What The City Does

- Addling Eggs

Inspectors from the city apply corn oil to the clutch of goose eggs to prevent oxygen from getting through the shell. This prevents the development of the egg. Inspectors rely on volunteers for assistance in locating nests.

- Scaring the geese

With the help of trained goose-herding dogs, Canadian geese can be chased away and convinced that they are in danger. The dogs make the geese fly away and do so without harm.



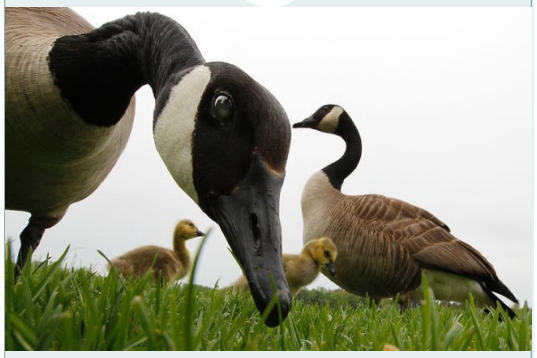
Did you know Canadian Geese...?

- Eat more than 1-5 pounds of grass per day
- Produce about 1-2 lbs. of waste per day
- Average about 5 goslings per year
- Weigh about 20 to 25 pounds
- Will mate for life & will stay together throughout the year
- Are federally protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Mate from February to early April.
- Will attack humans while protecting their young.
- Migrate from October through March.

Worcester Canada Geese Program
City of Worcester Department of Inspectional Services
25 Meade Street
Worcester, Ma 01610-2715

Telephone: (508) 799-8576
(508) 799-1198

Worcester Canada Geese Program



- The Problem
- History
- What You Can Do
- What the City Does
- Did You Know...

City of Worcester Department of Inspectional Services



Problem

The Canadian geese are not going away and their population is increasing. With the increasing population comes, a higher amount of droppings, and more noise which can disturb the occupants of the area. Canadian geese droppings are:

- 76% carbon
- 4.4% nitrogen &
- 1.3 % phosphorus.

An excess of these droppings can over-fertilize lawns, which then can run off into the storm drains or the nearest body of water with the help of rain. The runoff contains nutrients which then cause algae to grow.

Large growths of algae (called algal blooms) can deteriorate the quality of water, and can be harmful to both the elderly and the young. Excessive algae in the water can cause skin irritations and if consumed, can cause sickness.

What you can do

- Stop feeding the geese.

Geese will always come back if provided with food. According to the City of Worcester General Revised Ordinances, Chapter 8, Section 9B states that, no one, is allowed to feed or bait any gulls or waterfowls within the city. If this regulation is violated, the party responsible will be subject to a fine of $100 for each offense.

- If you live on a waterfront property…

Install an 18 inch fence around the side closest to water to keep the geese off you property. You can also install decoys like fake wolves, swans and alligator heads in the water and around your home.

- Use sound to deter geese

Noises such as goose distress calls, predator calls and pyrotechnics can all help keep Canadian geese off your property.

- Use a green laser

Purchase a green laser and have it pointed several yards away from the birds. Then, eventually move the laser near the birds, not at them, and this will scare them away.



History

Canadian geese are a common bird in North America and are a part of the background in any park, city or backyard. These geese are resilient birds that can live in a variety of different climates, but mostly near sources of water because this is where they get most of their food. Canadian Geese usually eat insects and small fish that can be found in water but are also known to eat water plants and seeds/ grains that are thrown to them by passerby. They are a major issue for parks & beaches make an astounding amount of noise, tend to leave droppings everywhere and reproduce exponentially.

To help control the growing geese population, the City of Worcester created the Worcester Canada Geese Program. This program uses various methods such as addling and border collies to help reduce the geese population.