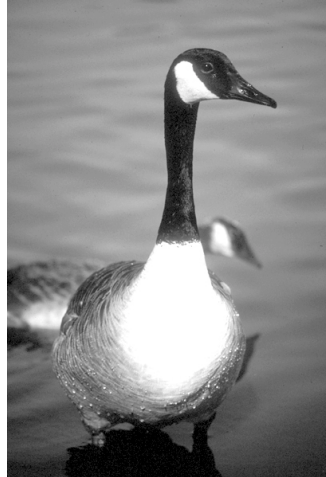


Housekeeping

Animal Management



Description

Dog and goose waste deposited near water bodies or within a watershed can contribute excess nutrients to lakes, thus stimulating the growth of algae. As algae die and decompose, oxygen levels in the water are lowered, which may kill fish and other aquatic organisms. In addition, animal feces can carry pathogens (bacteria and viruses) that cause disease.

While city ordinances can dramatically decrease dog feces left near water bodies and stormwater conveyances, wild geese are more difficult to deal with. The following management practices can be implemented to decrease geese populations:

- No-feeding ordinances
- Scare tactics
- Habitat modifications (changes in vegetation and management)
- Goose barriers
- Repellents
- Use of trained dog patrols
- Relocating geese
- Lethal techniques such as addling eggs, sterilizing geese, hunting birds, and euthanizing geese.

Federal, state or local permits may be required for some of these control methods.

Purpose

	Water Quantity
Flow attenuation	N/A
Runoff volume reduction	N/A
	Water Quality
Pollution prevention	
Soil erosion	N/A
Sediment control	N/A
Nutrient loading	■
Pollutant removal	
Total suspended sediment (TSS)	N/A
Total phosphorus (P)	N/A
Nitrogen (N)	N/A
Heavy metals	N/A
Floatables	N/A
Oil and grease	N/A
Other	
Fecal coliform	N/A
Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD)	N/A

■	Primary design benefit
◻	Secondary design benefit
□	Little or no design benefit

Housekeeping

Animal Management



Trained dogs can be used to “haze” unwanted geese

Habitat modifications combined with no-feeding ordinances are good first steps to dissuade goose flocks from an area. Geese are attracted to ponds and lakes that have banks with low incline and lawns, which allow them to freely walk between water and land. Ponds or lakes with an open upland habitat provide geese with protection from predators, while the nicely mown lawns surrounding ponds and lakes present them with one of their favorite foods, new shoots of grass. Increasing the height of shoreline vegetation may create an effective barrier. Dense shrub plantings or a 20 to 100-foot strip of herbaceous vegetation at least 3 feet high will discourage geese. Artificial barriers, such as wooden snow

fencing or a fine-meshed plastic fence at least 30 inches high, will also dissuade geese.

Advantages

- Controlling animal waste reduces nutrient loading in water bodies, thereby helping to control algae bloom and associated water quality issues.
- “Dog poop ordinances” and no-feeding ordinances for geese, combined with habitat modifications are an economical way to help improve water quality.

Limitations

- City ordinances only work with a willing and compliant public. Many individuals enjoy seeing geese near homes and public places and may not agree that geese numbers should be decreased to increase water quality.
- Geese habitat modifications may be perceived as “messy” by some people, and artificial barriers may not be aesthetically pleasing.

Design/Construction

- The design or type of barrier around a water body will be largely dependent on cost, and what the landowner considers to be aesthetically pleasing.
- A barrier of vegetation or buffer zone has ecological functions and structural benefits in addition to providing an effective goose barrier. For lower maintenance use native vegetation to create a natural buffer zone along all or a majority of the shoreline, that has a minimum width of 20 feet. The buffer zone can contain native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses, and sedges. A qualified landscape designer with experience in designing plantings for wetlands, ponds, streams, or lakeshores may also be commissioned to develop a detailed shoreline buffer zone. To further decrease goose upland habitats eliminate “unnecessary” lawn and restore native plants to as much of that area as possible. For more information of buffer zones, See *Lakescaping for Wildlife and*

Housekeeping

Animal Management

Water Quality (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 2000).

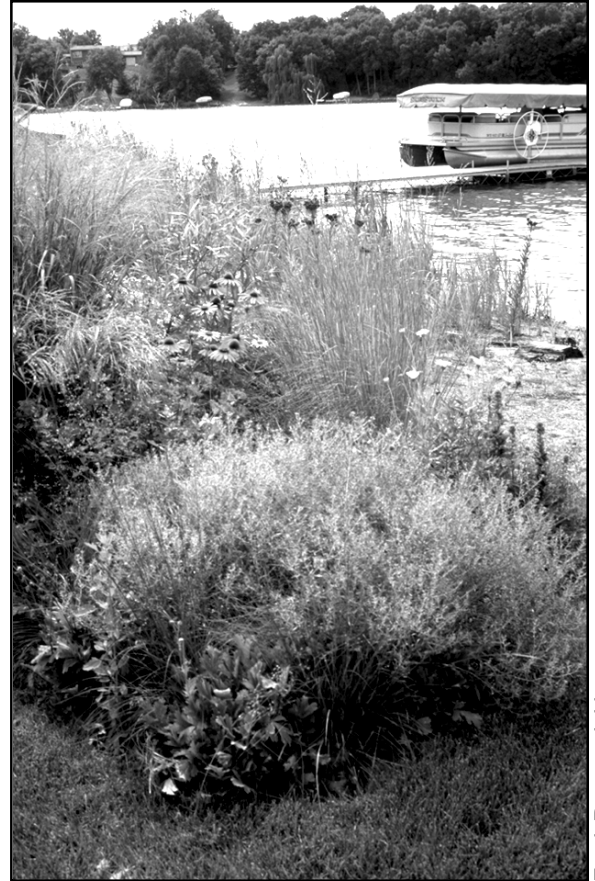
- Most any fencing material that is at least 30 inches high is appropriate for discouraging geese. Snow fencing is effective, although unattractive.

Maintenance

- The community animal ordinance may need to be modified over time to better fit problems as they evolve.
- Artificial barriers require very little maintenance and can be repaired easily when required.
- The cost to maintain vegetative buffer zones is only a fraction of what it takes to maintain turf grass and may only consist of an annual mowing in late fall or early spring.

Sources

- 1 Henderson, Carrol L., Carolyn J. Dindorf, and Fred J. Rozumalski. 1998. *Landscaping for Wildlife and Water Quality*. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Saint Paul.
2. Sperling, David L. 1998. *Making Peace with Geese*. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Madison.



Fred Rozumalski

A lakeshore buffer zone serves as an attractive amenity as well as a discouragement to geese.



Fred Rozumalski

A wide expanse of mown lawn is a favorite congregation place for geese.