



Resident Canada Geese Management Program - FAQs

Q1: Why are the geese here and where did they come from?

A1: The resident Canada geese nesting and molting in Lake Lure are the descendents of captured migratory Canada geese, which were prevented from migrating back to Canada. They are also a result of Canada geese repopulation programs conducted in the mid 1960s by state and federal wildlife managers. Multiple flocks consisting of more than 160 geese have been identified in the Morse Park and surrounding lake area. This number of resident Canada geese is a dramatic increase in the population from recent years.

Q2: Why is a Geese management program necessary in Lake Lure?

A2: Resident Canada Geese live within or at the fringe of our landscapes and communities, which sometimes places them in conflict with people. Their fecal dropping and over browsing of grass have a negative impact on full enjoyment of the lake and other community recreational resources. In order for Canada Geese to live benignly with minimal disruption of the human community, wildlife habitat or natural areas, a proven geese management program is necessary. Our goal is to reduce and manage the resident Canada geese population over the course of the next 1-3 years.

Q3: What is GeesePeace?

A3: GeesePeace is a non-profit 501 (c)3 educational organization whose geese management program is the basis of our effort. Simply put, the GeesePeace programs emphasize effective long-term solutions to wildlife conflicts while building better communities by promoting innovative, cooperative and humane solutions. GeesePeace works in partnership with local governments, business and community leaders to assure full support and availability of community resources to resolve the wildlife conflicts humanely. Their experience shows that while other less humane methods have delivered some short-term results, they have been met with much controversy and have failed to adjust geese behavior over the long-term. Go to www.geesepeace.org for additional information.

Q4: How does the program work, and how does it address the problem?

A4: The GeesePeace program includes a combination of several methods; Population stabilization consisting of nest identification and egg addling, a strict policy of no-feeding geese, and intense site aversion on land and water. The goal is to induce most of the geese to leave the Lake Lure area by Memorial Day or mid June. The GeesePeace program is carried out over a wide area (land and water bodies) so all in the local area benefit.

Q5: What is the goal of the goose egg addling/oiling program?

A5: To stabilize the population growth rate of resident Canada geese. Left unchecked, the numbers of Canada geese will double every five years. GeesePeace has consulted with animal welfare, animal rights, and wildlife conservation organizations, as well as state and national wildlife managers. The consensus is that a concerted effort to locate geese nesting areas and implement addling/oiling or replacing of Canada goose eggs will stop the problem, thereby giving a community time to devise, organize and implement site aversion strategies. GeesePeace, in consultation, with these organizations promotes a protocol that requires that eggs be found and addled/oiled in the early stages of the development process.



Resident Canada Geese Management Program - FAQs

Q6: What are some of the benefits of implementing a geese management program in Lake Lure?

A6: Implementing the GeesePeace program will provide many benefits, including the following:

- Improved lake water quality
- Improved aesthetics for beach and park areas
- Improved balance of waterfowl
- Improved community and sense of civic pride through innovative cooperative techniques

Q7: Is this a humane approach?

A7: Major national wildlife protection and humane organizations have endorsed the GeesePeace program. These include: The Humane Society of the United States, the Fund for Animals, PETA, and the Doris Day Animal League.

Q8: Where will the geese go? Will it eliminate the geese?

A8: Parks and recreation areas in the program area and partner entities will experience a significant reduction in the number of geese and related conflict by Memorial Day with most geese gone by mid June. The geese will have learned that the earlier they begin their molt migration the better it is for them since they know they cannot molt in the program area. Each year there may still be geese in the area if nests were missed. The presence of these few geese will be a positive addition to the natural areas. In the following year they too will join the molt migrant flocks. As more local lake communities/areas implement an egg oiling program, the resident Canada geese population will be stabilized with a significant reduction in the numbers staying in the area during the spring, summer and fall as more of the resident geese will go on a molt migration because they do not have goslings keeping them in the program area.

Q9: What is the cost of this program?

A9: This is a low-cost approach that primarily involves volunteers to carry out the activities. Rumbling Bald Resort has had a resident border collie conducting a Canada Geese aversion program for several years and has offered use of their collie to the town's Canada geese management program.

Q10: What town department is administering this program? Whom do I contact for information?

A10: Through the town appointed Parks and Recreation Board and Lake Advisory Board, the town of Lake Lure has adopted a community-wide humane program to reduce and manage the resident Canada Geese population and reduce its negative impact on the local community. The program will be administered by the Lake Operations Department. Please contact Dean Givens at 625-9318 or 447-7430 for further information.

Q11: How can I learn more and possibly get involved?

A11: Plan to attend the information and training session at the Lake Lure Town Hall on **Saturday, March 20, 2010** at 10 am. As a property owner, you are encouraged to observe and report to town employee, Dean Givens any nesting activity by resident Canada geese beginning in April and participate in or sign permission forms for program personnel to enter your property to oil any eggs and destroy the nests after nesting season.