



MEMORANDUM

TO: Karen Conard, City Manager

FROM: Peter Rice, Director of Public Works
Corin Hallowell, Tree and Greenery Foreman

DATE: 9/23/23

SUBJECT: Geese Control Efforts

Over the last several years geese and their feces have become a significant challenge for City Staff. Geese congregate in grassy areas that are used for recreation and impact residents' ability to enjoy many of the City's parks, ballfields, and playgrounds. Staff have been working with Wildlife Services and the USDA Wildlife Control to identify control strategies and have not found one that successfully deters Geese from coming back.

The following are methods used to date to control migratory and local Canada goose populations. We began these efforts in 2019:

1. Silhouette of coyotes

- frequently removed or thrown into the river by vandals.
- worked moderately well at first until the geese became used to them.

2. Dogs for harassment

- very effective.
- labor intensive.
- requires consistent and regular visits.

3. Fireworks: roman candles, fire- crackers and bottle rockets

- very effective.
- not well received by the public.
- difficult to do other than early in the morning.
- Hazardous.

4. Chasing/Harassing with utility cart

- not well received by the public.
- somewhat effective.
- labor intensive.

5. Air horns

- not effective.

6. Green laser pointers (laser tag)

- most recent control attempt.
- not perceived at all by the public.
- easy to deploy.
- very effective.
- currently using this method.

Staff are continuing to explore methods to improve deterrence. Staff are consulting with a goose control company and continue to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to explore further options such as:

1. Disturbing nesting sites;
2. Non-toxic chemical applications to lawn areas;
3. Timing of harassment to coincide with migratory patterns and habits of geese; and
4. How to change existing habitat to deter nesting and access from water.

We have learned that geese control is an on-going programmatic effort not a simple one treatment solution. Although the most recent effort of “laser tag” appears effective, we have not had a full migration season to evaluate the approach. Given the on-going challenge associated with geese we anticipate having to budget funds to continued control efforts in Fiscal Year 2025.