

MILL CREEK METROPARKS

DO NOT FEED THE WILDLIFE



Are you harming the animals?

Every day many well-intentioned people harm wild animals by feeding them. This constant interference affects both the animals and people in negative ways.

Feeding wildlife causes:

- **POOR NUTRITION**
- **SPREAD OF DISEASE**
- **LOSS OF INSTINCTS**
- **POLLUTED WATER**
- **PROPERTY DAMAGE**
- **RABIES AND DISEASES IN HUMANS**

POOR NUTRITION

Bread and other processed foods lack the nutrients needed for good health. Visible symptoms of poor nutrition and advanced stages of starvation are often seen at artificial feeding sites. Young ducks and geese raised on bread can grow deformed wings and develop brittle bones.

SPREAD OF DISEASE

Feeding encourages large numbers of ducks and geese to gather in small areas. Overcrowding promotes the spread of life-threatening diseases and moldy bread can be fatal to birds.

LOSS OF INSTINCTS

Ducks and geese that are fed by humans resist their natural instincts to migrate. Many are unable to survive the cold winters. They also lose their fear of humans and become aggressive.

POLLUTED WATER

What goes in must come out! Large amounts of bird droppings and the uneaten bread change nutrient levels in the water which can kill fish.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

Large numbers of ducks and geese cause damage to parks, golf courses, and residential lawns by grazing, trampling, and defecating on the grass.

RABIES AND OTHER DISEASES

Though raccoons, squirrels, and chipmunks look cute and cuddly—they can bite! Any wound caused by a wild animal, even a scratch, creates a risk of disease in humans, such as rabies or parasites.

YOU CAN HELP!

- Please **STOP** feeding the wildlife. Feeding is more harmful than helpful.
- View wildlife from a distance and take binoculars to see animals up close.
- Plan your visit for early morning or evening hours when animals are most active.
- Share this knowledge with others.

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