

Standard Operating Policy City of Oakdale

Policy Number: MIS-002

Pages: 3

Subject: Canada Goose Management Plan

Approved: 2017

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Canada Goose populations in the Twin Cities metropolitan area pose a significant challenge for communities attempting to address the concerns of residents with regard to Canada Goose conflicts. The abundant habitat, low natural predation, reproductive success, and limited hunting in the Twin Cities metropolitan area are all factors in the abundance of Canada Goose. The City of Oakdale is among communities in which the abundance of natural habitat, open grass areas with generous food supply, and numerous wetlands for nesting all favor large populations of Canada Goose. The challenge is to maintain an acceptable population of geese in public areas without negatively impacting public safety.
- 1.2 The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) manages Canada Goose populations primarily through regulated hunting seasons. When local governmental units (i.e. cities, townships, park departments etc.) preclude hunting through weapons discharge or other ordinances, responsibility for goose population management reverts substantially to the local government unit. The MN DNR then acts in a support role and provides technical assistance and coordination to local government units. MN DNR can issue special permits to take geese under the various federal control and depredation orders.
- 1.3 The MN DNR requires local government units have a DNR approved Canada goose management plan in place before Canada Goose can be trapped and removed. Once an approved plan is in place, the local government unit can then request a DNR permit for summer removal and may contract with a licensed service provider. The local area wildlife office maintains a list of licensed service providers. This council-approved policy is intended to meet the established DNR requirements.
- 1.4 For the purpose of this policy, any reference to “goose” or “geese” is a reference only to the Canada Goose breed.

2.0 Monitoring and Surveying

- 2.1 The Oakdale Police Department is responsible for animal control in the City of Oakdale. The City of Oakdale encourages residents to report geese-related problems and overpopulation by contacting the Oakdale Police Department at 651-738-1025 during business hours Monday – Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Residents should dial 911 for immediate police service in the event of a public safety concern, violation of city ordinance or state statute, traffic accident, aggressive, sick or injured geese.
- 2.1 Canada Goose conflicts and safety issues will be monitored and evaluated through police service data and surveys of the area population will be completed. Should the

police department determine, on a case-by-case basis, some degree of mitigation needs to occur at a specific location, the department will report the situation to the city council for additional discussion and a determination how much, if any, city funds will be expended for the mitigation effort.

3.0 City-Managed Properties

- 3.1 The City of Oakdale will monitor property complaints of damage and goose droppings on all city-managed property.
- 3.2 As a matter of policy, the city council has determined that the highest priority for mitigation of the damage or disruption of the goose population will be active city-managed parks because of the wide use by residents for a variety of activities. The second-highest priority will be issues created by geese on city-managed streets, bikeways and sidewalks. The third-highest priority will be all other city-managed properties not previously discussed.
- 3.3 Because health and safety concerns of the park users are important, the City of Oakdale will use a variety of techniques and practices to minimize or eliminate goose related problems if necessary. The non-lethal techniques for dealing with goose problems might include, but not be limited to, strategies such as waterfront vegetative buffer zones, raking beaches for debris removal and using predator decoys or fencing.
- 3.4 In the event there is evidence of public health or safety concerns on city-managed properties, a combination of trapping and egg/nest predation may be employed. The City will contract with a MN DNR approved/licensed Canada Goose management and removal company to conduct egg and nest removal and/or the removal of geese from the affected public place. The goal will be to keep the summer population per site to a number that will reasonably minimize or eliminate the public safety concern.
- 3.4 In the event there is a complaint or evidence of poor water quality at Tanner's Lake Swimming beach due to Canada Goose droppings the City of Oakdale will complete water quality testing to identify unsafe levels of E. coli, and or nutrient levels. The City of Oakdale will cooperate with Washington County Health and Human Services and the Minnesota Department of Health if such a project is required.

4.0 Private Property Policy

- 4.1 For the purpose of this policy, private property is defined as any property in the city's jurisdiction that is not owned or routinely managed by the city government.
- 4.2 For the purpose of this policy, the management of the geese is a private-property issue if the presence of the geese on the property is the source of the complaint, even if the geese have entered onto the private property from city-managed properties.
- 4.3 The council-approved policy with regard to the management of geese on private property is that the removal of the geese is the responsibility of the property owner or manager. City government resources will not be expended for the removal of geese from private property.

5.0 Public Information Policy

- 5.1 The City of Oakdale will inform citizens of Canada Goose management techniques that may be employed to reduce or eliminate problems on private property. Informational brochures are available at the City of Oakdale or Oakdale Police Department. Information may also be obtained on-line at the City Oakdale Website: www.ci.oakdale.mn.us
- 5.2 For owners of private property requesting assistance with goose problems and/or removal of geese, the guidelines set forth in this management plan for City Parks and Public Property are to be followed. An approved Canadian Goose Management Plan must be in place for private landowners. Private land owners may choose to use the City of Oakdale's Goose Management Plan as an umbrella plan to contract with a MN DNR licensed goose removal service provider.
- 5.3 The City of Oakdale will assist private property owners in contacting Canada Goose management companies to help with goose problems, including removal of problem geese. The City of Oakdale will not pay for removal or control costs on private property. Removal or control costs will be entirely at the private property owner's expense.
- 5.4 The City of Oakdale will inform citizens of the management plan objectives, background, management methodologies, applicable ordinances, and policies through the City newsletter and the City web page. A particular informational effort will be made between December and March to remind residents to maintain a vegetative buffer zone and to employ hazing techniques for the upcoming season.

6.0 Aircraft Hazard

- 6.1 The City of Oakdale will cooperate with the Metropolitan Airport Commission (MAC) and the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Service to control the Canada Goose population in the event a hazard exists within a designated radius of MAC property.