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130 South Madison • Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235 • Phone (920) 743-2628 • Fax (920) 743-9315

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To Whom It May Concern:

The Animal Clinic of Sturgeon Bay is excited to announce Bark for Life, a pet walk to benefit the American Cancer Society and Relay for Life. Almost everyone in our community knows someone who has been affected by cancer, and it is our hope that this event will make a difference in the lives of our friends, family and neighbors.

The Bark for Life includes a pet walk, silent auction, bake sale, cookout and music. All proceeds from this fun filled event go to the American Cancer Society. With this said we are requesting to move the event to one of our local parks and would like you to make an exception to have dogs in the park for the walk and daily activities.

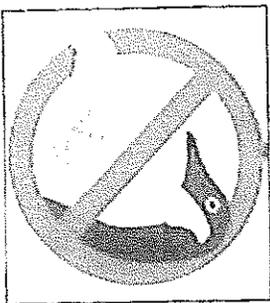
Ultimately we would love to hold this event at Sawyer Park on April 25, 2015. If Sawyer Park is unavailable Otumba Park is our second choice. We appreciate your time and consideration. Feel free to contact me with any questions at 920-743-2628.

Sincerely,

Jen DeBroux



## Education



### DON'T FEED WATERFOWL

Feeding waterfowl is a popular activity for many people, but it is a significant cause of high urban bird populations. Consider implementing a "No waterfowl feeding" ordinance or policy. Congregating wildlife by hand feeding can be unhealthy nutritionally for geese and more easily spread disease through waterfowl populations. Feeding also disrupts natural patterns and concentrates waterfowl which can have a decoy effect, attracting more birds to the location.

### Urban Wildlife Damage Abatement and Control Grant

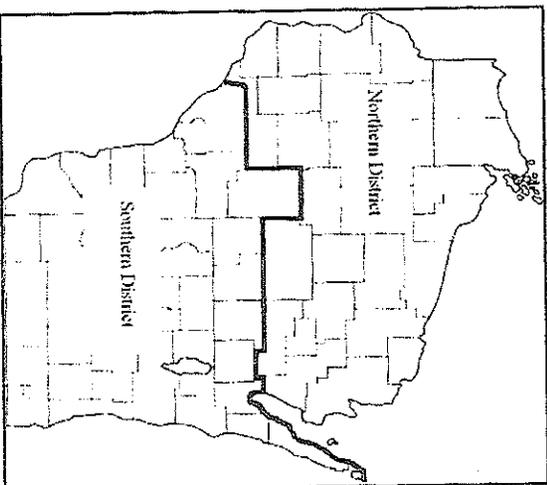
UWDAC grants are available from the DNR to any town, city, village, county or tribal government in an "urban area." Grant funding is available to help urban areas develop wildlife plans and/or to implement specific damage abatement and/or control measures for white-tailed deer and/or Canada geese.

A statewide total of \$25,000 is available annually. This program provides 50 percent project reimbursement up to a maximum of \$5,000 (\$10,000 total project cost). Advance payments of 50 percent (not to exceed \$2500) of the grant award can be requested at the time the grant agreement is signed.

<http://dnr.wis.gov/orgunits/cfa/RL/UrbanWildlife/grants.html>

## For Further Information

If you have any questions regarding Canada goose management, please contact your region's USDA Wildlife Services district office for more information.



Northern District: USDA APHIS Wildlife Services  
PO Box 1064  
Rhinelander, WI 54501  
(800) 228-1368

Southern District: USDA APHIS Wildlife Services  
1201 Storbeck Drive  
Waupun, WI 53963  
(800) 433-0663

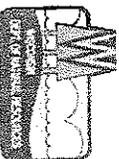
This publication was made possible by the WDNR and the USDA.

This publication can be made available in alternate format upon request. Please call (608) 264-6036 for information.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.



## Resident Canada Goose Management in Wisconsin



PUB WM-474-2007

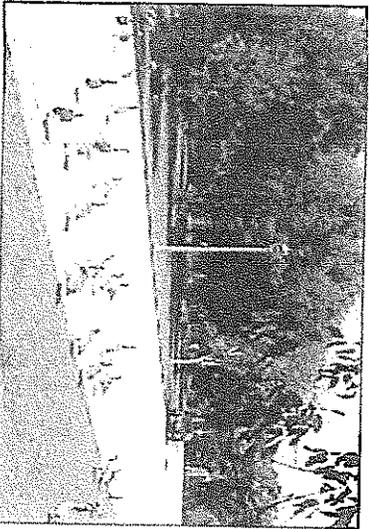


## Resident Canada Geese

The population of resident Canada geese in Wisconsin has dramatically increased over the last 25 years. This phenomenal growth has been recorded throughout the United States as well as internationally. This is partially due to the development of large open mowed grassy areas that humans have created and the protection that they provide. Resident Canada geese are large, very adaptable, long lived, productive, and protective of nests and young. These traits often lead to conflicts with citizens.

## Conflicts

As the population increases, so do the incidents of human conflict. High concentrations of resident Canada geese can lead to landscape damage, decreased water quality, disruption of recreational activities and decreased aesthetics from abundant droppings. However, there are solutions to these problems for landowners and local governments. In Wisconsin, the management strategy for these geese is twofold: 1) Manage the overall population through hunter harvest and 2) Address property or community specific problems with professionally guided integrated management.



## Management Decision

The decision and cost to manage the local Canada goose situation lies with local leaders in accordance with State and/or Federal rules.

## Integrated Management Plan

It is recommended that an integrated plan, utilizing multiple techniques, be implemented to successfully resolve conflicts with resident Canada geese.

Techniques to consider include:

**Habitat modification.** Habitat modification is altering the characteristics of the site so that geese do not find it attractive. This can be achieved by allowing grass to grow or planting buffer strips of native grasses or shrubs around water bodies to block the geese's clear view of potential predators, making them feel uncomfortable.

**Fence barriers.** Fences can prevent geese from conveniently walking from water to grass areas. Many different cost effective varieties, from mesh fencing to monofilament lines, can work well at disrupting access to feeding or loafing areas.

**Scare devices.** It is legal to harass Canada geese without a state or federal permit as long as the geese are not touched and adults are not kept away from their nests with eggs. These techniques are designed to make the geese uncomfortable and encourage them to find friendlier habitat. Trained dogs, auditory calls, predator effigies, mylar flagging, pyrotechnics and human harassment can be a critical part of an integrated plan.

**Repellants.** Chemical repellents can be applied to grassy areas where geese are accustomed to feeding. Typical goose repellents coat the grass with products that the geese find distasteful. They often associate the repellent's slight discoloration of the treated areas with the bad taste and avoid feeding in the area. Landowners should contact the Wisconsin DNR before using repellants because a permit may be needed.

**Population management.** Population management is achieved by either reducing the recruitment and/or increasing the mortality of the local population. This can be done several ways. Where possible, hunters harvesting geese during the early September hunt can be effective at reducing local populations and establishing that the area is no longer a safe refuge for the geese. However, local ordinances may have to be altered to allow hunting in developed areas. In order to manage the local population outside of the established hunting season, either by reducing nesting success or removal of adult and juvenile birds, a State and/or Federal permit is



necessary to conduct these activities in Wisconsin. Nesting success can be reduced by obtaining a nest destruction permit. This will allow the permit holder to oil, saddle or destroy a nest with eggs. Destroying alone may cause the geese to attempt re-nesting. Nests without eggs may be destroyed without a permit. The removal of adults and juvenile geese or "round-up" is conducted in mid-June to early July during the molting process when geese are flightless. Prior to removing geese the population must be sampled for environmental contaminants. Captured birds are processed and made available to local food pantries for human consumption.

## Important things to consider

- Consider the timing of your actions.** Goose behavior and damage changes throughout the year.
- Reduce the available food and eliminate the ability of geese to walk from the water to feeding areas.**
- Solicit public involvement.** While some people enjoy observing geese others would rather have them removed. Consider all opinions to avoid negative reactions.
- Be aware of laws and regulations.** These change over time.
- Consider reducing geese, not eliminating them.** Most successful plans aim to reduce goose numbers to a level tolerable to all stakeholders.
- Be proactive.** Many people wait until the problem is out of control before seeking help.

**Washburn Police Department**  
**119 Washington Avenue, P.O. Box 638**  
**Washburn, WI 54891**

**Ken Johnson**  
**Chief of Police**  
**(715)373-6164, EXT 106**

**Jeremy Clapero**  
**Assistant Chief of Police**  
**(715)373-6164, EXT 202**

June 26, 2013

Mayor Scott Griffiths  
City Administrator Scott Kliver  
City Council Members

I am requesting permission to conduct a goose hunt on city property as we have done in the past. The majority of the hunt would occur at West End Park, but could extend along the lakefront as needed. The hunt will begin on the opening day of goose season in September and continue until the season closes. All DNR time periods and regulations will be followed. The hunt will be conducted by myself, Assistant Chief Jeremy Clapero and John Baregi, as we have done in the past years. Campers will be notified and we have had very few complaints from campers in the past.

This hunt has been successful in reducing the number of resident geese at West End Park, which is a health hazard to those who use the parks. Goose feces contain several different types of parasites, including *Cryptosporidium*, which can cause severe illness and even death in people with weak immune systems.

Last year, approximately 30 geese were harvested and many donated to those who requested them. If you have any questions or concerns about the hunt, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Ken Johnson  
Chief of Police



## City of Oshkosh Wildlife Management Program

### **BACKGROUND**

The City of Oshkosh is a residential community with a 2010 population of 66,080 offering well-managed landscapes and natural water sources. The landscape surrounding the immediate city area is characterized by mature trees, wooded areas and open fields for farming. The combination of these landscapes offers the perfect habitat for a variety of wildlife species.

With increasing development of the city to the west and the north come increased human and wildlife interactions and property damage issues. Wildlife populations are being pushed into established and developed areas in search of food supplies and safe refuge. The White Tail Deer is an example of this very circumstance. While some residents find them valued and appreciated, others view this same species as troublesome and dangerous if the population escalates or becomes unsustainable. Other species, such as coyotes or fox have not yet caused concern in Oshkosh, but as with any wildlife species, a management plan needs to be established that will outline aggressive control if additional species are needed to be addressed in the future.

### **DETERMINATION OF AN URBAN WILDLIFE PROBLEM**

The question to be asked is when does a particular species of urban wildlife become a problem? What truly is the "basis" for defining a wildlife species problem? Does a particular species become an issue or a problem based on safety or health concerns by affected residents? Can the definition of a wildlife problem be based on property damage alone? Is it the residents themselves, through complaints that dictate when an animal species has become a problem? Do patterns of behavior need to be established before a wildlife problem truly exists?

It is the job of the Oshkosh Urban Wildlife Management Committee to take all of these questions into consideration before determining if a "true" wildlife problem does exist.

### **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

This program is designed to provide City residents and the City administration recommendations and resources on how to support responsible and ongoing wildlife management. In addition, the program will provide guidance on how the City administration might establish a threshold of when to consider active management of specific species and describes the approved methods for such wildlife management and control by the City administration. This document will separate the species that can be managed individually by residents and those species that will be controlled city-wide by City administration and staff. Eradication of a species is not an option; rather, a sustainable level of the species is the goal.

## CANADA GEESE CONTROL

### **BACKGROUND/FINDINGS**

Residents have been and are intent on managing the population of Canada geese within the City of Oshkosh. Since 2000, the City has applied for the Urban Wildlife Abatement and Control Grant and has received grant money for many of the past years. The City has pursued goose health testing and relocation activities in Menominee Park and various other City parks. The City of Oshkosh seeks to maintain a consistent level of abatement procedures to enforce actions previously performed as recommended by the USDA. Though there is no crop loss in the non-agricultural City of Oshkosh, Canada geese generate a significant amount of fecal waste in parks causing a concern for disease transmission. This poses a public health hazard when children and adults are in direct contact with goose fecal matter that extends to the sports fields, playground and the shelters. Additionally, with a growing permanent population, increasingly aggressive bird behavior interferes with human activity resulting in greater public concern over goose nuisance and human safety in the park.

The goal population of geese in Menominee Park is 35 adults and 15 juveniles. The goal population was determined by comparing annual goose counts with resident response in a survey and individual complaints. (To be discussed further)

Throughout the past years, the City has performed several non-lethal abatement techniques on geese.

**Goose repellent spray:** Applied grape extract product to discourage geese from occupying Menominee Park.

**Frightening geese:** Installed black flags to deter Menominee Park as suitable habitat. Also, plastic swans were placed in the pond. One swan was stolen and the geese gathered around the remaining swan.

**Loud noises:** The Police Department fires shotgun blanks that temporarily relocate the geese. They quickly return to the park when the shooting ceases.

**Tall grasses at water's edge:** To deter geese from nesting at the edge of the pond, the bordering grass is not mowed.

**Dogs on the loose:** On a controlled basis, free running dogs have roamed the park to frighten away geese.

**Egg depredation:** With a Federal Fish and Wildlife permit, the City sought out nests in the park and shook the eggs and/or covered the eggs with vegetable oil to prevent birth.

**Bird relocation:** Also with a Federal Fish and Wildlife permit, juvenile birds are relocated and adult birds are euthanized.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended to continue egg addling, bird relocation, and leaving tall grasses at the water's edge in the future to control the goose population. Furthermore, City residents should not feed the geese in the park or on their own property. The City should continue to work with both the WDNR and the USDA in regards to enforcement of regulations regarding feeding on public and private property.

## **Other Communities Approaches to Nuisance Geese**

**Village of Kimberly** - Used a control product from Reinders called FLIGHT CONTROL PLUS, which we sprayed at the site on several occasions, and the geese have not been returning. This product leaves a foul taste on grass

**City of Stevens Point** - Currently using people with public service hours to use plastic clappers(purchased at Dollar Tree) to scare the geese back into the water during the day. It has worked in that they have moved out of the park. But in is an all day project, so you need a lot people having to work off community service hours. Also at dusk we have been using the green laser light to scare them off. It was great but only at dusk just before dark.

**City of West Bend** – uses the USDA Goose Abatement Program

**Village of Grafton** – gives permits to dog owners to allow dogs to chase geese at two village parks

**City of Port Washington** – looking into working with a company who uses border collies to scare geese of golf course