



Bend Park &  
Recreation  
DISTRICT

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Goose Population Program**

This spring Bend Park & Recreation District will implement the GeesePeace Canada goose control model with the help of a core of volunteers. The goal is to cause resident geese to migrate prior to the June molting season. There are three components to the program: Population Stabilization, Site Aversion and Public Education.

### **Population Stabilization**

The Canada Goose population is stabilized by locating nests and oiling eggs to prevent them from hatching. Stabilization is important because it contributes to the long term reduction in overall numbers of resident geese, reduces adult loyalty to one site, and therefore improves the effectiveness of the nuisance abatement strategies.

### **Site Aversion**

The next step begins after nesting is over (early to mid May). The resident geese that remain in the area will be looking for a place to molt (lose their flight feathers). A geese exclusion zone has been established where there is zero tolerance for geese. In this zone a Border collie will be used on each water body in the exclusion area. This means that the geese do not have a safe place to molt in this area and they will go to secondary locations or they begin a molt migration. There are many areas in communities that provide a safe place for geese to molt and the geese are not causing a problem.

### **Public Education**

Bend Park & Recreation is asking the public **not** to feed the geese. One of the main reasons resident geese don't migrate is due to people feeding them. People also need to understand that feeding the geese is harmful to them because the proteins in our bread are not natural to them and can lead to deformities and other health issues.

The goal of the program is to keep the geese wild, healthy and migrating and to limit the amount of goose feces in public parks. For more information contact Paul Stell, Natural Resources Manager, at (541)388-5435 or at [paul@bendparksandrec.org](mailto:paul@bendparksandrec.org).

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