



Please Stop Feeding Canada Geese in HSV

Description

We have received numerous complaints about residents feeding Canada Geese on lakes and some golf courses. This practice disrupts both the geese's instinct to forage for food and interrupts their natural migration pattern. This has led to an increase in resident goose population over the last few years, and we need your help to manage this resource.



Mother Goose with Goslings at Lake Desoto in Hot Springs Village, AR

Canada Geese create a health hazard and unsightly remains on golf courses and neighborhood landscaping. Canada geese defecate every 20 minutes, and one goose will leave 1.5 lbs. of feces each day. Therefore 100 geese will leave 150 lbs. of fecal matter per day and up to 13,500 lbs. of fecal

matter on the ground and in our lakes in a three-month period.

Goose feces contains 14 mg. of phosphorus and 5.7 mg. of nitrogen. The phosphorus and nitrogen they produce goes into our lakes, increases algae bloom and depletes oxygen necessary for supporting aquatic life. This fecal matter contains parasites, bacteria and viruses, and these pathogens are capable of infecting humans and pets.

- o Parasites – Cryptosporidium Giardia & Toxoplasmosis
- o Bacteria – E-Coli, Listeria, Salmonella, and others
- o Viruses – Avian Flu, Encephalitic viruses

Canada Geese Control Methods:

Canada Geese have legal status which means they are a migratory waterfowl and subject to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service jurisdiction.

- ? Eliminate Attractions: Food sources, artificial nesting structures and have clean shorelines.
- ? Stop feeding the geese!
- ? It is illegal to harm geese, their eggs, or their nests in the United States without permission from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and is punishable by fines and/or imprisonment.

If you see a goose on nest or residents feeding geese, please advise by e-mail Brad Meredith, Lakes Manager @ bmeredith@hsvpoa.org or Bruce Caverly, Common Property & Wildlife Committee @ cpfwc-chair@hsvpoa.org.

By Bruce Caverly, Chair of the Common Property, Forest & Wildlife Committee (CPFWC), April 10, 2021

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