



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Wildlife Services

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June 19, 2018

Mill Creek MetroParks
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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 20 March and 23 May 2018, WS conducted a total of 10 site visits to Mill Creek MetroParks property. Wildlife Services employees addled Canada goose eggs at five different sites located on park-owned property. Egg addling was conducted in accordance with the approved 2018 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 56 nests (**Figures 1 - 4**) and treated 342 eggs during the 2018 nesting season. A global positioning system (GPS) coordinate was obtained for each marked/treated nest (**Attachment 1**). For the 2018 management season there was an average of 6.1 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 168 to 224 flight stage Canada geese were prevented from entering the population on Mill Creek MetroParks property. When compared to the 2013-2017 efforts, the total number of goose nests located and eggs treated in 2018 was slightly higher than the five-year average (**Table 1**). There was a 25% increase in the number of nests located and an 80% increase in the number of eggs treated at the Newport Wetland site from 2017. This increase is likely due to a flood event that occurred the week of April 16 and destroyed many of the active nests at the site, forcing the pairs to start new clutches. There was no change in the number of nests located and eggs treated at the Wildlife Sanctuary from 2017. No nests were located at Lily Pond. One nests was located and five eggs treated at Lake Cohasset, which is similar to last year. There were two nests located and 12 eggs treated at Lake Glacier, which was similar to the results from 2017. However, we could not locate the nest for banded goose 1038-33448. This goose has nested on the bridge below Glacier Lake for the past couple years. The goose was observed May 9 with a successful clutch at Glacier Lake. We assume this bird nested off property and came to the lake to rear its young. Four total family groups were observed with 15 total goslings at Glacier Lake. These geese also likely nested off



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property and came to Glacier Lake to rear. In addition, one pair with two goslings was observed in the creek above Newport Wetlands and one pair with four goslings was observed at the Wildlife Sanctuary.

During the course of the treatment, multiple banded geese were documented. Banding numbers that were visible were submitted to the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for banding data (**Attachment 2**). One of the previously observed banded birds (1078-42108) at Newport Wetlands was not observed this year, suggesting that some pairs may have been persuaded through egg treatment to find more suitable habitat. However, a new banded goose (1188-04652) was observed nesting at Newport Wetlands, suggesting that new pairs may be moving in and maintaining the nesting population size. Wildlife Services strongly encourages continued harassment to dissuade new pairs of geese from setting up nesting territories.

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:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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, 2013-2018.

| Year | 2013-2017 AVG | | 2017 | | 2018 | |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Site | 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.

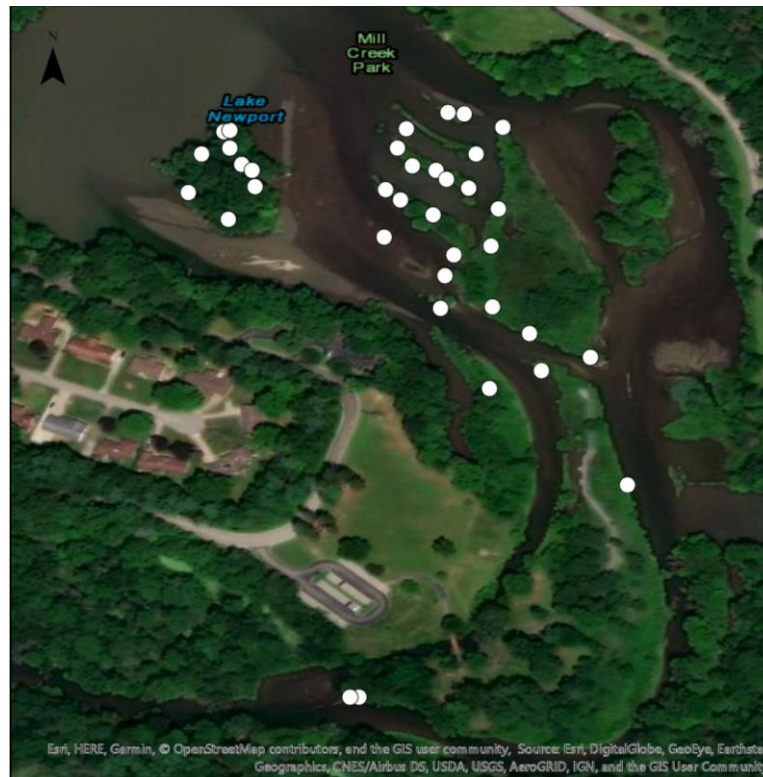


Figure 1. Canada goose nest treatment locations (white dots) at the Newport Wetlands site, 2018.



Figure 2. Canada goose nest treatment locations (white dots) at the Lake Glacier site, 2018.



Figure 3. Canada goose nest treatment locations (white dots) at the Lake Cohasset site, 2018.



Figure 4. Canada goose nest treatment locations (white dots) at the Wildlife Sanctuary site, 2018.

Attachment 1. Locations (Latitude and Longitude) of Canada goose nests treated by Wildlife Services, 20 March-25 May 2018. (N=Newport Wetlands; S=Wildlife Sanctuary; MG=Maintenance Garage; C= Lake Cohasset; GL=Lake Glacier)

| ID Number | Latitude | Longitude |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| N01 | 41.0507 | -80.67767 |
| N02 | 41.05451 | -80.67858 |
| N03 | 41.0529 | -80.67644 |
| N04 | 41.05315 | -80.67652 |
| N05 | 41.05454 | -80.6767 |
| N06 | 41.05399 | -80.67673 |
| N07 | 41.05332 | -80.67712 |
| N08 | 41.05436 | -80.67873 |
| N09 | 41.0544 | -80.67741 |
| N10 | 41.05425 | -80.67715 |
| N11 | 41.05464 | -80.67707 |
| N12 | 41.05299 | -80.67611 |
| N13 | 41.05354 | -80.67709 |
| N14 | 41.05368 | -80.67703 |
| N15 | 41.05395 | -80.67717 |
| N16 | 41.05412 | -80.67749 |
| N17 | 41.05429 | -80.67846 |
| N18 | 41.0541 | -80.67882 |
| N19 | 41.05392 | -80.67855 |
| N20 | 41.05428 | -80.67731 |
| N21 | 41.05419 | -80.67708 |
| N22 | 41.05374 | -80.67678 |
| N23 | 41.05414 | -80.67837 |
| N24 | 41.05436 | -80.67688 |
| N25 | 41.05425 | -80.67839 |
| N26 | 41.05452 | -80.67854 |
| N27 | 41.05278 | -80.67679 |
| N28 | 41.05453 | -80.67735 |
| N29 | 41.05463 | -80.67696 |
| N30 | 41.0507 | -80.67773 |
| N31 | 41.05333 | -80.67677 |
| N32 | 41.05405 | -80.67739 |
| N33 | 41.0538 | -80.6775 |
| N34 | 41.0544 | -80.67854 |
| N35 | 41.05413 | -80.67693 |
| N36 | 41.05213 | -80.67586 |

Attachment 1 (cont'd). Locations (Latitude and Longitude) of Canada goose nests treated by Wildlife Services, 20 March-25 May 2018. (N=Newport Wetlands; S=Wildlife Sanctuary; MG=Maintenance Garage; C= Lake Cohasset; GL=Lake Glacier)

| ID Number | Latitude | Longitude |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| S01 | 40.97721 | -80.69595 |
| S02 | 40.97804 | -80.69219 |
| S03 | 40.9777 | -80.68964 |
| S04 | 40.97811 | -80.68964 |
| S05 | 40.97726 | -80.68962 |
| S06 | 40.97831 | -80.6926 |
| S07 | 40.97517 | -80.69169 |
| S08 | 40.97923 | -80.69507 |
| S09 | 40.97957 | -80.69254 |
| S10 | 40.97671 | -80.68962 |
| S11 | 40.97882 | -80.69517 |
| S12 | 40.97846 | -80.69274 |
| S13 | 40.97749 | -80.69197 |
| S14 | 40.97748 | -80.69172 |
| S15 | 40.97844 | -80.68968 |
| S16 | 40.97764 | -80.68966 |
| S17 | 40.97824 | -80.69236 |
| S18 | 40.97783 | -80.68964 |
| GL01 | 41.09777 | -80.67443 |
| GL02 | 41.09594 | -80.67524 |
| MG01 | 41.08883 | -80.70255 |
| C01 | 41.07851 | -80.68807 |

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

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

1188-04652

Species: Canada Goose

Date banded: 07/08/2016

Banding Location: NEAR MOOSONEE, ONTARIO, CANADA

Age: HATCHED IN 2015 OR EARLIER

Sex: MALE

Attachment 3. Goose nest observed 4/26/18. Goose eggs were laid in mallard nest and the following week all mallard eggs were destroyed and replaced by a full clutch of goose eggs.

