



Parks & Recreation Commission

**23-151. Integrated Goose
Management Plan (IGMP) for
Central Park
Update Presentation**

February 21, 2023



Outline

- City Actions on IGMP
- Central Park Lake
- Improvements 2014-2021
- Challenges with Goose Droppings and Pathway Cleanliness
- Improvements 2022-2023
- Sustainability Impacts 2022-2023
- Regional Changes Regarding Geese
- Daniel Edelstein, Avian Biologist
- Next Steps



City Actions on the IGMP

- November 17, 2020: Parks & Recreation Commission Receives IGMP Presentation
- February 15, 2022: Parks & Recreation Commission Recommends Council Approval of IGMP
- March 22, 2022: Council Approves IGMP



Central Park Lake

Iconic Feature of Central Park

- One of the focal points in Central Park
- Located in the heart of Central Park
- Central location for the Art & Wine Festival
- A place for families to recreate





Improvement Projects 2014-2021

- Annual Lake cleanup prior to 2014
 - Limited short-term improvements to water quality
- Biofiltration Project 2014—CIP Project
 - Improved lake water quality
 - Improved the aesthetics of the lake area
- Lake Cleanup every five years
- Bi-annual treatment to reduce algae blooms





Challenges with Goose Droppings and Pathway Cleanliness





Improvements 2022-2023



- Installation of Quick Coupler System around lake perimeter
 - Provides another means of cleaning pathway around lake other than sweeping and raking
 - Quick coupler system reduces labor costs to clean pathways
 - Daily (Monday-Friday) cleaning of lake pathway



Improvements 2022-2023



Infographic signs placed around the lake perimeter, along pathways and entry points on the east side of Central Park



Improvements 2022-2023



Reinstallation of Water Fountain Observations

- Geese tend to stay away from the water fountain
- Mallards are indifferent



Sustainability Impacts 2022-2023



Annual draining of lake from mid-March to early September:

- Consistent with the regional climate and rainfall cycles
- Reduces water usage in the extended drought



Regional Changes Regarding Geese



City of Cupertino converted lake at Memorial Park to a recreational lawn area:

- Increase in green space
- Increase in recreational activities
- Fewer geese present
- Cleaner pathways



Regional Changes Regarding Geese



Foster City, as of February 2023, is beginning the process of developing an Integrated Canada Goose Population Management Plan to address the negative impacts of geese.

Image Source: Foster City CA website
<https://www.fostercity.org/community/page/canada-goose-population-management>



Daniel Edelstein, Avian Biologist

- Certified Wildlife Biologist Asc. with 25+ years of field survey experience
- 16 Years of Regulatory/Permitting Knowledge
- Community College Birding/Wildlife Instructor
- Birding Guide since 1986
- Author of over 100 regulatory compliance documents



Next Steps

- Conduct surveys and continue to monitor Canada Goose Population

Date of Survey	Number of Canada Geese Counted	Newborn Geese Counted	Number of Mallard Counted
7/7/20	88	No	59
8/13/20	95	No	71
9/30/20	80	No	64
10/22/20	158	No	87
1/29/23	8	No	45
2/7/23	45	No	90



Next Steps

- **Management Action 1:**
 - Continue to educate the public about the need to reduce goose overpopulation through educational brochures, onsite meetings, etc.
 - Inform the public of the future geese and mallard management actions



Next Steps

- **Management Action 3.c:** Implement habitat alteration
 - Adding shrub plantings strategically around the lake
 - Potentially adding an unobtrusive filamentous fence along inner perimeter of lake
- **Management Action 4:** Non-lethal control methods
 - Adding Canada Goose eggs



Recommendation

- Note and File