

CITY OF COOS BAY  
PARKS COMMISSION MINUTES OF  
JUNE 16, 2015

Special Working Lunch Session  
In Preparation for City Council Meeting – June 16, 2015

**Members Present:** Chair, Christine Coles; Thomas Leahy (on conference call), Ariann Lyons, Carmen Matthews, Bev Meyers, Ralph Mohr and Bill Otton

**Members Absent:** Patty Scott

**Staff Present:** Jim Hossley, Director of Public Works, Pam Patton

**Guests Present:**

**Location:** City Hall Conference Room  
Coos Bay City Hall – 500 Central Avenue

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**CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Christine Coles called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. She did roll call and then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of April 30th.

Motioned: Carmen Matthews motioned to approve as written

Seconded: Ralph Mohr

Vote: Aye, Unanimous. Minutes approved as written.

**NEW BUSINESS –**

- Eagle Scout Project – Jim gave some brief information on a project an Eagle Scout would like to do, place a flag pole with lighting in Mingus Park. It would be located near the entrance on N 10<sup>th</sup> nearest the ballfield parking lot. This Eagle Scout will attend the next meeting and give his presentation.
- Because this was an unscheduled meeting for the purpose of the upcoming City Council meeting later this evening, the remaining agenda items would be addressed at the June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS –**

- Christine opened the topic of the geese and suggestions by FOMP for Mingus Park for discussion. Jim Hossley, Director of Public Works, came with a handout submitted by FOMP. The Council has asked to hear from the commission before going into the City Council meeting later that evening. Jim gave an overview of the handout that FOMP is suggesting: education the public, vaulted food vending, signage and a gate and fencing an area of the upper pond from Chosi bridge on the west end of the park going north (a map of location was included with the handout.)

Jim stated that the main problem is not with the wild Canada geese but with “domestic geese and aggressive behavior. In the course of research he’s done from February through May, he found that communities all over the country are dealing with geese issues but mostly involving wild geese where ours to be with domestic geese. Jim found where design elements were being used in parks to discourage geese from easily getting out of the water and onto land but it costs money. Other solutions were moving the geese and adopting city ordinances but finding enforcement to be difficult. Jim read directly from the communication by FOMP giving an option of a fence and gate that may solve

50 six possible solutions regarding Creative Solution for a Win-Win but Jim stated that this  
51 would be labor intensive. This is just the initial overview draft that may be found  
52 agreeable to the majority of park visitors. (referenced correspondence from FOMP is  
attached to the minutes)

53 Christine asked for input from Ralph Mohr. Ralph's perception of a fence and gate at  
54 Chosi Bridge is it may keep the geese in but it is keeping the public out. Chosi is a  
55 Japanese garden and fences are not an element. Esthetically, the garden is to invite the  
56 public. Ralph was also concerned with the cost and maintenance to the City. He also  
57 stated that FOMP would like to curtail fishing which again is imposing on the public. We  
58 need to get this turned around and we're not talking about being friendly to the geese and  
59 if the geese can't be friendly to us then they need to go.

60 Ariann Lyons thought the fencing and gate is a nightmare. It creates an issue with ADA  
61 accessibility, it restricts usage. Kids like to ride bikes in the upper portion and thought  
62 the mesh underneath the bridge would be a nightmare by collecting debris and would  
63 have to be cleaned out and it would block other waterfowl from using the upper ponds for  
64 their offspring. The Chosi Bridge provides a traditional setting for the community to  
65 enjoy and mentioned that numerous pictures are taken there. Parks are for people first  
66 and accommodate all else after. There is a solution here but has not been proposed yet.  
67 Ariann wanted to throw out the possibility for a compromise by keeping one pair of  
68 geese.

69 Carmen Matthews agreed with Ariann in the connectivity of the upper park and  
70 neighborhood to the downtown area. He enjoyed the blend of a forest setting going to an  
71 urban setting. He also agreed that there is a solution but hasn't been proposed.

72 Bev Meyers felt a fence and gate would block the view at the entryway as it presents a  
73 barrier to the gardens. She reported that they are finally seeing the grass just now coming  
74 back and the geese would cause a lot of damage. Bev agreed it would ruin the esthetics  
75 to a Japanese garden. Bev suggested having the geese adopted out to a farm. She was  
76 concerned for the geese's quality of life. They needed rest and time to sit on their nests.

77 Bill Otton was 100 percent in agreement that the fence and gate is out. We're getting  
78 away from a park. He concern with our fiscal responsibility with maintenance. Bill had  
79 no other solution but to see the geese humanly adopted out.

80 Christine felt the geese to be 100 percent aggressive. In earlier years, the geese were only  
81 aggressive during mating/nesting time. Christine sited several incidences of encounters  
82 with her personal pets as well as to others. Not once has she witnessed abuse by people  
83 towards the geese. She didn't feel the geese were educational but abusive. She finds the  
84 other waterfowl to be educational and she enjoys the nesting habits of the Coots. She too  
85 endorsed the humanly removal through adoption and agrees with the signage placed in  
86 the park.

87 Tom Leahy by conference call appreciated the informative dialog. Tom stated that we  
88 are trying to re-kindle the sister city relationship. Tom liked the fact that Mingus Park is  
89 enjoyed by families with its recreational community. He felt the fence is distracting. He  
90 mentioned that he had been chased occasionally. He thought the signage and feeders  
91 were great ideas. He stated the park is at its capacity of waterfowl and the pond's  
92 ecological balance has been disturbed and we have to address the growth of algae among  
93 other things. Tom thought a key thing to him was the fact the geese were being  
94 abandoned. Tom agreed with most and the several suggestions but none viable. He also

95 stated that the location of the food vending would create undo work with weed eating. He  
96 thanked everyone's input.

97  
98 **COMMISSIONERS FINAL COMMENTS –**  
99

100 Ralph felt the Council was under a lot of pressure and we should be looking at how we can help  
101 them with this difficult decision. We are an advisory board. He asked what importance are they  
102 going to put on the survey. Jim sited that the survey came in approximately 75 percent in favor  
103 of the removal.  
104

105 Christine mentioned that liability is heightened since it has been in the limelight for several  
106 months. A few months earlier, we received a call about a young boy being beaten close to his  
107 eye. She felt this was lawsuit waiting to happen. She was concerned by the time it takes to  
108 attend all the meetings and costs involved in continuing to go back and forth.  
109

110 Bev also mentioned she recently had a science teacher approach her in the gardens as he was  
111 concerned about the algae bloom in the pond already. This is June and the water is down to a  
112 trickle and wondered if the feeding of the correct type of food would help.  
113

114 Ariann stated that we need to look at placing a lot of signage throughout the park.  
115

116 Chair, Christine Coles asked if the commission was ready for a motion or if there was any further  
117 discussion. Christine acknowledged Ralph Mohr.

118 **MOTION:** Ralph stated that he had a three-part motion:

119 1) He motioned that the Parks Commission is opposed to any fencing and barriers of any kind to  
120 the Choshi Gardens.

121 2) The Commission recommends at least two signs to be placed at either end of Mingus Park  
122 stating the harmful effects of feeding the waterfowl. Similar to the one used an example from  
123 Eugene that was enclosed in their packet of material.

124 3) It is the consensus of the Commission for the safe and humane removal of the geese by  
125 adoption or by the discretion of the City Council."

126 **DISCUSSION:** "Ralph went on to suggest the placement of the signs be by the Gazebo close to  
127 the pool or maybe close to the Chosi Bridge or at the N 10<sup>th</sup> St entry across from the ballfield  
128 parking lot."

129 **SECOND:** Christine Coles

130 **VOTE:** Ayes were unanimous and motion Carried.  
131

132 **COMMISSIONERS CLOSING COMMENTS –**  
133

134 Christine mentioned that she is seeing quite a few smokers in the park again even though we  
135 have signage and adopted ordinance but yet again the issue is enforcement and observing many  
136 dogs are off leashes.  
137

138 Ariann thought perhaps it was time to do another round of PSA's.  
139

Bev felt smoking in the park is a fire hazard and the park has little access to water depending on location of the fire except on the upper streets. There is only one maintenance road.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Christine encouraged everyone to attend the council meeting tonight

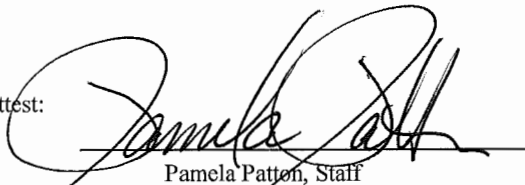
**There being no further business to come before the Parks Commission, by consensus of the Parks Commission, Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Patton,  
Public Works and Development

**APPROVED BY THE PARKS COMMISSION ON THE 16 DAY OF July, 2015.**

Attest:

  
Pamela Patton, Staff

  
Christine Coles, Chair

**\*\*See following attachment**

APPROVED

## Pam Patton

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**From:** Kristi Kelty <kristik21@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 15, 2015 11:02 AM  
**To:** Crystal Shoji; Mike Vaughan; Rodger Craddock; Fred Brick; Mark Daily; Isabel Groth; Stephanie Kramer; Thomas Leahy  
**Subject:** Re: Creative Solution for a Win-Win-- DRAFT  
**Attachments:** Geese Safety Area -Map DRAFT1-1.JPG

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

DRAFT 1 For Geese Safety Area.....

Again this may help get us thinking about creative approaches. Additional fencing may be needed that is not noted here--- I am not clear about the total birdseye view of the park and its topology.....

K

On Fri, May 15, 2015 at 8:16 AM, Kristi Kelty <[kristik21@gmail.com](mailto:kristik21@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hi Crystal (et al),

It is challenging to find a win-win solution that will please everybody when it comes to Mingus Park. It seems increasingly that a creative approach will be needed along with a lot of compromise by all of us.....not so easy.

### PARTIAL LIST OF ISSUES:

Geese and ducks

Dogs

Fishing

Walkers

### OPTION:

One way to perhaps address the situation with the geese, dogs, etc. would be to close off the paths at the red bridge (with a fence and gate) that go to the two upper ponds-- the small pond just above the red bridge and the other pond about 20 yards beyond that. There could be a posting sign noting that dogs were not allowed past that point. A wire mesh screen could hang down from under the bridge to prevent the geese from going beyond into the larger lake beyond the bridge. A fence would run from the pool down the easement/wide path just past the small covered picnic area and up alongside the main path to the red bridge.

In this option the following may be solved:

- 1) Dogs would be able to walk their owners right at the park edge on the level path that many senior citizens favor without becoming a threat to the geese
- 2) The geese would live in a safer environment and be able to be enjoyed by those who come to the park to see them.
- 3) If fishing is to remain at Mingus then the geese would be safe from Hardware Disease (geese are attracted to shiny objects and swallowing fishing gear is a common cause of lead and zinc poisoning which will kill them)
- 4) Walkers would have the option of accessing all the areas at the park-- both the open area around the main lake, and the "safety area" for the geese in the upper areas.
- 5) The mesh screen would be out of a material that is wide enough to be able to not block the vision into the upper pond, but would prevent the geese from entering the main lake.
- 6) The fence would prevent geese from wandering down the hill to access the main lake.

This is just the initial overview /DRAFT of a possible solution that may be found agreeable to the majority of park visitors.

Please let me know what you think~ It may be a starting off point.....

Thanks for all you are doing!

Kristi

Kristi Kelty

Composer

"Wild A-Bandon" Music Production

P.O. Box 1582

Coos Bay, OR 97420

(408) 499-5156

A.S.C.A.P. # 3029131

[www.KristiDKelty.com](http://www.KristiDKelty.com)

<http://youtu.be/psKSoeZ8aRA>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/KristiDKelty?blend=4&ob=5#p/u>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7X5q8SGNAU8&feature=>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&feature=endscreen&v=S7bn3gaaaYY>

<http://www.coolystone.com/media/3244/California-Anthem/>

<http://www.friendsofminguspark.com/>

"After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music."

--Aldous Huxley.

"The greater the obstacle, the more glory in overcoming it."

- Moliere

"It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare. It is because we do not dare that they are difficult."

--Seneca

--

Kristi Kelty

Composer

## **FOMP SUGGESTIONS FOR IDEAS ON MINGUS PARK SIGNAGE**

Friends of Mingus Park (FOMP) advocates for the health and safety of the waterfowl at Mingus Park. FOMP accomplishes this through the use of the following:

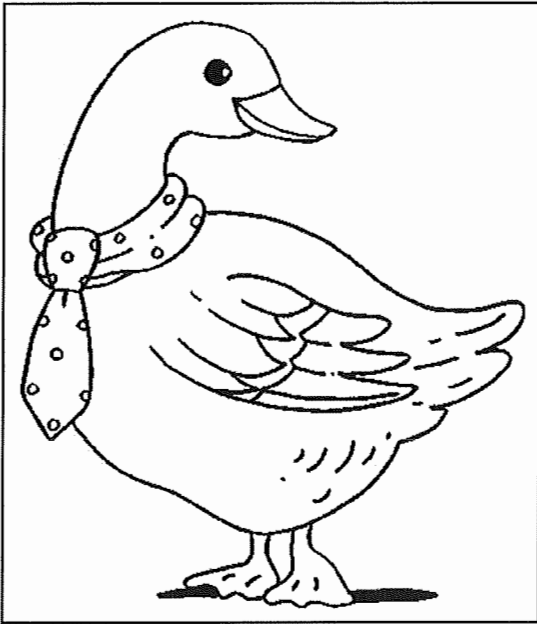
- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Using Teachable Moments        | *Informal one-on-one education at the park as the needs develop.<br>*Education table at Mingus Park where educational brochures and display board help to educate park visitors.   |
| 2. Waterfowl Feedbag Giveaways    | Over 100 small bags of waterfowl pellets or cat chow have been handed out in one year  |
| 3. Teen Community Educators       | Teens educate young students involving "Joey The Goose"  |
| 4. "Joey The Goose Says" Campaign | Kids love Joey; this campaign is being developed currently, and involves PSA's of short 15-30 sec. TV and radio spots of Joey with voiceover to provide education on childrens' health, safety, as well as park and waterfowl information. |

**Here are our suggestions for signage which may be helpful.....**

### **• SIGNS NEED TO BE ATTRACTIVE AND COLORFUL:**

FOMP is proposing that our schools are invited to participate in the process of educational and informational signage. We feel that this would be a tremendous win-win both for the students and our park, as young people would learn proper care and treatment of waterfowl --in the process of increasing their awareness of the issues at hand. Perhaps an art contest where the winners would have their artwork of park signage chosen to be used in the park? (Randy Dixon has addressed the importance of signage uniformity and continuity within all the parks, so that all signs are the same.)

## FOMP SUGGESTIONS FOR IDEAS ON MINGUS PARK SIGNAGE



This coloring page was developed by our most recent Teen Community Educator as part of the presentation to a local school.

### • SIGNS NEED TO BE EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATIVE:

FOMP has come up with these ideas for signage topic content.

Any or all of these topics could be subject matter for a an art contest at our schools:

1. Proper treatment of birds/ what is abuse? Abuse is reportable; Police phone number
2. Proper feeding of birds (waterfowl pellets on land or cat chow in water as it floats)  
Explain negative effects of bread and junk food on waterfowl.
3. DO NOT FEED THE BIRDS (FOMP's position is that we promote a DO NOT FEED philosophy but realize that feeding the birds in the park is a time honored tradition in families --and signs will not stop people from doing this. So why not have healthy waterfowl pellets available in a dispenser or two?)
4. Habitat preservation (Coot nests, breeding season, etc.) Information about the wildlife found at the park.
5. Leash Law (Dogs off leash can attack geese that cannot fly and are unable to escape the charges of a dog off leash).
6. Metal Toxicity- Birds are attracted to shiny objects and will die from swallowing ingested metals such as fishing gear, soda can pop tops, etc.



## FOMP SUGGESTIONS FOR IDEAS ON MINGUS PARK SIGNAGE

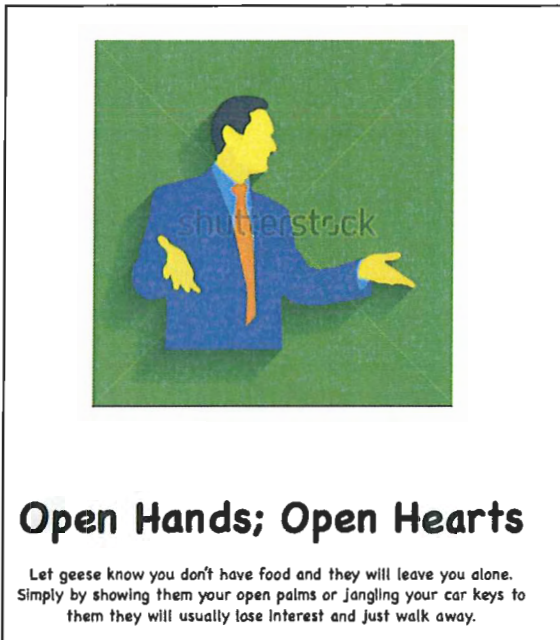


### Samples of "Joey The Goose Says" campaign signage.

These are two of the first "Joey The Goose Says" campaign signs that we have posted on Facebook.]

7. Encourage kids to be PARK STEWARDS and take ownership-- It is THEIR park.
8. Harassing the birds by taunting or chasing them causes additional stress
9. Bike riding, skate boarding on the sidewalk is an issue of safety for birds and people
10. Using the "Open Palm" approach or jangling car keys if visitors feel intimidated by birds

## FOMP SUGGESTIONS FOR IDEAS ON MINGUS PARK SIGNAGE



**Sample** of signage showing “Open Palm” approach; perhaps a picture of a family doing this facing the camera.....

### **Samples of park educational signage are included here:**

Here are some additional ideas for signage that we have collected over the last 2 years. Some of the signage is placed directly on waterfowl feed dispensers, where park visitors can insert a quarter and get a handful of pellets to feed the birds. (See pics from Vaulted Vending). Todd Howard of Vaulted Vending stated that he goes to cities around the country to install these vending machines.

FOMP proposed the idea of contacting Vaulted Vending to install and oversee the dispensers, providing contact information to the city for further information. Initial research seemed favorable, in that apparently they will come and install vandal-proof dispensers at the park and then split the proceeds from the dispensers with the city. Of course more information is needed on this.

## FOMP SUGGESTIONS FOR IDEAS ON MINGUS PARK SIGNAGE



photo-18.JPG



photo-19.JPG

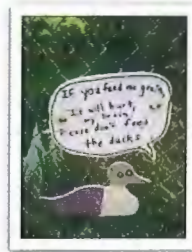


photo-21.JPG



photo-22.JPG



- **SIGNS NEED TO BE PLACED AT PARK ENTRANCES, NEAR PLAYGROUND AREA, AND INSIDE RESTROOM.**

Our communications both with the city and with the Parks Commission have been very positive, and we appreciate that these issues are multi-pronged and thus need to be addressed in a comprehensive manner. The recent suggestions by city council members regarding water quality and population control are very critical and timely. FOMP encourages the city to consult with OSU specialists regarding these issues.

Vaulted Vending contact information:

**Todd Howard**

to me [v]

**Dave Lemarbre Hendersonville Tn [615-822-3898](tel:615-822-3898)**

**Karen Shepperd Huntsville Al.**

**Greg Anderson Cartersville Ga  
[1-770-670-6173](tel:1-770-670-6173)**



## FOMP SUGGESTIONS FOR IDEAS ON MINGUS PARK SIGNAGE



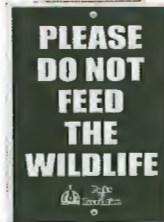
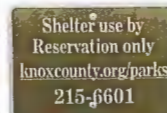
## Vaulted Vending

*Cities find that Do Not Feed signs are unenforceable.*

Education and proper feeding are the solution. Several municipalities have removed DO NOT feed signs and replaced them with Vaulted Vending Bread Kills message along with our protein vending units.

Sneelville, GA is currently working on an ordinance to outlaw all feeding except from protein units. These municipalities includes:

Sneelville, Ga  
Knoxville, TN  
Knox County, TN  
Cartersville, GA  
Loganville, GA  
Hendersonville, TN  
Monroe, GA  
Pigeon Forge, TN  
Sweetwater, TN



## The Tennessee Municipal League Publication recently featured the duck feeders in Hendersonville, TN



Hendersonville Parks & Recreation  
Director Dave Lemarbe and Alison Muncy

"The walkways were covered in feces where the ducks stayed on land. Now when they hear the click-click of the machines they are off to the water. If they even see people go near the machines they head for the water."



"We see people using the machines everyday."

Standard 3-10-07 20

## BENEFITS OF DUCK FEEDERS:

- Revenue stream.
- Provides proper nutrition for ducks
- Our decals instruct that the food is to be fed in the water. This helps eliminate excess feces on walking trails and banks by keeping the ducks and geese in the water.
- Limits the amount of food put into the water by 90% -95%. The food from a hundred uses of the coin-operated machine equals one loaf of bread distributed to waterfowl.
- Decals on equipment educate on dangers of improper feeding.
- Machines promote duck health and helps to keep them wild.
- No contract. If for any reason your are not satisfied with our program the equipment will be removed.
- We provide all labor and expenses for installation and up keep of equipment



## Pam Patton

**From:** Kristi Kelty <kristik21@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 23, 2015 8:36 AM  
**To:** Crystal Shoji; Mike Vaughan; Rodger Craddock; Fred Brick; Mark Daily; Isabel Groth; Stephanie Kramer; Thomas Leahy  
**Subject:** Poster idea from FOMP and Model Park update  
**Attachments:** Eugene Park SignPat.jpg



Hello Crystal (et al),

1. We are still in the process of researching to try to find a model park where the large abandoned geese (Embden or Pilgrim) were incorporated into the park comprehensive plan. We have not been able to find one yet....but we are still researching this.

2. Here is an idea for signage.....Some of our FOMP members demonstrate the "Open Palm Method."

3. In the hour that some FOMP members were at the park yesterday we witnessed a family abandoning a duckling, 5 teens fishing within a few feet of a Coot nest of brand new babies, who refused to move farther

away --after they were politely asked to, and an injured Canadian goose. Shows the incredible need for more Education~ signage.

4. Here is a pic of a sign that was noted in a park in Eugene.  
Kristi

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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&feature=endscreen&v=S7bn3gaaaYY>  
<http://www.coolestone.com/media/3244/California-Anthem/>  
<http://www.friendsofminguspark.com/>

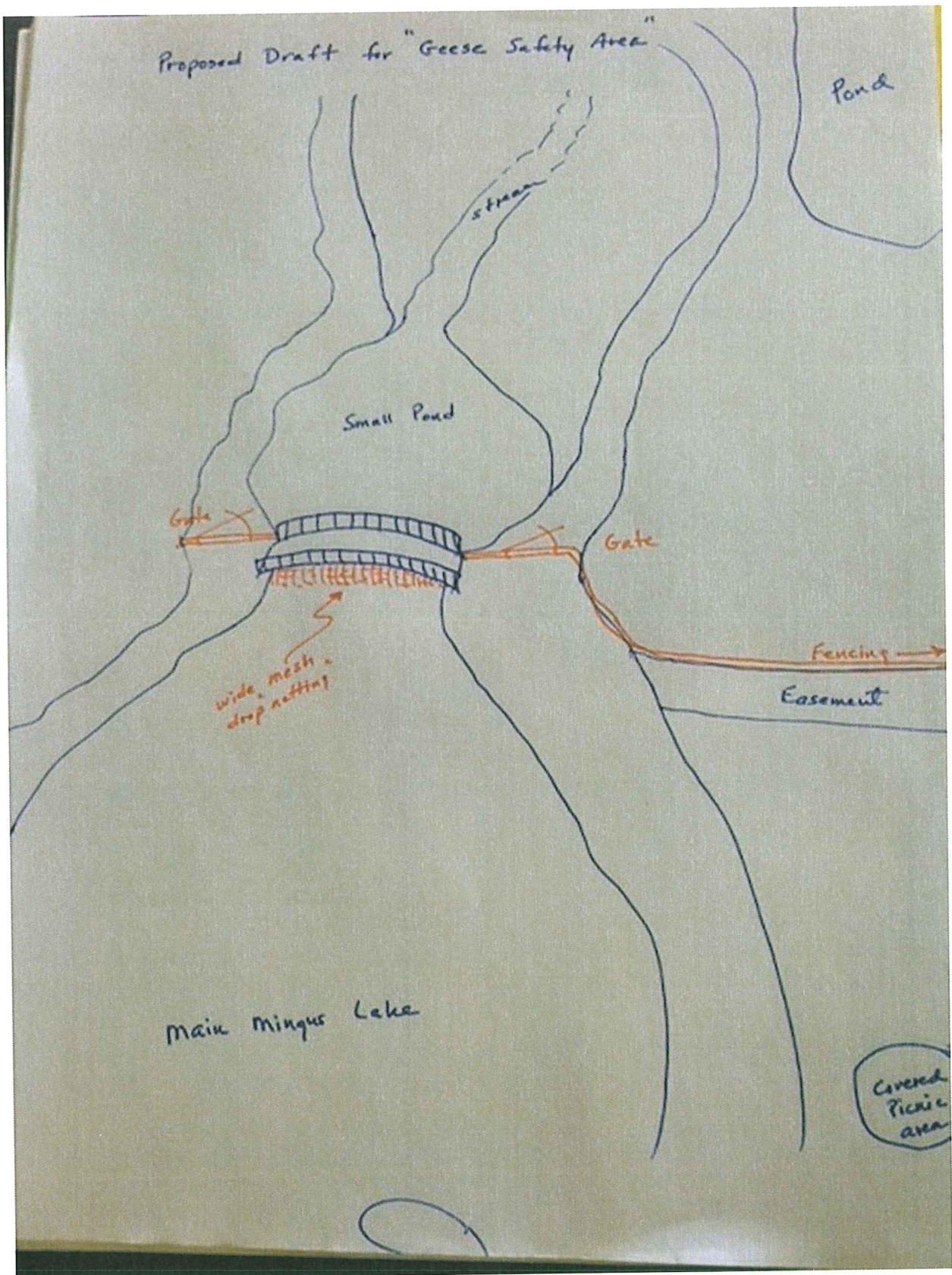
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Proposed Draft for "Geese Safety Area"





# The Harmful Effects of Feeding Waterfowl

Although feeding and interacting with waterfowl can be enjoyable, it can also cause long-term health problems for these animals. Potential health risks to humans, and environmental degradation. Visitors enjoy these birds in abundance and request their well-being. By doing so you will reduce their threat level chance of survival.

## Wetlands and National Designation



### Overpopulation



Feeding waterfowl encourages them to stay in the area and not fly south. Many of the waterfowl are also sick. Many of these birds will die if they stay in the area. This is because they are not getting the proper care they need. This is why it is important to not feed them.

### Costs of National Wetlands



Feeding waterfowl encourages them to stay in the area and not fly south. Many of the waterfowl are also sick. Many of these birds will die if they stay in the area. This is because they are not getting the proper care they need. This is why it is important to not feed them.

### Health Problems



Feeding waterfowl encourages them to stay in the area and not fly south. Many of the waterfowl are also sick. Many of these birds will die if they stay in the area. This is because they are not getting the proper care they need. This is why it is important to not feed them.

### Feeding waterfowl encourages them to stay in the area and not fly south.

Many of the waterfowl are also sick. Many of these birds will die if they stay in the area. This is because they are not getting the proper care they need. This is why it is important to not feed them.

