

Please, No feeding the Del Sol pond “wild” geese

Del Sol HOA request that residents don't feed the geese while they are “visiting”. We enjoy seeing them each year but want them to return to their natural habitats up north and not take up residence here on our pond, again.

The wild geese feeding restriction reasoning is the same as we stated in the past:

1. Our geese became a nuisance as well as a safety hazard by congregating in resident's driveways and on our public streets.
2. Our geese were leaving poop and feathers in resident's property.
3. Our geese were becoming overly aggressive, to our residents
4. Our geese population had increased from about a dozen to nearly 60.
5. The HOA has worked for years to improve the water quality and erosion issues around our pond and we believe the large number of geese were having a negative effect.

Our hope is the majority of the wild geese will move on after realizing they will no longer have a food source.

Here is a summary of various articles about neighborhood geese population.

Geese oftentimes start off in small numbers in back yards. They enjoy the freshly-cut grass, and maybe the water nearby, and end up staying because there are no predators and it is a safe place for them to be day and night.

While many find having a few geese on their property enjoyable, the number of geese never stays small. When geese fly overhead and see that other geese, that signals to them that it is an ideal habitat, and they join the current geese, and the population increases. Further compounding the population increase are the geese that are losing their migratory instincts, and staying year round.

We have talked to some homeowners that no longer can use their lakeside backyard because of the inevitable mess and filth that come with geese.

With the geese population increasing dramatically every year, the damage and health threat at homes is too pervasive to ignore.

- The geese degrade yards quickly, with each goose leaving 2-4 pounds of excrement per day. As the population of the geese increases, the abundance of excrement makes the grass unusable. While a few geese can be tolerable, 30 geese multiplied by about 3 pounds of excrement per day (90 pounds of droppings every day!) is a problem for everyone.
- Studies have confirmed the presence of bacteria, parasites and human pathogens in goose feces. The presence of feces in water or on ground is a very legitimate health concern. In residential yards, this is a heightened concern, as children play, sit and have

their hands on the grass, making transmission of disease more likely. Ingesting water in residential ponds and beaches is a common method of documented transmission.

- Geese feed by grazing on the grass while they walk on land, and can eat an incredible amount of grass per day, leaving the lawn coverage sparse.
- Geese can make yards a hassle rather than an asset; instead of enjoying the yard, property owners spend their time picking up geese excrement and attempting to repair the damage done to the grass.
- They are aggressive towards people, especially while nesting and rearing their goslings. Hundreds of geese attacks occur every year, with geese chasing and biting, resulting in injuries ranging from small scratches to broken bones suffered during falls.
- Geese feces have been implicated in the eutrophication of ponds; it has high nitrogen content, and when it rains the feces laden runoff filters to the ponds it causes algal blooms and fish kills.

Thank you for your understanding and compliance in this matter.