

CITY OF WHITEWATER POLICY		TITLE: Goose Management
POLICY SOURCE: Parks and Recreation Department	Parks and Recreation Board Approval Date: 8/6/12	TEXT NAME: G:\Park & Rec\Policy\ Geese Management

I. PURPOSE

Goose Management programs can vary greatly depending upon the overall objectives of the program and the time of year in which the program is initiated. A successful Canada Goose management program will involve modifying at least two of the three key requirements for a thriving Canada Geese population: Food & Water, Safety and the Ability to Reproduce.

II. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

1. Public campaign encouraging people to not feed geese or ducks.
2. Obtain egg addling permit from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Egg addling is a means of population control and deterring future nesting by a mating pair. Canada geese are protected by the Migratory Bird Act; therefore egg addling requires a permit. Egg addling will eliminate gosling populations, resulting in reduced future geese populations. Addling may also cause a mating pair to eventually abandon the nesting site over time if addling is performed yearly. The Humane Society has developed a document on egg addling.
3. Application of chemical deterrent to food sources.
FlightControl[®] PLUS will deter geese by removal of their food source. Geese feed on FlightControl[®] PLUS treated turfgrass and experience a temporary yet effective digestive irritation minutes to hours after feeding. The geese will not hesitate to eat treated turf if they have not encountered treated turf before. However, after eating treated turf, the learned memory association to treated turf and a post-ingestional irritation occurs. After one or several encounters with FlightControl[®] PLUS treated turfgrass, geese associate the UV absorbing material on grass leaves with the digestive irritation. Research has proven that after several encounters with FlightControl[®] PLUS, birds, including Canada geese, will not eat a treated food source and will seek out non-treated food.
4. Offer waterfowl hunting season as allowed by the Wisconsin DNR.

III. Plan Assessment

1. How has goose behavior changed?
Geese should be monitored closely during the weeks following application. Evaluate whether or not the geese are actively feeding in problem areas. Also, notice if geese are traveling elsewhere to feed (including just outside of treatment zone) or have abandoned sites completely.
2. Change in numbers of geese?
Applications will reduce geese populations over time. At times, large migratory flocks

may invade a site and feed for a short period of time before leaving. Migratory flocks are not permanent and should not be considered a nuisance.

3. Are additional measures required?

Continue to evaluate sites to determine if additional management techniques are required to herd or remove the geese.

4. RECORD IN A DOCUMENT

Creating records of geese numbers and movements or relocations will aid in the following year's management planning.

IV. Follow-up

1. Modify plan for the following season, if needed.
2. Improve scheduling (for example, put in for permits early enough to meet your State's waiting period and apply *FlightControl*[®] PLUS in the fall as soon as grass goes dormant)