

Landowners need to realize that this is not necessarily the end of all their problems. You will get relief from those birds that were causing the conflict. The local population will decrease immediately. However, since Canada geese love mowed turf and pond areas it is highly probable that new geese will locate into the now available habitat. How long before new geese show up is anybody's guess. Just be prepared for this scenario. IDFW recommends completing at least some habitat modification now, before new geese move in. Geese will leave an area easier, if they have not had time to get acclimated to the site.

Remember, solving the problem begins with you. You must adopt an integrated and persistent approach that includes a no-feeding policy, habitat modification, harassment, and where possible hunting.



Changing your landscaping away from mowed turf grass can help deter geese.

For More Information

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Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife

Managing Nuisance Canada Geese



Trapping And Relocating Options

Trapping/Relocation Options

Have you been thinking about how to stop human /goose conflicts?

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has recently liberalized management options for controlling resident Canada geese. Starting in 2007, landowners, parks, golf courses, homeowners associations, etc. can hire nuisance wildlife control operators certified by the IDNR in Canada geese management to round up the geese and remove them. The landowner may select to have geese relocated or humanely euthanized and if possible their meat will be given to charitable organizations.

Can you tolerate a few geese? How many are too many?

Each landowner has to decide how many geese they can live comfortably with. Canada geese are beautiful birds and an important wildlife resource. A few birds on a pond present an opportunity for wildlife watching that is very important in today's society as people become detached from their environment. Conflict occurs when geese overcrowd a particular area and leave behind large amounts of droppings or become aggressive toward people.

This is a personal decision for each landowner, so please take the time to become informed.

Why are the geese staying here? Can their feces make me sick?

Canada geese like the same things that people do...ponds and mowed grass. Geese are grazers and can eat up to 3 pounds of grass each day with half of that being re-deposited as feces. Goose feces have been analyzed and found to carry human pathogens such as E coli, campylobacter, Salmonella, and Listeria. However, there has been only one known direct link where a person has actually gotten sick from contact with Canada goose feces. The possibility is there, though not well understood.

What can I do to get rid of the geese?

There are many different tools in the toolbox of deterring Canada geese. First and foremost do not allow anyone to feed the geese. Artificial feeding encourages geese to frequent an area, resulting in the geese setting up permanent camp. Waterfowl, in general, do not need to be artificially fed and feeding can congregate large numbers of birds in one area, which leads directly to human/goose conflicts.

IDNR continually stresses the 3-H's. harassment, hunting, and habitat changes. All are very effective in combination. No single, quick fix will work on geese. Try repeatedly scaring geese away with loud sounds, dogs, shiny mylar tape, scarecrows, or lasers. Hunting is very effective in reducing the numbers of geese in an area. While gun hunting is usually not an option for urban geese, some local ordinances do allow bow hunting. Check local ordinances and always put safety first.

Habitat changes involve planting trees and

shrubs around ponds to prevent the geese from flying in. By planting a 30' wildflower or warm season grass buffer you can create a barrier between your yard and the pond. Even putting up a small fence can prevent geese from walking into your yard from the pond. Geese often will move elsewhere where they can move more freely.

If you are a landowner that has tried some of these tactics and still have a Canada geese problem, then maybe trapping is an option.



All waterfowl go through a flightless period when they are molting their feathers. This usually takes place in mid to late June or the first of July. These geese can be herded into a catch pen. Depending on the property owner's decision, geese will be either relocated or moved to an approved site and humanely euthanized by methods approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association. Nuisance wildlife control operators qualified by the IDNR to conduct such activities have the authority to donate the birds to charitable organizations for consumption.