

MILL CREEK PARK

2018 CANADA GOOSE POPULATION COUNT

This report is being provided to the Mill Creek Board of Commissioners as a result of the motion passed by the board authorizing the Audubon Society/Mahoning Valley to census the Canada Goose populations in the park for 2017, 2018 and 2019.

The United States Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services, has been working with the park since 2013 to help manage the Canada goose population. Methods including harassment, egg adding/nest destruction and banding of geese to monitor them has been employed. A full report is available online but I am including only a summary of their findings of nests and egg counts.

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, 2013-2018.

Year	2013-2017 AVG		2017		2018	
	Nest	Eggs	Nest	Eggs	Nest	Eggs
Newport Wetlands	33	156.5	28	114	34	208
Lily Pond	0.5	3	0	0	0	0
Lake Cohasset	1.5	7	2	5	1	5
Lake Glacier	1	6.5	2	13	2	12
Wildlife Sanctuary	13.5	67.5	20	111	18	111
Other**	0.5	3	1	6	1	6
TOTAL	50	242.5	53	242	56	342

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

On June 25, 2018 at 8AM, three teams of Audubon Member performed the 2nd annual goose count survey for Mill Creek Park. Included in this this report is the count from 2017 at each location.

Site	2017 count	2018 count
Newport Wetlands	53	42
Newport Lake	25	19
Lily Pond	0	0
Lake Cohasset	0	1
Lake Glacier	68	68 (62 adults, 6 goslings)
Wildlife Sanctuary	25	29
N. End of Bike Trail	no data	9
Daffodil Meadow	no data	0
Golf Course	0	0
Preserve	0	0
TOTAL	171	168

In conclusion, after the second year of Audubon collecting this data, with only a minor change in the goose population and a count of only 6 goslings, it is our opinion that adding of the eggs has been effective. But because habitat features attracting Canada geese are found on MetroParks properties, it is realistic to expect that geese will continue to utilize these areas. We are also in agreement with the Wildlife Services suggestions to continue goose harassment, egg adding/nest destruction, and enforcement of no feeding of geese or other waterfowl.

Submitted by
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The following individuals contributed to this report. Trish Guenther, Ray Novotny, Nancy Brundage, Katie Shipka, Jeff Harvey.

