



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

15610 Vaughn Road

Brecksville, Ohio 44141-3097

IN REPLY REFER TO:

N1615

December 20, 2018

The Honorable Don Kolograf

Mayor of Walton Hills

7595 Walton Road

Walton Hills, OH 44146

Dear Mayor Kolograf:

As you may already be aware, Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) has undertaken a program to reduce the white-tailed deer herd on CVNP property in accordance with the park's Final White-tailed Deer Management Plan, approved in December 2014. This plan provides the park with a long-term approach to address high deer populations that are adversely affecting the park's vegetation and other wildlife. We have already made progress towards our goals and winter 2018 marks the third year of the program. Under permits granted by the Ohio Division of Wildlife, sharpshooting on park property will be used to reduce deer populations between January 7, 2019 and March 31, 2019. The National Park Service has contracted with the Wildlife Services branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide experienced and trained staff to implement the deer program.

Some of the deer management activities will take place on federal property within your municipality. Most culling activities will be away from established trails, in open fields and meadows using truck mounted platforms or tree stands to ensure the humane and safe removal of deer. National Park Service staff will assist with field dressing and transporting meat to a processor in order to be donated to area food banks.

Park Rangers will be actively patrolling park lands during the evenings when the deer management activities are planned. Activities may begin as early as 3:00 p.m. and continue through the overnight hours on weekdays only. At times, specific areas will be temporarily closed to ensure the safety of park visitors and neighbors. We have sent letters to addresses of residents whose property abuts National Park Service property. We ask residents to respect all closures and to not travel off formal park trails during the afternoon/evening hours between now and the end of March.

The safety of the public, including our neighbors, is our first priority as we implement this resource management program. Local law enforcement agencies will be notified in advance of this activity within your jurisdiction. If you have any questions about this program, please call Lisa Petit, Chief of Resource Management, at 440-546-5970.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Stoehr  
Acting Superintendent