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This Week at Giants Neck Beach

October 21, 2024

Upcoming Meetings/Events

The Zoning Commission will lead a public hearing on October 26, 9:00 a.m., at the Clubhouse regarding the proposed changes to the zoning regulations.

[Agenda.](#)

Giants Neck Beach - A Natural Beauty!

The Geese Management Committee has been meeting and hearing from different speakers about the most effective ways to mitigate the issues that arise when we live amongst these Giants Neck Beach inhabitants. The BOG asked this committee to look into this issue after several residents complained to the BOG about the excrement left here and there around our neighborhood. A survey was sent around to gauge our



neighborhood's concerns. Many people responded that it was a significant concern for them, and they would likely be interested in getting rid of the geese.

The group of 8 has met every other week since September 12, and a small group has looked daily to observe where the geese are and note the time of day and tide. We have years of history of geese here, but starting to record how many geese are and where they are is a valuable exercise as it gives us a way to accurately detail where the problem lies beginning this fall. Three cheers for this group's efforts. You all are welcome to join in and learn from the speakers by attending a meeting—either live or on Zoom! We also welcome those who want to spot wildlife with us—please include a picture or two and email Mary Jean Agostini at mjagostini16@gmail.com with your observations (#of each kind of bird, where you saw them, time, and tide).

Here is a quick summation of what we have learned so far:

1. Habitat modification is key. Geese love Kentucky Bluegrass- it is their favorite meal! The good news is that airports now plant similarly priced grass around their runways that keep the geese from hanging out and causing trouble for the jets and planes constantly coming and going. It is called Flight Turf and is available to us to plant here as well. We will be looking into this for our common areas. Please look into it yourself if your yard is a hangout for geese. Here is a side benefit: It also deters other wildlife, making you less likely to see ticks in your yard. Native Grass and perennials are highly recommended in a riparian buffer around our pond areas. They not only add beauty but deter geese, stabilize the soil around the pond to prevent erosion, and capture the polluted road runoff before it enters the pond, and they encourage beautiful pollinators to call our neighborhood home. Our northern pond has a good tree cover for birds who like protection but discourage the geese.
2. There are ways of dealing with the geese on the beach that we hadn't heard of, and we will be looking into the safety of these products in use near humans. Ledge Light tests the water quality for bacteria at Mothers Beach, and we have not had a problem in recent history where we have needed to close the beach for high bacteria count. This doesn't mean that we will not try to curtail the behavior of geese, but the testing shows that it is not a health concern, according to Ledge Light.
3. Goose fencing is available at a nominal cost. This fencing does not block views and is not unsightly. It does, however, prevent geese from having a way to waddle away during the molting season when flying is not easy. We are investigating this further.

4. One constant reminder we heard is that we should not be feeding the wildfowl. None of us have seen this in years here (in the past, it was fun for people). Angel Wing is a syndrome in which birds fed unnatural food sources have a deformed wing. I ask you to let the board know if you see anyone feeding wildlife besides songbirds.
5. There has not been a single case of euthanization in the state since 2018. Geese are not generally donated for food to soup kitchens and, from what I understand, are not tasty. No evidence shows this is an effective tool to get rid of geese. Generally, geese come back, and the expenses are annual. We are not looking at euthanasia as a viable option.

Our questions include what attracts these resident geese to remain here. We are looking into grants to help us defray the costs of the measures we are investigating. Please thank the people who are investigating this, as they are investing countless hours into the success of managing the geese. All of them will appreciate your patience and kindness.

Please get out and enjoy our beautiful natural Giants Neck Beach! And remember to be kind to nature and everyone you meet! We all play a part in making this world a better place! ~Lisa

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