

# DO NOT FEED WATERFOWL



*You Can Help  
Waterfowl by  
**NOT FEEDING  
Them!***



Waterfowl have evolved to migrate extraordinary distances without the assistance of people. Artificial feeding can delay this natural phenomenon and encourage some birds to overstay their welcome.

## Feeding Causes Problems for All

Feeding creates numerous problems, not only for humans but also for the birds. Well-intentioned people may erroneously believe that feeding is beneficial to waterfowl, but it often has negative ecological, environmental, and social consequences.

Waterfowl rely on specific nutrients in natural foods to carry on important biological processes. Feeding waterfowl low quality foods such as bread, chips, or popcorn, does not provide them with the necessary nutrients they need for survival and often results in dietary deficiencies.

When birds are fed low quality food, they may become malnourished or deficient of vital nutrients which can result in :

- development of deformed wings;
- a decrease in reproductive rates;
- an increased susceptibility to predation;
- the loss of flight ability;
- lowered energy; and
- lowered life expectancy.

## Feeding Areas Are Unsanitary and Harbor Diseases

Most areas where public feeding of waterfowl occurs cannot sustain the large concentration of birds that often gather there. This ultimately leads to accumulation of droppings and feathers, overgrazing of vegetation, soil erosion, and unsanitary conditions.

Large numbers of waterfowl in relatively confined areas can also be responsible for triggering algal blooms, resulting in elevated fecal coliform bacteria and nutrients in the water. These factors cause some of our favorite and most popular recreation areas to become unusable for animals and humans.

Feeding may result in malnourished birds competing for food in crowded, unsanitary areas. Diseases, such as avian cholera, avian influenza (bird flu), botulism, and duck viral enteritis thrive when these conditions are present. Aspergillosis is a fatal disease that kills waterfowl when they eat moldy, rotting grain products. All of these diseases have the potential to kill large numbers of waterfowl.



For more information, please contact  
**Creedmoor Parks and Recreation Department**  
 recreation@cityofcreedmoor.org  
 (919) 764-1005  
 or  
**US Fish and Wildlife Service**  
 www.fws.gov



*People who feed waterfowl contribute to the birds acquiring numerous physical ailments that result from malnutrition.*

## Feeding Increases Conflicts

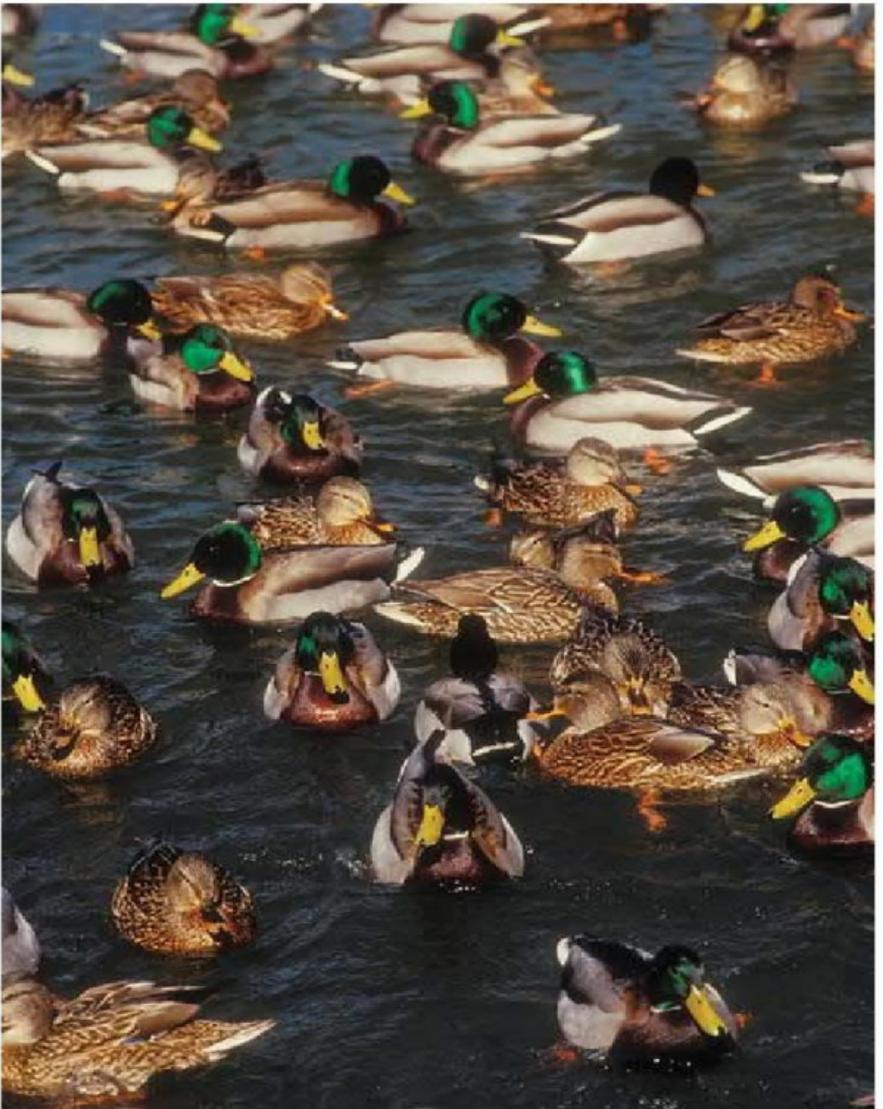
Feeding attracts birds to areas where they come in contact with humans and lose their instinctive fear of man. The loss of a bird's fear towards humans often results in the bird exhibiting dangerous and unpredictable behavior. Public safety also becomes an issue as birds congregate near heavily traveled areas, increasing the likelihood of a vehicular strike. Corporations, municipalities, and private landowners often spend large amounts of money to alleviate problems with waterfowl that are often caused by people feeding these birds. By not feeding waterfowl, you are allowing the birds to use natural areas to our benefit . . . and theirs.

## Why discourage feeding at Lake Rogers Park?

Goose waste at Lake Rogers Park presents a significant health hazard and stormwater pollutant. Over the years, the City of Creedmoor has made numerous attempts to mitigate the issue and, despite ongoing efforts, goose waste continues to be a problem. It is important for everyone to work together to create a clean and safe environment for all and to that end, the city requests each park user to cooperate in these efforts by not feeding the geese at the park.

### Works Cited:

- Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection  
[www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep)  
 Wildlife Division, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106  
 Waterfowl Program (860) 642-7239  
 Connecticut's Conservation Districts  
<http://www.conservect.org>



*Dense congregations of wild ducks, particularly in urban settings, greatly enhance the chances of disease transmission.*



## How can you help?

- **DO NOT FEED WATERFOWL.** Waterfowl are wild birds that can locate natural food sources throughout the year. Supplemental feeding by people is unnecessary and potentially harmful.
- It may be hard to imagine that a handful of bread or a stray french fry could contribute to such a growing problem; however in most cases where artificial feeding occurs, one well-intentioned feeder leaves and another soon arrives.
- Educate others about the negative impacts of feeding waterfowl and discourage the practice when possible.
- Contact your local government and encourage the implementation of a no feeding policy in your community.
- Each person that cares enough to be educated about the effects of artificial feeding can make a difference. The problem requires cooperation from everyone, but the solution starts with each individual.



### **LAKE ROGERS PARK**

1718 Lake Road (NC-56)

Creedmoor, NC 27522

[www.cityofcreedmoor.org/lakerogerspark](http://www.cityofcreedmoor.org/lakerogerspark)



@LakeRogersParkCreedmoor