



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Animal and  
Plant Health  
Inspection  
Service

Wildlife Services

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June 26, 2017

Mill Creek MetroParks  
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Canfield, Ohio 44406  
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Mr. Avery,

Thank you for contacting Wildlife Services (WS) for assistance in reducing damage from resident Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*). Between 22 March and 25 May 2017, WS conducted a total of 8 site visits to Mill Creek MetroParks property. Wildlife Services employees added Canada goose eggs at 5 different sites located on park-owned property. Egg adding was conducted in accordance with the approved 2017 Ohio Division of Wildlife nest destruction permit, which was obtained by the MetroParks.

Mill Creek MetroParks have been managing the damages associated with a growing goose population since 2010. In 2014 the goose population at the Mill Creek Metroparks exceeded sociological carrying capacity and as a result a roundup of geese was completed to reduce the impacts to park facilities and water quality. As expected, in 2015 there were significantly lower numbers of nests and eggs due to the 2014 round up.

In total, WS located 53 nests (**Figures 1 - 4**) and treated 242 eggs during the 2017 nesting season. A global positioning system (GPS) coordinate was obtained for each marked/treated nest (**Attachment 1**). During the course of the treatment, multiple banded resident birds were observed. Banding numbers that were visible were submitted to the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for banding data (**Attachment 2**). There was an average of 4.56 eggs/nest. Generally, 3-4 goslings in a brood will reach flight stage. Based on the number of eggs and nests that WS treated, we estimate that 159 to 212 flight stage Canada geese were prevented from entering the population on Mill Creek MetroParks property. When compared to the 2013-2016 efforts, the total number of goose nests located and eggs treated in 2017 did not differ from the 4-year average (**Table 1**). However, there was a 20% decrease in the number of nests located and a 36% decrease in the number of eggs treated at the Newport Wetland site from 2016. Additionally, there was a 35% decrease in the number of nests located and eggs treated at the Wildlife Sanctuary from 2016. No nests were located at Lily Pond. Two nests were located and five eggs treated at Lake Cohasset, which is an increase from zero last year. There were two nests located and 13 eggs treated at Lake Glacier, which was similar to the results from 2016. Overall, WS treated approximately 25% fewer nests and eggs than last year. This decrease may indicate that some pairs identified treated sites as poor nesting locations, and chose to nest elsewhere off MetroParks property.



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Because habitat features attracting Canada geese are found on MetroParks properties, it is realistic to expect that geese will continue to utilize these areas. Therefore it is recommended that the following methods to reduce Canada goose damage continue as part of an integrated Canada goose damage management plan at your location:

- The unlawful act of feeding geese or other waterfowl by the public should be actively enforced. Signs stating that feeding of waterfowl is prohibited have been posted in public and common areas. With posted signs already in place, it is recommended that enforcement be pursued especially with repeat offenders until feeding is discontinued. If feeding is not discontinued it should be expected that large numbers of geese will reestablish in a short period of time causing additional damage.
- Harassment activities in areas where geese are not desired should continue and must be implemented immediately when geese are present for maximum effectiveness. Harassment may include the use of loud noises, chasing on foot or with vehicles, pyrotechnics, dogs, etc. It is important to be persistent and proactive with harassment efforts to ensure that geese do not become established in large numbers. Please remember to check with your local authorities to ensure that these tools or techniques are legal to use in your area.
- Egg addling/nest destruction of Canada goose nests should be continued and pursued aggressively. In Ohio, geese begin to nest as early as late February and can continue through May 31, so the MetroParks should be vigilant during these times and nests should be treated during the entire nesting season to prevent hatching. Permits for egg addling/nest destruction can be obtained through the Ohio Division of Wildlife.

Additional information for managing waterfowl damage may be found on our web page at: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/wildlifedamage> and at the Ohio Division of Wildlife's web page at: <http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/species-and-habitats/nuisance-wildlife>. If you have any questions or need additional assistance, please contact our office at 330-726-3386.

**Table 1.** A comparison of the number of Canada goose nests located and the number of eggs treated on Mill Creek MetroParks owned and managed property, 2013-2017.

Year	2013-2016 AVG		2016		2017	
Site	Nest	Eggs	Nest	Eggs	Nest	Eggs
Newport Wetlands	34	167	35	179	28	114
Lily Pond	1	4	0	0	0	0
Lake Cohasset	1.5	7.5	0	0	2	5
Lake Glacier	1	5	2	11	2	13
Wildlife Sanctuary	12	56.5	31	167	20	111
Other**	0.5	2.5	1	6	1	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>49.3</b>	<b>242.5</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>242</b>

\*\* A Canada goose nest was treated at a Mill Creek MetroParks maintenance building that is not depicted on the included maps.



**Figure 1.** Canada goose nest treatment locations (white dots) at the Newport Wetlands site, 2017.



**Figure 2.** Canada goose nest treatment locations (white dots) at the Lake Glacier site, 2017.



**Figure 3.** Canada goose nest treatment locations (white dots) at the Lake Cohasset site, 2017.



**Figure 4.** Canada goose nest treatment locations (white dots) at the Wildlife Sanctuary site, 2017.

**Attachment 1.** Locations (Latitude and Longitude) of Canada goose nests treated by Wildlife Services, 22 March-25 May 2017. (N=Newport Wetlands; S=Wildlife Sanctuary; C=Lake Cohasset; MG=Maintenance Garage; G=Lake Glacier)

<u>ID</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
N01	41.0508	-80.6777
N04	41.0541	-80.6775
N06	41.0545	-80.6767
N07	41.0532	-80.6761
N08	41.0534	-80.6772
N09	41.0542	-80.6784
N10	41.0544	-80.6785
N11	41.0545	-80.6786
N12	41.0546	-80.6786
N13	41.0543	-80.6787
N14	41.054	-80.6786
N15	41.054	-80.6783
N16	41.0545	-80.6772
N17	41.0544	-80.6774
N18	41.0527	-80.6761
N19	41.0535	-80.677
N20	41.054	-80.6773
N21	41.0541	-80.6785
N22	41.0541	-80.6788
N23	41.0546	-80.6771
N24	41.0543	-80.6769
N25	41.054	-80.6757
N26	41.0522	-80.6756
N27	41.0529	-80.6764
N28	41.0538	-80.6775
N29	41.0529	-80.6765
N30	41.0522	-80.6756
N41	41.0546	-80.6774

**Attachment 1 (cont'd).** Locations (Latitude and Longitude) of Canada goose nests treated by Wildlife Services, 22 March-25 May 2017. (N=Newport Wetlands; S=Wildlife Sanctuary; C=Lake Cohasset; MG=Maintenance Garage; G=Lake Glacier)

<u>ID</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
S04	40.9767	-80.694
S05	40.9772	-80.696
S06	40.9773	-80.696
S07	40.9775	-80.6962
S08	40.9783	-80.6926
S09	40.9775	-80.6918
S10	40.9781	-80.6897
S11	40.9778	-80.6897
S12	40.9776	-80.6897
S13	40.9774	-80.6896
S14	40.9772	-80.6896
S15	40.9768	-80.6896
S16	40.9781	-80.6922
S17	40.9784	-80.6897
S18	40.9788	-80.6952
S19	40.9793	-80.6952
S20	40.979	-80.6953
S21	40.9784	-80.6928
S22	40.9782	-80.6924
S23	40.9751	-80.6916
C01	41.0785	-80.6881
C02	41.0779	-80.6883
G01	41.1008	-80.672
G02	41.0941	-80.6759
MG01	41.0887	-80.7025

**Attachment 2.** Banding information from banded waterfowl species viewed on MetroParks properties during Canada goose egg/nest treatment.

1038-33376

Species: Large Canada Goose  
Date banded: 06/26/2008  
Banding Location: KENSINGTON, COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO, USA  
Age: WAS TOO YOUNG TO FLY WHEN BANDED IN 2008  
Sex: FEMALE

1078-42108

Species: Large Canada Goose  
Date banded: 06/20/2012  
Banding Location: PETERSBURG, COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO, USA  
Age: WAS TOO YOUNG TO FLY WHEN BANDED IN 2012  
Sex: FEMALE

1038-33448

Species: Large Canada Goose  
Date banded: 06/26/2008  
Banding Location: AUSTINTOWN, MAHONING COUNTY, OHIO, USA  
Age: HATCHED IN 2007 OR EARLIER  
Sex: FEMALE

1038-33393

Species: Large Canada Goose  
Date banded: 6/26/2008  
Banding location: KENSINGTON, COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO, USA  
Age: WAS TOO YOUNG TO FLY WHEN BANDED IN 2008  
Sex: FEMALE