

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	21-523	Meeting:	December 6, 2021
	Agenda Item:	44	Roll Call:	21-1834
	Submitted by:	Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Goose management plan.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the proposed Des Moines Canada Goose Management Plan that was initiated at the request of City Council after years of human-goose conflicts in parks, golf courses, on trails, and other public lands.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The City of Des Moines contains landscapes that attract Canada geese. Within this urban environment, the presence of Canada geese overlaps with human activities and can lead to conflict.
- This plan provides management recommendations for the City of Des Moines to proactively reduce human-goose conflict.
- These recommendations will make the City less attractive to Canada geese while also encouraging City staff and residents to view Canada geese as part of the natural community of Des Moines.
- As a migratory bird, Canada geese are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) cooperates with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to manage Canada geese within Iowa.
- The City of Des Moines, the IDNR, and partners seek to reduce human-goose conflict through a proactive approach using measures to manage Canada geese within the City limits.
- This will consist of reviewing current problems, developing solutions, and evaluating outcomes. A one-size-fits-all approach will not address this complex issue.

- The recommendations provided in this plan will allow the City to take proactive measures to reduce the attractiveness of certain landscapes in the City to Canada geese while at the same time providing education to reduce human-geese conflict.
- The goal of the plan is to provide a working tool that helps address human-geese conflict throughout the City.
- The plan will provide background information on Canada geese, their use of urban areas in Iowa, and methods for handling nuisance situations.
- The plan provides recommendations for the City as well as site-specific recommendations for areas that are experiencing human-geese conflict as of the spring of 2021. Furthermore, this document aims to be future reaching through education of residents, City staff, and officials so that these methods, or others developed from them, can be implemented for the long term.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: November 23, 2021

Resolution Number: 21-081

Action: Motion by Potter to approve proposed Goose Management Plan. Second by Facto. Motion Carried.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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