

**JUNE 15, 2015 - RIVERFRONT PARK GEESE MITIGATION  
PUBLIC WORKSHOP DISCUSSION NOTES**

**PROPOSED SHORT TERM SOLUTIONS:**

- Hazing
  - Dog programs (off leash/on leash) – Border Collie
  - Paintball marker
    - Biodegradable material – won't harm geese
  - Green laser
    - Best when used in mornings and evenings
- Flight Control Plus turf application product
  - Product designed to upset geese stomach when they feed on applied grass
- Silk fencing (green color)
  - Best installed near edge of water or along walkway
  - Should be at least 2-3 feet high
- Decoying/Flagging
- Install “DO NOT FEED WILDLIFE” signs
- Planting of fast-growing and drought tolerant native seed/shrub mix
- Goose round-up
  - Best when performed in the early morning
    - Process separates adults from juveniles
    - Requires U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife Permits
    - Adults euthanized (optional); juveniles displaced
- Egg oiling/disrupting
  - Process mimics birth control for geese by physically shaking or oiling eggs

**PROPOSED LONG TERM SOLUTIONS:**

- Landscape/habitat modification
  - Install combination of plant barriers, contours, shapes, and fencing
    - Obstructs sight of land from water and breaks-up flight paths
  - Install alternative surfacing
    - Remove turf – add more hardscape
    - Modifying turf type (change turf strains or use hybrid strains)
  - Let grass die after Park warranty period ends
- Adjust Riverfront Park Master Plan to provide for “adaptive management”
- Introduce predators
- Adopt a “No Feed” ordinance

## ADVICE, INSIGHT and RECOMMENDATIONS:

- “DO NOT FEED WILDLIFE” signs help
  - Goose poop was an issue at Scott Park, but after signs were installed and new plants were planted, the issue has greatly subsided
- Flagging techniques aren’t helpful in the long term
- There’s no one-size-fits-all solution
- Citizen-based dog hazing programs aren’t reliable
  - Best to use a professional service
    - Many also perform egg testing/oiling to manage nests
- Two examples of decent “No Feed” ordinances
  - Bend
  - Tacoma
- Lethal control creates controversy
- “native berm beds” installed at PDX airport are good examples of
- Challenging to get bald eagles or other birds of prey to reside in park
- 30% of grass in park is currently being watered
- Geese prefer freshly mowed and short grass
- Waverley Golf Club has been dog hazing for 15+years
  - Milwaukie solution will have an effect on their program
- There has to be tolerance in the community for all strategies
- What money is available to implement short and long term strategies?
- NCPRD cleans poop on concrete path and dock daily
- Average goose produces 2-3 lbs of waste per day
- Average geese may live up to 25 years
- Takes 3-5 years for effective geese removal if geese inhabit area for more than 5 years
  - Seasonal management strategies are recommended for effective mitigation
  - All geese mitigation strategies inevitably move geese from one area to another
- Recommended frequency of hazing
  - Beginning: 7 days/week; multiple times per day
  - Interim: 5 days/week; once per day
  - Is permitting required for nonlethal hazing?
    - No (but still a gray area)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Too much grass at the Park
- Not enough shade at the Park
- More picnic areas are needed at the Park
- Many areas of the Park are not level
- Short term – fertilizer/flight control product is highly recommended
- Long term – convert grass to artificial turf
- Irrigate while geese are feeding/present
- Install scarecrows
- Require geese poop clean-up as community service for geese feeders
- Feed the geese food/product that inhibits reproduction (birth control)
  - Expensive
  - Counter intuitive
  - Understates population

## FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Matt Alex - USDA Wildlife Services:
  - Short-term: Physical hazing (dogs, lasers, paintballing)
  - Long-term: Landscape modifications/fencing
    - Goose round-up (permitting fee waived for cities)
- Bob Sallinger – Audubon Society:
  - Short-term: Physical hazing (dogs, lasers, paintballing)
  - Be consistent with whatever strategies are deployed
  - Adopt no feed ordinance
- Kristen Grompone – Geese Guys:
  - Short-term: flight control product (grass treatment)
    - Best implemented while flightless (not when flying)
  - Short-term: Physical hazing (dogs, lasers, paintballing)
    - Keep grass long (over 5")
    - Let geese be your guide during the season
- Jeroen Kok – NCPRD:
  - Short-term: Physical hazing (dogs, lasers, paintballing)
  - Be consistent
  - Long-term commitment
  - Grass treatment (\$100/application)
- Sherri Dow – RTF Member:
  - Stop irrigating the grass
    - Riverfront Park contractor on hook for 1 year warranty period
- Councilor Gamba – City of Milwaukie:
  - Permit required for nonlethal hazing: NO
- Unanimous Recommendation – Posting “DO NOT FEED WILDLIFE” signs

## NEXT STEPS:

- PARB: assist Council with reviewing proposals for short term solutions: August 4
- RTF: assist Council with reviewing proposals for long term solutions: July 7
- City Council: make final decision for short- and -long term solutions: TBD