

GOOSE MANAGEMENT MEETING
NOVEMBER 21ST, 2002
4:30 PM

INDIVIDUALS PRESENT: Allegrea Rosenberg (Co-President WI Animal Education Network), Carol Roehl (Paddle Boats Plus), Lynn Mooney, (Humane Society US), Robert Sveom, Scott Beckerman (USDA-WS), Doug Fendry (DNR), Larry Juhl, Tom Presny (Park Director), and Michael Williams (Leisure Services Director)

Mike Williams opened the meeting by having the individuals present introduce themselves and explain their interest in goose management in Janesville.

Mike Williams stated that the City of Janesville has been working on goose management for about the past fifteen years. The problem began to surface at Lions Beach back in the mid-1980's when the City experienced problems with the geese affecting the sanitary conditions at the beach. Mike reviewed past practices that the City has experimented with including:

- Use of grape extract products/(Rejex-It AG36)
- Trained dogs
- No feeding ordinance
- Noisemakers and streamers
- Goose harvest
- Monitoring and counting goose population
- Habitat modification
- Egg addling
- Banding and tagging geese
- Sweeping paved bike trails
- Public education (brochure and Don't Feed signs)

Mike Williams mentioned that the City has plans to apply for a State grant from the DNR to financially assist with goose management in 2003. The individuals present discussed the City's past practices and which ones should potentially be considered for the future. Carol Roehl stated that she and other members of her organization support non-lethal methods of controlling the geese and were also interested in conducting fund raising activities to assist the City.

It was noted that the City needs to determine the number of geese it is willing to tolerate within its park system. This is a social question and not a biological question. The DNR does not have any standards that recommend a number of geese per acre. The City must determine which park areas can tolerate higher levels of geese and which parks such as Traxler and Monterey we need to control or restrict the number of birds.

After discussing a number of techniques and strategies the individuals present developed a list of reasonable actions that the City should consider in 2003. These actions include:

1. Dog Program
 - a) Volunteers
 - b) Professional services
2. No Feeding Ordinance
 - a) Additional signage
 - b) Public relations
 - c) Informational flyer
3. Noisemakers (late summer and fall)
4. Goose Harvest (September 2003?)
5. Monitoring and counting geese
 - a) Decoys
6. Modify park habitat
7. Egg addling
8. Trapping and relocation
9. Public Information
 - a) Informational flyer
 - b) Public meetings
 - c) City web page

Over the next several months the City will be working on the goose grant application, egg addling permit and the action plan for 2003. Mike anticipates scheduling a public meeting to solicit input and comments in February of 2003. Mike thanked everyone for attending and stated that the minutes from this meeting as well as other information related to goose management will be posted on the City's web site.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Williams
Leisure Services Director