


CITY OF COOS BAY
Agenda Staff Report

MEETING DATE	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
June 16, 2015	

TO: Mayor Shoji and City Councilors

FROM: Jim Hossley, Public Works Director 

THROUGH: Rodger Craddock, City Manager

ISSUE: Geese in Mingus Park – Survey Results and Additional Input

BACKGROUND

On April 21, 2015, the City Council discussed the issue of abandoned domestic geese in Mingus Park. Over the last several months, City staff received several calls from the public about concerns with the aggressive behavior of the geese in Mingus Park. The Parks Commission also considered the issue and recommended that the geese be removed from Mingus Park. Internet research suggests that the geese are particularly aggressive during the mating, nesting and egg incubation period; approximately late February through May. When fed by people, geese lose their natural fear which often leads to more violent attacks during the spring nesting season, because they will begin nesting closer to areas that people frequent.

Since the last meeting, staff has made contact with staff at Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODF&W) and Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). ODF&W does not regulate or manage domesticated waterfowl but focuses its resources on wildlife species and does not get involved with domesticated waterfowl issues. ODA staff stated they do not have a history of dealing with situations like ours. However, they do have information regarding avian influenza. Migratory waterfowl carry the virus and can spread it to domestic birds (brochure attached). The virus is extremely deadly for domestic poultry. The disease is not a health threat to humans. ODA staff suggested I contact Dr. James Hermes, Extension Poultry Specialist at Oregon State University Department of Animal and Rangeland Sciences in Corvallis.

I contacted Dr. Hermes requesting information and recommendations on management of a domestic gaggle of geese in an urban park setting. He provided the following:

I don't believe that there are any management recommendation that I can make that can be used to change these birds' behaviors, short of putting them in a pen so they are separated from the people visiting the park. Geese are territorial, especially during breeding in the spring. In addition, some breeds, particularly Chinese geese can be aggressive at all times. Since they are domestic, they are not "afraid" of people so they will attempt to drive people from their territory as they would any other perceived threat.

As I see it you have essentially 3 options:

- 1. Leave things as they are and make sure that patrons know that the geese are somewhat aggressive.*
- 2. Confine them to a portion of the park to keep them away from the park patrons.*

3. *Remove the birds to a farm with the means to take care of them*

- a. *A compromise here may be to swap the birds with ducks which are typically not as aggressive.*

Staff researched what other communities have done and staff's own experience in dealing with the waterfowl here and in other communities. Many communities around the country have had issues with geese in public areas. Most of the information on geese is related to large populations of wild Canada geese that have taken up permanent residence in public parks and golf courses. Nationwide, the Canada goose population has grown so substantially that they are coming into conflict with people and human activities and causing personal and public property damage, as well as public health concerns. For example, in Bend, the problem was the large population and health risks associated with goose droppings that spurred action to remove the geese. The Canada geese do come under the authority of ODF&W and thus their staff assisted the City of Bend in addressing the issue.

Wild geese and a large goose population **are not** current problems at the Mingus Park. The geese in question are primarily the domestic waterfowl that were illegally abandoned by their owners. There are less than a dozen of these geese. Some communities have dealt with domesticated waterfowl by doing one or more of the following:

- adopting out the birds to private citizens
- displaying educational signage (ideas have been provided by FOMP)
- displaying warning signage about aggressive behavior of geese
- adopting ordinances prohibiting abandonment of waterfowl and other animals in the parks
- adopting ordinances prohibiting feeding certain food to waterfowl (e.g. no bread)
- adopting ordinances prohibiting feeding waterfowl anything
- displaying signs with feeding prohibitions
- creating landscape features that maximize separation of geese and park users
- creating landscape features that inhibit easy exit for waterfowl from the water onto land
- creating structural barriers to separate geese from park patrons

Staff also initiated a seven day online survey (results attached) to gather public opinion. The survey received 329 responses. Additional opinions were written in The World newspaper or were received by telephone or email to City staff. A majority of the public opinion expressed has been in favor of removing the domesticated geese from Mingus Park. Most would only want the geese removed if they were adopted.

Staff also received input from the Friends of Mingus Park (FOMP) and individuals in favor of keeping the geese in Mingus Park suggesting that park users learn to co-exist with them. FOMP has offered several ideas for signage, education, and fencing (information attached). FOMP has also completed a survey and obtained the volunteer services of biologists to find pertinent information to share with the City Council.

ADVANTAGES:

Removing the geese will improve the enjoyment of the park for many of the visitors. Removing the geese may help minimize some health risk related to goose droppings (however plenty of

other bird species leave droppings), and will minimize risk of injury to humans and pets by the geese.

DISADVANTAGES:

Many park users enjoy having the geese in the park having the opportunity to view and feed them. Removal of the geese would likely require trapping the birds and transporting them to their new homes, which would be a challenging endeavor. It would likely require recommendations and or assistance from a knowledgeable poultry handler or veterinarian.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

The cost will depend upon the direction the Council chooses.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Discuss the issue and direct staff how Council would like to proceed.

ATTACHMENTS:

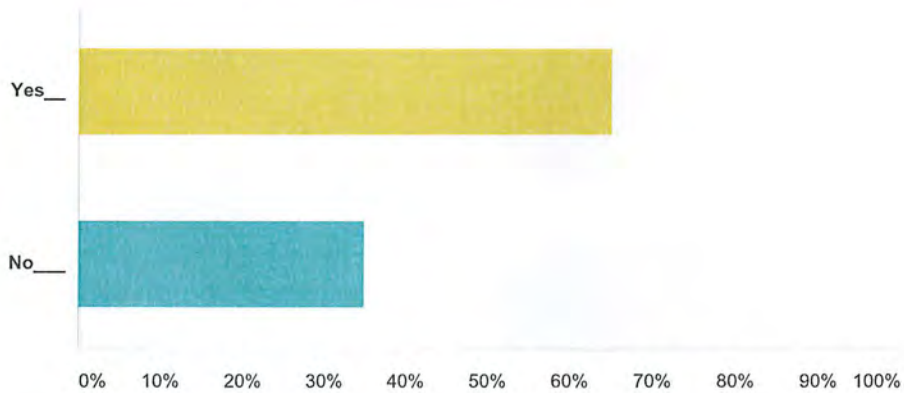
Survey results
Information from Friends of Mingus Park (FOMP)
Email/Phone record of citizen calls

Survey Results

Mingus Park Geese

Q1 Should the City remove the domesticated geese from Mingus Park?(If the geese are removed, they would be adopted by people willing to take care of them)

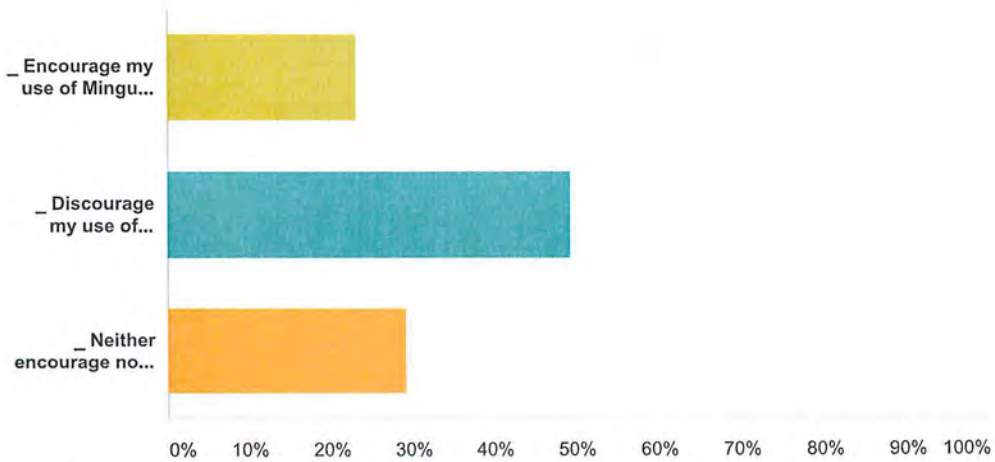
Answered: 316 Skipped: 13



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Yes	65.19%	206
No	34.81%	110
Total		316

Q2 The presence of the geese in Mingus Park

Answered: 327 Skipped: 2



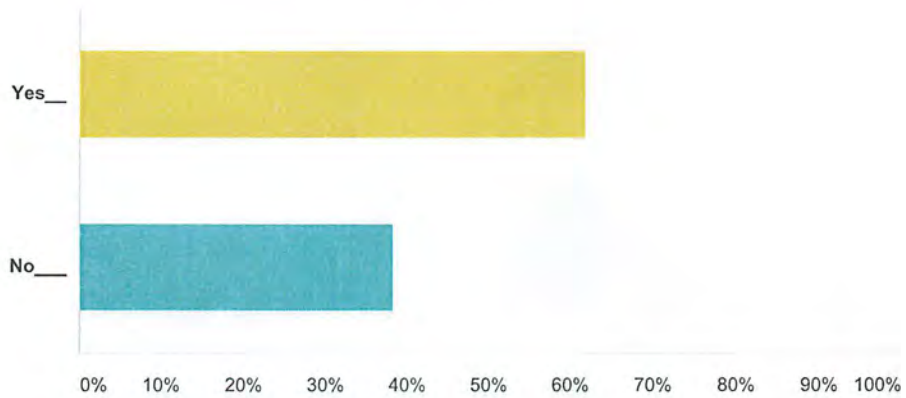
Answer Choices	Responses
----------------	-----------

Mingus Park Geese

_ Encourage my use of Mingus Park	22.94%	75
_ Discourage my use of Mingus Park	49.24%	161
_ Neither encourage nor discourage my use of Mingus Park	29.05%	95
Total Respondents: 327		

Q3 Have you ever been attacked by the geese in Mingus Park?

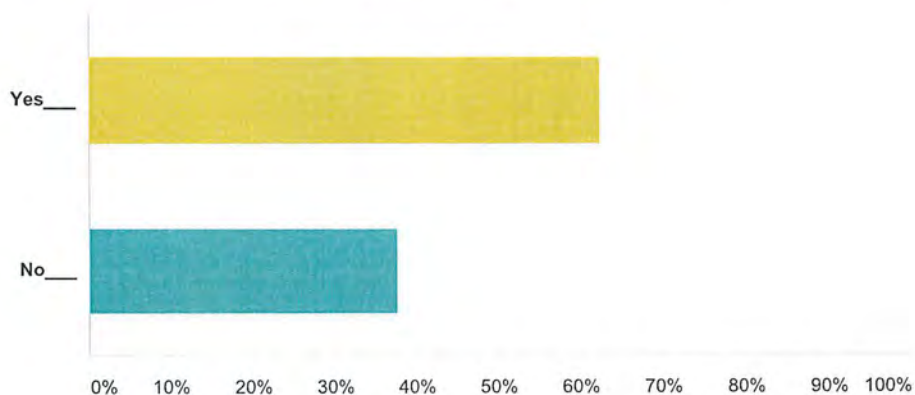
Answered: 328 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	61.89% 203
No	38.11% 125
Total	328

Q4 If so, did you wave your hands or rattle your keys at the geese to drive them away?

Answered: 253 Skipped: 76

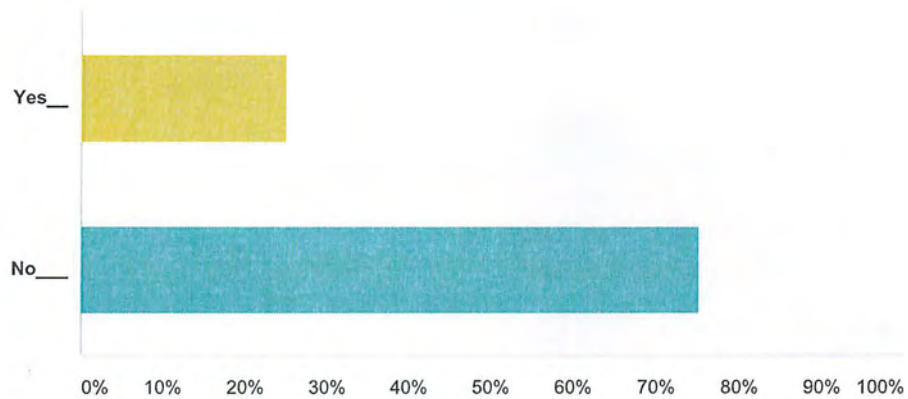


Mingus Park Geese

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes__	62.45%	158
No__	37.55%	95
Total		253

Q5 If yes, was it effective

Answered: 202 Skipped: 127



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes__	24.75%	50
No__	75.25%	152
Total		202

Information from FOMP

HOW THE ENTRENCHED ABUSIVE BEHAVIORS AND MINDSET HAVE AFFECTED THE ISSUES OF THE LARGE MINGUS PARK GEESE

- **The concept of the proper way to treat an animal has been distorted;** These large Embden and Pilgrim geese cannot fly and are unable to escape the abuse doled out to them daily by people, dogs (both on and off leash), and other predators. Taunting the geese, hitting them with sticks or rocks, chasing them, riding bikes or skateboards into them, are all seen on a regular basis.
- **The proper way to treat an abandoned, domesticated goose has been distorted-** These large Embden and Pilgrim Geese were pets at one time; abandoned at the park to fend for themselves. Geese breeders note that if they were a mated pair and the mate was not rehomed with the other mate this can cause serious problems for the single goose; often they will search for a long time to try to find their lost mate. To remove or re-home these geese again results in additional trauma.
- **The proper way to treat one of these geese that is being rehabbed has been lost to numerous interpretations, anything from utter neglect to euthanasia.** FOMP Rehabbers are required to treat the geese as they would another household pet, ensuring the geese have the optimum care to encourage recovery.
- **The decades of feeding these geese bread and junk food has probably resulted in sickness and in some cases death of the geese.** The ingredients of bread and junk food are difficult to digest for the geese, and can cause serious health problems such as Angel Wing, gastrointestinal problems, and other issues.
- **When a man can proudly proclaim during a televised city council meeting that he took his "100-lb dog off leash to sic a (20-lb) goose that was making him feel uncomfortable..." this is a strong message that demonstrates how entrenched this behavior and mindset is.**

⊕



"Lucky"
Day 11 in Rehab

Jim Hossley

From: Kristi Kelty [kristik21@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2015 8:02 AM
To: Crystal Shoji; Mike Vaughan; Rodger Craddock; Fred Brick; Mark Daily; Isabel Groth; Stephanie Kramer; Thomas Leahy
Subject: Expedient Option for geese situation
Attachments: How The Entrenched Behaviors Have Affected.PDF

Dear Crystal (et al),

FOMP advocates for the health and safety of the waterfowl at the park. We have rescued and rehabbed 7 birds in the last two years. Our special interest is the large Embden and Pilgrim geese which are abandoned but domesticated birds that cannot fly. These beautiful creatures, along with swans, add a dimension to the park which cannot be replaced by statues.

FOMP believes there is a positive solution which could result in a win-win for all parties involved. This is an exciting opportunity to work together as a community to develop a park that would be a model to the nation, developing a comprehensive park plan that includes the large geese, instead of re-homing them, abandoning them yet again!

In light of the recent discussion regarding the large Embden and Pilgrim geese at the park, FOMP has proposed to the city the idea of erecting fencing and a gated area above the red bridge, which would enclose that area to make it a safe habitat for these large, abandoned geese. This area would allow people to walk their dogs around the entire perimeter of Mingus Lake, while maintaining a safe environment for the birds. We feel this option would please the walkers, dog owners, geese lovers, park neighbors, and parents of small children.

While FOMP members have never been "attacked" by these geese, we have noticed that on occasion one of them seems to be the "alpha goose" and does try to get closer than the rest, in order to beg for food.

So another option which may be agreeable would be to re-home this particular large white Embden **along with its mate** (this needs to be determined) over to Empire Lake, where there is less density. Geese breeders and specialists note the importance of keeping mated pairs together, for separation can cause tremendous grief and stress in a goose for a long time if not taken into account.

In summary, FOMP thinks that the best solution would be to keep all the geese together in a safe environment through the installation of fencing-- but for the sake of time, perhaps re-homing the "alpha goose" and its mate to Empire Lake may be the best solution.

FOMP is currently collecting survey results and will be sharing the data with the city shortly after the May 24th survey deadline. We are very interested in finding out perceptions of walkers at Mingus Park who actually experience the geese on a regular basis.

Let's not remove or re-home all the geese due to the behavior of one!
We believe that whether or not folks are geese lovers, there is a humanitarian solution for these wonderful but unfortunate creatures!

Thank you for all your help with this~
We appreciate the opportunity to work with you on this important issue.

Kristi
FOMP

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

Jim Hossley

From: Kristi Kelty [kristik21@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2015 8:16 AM
To: Crystal Shoji; Mike Vaughan; Rodger Craddock; Fred Brick; Mark Daily; Isabel Groth; Stephanie Kramer; Thomas Leahy
Subject: Creative Solution for a Win-Win-- DRAFT

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.

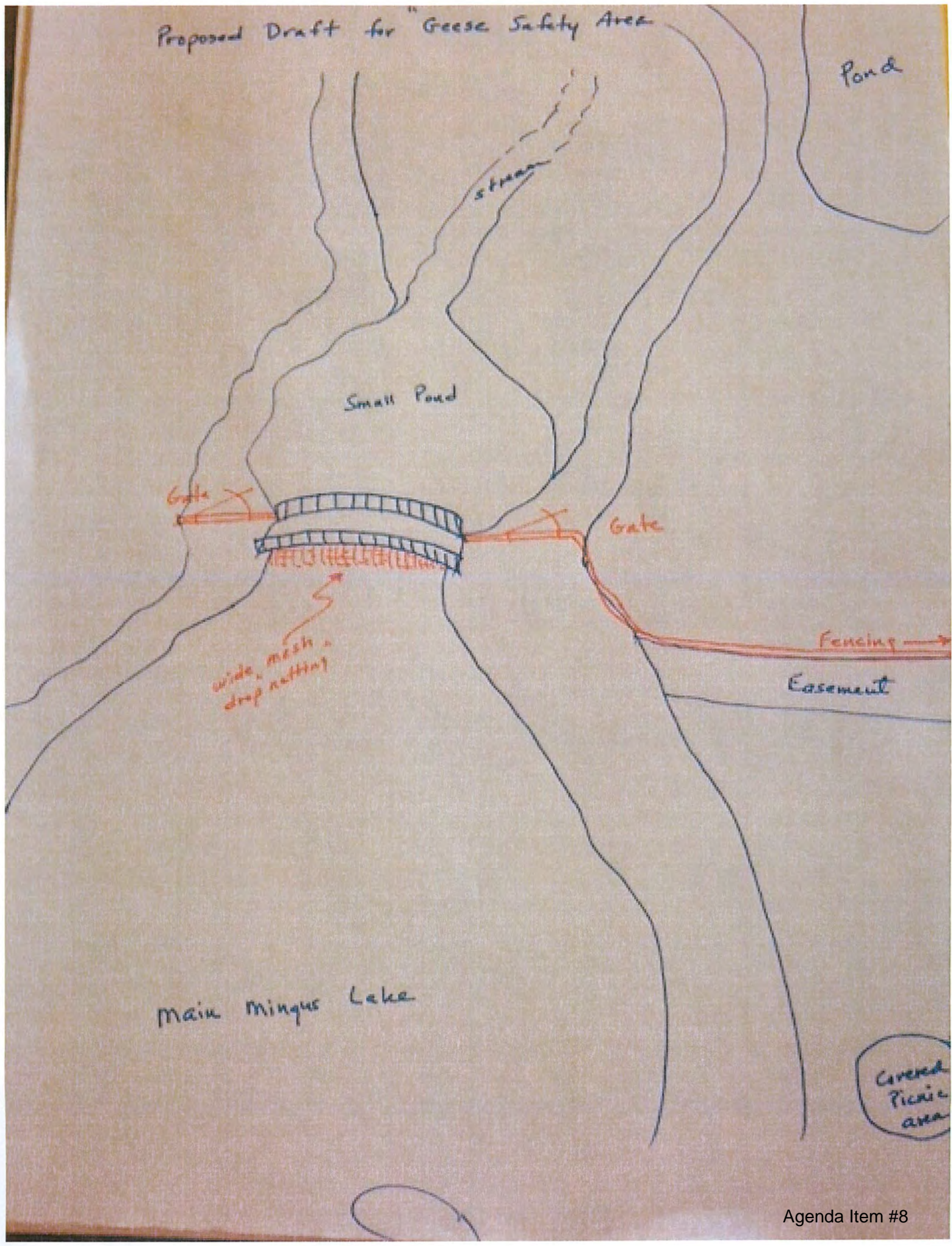
This is just the initial overview /DRAFT of a possible solution that may be found agreeable to the majority of park visitors.

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

Thanks for all you are doing!

Kristi

Proposed Draft for "Geese Safety Area"



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:

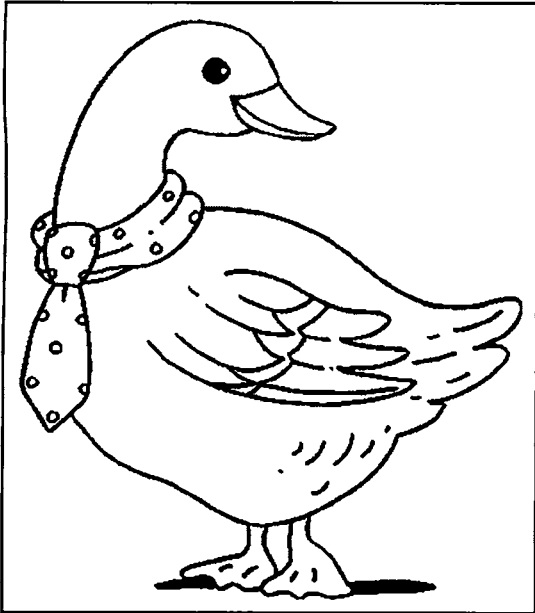
1. Using Teachable Moments *Informal one-on-one education at the park as the needs develop.
 *Education table at Mingus Park where educational brochures and display board help to educate park visitors.
2. Waterfowl Feedbag Giveaways Over 100 small bags of waterfowl pellets or cat chow have been handed 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



Vaulted Vending

Cities find that Do Not Feed signs are unenforcable.

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

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

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



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

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)

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."

Hendersonville June 28, 2018

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.

2

Citizen email & call records

Jim Hossley

From: Kay [vkvoth@frontier.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 07, 2015 1:49 PM
To: Rodger Craddock
Subject: geese in park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I cannot find the page "ask the public" about the geese, so just wanted to let you know, and you can add it to the public response . I, personally do not walk the park any more, as I cannot run from the geese, and they scare me . I am 74 years old and many times do have to use my cane or walking stick to aid me in my walk. They have not personally attacked me, but have tried to block my way on the path, and like I said, they do scare me. I can only image how a small person would feel with the geese coming after them.

I just don't understand why it is a problem in just taking them out of there, period. Adoption or "get" "rid" of them , period..... They are geese for crying out loud.....

Just an innocent bystander, 30 year employee of City of NB, retired for 12 now.

Kay Voth

Jim Hossley

From: Cory Smith [cbcory@frontier.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 06, 2015 6:23 PM
To: Rodger Craddock
Subject: Mingus Geese

Hi – I did just fill out the short survey on the city’s website. I do still walk in the park with my dog, who is of course on a leash and has learned that it is not appropriate to chase birds in that setting. The “pack” of three aggressive geese have confronted us and blocked our way on the foot path. I always carry either an umbrella or a cane when we walk there, whether I need them or not. But I’ve found that they really aren’t intimidated by the threat of such sticks, even a wildly opened and closed umbrella. Now when I enter the park I try to determine where those geese are and avoid them if possible. It would be very nice to be able to enjoy the park without feeling threatened. Thanks. Cory Smith, Coos Bay

Jim Hossley

From: Nancy Knight [nancyk1950@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2015 7:20 AM
To: Rodger Craddock
Cc: Jackie Mickelson
Subject: Mingus Park Geese

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mr. Craddock:

I have followed with interest the recent articles in The World and the Letters to the Editor which have resulted. I took the "goose survey" online, but wanted to share additional thoughts that the survey did not address.

I've lived in Bandon for 34 years and have loved Mingus Park from the beginning. My son and daughter grew up visiting MP and enjoying our walks around the lake. I love animals and birds of all variety and watching the waterfowl of MP has been a joy! Additionally, I worked for some years for Attorney Don Landes at his 4th and Anderson office and then at his new location just across from Mingus Park. I walked there at lunchtime daily.

Now to the geese: I learned how to show geese empty hands. Some "got it" and some didn't. Some geese have felt they "owned" their piece of the path, showing aggression to people, causing my detour off the path and around them at times. I've experienced their "attack" mode with the lowered head snaking at you and hissing and charging you. Not pleasant.

I have followed the Friends of Mingus Park comments in the paper. They offer solutions such as backing away and jingling your key ring at them. Backing away is a good one. Never tried the keys. My husband's comment: Anyone should be able to walk in a public park without being on alert for aggressive geese.

Children - Without an adult to teach the older kids the evasion tactics above, how are kids to know? FOMP assume all kids have a parent or adult to teach them. Reality check: most kids do NOT know how to escape and in a public place, why should they need to know anyway? Young children under 5 years old - adult supervision is the only way to escape injury. Of course, they SHOULD be supervised at all times but again - reality. . .

Last summer I had to snatch my own 2 year old granddaughter away from a goose that suddenly came at her hissing! Moments before it appeared docile.

And what about handicapped people? They certainly should not have to be evading geese!

The domestic geese can be aggressive to the other water fowl on the lake. I've seen them attack both domestic ducks and wild ducks, including the beautiful Wigeon ducks that winter here.

I really know of NO ONE who would not welcome a domestic-geese-free-Mingus Park. It would be a joy to experience the park without keeping an eye out for messy sidewalks or a cross goose. And they find you. You do not have to go looking for an aggressive goose. Shame on anyone who teases them, as I'm sure some people do.

I would never want the geese to be killed as a solution. But it seems there are folks who live in the country who have offered a home to ALL the geese! What a perfect solution! How kind of them! I cannot fathom why

FOMP are adverse to this plan. I urge the City to make Mingus Park a safer and more enjoyable experience by going domestic goose-less.

I'm with my husband on this one: People should be able to enjoy a public park without worrying about the geese attacking them.

Thank you for your interest in Mingus Park. It is a true gem in our area. The City keeps it so well groomed and beautiful. I know it takes a lot of work. The Japanese garden is exquisite, beautiful in all seasons. We will continue to enjoy it, ill-tempered geese and all, if we must remain on "goose alert" when we visit it. But please - our vote is to send the domestic geese out to a country home ASAP.

Best regards,
Nancy Knight
Bandon, OR

Jim Hossley

From: hardingj1@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2015 4:13 PM
To: Rodger Craddock
Subject: Mingus Park geese

I am a resident of Bandon, Oregon but I often come up to Coos Bay on a regular basis. I like to walk in Mingus Park and have wanted to take my grandchildren to the park. I will not take them as the geese are too aggressive and territorial. I consider myself an animal lover and I write this not as a "hater of the geese". It is not a natural habitat for the animals and they are disturbed by human interaction that does not benefit either party. A farm is a more suitable location for the geese. I would enjoy the pond at Mingus Park to be cleaned up and to be a healthier waterway. I am quite thankful for all the hard work that the parks department does to maintain the grounds. I would hope that moving the geese would make the park more enjoyable for the many people in the Coos Bay area. Thank you for taking the time to listen to my opinion.

Joan Harding
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sheri Corgill](#)
To: [Randy Dixon](#); [Jon Eck](#); [Nik Rapelje](#); [Denise Bowers](#); [Jeff Dixon](#); [Jim Hossley](#)
Subject: Citizen concern/suggestion
Date: Thursday, May 07, 2015 1:07:09 PM

Caller brought up the geese at Mingus Park. She had a grandson with her, and the geese chased & hissed at them.

Suggestion: Post a sign warning people of the geese and their aggressive behavior.

Chris
541-888-4425

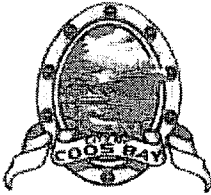
Sheri Corgill

Codes/Planning Specialist
Community Development Department
500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay, OR 97420
Tel: (541) 269-8918
scorgill@coosbay.org

From: [Randy Dixon](#)
To: [Jim Hossley](#)
Subject: FW: geese
Date: Monday, May 18, 2015 8:46:16 AM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)

Parks Commissioner comment regarding Mingus Park geese. Thanks.

**Randy Dixon, Operations Administrator
Public Works and Development Department
500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay, OR 97420
Office: (541) 269-1181 Ext. 2201
Cell: (541) 260-4580
rdixon@coosbay.org**



PUBLIC RECORDS LAW DISCLOSURE: Emails are generally public records and therefore subject to public disclosure unless exempt from disclosure under Oregon Public Records Law. Emails can be sent inadvertently to unintended recipients and contain confidential or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient (or authorized to receive for the recipient), please advise by return email and delete immediately without reading or forwarding to others. Thank you.

From: Ralph W Mohr [mailto:rmohr1565@charter.net]
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2015 8:04 AM
To: Randy Dixon
Cc: Pam Patton
Subject: Re: geese

To Whom It May Concern:

If there is someone who will take the semi-feral geese out of the city limits, my wife and dogs who walk Mingus Park Pond regularly would appreciate it. I don't like geese poop on my shoes as it is. Mingus Pond itself does not need the geese as they foul the water far more than any duck does. The geese are both a physical and health hazard to those who use Mingus Park. They are especially threatening to small dogs and kids. The semi-feral geese should be removed from Mingus Park and Pond.

Ralph Mohr
Member
Coos Bay Park Commission

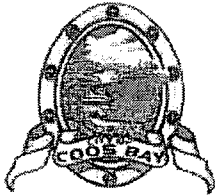
On May 18, 2015, at 6:46 AM, Randy Dixon <rdixon@coosbay.org> wrote:

Hi Ralph,

From: [Randy Dixon](#)
To: [Jim Hossley](#)
Subject: FW: Canada Geese
Date: Tuesday, May 05, 2015 7:02:13 AM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)

FYI.

**Randy Dixon, Operations Administrator
Public Works and Development Department
500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay, OR 97420
Office: (541) 269-1181 Ext. 2201
Cell: (541) 260-4580
rdixon@coosbay.org**



PUBLIC RECORDS LAW DISCLOSURE: Emails are generally public records and therefore subject to public disclosure unless exempt from disclosure under Oregon Public Records Law. Emails can be sent inadvertently to unintended recipients and contain confidential or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient (or authorized to receive for the recipient), please advise by return email and delete immediately without reading or forwarding to others. Thank you.

From: Coles, Christine [<mailto:ccoles@socc.edu>]
Sent: Monday, May 04, 2015 7:42 PM
To: Randy Dixon
Subject: Canada Geese

Hi,

My three dogs and I walked around Mingus about 5:45 - 6: 20. two Canada Geese came after us. I lifted my leg to kick them, but one still came after my Bichon Winston. He got pinched. I'm not a happy Camper!!! I was surprised that the Canada geese are now also aggressive. I thought this was a human park not a goose park!!!

Thanks and have a good day!!
Christine

From: [Rodger Craddock](#)
To: [Jim Hossley](#); [Randy Dixon](#)
Subject: FW: geese in park
Date: Monday, May 11, 2015 1:14:58 PM

Jim and Randy,

Below you will find an email I received from a concerned citizen. Apparently she did not fill out a survey. Please add this information to our survey results.

Rodger

From: Kay [<mailto:vkvoth@frontier.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 07, 2015 1:49 PM
To: Rodger Craddock
Subject: geese in park

I cannot find the page "ask the public" about the geese, so just wanted to let you know, and you can add it to the public response . I, personally do not walk the park any more, as I cannot run from the geese, and they scare me . I am 74 years old and many times do have to use my cane or walking stick to aid me in my walk. They have not personally attacked me, but have tried to block my way on the path, and like I said, they do scare me. I can only image how a small person would feel with the geese coming after them.

I just don't understand why it is a problem in just taking them out of there, period. Adoption or "get" "rid" of them , period..... They are geese for crying out loud.....

Just an innocent bystander, 30 year employee of City of NB, retired for 12 now.

Kay Voth

From: [Rodger Craddock](#)
To: [Jim Hossley](#)
Subject: Fwd: Aggressive geese.
Date: Thursday, May 28, 2015 3:38:07 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

FYI...Rodger

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: mayor <mayor@coosbay.org>
Date: 05/27/2015 16:58 (GMT-08:00)
To: Cynthia v <vlandia@msn.com>
Subject: RE: Aggressive geese.

Hello Cynthia,

Thank you for sharing this information. I understand that you have had several negative encounters, which is discouraging and a concern.

I will pass it on to the Council; the matter is currently scheduled to come before the Council at the second meeting in June, which will be June 16th. We do allow for public comment at all meetings at the start of the meetings. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, June 2nd at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall.

Sincerely,

Coos Bay Mayor Crystal Shoji

Phone: 541-267-2491



From: Cynthia v [mailto:vlandia@msn.com]

Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2015 1:37 PM

To: mayor

Cc: larry.campbell@theworldlink.com

Subject: Aggressive geese.

Mayor Shoji, I'm sure you have heard a lot about the geese in Minus Park acting aggressively towards park patrons lately. In the past year, 2 of my small dogs were bitten by a goose at that park and yet again today one of them was bit. I am familiar with the care and handling of geese and always walk as far from the geese as possible when passing them in the park. My dogs are all under 12 lbs. in size and they do not chase or pester the geese in any way and are always held up short on their leashes around the park birds. On 2 other occasions while walking without my dogs, I have had geese chase after me and was bitten on the leg once after I stood still and tried to scare the goose off by shaking my keys. Also my dogs and I have been approached by groups of geese running and honking at us when we walked down the paths as we passed them and they didn't start chasing after us until we were well past them. Today I was walking on the path by the Japanese garden and 2 Canadian geese and a white goose and a brown and white goose were sitting well to one side of the path. After I passed the geese with my dogs held by the side of my body away from the geese, one of the Canadian geese jumped up and ran up to us and bit one of my dogs on his rump hard enough to make him yipe. In the other 2 instances where my dogs were bitten it was after passing geese who were well away from the sides of the paved path on grass and in each instance the geese ran out after we passed by and nipped at my dogs. I have walked at Mingus park several times weekly for many years even though I live in North Bend because it was such a nice place to walk. Geese in groups are naturally territorial and want to defend their territory, it is not appropriate to allow geese to be roaming free in a park where small children and pets can be attacked by them. Geese have very strong beaks and I'm sure the city of Coos Bay would like to avoid a potentially litigious situation by taking care of this problem before someone or their pet gets seriously injured. A concerned park patron, Cynthia Verdugo.

Reported Goose Attacks after April 21, 2015

April 25, 2015 – Randy Dixon attacked by several geese west of Park after stopping to investigate small flock of domesticated geese that had taken up resting on the lawn of a private residence. Randy went to take pictures. The geese chased him about a half block as Randy ran back to his vehicle.

May 1, 2015 – Jim Hossley was attacked by two geese in Mingus Park. Jim raised his open hands per FOMP member suggestion, attack did not cease. Jim then rattled keys (also a FOMP suggestion), the attack ceased.

May 4, 2015 – Received request to call Denny Schmidt regarding someone who got attacked by geese at Mingus Park. Denny said he witnessed a young lady and her dog attacked the morning of May 4th. The lady was bitten and he believes the small dog was bitten too. The lady was distraught. She asked what she should do. Denny suggested she report the incident to the City. Denny was up on 12th and was not sure if the geese came up out of the water to attack or if they were resting on the grass. He said that from his point of observation he could tell the attack was unprovoked.

May 4, 2015 – Received a call from Harlene Darby that she and her little dog were attacked by geese today. The same incident reported by Denny Schmidt. I called and left a message on her phone. She called back that 5 or 6 geese attacked her and she couldn't shoo them away. She got bitten on the top of the foot. It didn't hurt or break skin. She says she has had other encounters with the geese in the past but this one was the most dramatic. She wants the geese out of the park.

What is bird flu?

Avian influenza (AI), or “bird flu,” is a virus that infects domestic poultry, such as chickens, turkeys, quail, and geese, and wild birds such as shorebirds and waterfowl.

AI viruses are divided into two groups—highly pathogenic (HPAI) and low pathogenic (LPAI)—based on the ability of the virus to produce disease and the severity of the illness it can cause. HPAI spreads rapidly and has a high death rate in birds. LPAI causes only minor illness and occurs naturally in migratory waterfowl.

There are many strains of avian influenza, many of which show little or no visible signs of illness and pose no threat to public health. Each year new strains of AI may appear throughout the world.



How does bird flu spread?

HPAI spreads quickly by direct, bird-to-bird contact. The disease can also spread indirectly, for example, when birds come in contact with contaminated surfaces or materials.

Wild waterfowl are a reservoir for avian influenza and shed the virus through their feces. If susceptible birds come in contact with infected feces, or other infected secretions, influenza particles enter the bird's respiratory tract, causing the virus to spread.

If you find a sick or dying bird, don't touch it, report it.

Domestic birds

Oregon Department of Agriculture
Animal Health Program

635 Capitol Street NE
Salem, Oregon, USA
97301-2532

1-800-347-7028
www.oregon.gov/ODA

Wild birds

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
1-866-968-2600



Fencing your bird area can help keep your flock safe from other birds that could spread disease

*Some of the photos and icons used in this brochure are courtesy of USDA/APHIS.
Created 2/2015*



Oregon
Department
of Agriculture



AVIAN INFLUENZA AND BIOSECURITY

Oregon Department of Agriculture
Animal Health Program
Agenda Item #8



You are the best protection your birds have.

Practicing “backyard biosecurity” minimizes the chance of bringing diseases into your flock and prevents you from carrying disease to other flocks. Migratory waterfowl, the movement of poultry, poultry equipment, and people are potential sources for introducing the disease to domestic birds.

6 ways to protect your birds

1. Restrict access to your property and keep your birds away from other birds.
2. Wash your hands thoroughly before and after working with your birds. Clean and disinfect equipment. Wear clean clothes and scrub your shoes with disinfectant.
3. Buy birds from reputable sources and keep new birds separated for at least 30 days.
4. Do not share equipment or supplies with neighbors or other bird owners. If you must borrow, disinfect it first.
5. Early detection can help prevent the spread of disease. Check your birds frequently. If you find a sick or dead bird, don't touch it.
6. Don't wait. If your birds are sick or dying, call ODA at 1-800-347-7028.



Wash your hands before and after bird handling

What are the signs of bird flu?

H5N1 can strike quickly and spread rapidly without any warning. When infected birds do show signs, here's what to look for:

- Lack of energy or appetite
- Decreased egg production and/or soft-shelled or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles, and hocks
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs, and legs
- Runny nose, coughing, sneezing
- Stumbling or falling down
- Diarrhea
- Sudden death without any clinical signs



How ODA is prepared for AI

ODA conducts periodic trainings and drills to maintain readiness of staff and emergency response teams.

ODA's comprehensive Avian Influenza Surveillance and Response Plan has been in place since 2004. The program involves:

- Multi-agency coordination.
- AI surveillance testing of poultry from flocks across the state.
- AI testing of all birds and poultry submitted for examination at the Oregon State University Veterinary Diagnostic lab.
- Meetings with poultry producers to update and improve the ability to respond appropriately to any type of AI event.

ODA conducts weekly AI testing of birds sold at the state's only live bird market.



Can poultry be safely consumed?

Eating poultry that has been prepared properly is safe. Cooking poultry products to an internal temperature of 165 degrees ensures safety. Proper handling and preparation of poultry products destroys avian influenza, as well as other disease microbes.