

A photograph of two ducks on a body of water. One duck is a mallard with a green head, and the other is a brown duck. The text 'DO NOT FEED THE WILDLIFE' is overlaid in large white letters within a yellow rectangular frame.

DO NOT FEED THE WILDLIFE

MILL CREEK METROPARKS

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

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.

THE FEEDING OF WILDLIFE IS PROHIBITED ON MILL CREEK METROPARKS' PROPERTY. THOSE IN VIOLATION ARE SUBJECT TO A FINE.

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.

Spread of Disease

Feeding encourages large numbers of waterfowl to gather in small areas. Overcrowding promotes the spread of life-threatening diseases.

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

Large amounts of bird droppings and 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.