USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Wildlife Services

590 E. Western Reserve Road
Building 1
Poland, OH 44514

(330) 726-3386
FAX: (330) 726-3318

July 1, 2015

Mill Creek MetroParks
7574 Columbiana-Canfield Road
Canfield, Ohio 44406
(330) 702-3000

Mr. Avery,

Thank you for contacting Wildlife Services (WS) for assistance in reducing damage from resident Canada geese. Between 15 April and 31 May 2015, WS conducted a total of 6 site visits to Mill Creek MetroParks property. Wildlife Services and Mill Creek MetroParks personnel worked to addle Canada goose eggs at 6 different sites located on park-owned property. Egg addling was conducted in accordance with the approved 2015 Ohio Division of Wildlife nest destruction permit, which was obtained 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 round up of geese was completed to reduce the impacts to park facilities and water quality. It should be expected that the 2014 round up would have a direct effect on the number of nests located and treated due to a reduced nesting goose population.

In total, WS located 40 nests (Figure 1) and treated 173 eggs during the 2015 nesting season. When compared to 2014 efforts, the number of goose nests located and eggs treated in 2015 was lower at every site except for the Wildlife Sanctuary (Table 1). This is likely a direct result of the removal efforts conducted in 2014. There was a reduction of 22% in the number of nests located and a 41% reduction in the number of eggs treated at the Newport Wetland site. No nests were located by at the Lily Pond, Lake Cohasset and Lake Glacier sites. Although no nests were located at these 3 sites it is estimated that there was 2-4 successful clutches at the Lake Glacier site. Wildlife Services observed up to 12 goslings feeding near the water with adult geese at the Lake Glacier site. It is believed that these geese were nesting in the woods across W. Glacier Dr. on the west side of the lake. In future years, egg addling efforts should be directed to include this area for nest searches, along with the more common shore line searching.

The only site with an increase in the number of nest locations and eggs treated was the Wildlife Sanctuary. The number of nests located increased by 250% and the number of eggs treated went up by 375%. No removal efforts were conducted at this site in 2014. At the Wildlife Sanctuary, thick vegetation and nesting on small islands made it more difficult to locate nesting birds. Walking the dikes between the impoundments is not a sufficient method to locate the nests at this site. If egg addling efforts are to be continued at this site, a more complete search of each of the water impoundments is needed to ensure the most successful outcome. This could be accomplished by starting nest searches at earlier time and using a kayak to thoroughly access each impoundment.

Table 1. A comparison of the number of Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*) nests located and the number of eggs treated on Mill Creek MetroParks owned and managed property, 2012-2015.

Year	2012		2013		2014		2015	
Site	Nest	Eggs	Nest	Eggs	Nest	Eggs	Nest	Eggs
Newport Wetlands	21	77	34	164	37	201	29	124
Lily Pond	1	5	0	0	3	15	0	0
Lake Cohasset	0	0	0	0	6	30	0	0
Lake Glacier	0	0	0	0	2	10	0	0
Wildlife Sanctuary	3	12	2	2	4	12	10	45
Other**	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
Total	**25**	**94**	**36**	**166**	**52**	**268**	**40**	**173**

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

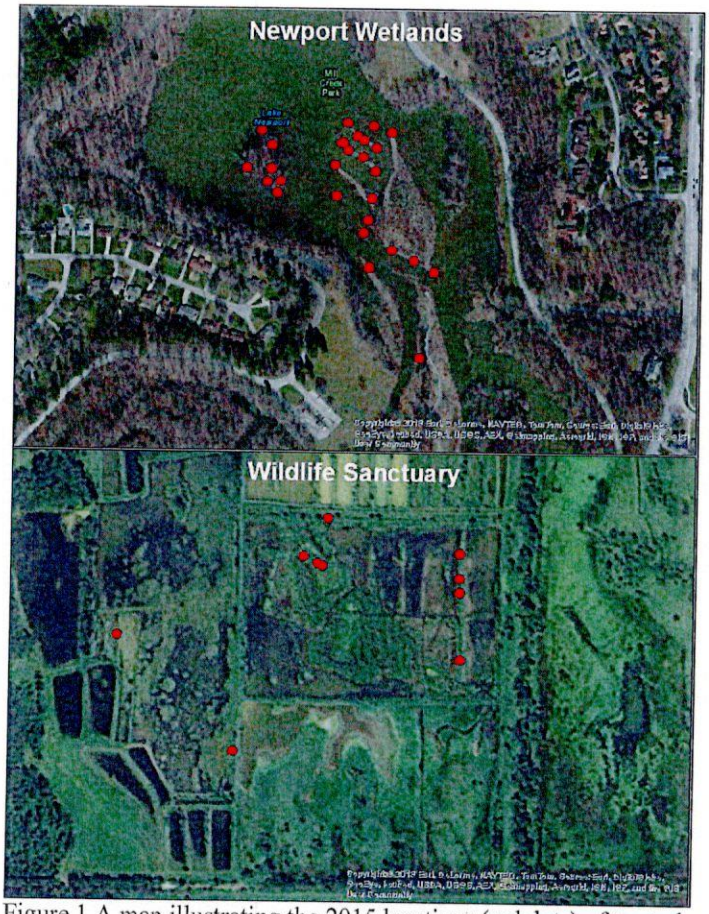

Figure 1 A map illustrating the 2015 locations (red dots) of treated Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*) nests at the Newport Wetlands and Wildlife Sanctuary sites.

Because the habitat features that attracted geese to MetroParks properties remain, it is reasonable to expect that geese will continue to utilize these areas. Therefore it is recommend that to reduce Canada goose damage the following methods be continued or

implemented as part of an Integrated Canada Goose Damage Management Plan at your location:

- Any feeding of geese or other waterfowl by the public must be discontinued immediately. Signs stating that feeding of waterfowl is prohibited should be posted in public or common areas. If individuals in the area continue feeding geese it is recommended that park laws or by-laws be changed so that enforcement can take place. If laws or by-laws already exist 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 themselves 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 the above number.

Attachment 1. Locations (Latitude and Longitude) of Canada geese nests (*Branta canadensis*) treated by Wildlife Services, 15 April-31 May 2015.

Waypoint	Latitude	Longitude
NW01	41.05077	-80.67773
NW02	41.05200	-80.67623
NW03	41.05300	-80.67699
NW04	41.05437	-80.67842
NW05	41.05453	-80.67857
NW07	41.05410	-80.67877
NW08	41.05394	-80.67849
NW09	41.05383	-80.67833
NW10	41.05396	-80.67828
NW11	41.05410	-80.67843
NW12	41.05462	-80.67733
NW13	41.05447	-80.67718
NW14	41.05433	-80.67690
Maint01	41.08896	-80.70276
NW16	41.05338	-80.67708
NW17	41.05352	-80.67701
NW18	41.05307	-80.67632
NW19	41.05295	-80.67604
NW20	41.05450	-80.67668
NW21	41.05376	-80.67696
NW22	41.05414	-80.67750
NW23	41.05423	-80.67709
NW24	41.05431	-80.67731
NW25	41.05439	-80.67741
NW26	41.05380	-80.67748
NW27	41.05319	-80.67665
NW29	41.05407	-80.67691
NW30	41.05442	-80.67708
NW31	41.05457	-80.67695
NW33	41.05439	-80.67739
SAN4	40.97548	-80.69403
SAN11	40.97836	-80.69272
SAN12	40.97826	-80.69246
SAN13	40.97823	-80.69237
SAN141	40.97841	-80.68966
SAN15	40.97805	-80.68968
SAN16	40.97784	-80.68968
SAN18	40.97684	-80.68964
SAN7	40.97888	-80.69226
SAN9	40.97718	-80.69632