

Fairfax County Geese Management

Fairfax County has a growing population of year-round resident Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*). The increasing number of resident geese has led to increased conflict and concern among human residents. Do you have nesting geese on your private or public property? Would you like to manage these geese due to public safety, human health, or environmental impact concerns?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has established a federal Resident Canada Goose Nest & Egg Depredation Order that authorizes private and public landowners, managers, HOAs and local governments who register with the USFWS to destroy resident Canada goose nests and eggs on property under their jurisdiction when necessary to resolve or prevent injury to people, property, agricultural crops, or other interests. Canada geese are a federally protected species under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Protected birds and their nests and eggs cannot be “taken” (harmed) in any way without permission by the USFWS.

The USFWS identifies “resident Canada geese” as those nesting within the lower 48 States and the District of Columbia in the months of March, April, May, or June, or residing within the lower 48 States and the District of Columbia in the months of April, May, June, July, or August.

Landowners and managers must register their property with the USFWS online before nest treatment activities are taken each season and report their activity (total number of nests and eggs) at the end of each season (by October 31). Landowners must be at least 18 years of age to register. There is no fee for registration. Nests and eggs may only be destroyed between March 1 and June 30 by the approved treatment techniques of oiling, puncturing or shaking as indicated in the Depredation Order.

Fairfax County government uses a combination of techniques to manage resident Canada geese, including landscape modification, repellency measures, and egg-oiling to humanely reduce the goose population over time. The egg-oiling technique prevents embryos from developing by coating eggs with 100% corn oil. Egg-oiling must only be conducted at the earliest stages of development to humanely limit flock growth.

USFWS Resident Canada Goose Registration and requirements can be found at:
<https://epermits.fws.gov/eRCGR/geSI.aspx>.

The Depredation Order does not authorize the killing of any migratory bird species or destruction of any nests or eggs other than those of resident Canada geese.

Anyone participating in goose management is responsible for complying with all applicable laws and regulations including registering with appropriate agencies and obtaining any necessary permits before proceeding.

More information on managing resident Canada geese can be found at:

USDA

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/downloads/canada_goose.pdf

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/wildlife_damage/content/printable_version/fs_goosenst_WS_2011.pdf

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

<https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/nuisance/canada-geese/>

Fairfax County Geese Management Program

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/wildlife/management/geese-management.htm>

GeesePeace <http://www.geesepeace.com/>

Humane Society of the United States

http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/geese/tips/canada_geese_egg_addling.html?credit=web_id266485793