

PUBLIC SAFETY NOTICE

Avian Influenza Awareness at Spring Creek Marina

October 2026

The Spring Creek Association would like to remind residents and visitors that this is the time of year when Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), commonly known as bird flu, is more frequently observed in wild waterfowl, including ducks, geese, and other migratory birds.

We have received reports that several ducks and geese at the Spring Creek Marina are displaying signs consistent with avian influenza. As we enter another fall migration season, we want to remind the community of the importance of recognizing potential signs of illness and taking precautions to protect themselves, their pets, and local wildlife. State wildlife officials are expected to conduct testing as reports of potentially affected birds continue to be evaluated.

Avian influenza is an infectious disease that can cause serious illness and sudden death in birds. The virus spreads through contact with infected birds, their droppings, and contaminated surfaces. Although the risk to the general public remains low, avoiding direct contact with potentially infected wildlife is important.

A Seasonal and Statewide Wildlife Concern

It is important for the public to understand that avian influenza is not an issue isolated to Spring Creek Marina or our community. State wildlife officials are seeing similar concerns involving wild birds in other areas throughout Nevada. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza is commonly detected in wild waterfowl during seasonal migrations, making fall a particularly important time for increased awareness across Nevada and neighboring states.

Because ducks, geese, and other migratory birds move freely between wetlands, reservoirs, lakes, and community ponds, the presence of potentially affected birds in Spring Creek is consistent with the broader seasonal wildlife health concerns that occur throughout the region. These occurrences are not unusual during migration season and should not be viewed as a problem specific to Spring Creek Marina.

Spring Creek Association staff monitor and maintain the Marina and surrounding areas daily. This regular oversight allows staff to identify unusual wildlife activity, sick birds, or other potential concerns quickly and notify the community when necessary. Areas that receive less frequent monitoring may not identify similar concerns as quickly.

We encourage residents to remain aware of these precautions not only when visiting Spring Creek Marina but also when enjoying lakes, ponds, and other recreational areas throughout northeastern Nevada and the state.

How to Keep Yourself and Your Pets Safe

- Keep dogs on a leash and away from sick or dead ducks, geese, and other wild birds.
- Do not touch sick or dead wild birds under any circumstances.
- Avoid contact with bird feathers, droppings, and potentially contaminated surfaces.

- Watch for birds displaying unusual behavior, difficulty moving, loss of coordination, or other signs of illness.
- Report sick or dead birds at Spring Creek Marina to Spring Creek Association park maintenance staff at 775-753-6295 so appropriate removal or reporting procedures can be followed.

Please Do Not Feed the Birds

We also want to remind the public that feeding ducks, geese, and other waterfowl at Spring Creek Marina is strongly discouraged.

While feeding waterfowl may seem harmless, it contributes to overcrowding, increased stress among birds, and the accumulation of droppings in public areas. These conditions can increase the likelihood of diseases such as avian influenza spreading among local bird populations.

Allowing wild birds to forage naturally and maintaining a safe distance helps protect wildlife and preserve the health of our recreational areas.

Continued Monitoring and Public Awareness

The Spring Creek Association will continue its daily monitoring and maintenance of the Marina and surrounding areas while working with appropriate state and federal wildlife agencies when additional guidance or assistance is needed.

As part of ongoing wildlife health and disease management efforts, wildlife officials may determine that additional precautions or targeted management measures are necessary to help limit the spread of illness among local bird populations. Depending on the circumstances, these measures may include the removal of individual sick or affected birds, including ducks, geese, or other waterfowl, when deemed appropriate by the responsible agencies.

Any such actions would be evaluated based on observed conditions and applicable wildlife management guidance, with the goal of protecting the overall health of local wildlife and maintaining a safe environment for the community.

We appreciate the community's cooperation and understanding as we continue to monitor seasonal wildlife health concerns and take appropriate precautions.

For additional information about avian influenza and the effects of feeding waterfowl, please visit the Nevada Department of Wildlife's informational resource:

<https://www.ndow.org/news/highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza-confirmed-in-wild-bird-populations/>

You may also contact the Nevada Department of Wildlife at 775-777-2300 with questions or concerns.

Thank you for helping us protect Spring Creek Marina and the wildlife that call our community home.

Spring Creek Association