LAKE HOPATCONG FOUNDATION

Protect Lake Hopatcong

With their black-and-white faces, characteristic "honk" and distinctive 'V' formation during flight, Canada geese are one of the most widely recognized birds in New Jersey. These large waterfowl, which have readily acclimated to people and man-made habitats, have seen their numbers steadily rise in New Jersey, presenting public health and environmental problems.

DID YOU KNOW?

A Canada goose poops about 28 times a day, producing up to 2 lbs. of droppings daily!

Goose poop can contaminate lake water with bacteria like E. coli and Salmonella making it unsafe for swimming!

Goose poop increases phosphorus levels in the lake, promoting harmful algae blooms. In fact, four adult geese can produce as much phosphorus as one septic system!

It is estimated that just one adult goose can produce a half pound of phosphorus per year, which has the potential to produce 550 lbs. of wet algae!

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Here are two simple and effective methods to assist with the reduction of Canada geese on Lake Hopatcong.

DON'T FEED GEESE

Geese will gather where they are fed and refuse to move on.

Canada geese do not need food from humans. Even baby geese, or goslings, are able to find nutritionally appropriate food for themselves.

Feeding geese "human food," like bread, is not only unhealthy for them, it also hastens their digestive process, increasing defecation.

DO MODIFY THEIR HABITAT

One of the best and most cost-effective ways to reduce Canada geese problems is to modify their habitat around the lake, so it doesn't appeal to them.

Canada geese are grazers and their favorite food is grass. They are most comfortable foraging and nesting in open grassy areas along shorelines where they can easily see and escape predators.

To make an area less attractive to geese, reduce lawn areas and sight lines by incorporating a vegetative buffer along shorelines, creating a barrier between grassy areas and water.

A general rule of thumb is to create a vegetative buffer along as much of the shoreline as possible with native plants that are at least knee-high.

SCAN ME for more info on goose management

Hold camera over image

SCAN ME for recommended plants for buffers