



CANADA GOOSE MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

Coexisting with wildlife

Park Board Committee Meeting
Monday, May 8, 2023



- To provide the Board with an overview of opportunities and challenges related to urban wildlife coexistence in Vancouver Parks
- To provide the Board with information pertaining to the Canada Goose Management Plan
- Seek Board approval of the Canada Goose Management Plan report recommendations



RECONCILIATION MISSION, VISION & VALUES

MISSION

Decolonize the Vancouver Park Board

The Park Board recognizes the institution's colonial history and upholds the Board's commitment to the 11 Reconciliation Strategies.

VISION

An evolvable organization in which every employee and Commissioner recognizes the humanity in themselves by recognizing and respecting the humanity of First Peoples; and an organization that sets a worldwide example in treating Reconciliation as a decolonization process.

VALUES

These values are your compass to help guide the way you work, interact with colleagues, external partners and the public.



PATIENCE

Colonialism didn't happen overnight. Untangling it takes time. We will pace ourselves for the marathon, not the sprint. We will adjust deadlines to ensure things are done well and respectfully.



CLARITY

We will focus on how colonialism functions to exclude, not on how to include.



PRAGMATISM

All staff are inheriting a system not of our making. The Park Board Reconciliation Team (PBRT) is here to assist colleagues with examining the ways colonialism continues to damage others. Blame is unproductive.



LEADERSHIP

We will nurture and sustain each other, demonstrating Indigenous principles in the way we function as a team.



LEARNING

We consent to learn in public. We will make mistakes. We will sit with those mistakes, be transparent about them, and use them both to learn and to teach. Our mistakes will be diagnostic tools.



Urban Wildlife in Vancouver Parks

- “Urban wildlife” includes all species occurring within or in close proximity to urban areas that are significantly impacted by human use;
- Vancouver supports diverse wildlife habitats and environmentally sensitive areas mostly in Parks: wetlands, ravines, intertidal zones, forested and naturally managed areas.
- Natural areas management has both positive and negative impacts on urban wildlife; active management for coexistence limits conflict and impacts



Forest

e.g. Stanley Park



Shrub

e.g. Jericho Park



Meadow

e.g. Oak Meadows Park



Wetland

e.g. Hastings Park



Backshore

e.g. Stanley Park

Wildlife and Operational Considerations

- Provincial and Federal regulations guide operational work and impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat
- Best management practices for conservation and preservation of habitat and species integrity are applied
- Some non-native species present challenges for maintenance, habitat preservation, and recreation
- Population monitoring and strategic management support coexistence



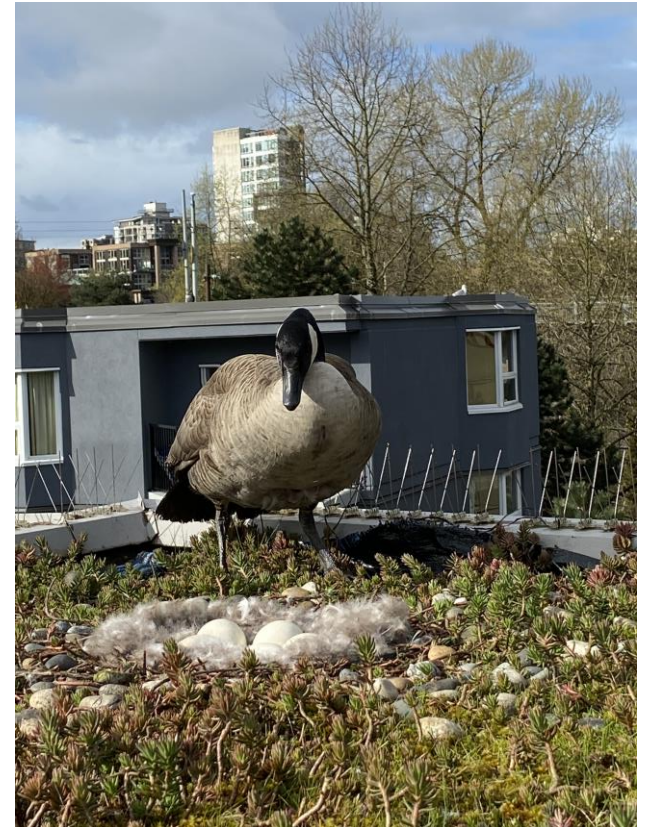
Canada Geese in Vancouver: Background



- Iconic, introduced species often found near human settlements
- Resident geese do not migrate
- Parks provide optimal habitat
- Conflicts with park users

Understanding the issue

- Primary goal of management: coexistence
- 2022 population study says 2,200+ geese and increasing by 18% per year
- Egg-addling for population control insufficient; other options limited by access (e.g. private properties) and funding
- A location-specific Management Plan is necessary to acquire permits for other management options



Scope of management need

- Geese move between jurisdictions
- Regional issue; documented interest for working group
- Precedents for robust, collaborative management in other jurisdictions

CRD closes in on strategy to reduce local Canada goose population

Overabundant birds are causing an array of environmental, health, economic impacts

[JAKE ROMPHF](#) / Oct. 25, 2022 5:00 a.m. / [LOCAL NEWS](#) / [NEWS](#)

Campbell River city council approves funding for Canada geese management

Efforts planned to prevent geese from degrading sedge meadows in Campbell River Estuary

[SEAN FEAGAN](#) / Feb. 2, 2022 1:30 p.m. / [LOCAL NEWS](#) / [NEWS](#)

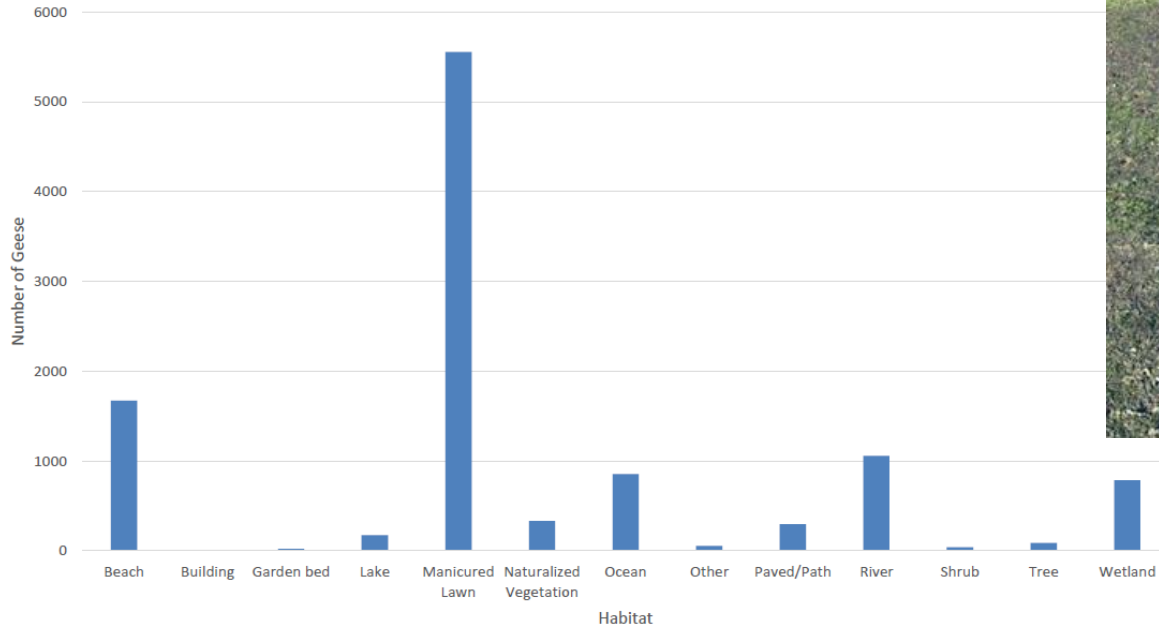
Trying to control Okanagan's Canada geese population

Egg addling program is in its 16th year in the city

[MONIQUE TAMMINGA](#) / Apr. 10, 2022 10:30 a.m. / [LOCAL NEWS](#) / [NEWS](#)

Impacts

Cumulative Number of Geese Observed for each Habitat Category



- Impacts: infrastructure and ecosystem damage; high density droppings
- Heaviest impacts on beaches and manicured lawns (e.g., picnic areas and sports fields), and where supplemental feeding occurs

Mitigation measures

- Without mitigation, population could reach 10,000 by 2030
- Population reduction requires permits, established management plan, demonstrated barriers to success
- Growth and impacts best mitigated using proven techniques tailored to local circumstances, including:
 - Public education
 - Landscape modification
 - Strategic hazing
 - Removal



Current management effort

- Addling ~150 nests, 600 eggs per year
 - Based on capacity and access to nests, public reporting nests
- Public education
 - News media, social media, printed materials in key neighbourhoods
- Operational mitigation
 - Available capacity addresses highest priority damage and conflict



Goals of mitigation and management

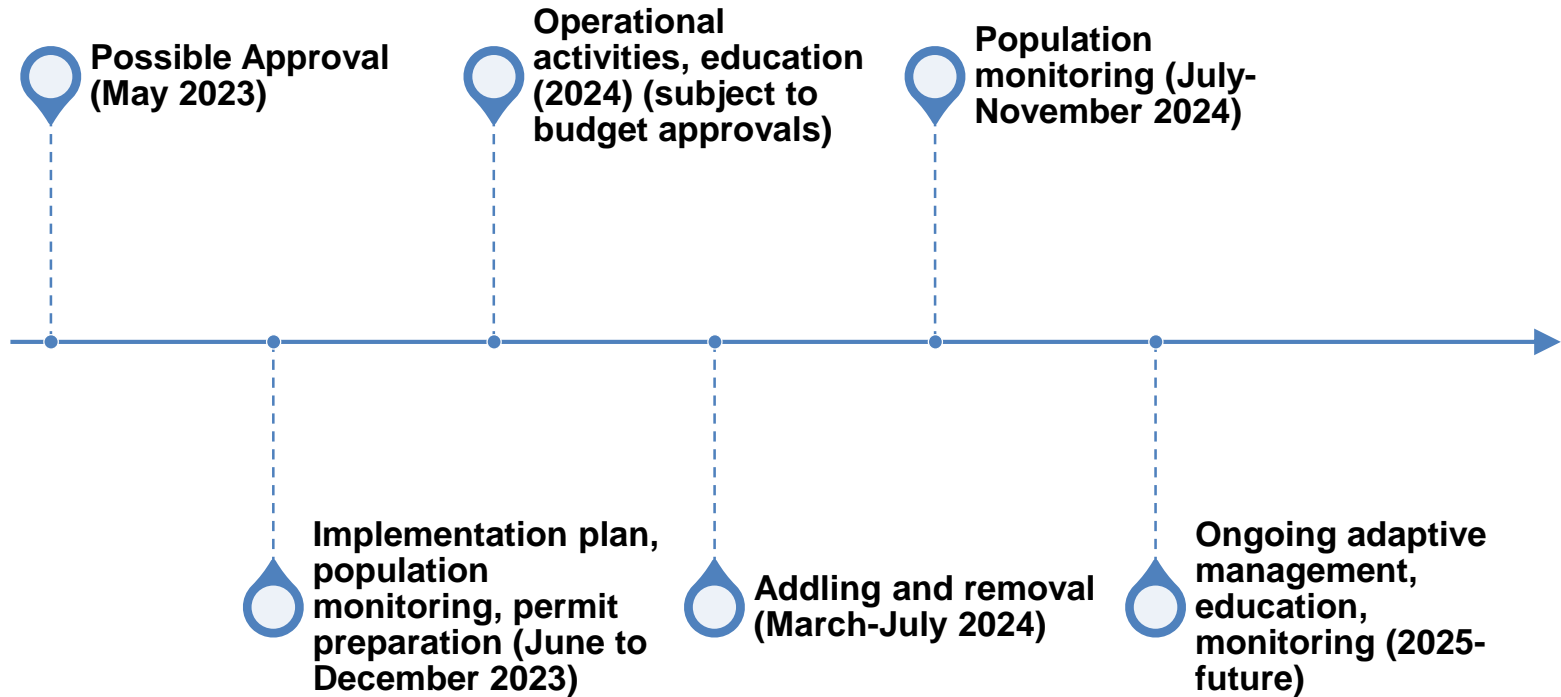
- Minimize impacts to ecosystems, park infrastructure and amenities, park users
- Employ a management scenario that uses humane tactics to control population size and distribution
- Establish a long-term management and monitoring program including ongoing operational funding



Proposed Management Scenarios

Management Scenario	A	B
Goal	Stabilize population growth with adding and other techniques	Reduce population on faster timeline with removal, adding and other techniques
Timeline	15-20 years	5-10 years
Key Management Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase annual egg adding to 700 nests• Modify landscape and coordinate strategic hazing• Population monitoring• Increase enforcement of feeding bylaw• Prepare implementation plan (first year only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All management actions from Scenario A; plus• Population reduction through removal

Management Scenario B Implementation Timeline



Implementation and Funding

- Commitment to long-term implementation, monitoring, adaptation, and dedicated resources is required to manage the goose population
- New operational resources are required to implement either Management Scenario for materials and training, planning and regional coordination, communications, enforcement, and contracted services
 - Resources would also support a full-time wildlife coordinator position and three (3) seasonal staff
- Estimated annual operating costs of \$275,000 to \$375,000 are required to implement the Canada Goose Management Plan and these funds will be sought through the city's operating budget processes

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board endorse the draft Canada Goose Management Plan, attached as Appendix A to this Report, and direct staff to create park-specific Implementation Plans;

FURTHER THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to implement Management Scenario B as described in this Report;

AND FURTHER THAT staff explore collaborating with the Host Nations on long-term Canada Goose management.

- B. THAT, subject to approval of A above, the Vancouver Park Board request City Council approval to fund the ongoing operating costs in the range of \$275,000-\$375,000 as part of the 2024 operating budget process.



Questions

