

PROTECTED STATUS

Canada geese and all native waterfowl are protected under both the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Ohio state law.



This protection extends to the bird's nest and eggs. It is illegal for any person, agency, or organi-

zation to take or attempt to take (pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect), any bird, nest, or egg outside of the regular hunting season without a special permit from the Ohio Division of Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Non-lethal tactics, which do not harm the geese are allowed. These tactics include: pyrotechnics, dogs, barriers, a grid on the pond, laser pointers, distress calls as harassment techniques to change

Delhi Township

Parks and Recreation

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NOTE FROM PARK'S DIRECTOR

The Clearview Lake Property is a beautiful and serene place of destination for many of us in the Township. The area surrounding the lake has been planted with beautiful Maples, Oaks, Honey Locust, Serviceberries and other varieties to attract wildlife.

We will be preparing a corner of the lake in the spring to introduce native aquatic plants to encourage local schools to do biology studies of organisms, to help oxygenate the water and to provide habitats for wildlife such as birds, ducks, amphibians, fish, turtles and butterflies.

As we enter into this new arena of wildlife management, the park's department is focused on creating a balance between the users of the park and the wildlife that call the park home.

To achieve this goal, we must reduce the numbers of geese at the lake in proportion to the size of the lake and the numbers of people using the park by enacting habitat modification, biological controls and visual deterrents.

Before the area became park property, the geese were sheltered from the people, therefore nesting in various areas behind the fence line. Now that the entire area is open to the public, these geese have no place to hide and will become very aggressive especially next spring during breeding season.

I hope you find this brochure helpful in understanding our approach to wildlife management in Delhi Parks. Please feel free to call the park office if we can be of service to you.

Respectfully, Sandra K. Monahan, Director



DELHI TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION

Geese Management Plan



Trustee, Mike Davis

Trustee, Al Duebber

Trustee, Jerry Luebbers

Fiscal Officer, Ken Ryan

www.delhi.oh.us

Delhi Parks and Recreation Goose Management Plan

GIANT CANADA GOOSE HISTORY IN OHIO

Giant Canada geese were reportedly extirpated from Ohio between the end of the Civil War and the turn of the century.

The Ohio Division of Wildlife initiated a giant Canada goose restoration program with 10 pairs each on three state-owned wetland areas in 1956.

Goose population surveys were conducted annually on the three goose management areas since the start of the program; however, the first statewide survey was not conducted until 1979.

At that time, Canada geese were nesting in 49 of Ohio's 88 counties with a state population of 18,000 geese.

Recent surveys have found goose nests in every county with a population estimate of 84,000 geese, thus this quickly expanding goose population has caused conflicts with our growing human population.



DON'T FEED THE GEESE

People residing in urban and suburban areas enjoy seeing and interacting with wildlife. Feeding ducks and geese brings these birds into proximity to people.

People that feed wildlife feel they are helping the birds and this provides these people with a sense of well-being and excitement. To the ducks and geese, however, the result of relying on handouts is devastating. Feeding popcorn, bread, or shelled corn is like feeding a child junk food since the geese are not receiving a balanced diet. This activity is a very selfish pursuit when only one party, humans, derives a benefit.

NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF FEEDING

- * Lack of balanced diet may cause wing deformity in goslings, hindering the bird's flight ability.
- * Feeding causes overcrowding allowing diseases such as botulism and cholera to spread easily and possibly result in massive waterfowl die-offs.
- * Geese lose their fear of humans and become aggressive.
- * Feeding reduces the need for geese to migrate so they stay in an area longer and create more problems



WHY BIRD NUMBERS AND PROBLEMS INCREASE WITH FEEDING

Feeding waterfowl attracts and keeps so many birds that the biological carrying capacity (how many birds the environment can naturally support) is exceeded, and the birds are staying only because of the unnatural feeding activity by humans. This leads to damage to the grounds, (i.e., grass destroyed, people walking through feces and bringing the feces, on shoes, into restaurants, work or homes). Goose droppings at parks are also a concern to the parents of children playing in the parks. The cultural carrying capacity (how many geese people can tolerate) is usually much lower than the biological carrying capacity.



If we truly care for waterfowl, here is what we can do to improve their chances of survival:

- **Stop feeding** the ducks and geese. Help them to retain their "wildness" and maintain their health. They do not understand nutrition.
- Learn more about waterfowl by visiting a library, nature center, zoo, museum or a state wildlife area.



Pamphlet information provided by:
www.ohiodnr.com/gooseconflict