City implemented an information phoneline (803-578-4987) which assisted staff with the ability to effectively and efficiently address the concerns of the community. Over the course of the Wildlife Management Plan,

staff received 43 phone calls. Of those 33% were emotionally charged messages that were negatively directed towards staff and those calls were not returned. The remaining 67% of the calls were returned to address the community's questions and concerns.

Social Media

City of Tega Cay, SC • December 15, 2015

On this edition of the Mayor's Minute, Mayor Sheppard discusses the deer survey being conducted by SCDNR



City of Tega Cay, SC • June 21, 2022

We know tonight's Special City Council meeting at 6:30 PM with SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) is drawing attention. If you like to tune in virtually and avoid the packed room we're live streaming the meeting. <https://www.youtube.com/c/CityofTegaCayGovernment>

This meeting's sole purpose is for SCDNR to present the deer study findings to Council. Council is not intending to make any decisions regarding the deer at this meeting and there will be no public comment... See more

24 48 comments 8 shares

City of Tega Cay, SC • October 3, 2022

The City of Tega Cay conducted a survey asking for feedback from residents regarding the deer population in Tega Cay. The City received 2119 responses, of those 93 were removed due to the responses being from outside the City Limits or duplicates. Of the 2026 valid responses, 1016 voted yes in favor of using sharpshooters to manage the deer population and 1010 voted no.

Dana Geers, Madison Burt and 155 others 21 shares

Like Share

City of Tega Cay, SC • November 2, 2022

During the October City Council Meeting a number of residents participated in Public Comments. Many of them asked questions about the deer and what options were being considered. We've compiled those questions and provided answers and further information on our website. <https://www.tegacaysc.org/1770/FAQ-on-Deer>

TEGA TEGACAYS.ORG
FAQ on Deer | Tega Cay, SC - Official Website
Frequently Asked Deer Questions

City of Tega Cay, SC • December 8, 2023

City Council is holding a special meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, December 11th, in the Council Chambers. City Council and Staff have been discussing the City's Deer Populations with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and, more recently, the Tega Cay Wildlife Conservation Society. The City has been evaluating wildlife management options, including culling the herd and administering birth control via air-propelled darts. Currently, the City's Code of Laws prohibits the discharge of firearms and firearm-like devices to include air propellant guns. To implement a wildlife management plan now or in the future, an amendment to the City's Code is required.

Council will be discussing and considering an amendment to the City's Code Chapter 34, Article VI, Division 1, Section 34-121 to grant an exception following a majority vote by City Council solely for wildlife management purposes to grant the temporary use of firearms and or firearm-like devices to include air propellant guns.

Additionally, over the last several weeks, City Staff and Council have received a significant amount of public input regarding the Tega Cay Marina. As a result, and at the direction of Council, the terms of the agreement are being amended to reflect the public road right-of-way would begin at the second entrance (residential side) to Marina Drive and continue all the way to and above the boat launch.

To view the agenda, please visit our website at: https://tegacaysc.org/AgendaCenter/City-Council-14/?#_12112023-557
To attend the meeting virtually, visit our YouTube channel at the time of the meeting at: <https://www.youtube.com/@CityofTegaCayGovernment>

City of Tega Cay, SC • December 15, 2023

Published by Sprout Social

City Council will be holding their regular City Council Meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, December 18, 2023 at the Lower Level Glennon Center in the Council Chambers. Three proclamations are being presented to recognize George Jacobs III for his accomplishments as an Eagle Scout, the FMHS Girls Cross Country team as 5A State Champions and an individual on the Girls Cross Country Team.

Dr. Rutberg of Tufts University will be presenting information to Council regarding Zonastat-D, following an executive session regarding legal advice for a potential agreement with the USDA for culling the deer population.

Council will be considering the 2nd reading of an amendment to the Zoning Code as it relates to Mobile Food Vending Services and considering the 2nd reading of an ordinance amending City Code related to the discharge of firearms & firearm-like devices pertaining to the control of wildlife. Council will be discussing and considering an agreement with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services. Additionally, Council is considering the approval of performance, labor and materials surety agreements and letters of credit for Windell Woods Phase 1, Map 2 and Riverfalls Phase 1, Map 1.

To view the agenda and attachments please visit our website at: https://tegacaysc.org/AgendaCenter/City-Council-14/?#_12182023-558
To virtually attend the meeting, at the time of the meeting, please visit our YouTube Channel and select the "Live" tab at: <https://www.youtube.com/@CityofTegaCayGovernment>

City of Tega Cay, SC • December 19, 2023

Published by Sprout Social

During the December 18 City Council Meeting, the Tega Cay City Council elected to cull the deer population, utilizing The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wildlife Services of the USDA. In October, SCDNR approved culling 80 deer in the City of Tega Cay.

There have been many discussions of the culling method of population control versus the Zona Stat-D (PZP) method and City Staff and Council appreciate the research and time the Tega Cay Wildlife Conservation Society has contributed; however, City Council believes it is in the City's best interest to begin some form of population control expeditiously, as this has been an ongoing issue.

Council and Staff are still researching and discussing the PZP method as a means of continued population control due to the size of the herd, but there are still some unknowns. The City hopes to have those questions answered and potentially a plan in place by the fall of 2024.

City Staff at the direction of council, has appealed the current SCDNR count of 80 and is seeking approval from the State DNR board to cull a total of 160 deer before March. The City hopes to hear back on their decision by early January.

City of Tega Cay, SC • December 23, 2023

Published by Sprout Social

At Monday evening's City Council meeting, Mayor Gray and Council recognized George Jacobs III for his achievement in becoming an Eagle Scout and recognized the Fort Mill High School Girls Cross Country Team as the 5A State Champions, Alivia Cleveland as the individual state champion and Coach Whitaker on being named the SCTCCCA SA Coach of the Year.

Dr. Rutberg with Tufts University presented information regarding Zonastat-D (PZP) to City Council and the attendees as a potential wildlife a management alternative. Council approved the 2nd and final reading of an ordinance to the Zoning Code as it relates to mobile food vending services. This amendment provides more transparent language and amends the separation requirement for vendors in residential areas. Additionally, Council approved the 2nd reading of Ordinance 590 which amends the City Code to permit the discharge of firearms and firearm-like devices following a majority vote by Council, on a case-by-case basis and to allow for the exception only pertaining to the control of wildlife.

Council discussed entering an agreement with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services (APHIS-WVS). City Council expressed gratitude to all residents, groups and experts for providing information about an alternative method of deer population control to City Council and Staff. Council voted to enter into the agreement with the USDA APHIS-WVS to cull 80 deer as permitted by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

As for new business, Council approved the performance, labor and materials surety agreements for both Windell Woods Phase 1, Map 2 and Riverfalls Phase 1, Map 1. The letter of credit for Windell Woods Phase 1, Map 2 was approved and Council approved accepting the check provided to the City by Taylor Morrison with regards to remaining infrastructure.



City of Tega Cay, SC

Published by Sprout Social · January 16 at 4:06 PM

At the December 18th City Council Meeting, Council voted to cull 80 deer utilizing The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The culling will take place on Golf Course Property during the weeks of January 22nd and February 5th. The Golf Course and surrounding paths will be closed to the public from dusk until dawn those weeks. Anyone found in violation of City Code 34-48 can be charged with trespassing.

For questions or more information, please call City Hall at (803) 548-3512.



City of Tega Cay, SC

Published by Sprout Social · January 19 at 5:10 PM

City Council will hold a Special Meeting at 6 PM on Monday, January 22, 2024, in the Council Chambers. Council will consider the Introduction and 1st reading of an Ordinance repealing Ordinance 585 and the Introduction and 1st reading of an amendment to the Zoning Code Ordinance 77 as it relates to the Marina Overlay District.

Council will discuss and consider approving an updated agreement with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), as SCDNR has approved an additional 80 deer to be culled this season. An updated agreement is necessary to reflect the total cost for 160 deer.

To view the agenda and attachments, please visit our website at: https://tegacaysc.org/AgendaCenter/City-Council-14/?#_01222024-561



City of Tega Cay, SC

Published by Gretchen Kalar · January 22 at 10:33 AM

Culling on the Golf Course Property will begin this evening, Monday, January 22. Signage is being placed around and near entrances to the course. The golf course and paths will be closed from dusk until midnight for culling to be completed by The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wildlife Services of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Anyone found on the course or paths after hours can be charged with trespassing against City Code 34-48, as this City Code is in place throughout all times of the year.

Culling activities will NOT be conducted on private property. Experts will shoot downward from elevated deer stands, use noise suppression on their rifles and use night vision and thermal imaging for additional safety measures. The USDA will remove the animals each night and take them to be processed off-site. Once processed, the meat will be donated to a food pantry and soup kitchen-type facilities in the area.

For questions or more information, please call City Hall at (803) 548-3512.



City of Tega Cay, SC

Published by Gretchen Kalar · January 23 at 1:43 PM

To view the Statement from Chief Crosby, please visit our website >> <https://www.tegacaysc.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=923>

City News

Statement from Chief Crosby Regarding Deer Culling Activities

[Read on...](#)

See insights and ads

Boost post

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12 comments



City of Tega Cay, SC

Published by Sprout Social · January 24 at 8:53 PM

At Monday evening's City Council meeting, Council voted unanimously to approve the 1st reading of an ordinance to repeal Ordinance 585, its Exhibits and authorize the City Manager to cancel the contract for the exchange of property dated November 20, 2023, between the City of Tega Cay and Tega Cay Marina Ltd.

Council also voted unanimously to approve the 1st reading of an amendment to the Zoning Code, Ordinance 77, as it relates to the Marina Overlay District which would remove a hotel as a conditional use. The amendment further requires that a master plan and traffic impact study be submitted prior to Council considering any rezoning's for a restaurant or yacht club within the district. Both the ordinance repeal of Ordinance 585 and amendment to the zoning code require a 2nd reading to be done by Council to be finalized.

At December 18th's City Council meeting, Council unanimously voted to enter into an agreement with the USDA to cull and additional 80 deer. Since then, SCDNR has approved the City's request to cull an additional 80 deer this season. As a result of their approval, an updated agreement to reflect the total cost for 160 deer was required. In a 4 to 1 vote; Council approved the updated agreement with APHIS-WS USDA to cull an additionally 80 deer.



City of Tega Cay, SC

Published by Gretchen Kalar · January 25 at 1:54 PM

All culling activities have concluded for the week of January 22nd. Culling activities will resume the week of February 5th. We want to thank residents and the public for cooperating during the first process.



City of Tega Cay, SC

Published by Gretchen Kalar · February 2 at 3:17 PM

Please visit our website for a statement from TCPD's Chief Crosby in regards to the second process of the deer culling beginning Monday, February 5 >> <https://tegacaysc.org>



City of Tega Cay, SC

Published by Gretchen Kalar · February 8 at 12:38 PM

Please visit the City's website for an update on the conclusion of the second process of the deer culling. www.tegacaysc.org



News Flash

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Posted on: September 13, 2022

[DRAFT] Deer Management Program Survey

The City of Tega Cay is seeking feedback from residents regarding the SCDNR Deer Management Program.

[Deer Management Program Survey](#)



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Posted on: January 17, 2024

[DRAFT] Wildlife Management

At the December 18th City Council Meeting, Council voted to cull 80 deer utilizing The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The culling will take place on Golf Course Property during the weeks of January 22nd and February 5th. The Golf Course and surrounding paths will be closed to the public from dusk until dawn those weeks. Anyone found in violation of City Code 34-38 can be charged with trespassing.

For questions or more information, please call City Hall at (803) 548-3512.



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Posted on: January 23, 2024

[DRAFT] Statement from Chief Crosby Regarding Deer Culling Activities

City Council has voted to approve the culling of deer as the first step of the Wildlife Management Plan. While we recognize that residents' opinions are divided on how to handle the deer population, one thing that remains consistent is that the measure implemented by Council has to be safe. It is the role of the Police Department to ensure the safety of all involved.

We have adopted the operational objective: "To ensure a safe and secure environment for our residents, public, first responders, and USDA personnel." To achieve this objective, considerable planning and preparation have been conducted to develop a robust operational plan with the support of county, state, and federal partners with the primary focus on safety.

While all aspects of the operational plan cannot be shared so we do not compromise the safety of the public and those involved, some of the steps we have taken to meet the objective of safety include operational meetings with the USDA to discuss safety measures. Those conversations included what safety steps would be taken if someone was observed on the Golf Course. We also looked at each of the locations identified by the USDA to ensure the residents within those areas would not be in harm's way. We also visit those locations every day prior to the daily operations to ensure no environmental conditions or other factors have changed to ensure the safety of our residents.

To ensure the safety of the individuals walking on the path, the City has communicated with the public via social media, robocalls, emails, and local news stories to make them aware the Golf Course is closed during the nighttime hours of operation period. Understanding that all residents may not receive the message through these means, the City has also placed signage at public access of the course to make the public aware that the Golf Course is closed. The Police Department also strategically places officers in marked and unmarked vehicles to prevent the public from accessing these areas.

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Posted on: January 25, 2024

[DRAFT] Culling Update (January 25th)

All culling activities have concluded for the week of January 22nd. Culling activities will resume the week of February 5th.



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Posted on: February 2, 2024

[DRAFT] Deer Culling Activities Resume February 5th

As a resident of Tega Cay, I firmly believe that the Wildlife Management Plan must prioritize safety above all else. As your Chief of Police, I can attest that safety considerations have been at the forefront of all planning discussions and will continue to be the primary focus of the upcoming phase of the Wildlife Management Plan.

Ensuring the safety of our citizens is a responsibility that we take seriously. We have been fully committed to developing a comprehensive safety strategy to protect our residents. The police department's objective is to ensure a safe and secure environment for our residents, public, first responders, and USDA personnel.

The next phase of the Wildlife Management Plan will commence on Monday, February 5. Prior to the deployment of USDA personnel and Law Enforcement officials each night, we will meet to discuss our safety strategies to ensure that all involved understand the safety protocols put in place.

As previously communicated, all aspects of the operational plan cannot be shared to prevent compromising the safety of the public and those involved. However, the critical element of our safety plan is to request that you refrain from accessing the cart paths or golf course after dark. No trespassing signs will be posted at public access points on the golf course each night, and officers will be strategically placed in marked and unmarked vehicles to prevent the public from accessing these areas.

During the plan's first phase, we received feedback and concerns from many of you. We assure you that safety is our top priority for this operational plan. We will not compromise safety under any circumstances.

Chief Joey Crosby

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Posted on: February 8, 2024

Culling Operations have Concluded for the Week of February 5th

There will be no additional cullings scheduled prior to the March 1st expiration of the current SCDNR Permit. The City will be working with all involved parties over the coming days to create an After Action Report that will include deer counts, total costs and additional details from the operation. The City will be sharing those details via website, newsflash and social media once the report has been completed. Council will also consider additional deer management options at their February 20th Council Meeting.

Code Red

The screenshot displays the ON SOLVE CONTACTS interface for a 'Deer Culling' launch. The left sidebar lists launch details, and the main area shows message content.

Deer Culling	
Launch ID	#4081895
Launched By	Shana Carothers
Notification Type	General
Auto Recall	Yes
Started	1/22/2024 2:52:03 PM
Ended	1/22/2024 3:02:01 PM
Expiration	None
Voice Minutes Used	6002
Emails	0
Phone Calls	6129
Text Messages	0
TDD	7
Attempted Calls	8621
Numbers Reached	4385
Numbers Not Reached	1744

Voice Messages

Primary Voice Message
▶ 0:00 / 1:05

Secondary Voice Message
▶ 0:00 / 1:05

Text Messages

Text Message
None Provided

Email Message
None Provided

TDD Message
Culling on the Golf Course Property will begin this evening, Monday, January 22. Signage is being placed around and near entrances to the course. The golf course and paths will be closed from dusk until

Physical Signage



News Media Coverage

September 21, 2022 <https://www.wbtv.com/2022/09/21/tega-cay-deer-problem-sparks-debate-how-it-should-be-handled/>

Tega Cay deer problem sparks debate on how it should be handled

Say the word deer around some Tega Cay residents and you will know exactly how they feel about them.



October 7, 2022 <https://www.qcnews.com/news/u-s/south-carolina/tega-cay-neighbors-still-split-on-deer-population-outcome/>

SOUTH CAROLINA

Tega Cay neighbors still split on deer population outcome

by: Shaquira Speaks
Posted: Oct 7, 2022 / 10:31 PM EDT
Updated: Oct 8, 2022 / 03:36 PM EDT

July 14, 2023 <https://www.wbtv.com/2023/07/14/tega-cay-seeks-permit-hire-sharpshooters-kill-deer/>

Tega Cay seeks permit to hire sharpshooters to kill deer

The city believes this is the best solution to culling its out-of-control deer population.



The city council first floated the idea in September and took a major step forward this week.

September 21, 2023 <https://www.cn2.com/deer-population-continues-to-be-concern-in-tega-cay/>

Deer population continues to be concern in Tega Cay



TEGA CAY, S.C. (CN2 NEWS) – New numbers show there are more than 1,000 deer live in the peninsula in Tega Cay, which on average is one deer per every 1.3 acres, city leaders say.

City officials have now requested a permit from South Carolina DNR to harvest the deer through a process called culling.

September 23, 2022 <https://www.qcnews.com/news/u-s/tega-cay/not-an-easy-decision-tega-cay-neighbors-split-on-how-to-deal-with-rising-deer-population/>

TEGA CAY

'Not an easy decision': Tega Cay neighbors split on how to deal with rising deer population

by: Shaquira Speaks
Posted: Sep 23, 2022 / 10:22 PM EDT
Updated: Sep 26, 2022 / 09:12 AM EDT

January 14, 2023 <https://www.cn2.com/feeding-deer-in-tega-cay-is-prohibited/>

Feeding Deer in Tega Cay is Prohibited



September 19, 2023 <https://www.wcblcharlotte.com/2023/09/19/tega-cay-planning-to-hire-sharpshooters-to-reduce-deer-population/>

Tega Cay Planning To Hire Sharpshooters To Reduce Deer Population

September 19, 2023 by Marvin Beach



TEGA CAY, S.C. – Leaders in Tega Cay are moving closer to implementing a plan to cull the city's

October 17, 2023 <https://www.wbtv.com/2023/10/17/birth-control-darts-under-consideration-reduce-tega-cay-deer-population/>

'Birth control darts' under consideration to reduce Tega Cay deer population

Back in the summer, city leaders floated the idea of using a sharpshooter to cull the herd.



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November 24, 2023 <https://www.wenc.com/article/life/animals/tega-cay-deer-overpopulation-concerns/275-55934650-1428-417f-86b8-018ef08243d6>

Tega Cay residents urging city leaders to decide on deer plan soon

Neighbors say the deer overpopulation problem is getting worse and want to see a plan implemented to thin the herd as soon as possible.



December 18, 2023 <https://www.wenc.com/article/news/local/tega-cay-ordinance-gun-rule-deer-overpopulation/275-f860c146-9385-4f51-8f65-b34d805ff302>

Tega Cay leaders approve plan to control deer population

On Monday, leaders approved a plan to cull 80 deer, making a dent in the city's deer problem.



December 19, 2023 <https://www.qcnews.com/news/u-s/york-county/tega-cay-leaders-vote-to-sharpsshoot-80-deer-by-march/>

YORK COUNTY

Tega Cay leaders vote to sharpshoot 80 deer by March

by: [Shaquira Speaks](#)
Posted: Dec 19, 2023 / 10:35 PM EST
Updated: Dec 20, 2023 / 04:13 PM EST

January 19, 2024 <https://www.wsoctv.com/news/local/tega-cay-granted-permission-cull-more-deer/TODS6C4MWZA3VGQPQ4MAUAUUKY/>

LOCAL

Sharpshooter to cull deer population at Tega Cay golf course



By [WSOCTV.com News Staff](#)
January 19, 2024 at 6:33 pm EST

January 22, 2024 <https://www.wenc.com/article/news/local/tega-cay-south-carolina-deer-culling-sharps shooting-program/275-e0840114-c780-476d-9431-2909b9c5cc96>

LOCAL NEWS

City of Tega Cay, USDA sharpshooter to begin culling 160 deer at local golf course

After more than a year, Tega Cay will officially set its plan to decrease the deer population in motion.

February 5, 2024 <https://www.qcnews.com/news/u-s/york-county/deer-culling-resumes-in-york-county-community-police-chief-assures-safety-at-forefront/>

YORK COUNTY

Deer culling resumes in York County community; police chief assures safety at forefront

by: [Doug Coats](#)
Posted: Feb 5, 2024 / 04:32 PM EST
Updated: Feb 5, 2024 / 04:32 PM EST

January 26, 2024 <https://www.wsoctv.com/news/local/tega-cay-is-killing-over-150-deer-heres-what-its-doing-with-meat/6CRJQYOPREERET5WE5MU2JFX4/>

LOCAL

Tega Cay is killing over 150 deer; here's what it's doing with the meat



By [WSOCTV.com News Staff](#)
January 26, 2024 at 5:24 am EST

February 21, 2024 <https://news.yahoo.com/deer-dilemma-sc-city-dealing-213212144.html>

yahoo/news

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Deer dilemma: SC city dealing with debate over intrusive neighbors

Tina Terry
February 21, 2023 · 1 min read

