



**CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL**  
**FEBRUARY 10, 2025**

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of a resolution requested by Lake Area Homeowners Association's to participate in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Goose Nest Destruction Program for Walled Lake and Shawood Lake.

**SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT:** City Manager

**KEY HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Canadian geese are federally protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Disturbing nests with goose eggs present can be done only under special permit, which can be applied for only when other techniques have been unsuccessful.
- The Lakes Area Homeowners Association (LAHA) is submitting a permit application for the Canadian Goose Nest/Egg Destruction Program to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).
- Their application is required to be accompanied by a resolution from the local government, in this case, City of Novi, for the permit to be issued by the MDNR.
- City Council previously approved resolutions supporting LAHA in their goose management efforts in 2014 and 2020.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Lakes Area Homeowners Association (LAHA), which represents homeowners living around Walled Lake and Shawood Lake, has proposed to apply to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) for a permit to participate in the Canada Goose Nest/Egg Destruction Program. In the attached letter, LAHA is requesting a resolution of support from the City of Novi, which MDNR requires to accompany LAHA's application. The City Council approved similar requests by LAHA on December 8, 2014, and February 24, 2020.

The enclosed information circular from the MDNR provides additional information about the program. According to the MDNR, nest destruction is an effective means to encourage migration of adult geese breeding to the north. LAHA has not identified specific locations for nest destruction but will be contacting property owners once the locations are determined to seek permission.

If approved, the goose nest destruction would occur for the next five years. LAHA would fund, administer, and coordinate the effort with Goose Busters, a State of Michigan DNR licensed contractor, and would require no funding or additional effort from the City beyond consideration of this resolution. LAHA is also required to notify any lakefront landowners or sites with multiple property owners of ongoing activities.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approval of a resolution supporting the Lake Area Homeowners Association's request to participate in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Goose Nest Destruction Program for Walled Lake and Shawood Lake.

**CITY OF NOVI**  
**COUNTY OF OAKLAND, MICHIGAN**

**RESOLUTION REGARDING ASSISTANCE FROM THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT**  
**OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE REMOVAL OF NUISANCE GEESE**  
**FROM WALLED LAKE AND SHAWOOD LAKE**

Minutes of a Meeting of the City Council of the City of Novi, County of Oakland, Michigan, held in the City Hall of said City on February 10, 2024, at 7 o'clock P.M. Prevailing Eastern Time.

PRESENT: Councilmembers \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: Councilmembers \_\_\_\_\_

The following preamble and Resolution were offered by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_.

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Novi, Michigan has received complaints of an overpopulation of geese inhabiting Walled Lake and Shawood Lake; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has determined that geese create unhealthy and unsightly conditions around Walled Lake for our residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council is of the opinion that goose nest destruction programs initiated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources will provide a humane method of addressing the overpopulation of geese and related problems on Walled Lake and Shawood Lake.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Novi City Council formally requests the assistance of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources on behalf of a request made by the Lakes Area Homeowners Association as long as they abide by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources regulations in the implementation of

next destruction programs at the appropriate time in a five (5) year period and, additionally, to advise the Department that there shall be no cost to the City of Novi.

**AYES:**

**NAYS:**

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Novi, County of Oakland, and State of Michigan, at a regular meeting held this 10<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025, and that public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting have been kept and made available to the public as required by said Act.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cortney Hanson, City Clerk  
City of Novi



P.O. Box 12 • Walled Lake, MI 48390 • [www.lahalifestyle.com](http://www.lahalifestyle.com)

TO: Novi City Council. City of Novi, Michigan 1-28-2025  
From: Lakes Area Homeowners Association LAHA

Subject: Goose nest and egg destruction resolutions renewal for 2025-2030.

The Lakes Area Homeowners Association is requesting the renewal of both Shawood Lake and Walled Lake resolutions authorizing the nest and egg destruction program. The current resolutions expire on 2-24-2025.

The program started in 2010 along with the Walled Lake Lake Board to address the invasive weeds and e-coli in Walled Lake that created beach closures and unsafe conditions with goose droppings being a major contributor of e-coli.

Pavillon and Lakeshore Parks ever increasing popularity with residents also benefit from less droppings on the sidewalks and grassy areas.

This is the most humane way of reducing e-coli, beach closures, human, and pet contact with goose droppings.

A certified company working within the DNR guidelines is contracted and paid for by LAHA.

Thanks

Jerry Anderson

President

Lakes Area Homeowners Association LAHA

LAHA represents homeowners with deeded access to Walled and Shawood Lake



Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Wildlife Division

### APPLICATION AND PERMIT FOR CANADA GOOSE NEST/EGG DESTRUCTION

Required under the authority of the Wildlife Conservation Order, Chapter V, Sections 5.51, 5.51a, 5.51b, 5.52b, and 5.110.

This form is the application and permit for nest destruction. After being approved and signed by the Director's authorized representative, it becomes a valid permit. A permit is required to participate in any goose nest/egg destruction activity. Permit eligibility requirements and additional information is on the back of this form.

APPLICANT INFORMATION		PROPERTY INFORMATION (IF DIFFERENT FROM APPLICANT)		
Applicant <b>LAKES AREA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION</b>		Site Contact	Telephone	
Mailing Address <b>P.O. Box 12</b>		Site Address		
City, State, ZIP <b>WALLED LAKE, MI 48390</b>		City, State, ZIP		
Telephone <b>248-770-9765 JERRY ANDERSON</b>		Name of Site (lake, park, etc.) <b>**One site per application**</b> <b>SHAWOOD LAKE</b>		
Email Address <b>JERRYANDERSON500@GMAIL.COM</b>		Township/City <b>NOVI</b>	County <b>OAKLAND</b>	Nearest Crossroad <b>OLD NOVI RD SOUTH LAKE</b>
Have you previously completed the training session? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes				
If yes, when and where <b>2010 NOVI, MI</b>				
Who will do the nest/egg destruction? <input type="checkbox"/> Myself <input type="checkbox"/> Myself with others assisting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Contractor				
Name of Private Contractor <b>GOOSE BUSTERS</b>				
TYPE OF APPLICATION (PLEASE CHECK ONE)				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAKE ASSOCIATION, LAKE AND/OR SITE WITH MULTIPLE PROPERTY OWNERS (must have resolution or petition)				
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL/BUSINESS				
<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE				
LAKE INFORMATION (COMPLETE ONLY IF PROVIDING A PETITION FOR A SITE WITH MULTIPLE PROPERTY OWNERS)				
Number of Lakeshore Landowners		Lakeshore Length		
Number of lakeshore Landowners Signatures		Do you have at least 100 birds or more at this time? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
CERTIFICATION				
<b>ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MARCH 24.</b>				
<i>I have read, understand, and will comply with the terms and conditions of the permit. If applicable, I have provided a copy of the petition/resolution to the Michigan DNR, and at least seventy percent of the lakefront owners have signed the petition authorizing Canada goose nest destruction.</i>				
<i>I understand this permit does not authorize trespass.</i>				
<i>Further, I assure the Michigan DNR that lakefront landowners or sites with multiple property owners have been notified of Canada goose program activities.</i>				
Applicant Signature 			Date <b>1-29-2025</b>	

Please send completed and signed application to:

**USDA APHIS Wildlife Services**  
2803 Jolly Road, Suite 100  
Okemos, MI 48864  
FAX: 517 203-2697

AGENCY USE ONLY		
Director's Authorized Representative Signature of Approval		
Issue Date	Expiration Date	Permit Number



Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Wildlife Division

### APPLICATION AND PERMIT FOR CANADA GOOSE NEST/EGG DESTRUCTION

Required under the authority of the Wildlife Conservation Order, Chapter V, Sections 5.51, 5.51a, 5.51b, 5.52b, and 5.110.

This form is the application and permit for nest destruction. After being approved and signed by the Director's authorized representative, it becomes a valid permit. A permit is required to participate in any goose nest/egg destruction activity. Permit eligibility requirements and additional information is on the back of this form.

APPLICANT INFORMATION		PROPERTY INFORMATION (IF DIFFERENT FROM APPLICANT)		
Applicant <b>LAKES AREA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION</b>		Site Contact	Telephone	
Mailing Address <b>PO BOX 12</b>		Site Address		
City, State, ZIP <b>WALLED LAKE, MI 48396</b>		City, State, ZIP		
Telephone <b>248-770-9765 JERRY ANDERSON</b>		Name of Site (lake, park, etc.) <b>**One site per application**</b> <b>WALLED LAKE</b>		
Email Address <b>JERRY ANDERSON 500@gmail.com</b>		Township/City <b>NOVI</b>	County <b>OAKLAND</b>	Nearest Crossroad <b>S. Lake, E. Lake</b>
Have you previously completed the training session? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes				
If yes, when and where <b>2010 NOVI, MI</b>				
Who will do the nest/egg destruction? <input type="checkbox"/> Myself <input type="checkbox"/> Myself with others assisting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Contractor				
Name of Private Contractor <b>GOOSE BUSTERS</b>				

**TYPE OF APPLICATION (PLEASE CHECK ONE)**

LAKE ASSOCIATION, LAKE AND/OR SITE WITH MULTIPLE PROPERTY OWNERS (must have resolution or petition)

COMMERCIAL/BUSINESS

SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE

**LAKE INFORMATION (COMPLETE ONLY IF PROVIDING A PETITION FOR A SITE WITH MULTIPLE PROPERTY OWNERS)**

Number of Lakeshore Landowners	Lakeshore Length
Number of lakeshore Landowners Signatures	Do you have at least 100 birds or more at this time? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**CERTIFICATION**

**ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MARCH 24.**

*I have read, understand, and will comply with the terms and conditions of the permit. If applicable, I have provided a copy of the petition/resolution to the Michigan DNR, and at least seventy percent of the lakefront owners have signed the petition authorizing Canada goose nest destruction.*

*I understand this permit does not authorize trespass.*

*Further, I assure the Michigan DNR that lakefront landowners or sites with multiple property owners have been notified of Canada goose program activities.*

Applicant Signature <b>Gerald Anderson</b>	Date <b>1-29-2025</b>
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Please send completed and signed application to:

**USDA APHIS Wildlife Services**  
2803 Jolly Road, Suite 100  
Okemos, MI 48864  
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**AGENCY USE ONLY**

Director's Authorized Representative Signature of Approval		
Issue Date	Expiration Date	Permit Number



## WILDLIFE DAMAGE AND NUISANCE CONTROL PERMITS FOR RESIDENT CANADA GOOSE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

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### PREFACE

This information circular is provided to inform permittees and interested applicants about the regulations concerning Wildlife Damage and Nuisance Control Permits for Resident Canada Goose Programs. This circular is designed specifically to address the regulations and the concerns of contractors, sites, commercial businesses, and public nuisance animal control agencies. This circular is intended to be a guide for those participating in the Wildlife Damage and Nuisance Control of Canada Geese.

Permittees may receive a current copy of this circular with approved permit or renewal information. Updates will be provided if regulations change. Permittees are expected to know and understand the state regulations and any pertinent local regulations related to damage control methods (i.e., discharge of firearms, local building codes, etc.) and to act within those regulations. In addition, permittees are expected to conduct control operations in a professional manner so as to develop and foster public confidence in the integrity of wildlife damage and nuisance control.

Answers to questions not provided in this circular may be addressed to the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services (USDA-APHIS-WS) Office, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Wildlife Division Permit Specialist, or by contacting a DNR office listed at the end of this circular.

### INTRODUCTION



The sight and sounds of a flock of Canada geese marks the passage of time, the turning of seasons, evoking deep-seated emotions, and for many, affirming perennial connections with the wild. Yet local increases in giant Canada goose populations can evoke an entirely different range of emotions. The following information describes common problems and solutions for people inhabiting areas with Canada geese.

The once nearly extinct giant Canada goose (*Branta canadensis maxima*) has experienced population explosions in areas throughout North America. This trend is due in part to the success of wildlife management programs and the adaptability of these magnificent birds.

Geese are herbivores and have a preference for grass shoots, aquatic vegetation, seed heads, and various grains. Canada geese usually nest in March and April. Adult Canada geese have very few predators, though raccoons, skunks, fox and crows sometimes prey on their eggs.

In general, geese have benefited from the way humans have altered the landscape. Canada geese are attracted to areas that provide food, water, and protection. Urban areas with lakes and ponds offer all the resources that geese need to survive. During the summer months, Canada geese can be a problem for some property owners. Birds often find refuge on lakes and golf course ponds, taking advantage of the lush lawns, while experiencing their annual wing molt (loss of flight feathers). Most human-geese conflict is associated with urban settings where manicured lawns are located in close proximity to water and molting geese that leave droppings and feathers on lawns, beaches, docks, sidewalks, and golf courses. Geese take advantage of large agricultural fields in fall and winter.



These areas provide high energy foods, allowing some geese to stay in Michigan throughout the winter. Canada geese may cause damage to agricultural crops through consumption or trampling.

The DNR has a Resident Canada Goose Program that has been developed to give private landowners (including businesses and other commercial entities) options to address their goose-human conflicts on their sites.

## METHODS OF CONTROL

**Elimination of Feeding:** Artificial feeding can lead to large concentrations of geese as they congregate for "free handouts." Feeding causes the loss of wild instincts and can lead to nutritional imbalance. Geese also lose their fear of humans when fed, which can lead to abnormal behavior such as aggression towards humans, causing an animal/human conflict. Communities must work to abolish feeding resident Canada geese. Some local governments have established "no feeding" ordinances.

**Hunting:** Where permitted by law, hunting is an effective and economical tool to control goose populations. Hunting provides opportunities for friends and family to participate in an important Michigan heritage plus procure a valued, healthy food source. Michigan has established hunting seasons in cooperation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) that are timed to target resident geese. The annual Michigan Waterfowl Hunting Regulations Summary contains season dates and bag limits but be sure to check local township firearm ordinances before hunting geese in suburban settings.

**Scare Devices:** Scare devices can be a cost-effective way to repel geese when applied consistently as soon as geese arrive on your property. There are many commercial companies that sell the scare devices listed below:

- Shell crackers (may require a federal permit)
- Bird bangers
- Screamers
- Rockets
- Bird alarm
- Distress cries
- Motion detector accessories
- Electronic noise systems
- Bird scare balloons
- Plastic flags
- Mylar scare tape
- Lasers, flashing or rotating strobe lights
- Canine effigies (coyote, wolf, or dog cutouts or 3D models)
- Radio-controlled boats (prior authorization may be required by the DNR Law Enforcement Division)

**Dogs:** Many sites have reported success using dogs trained to harass geese. Geese perceive the dogs as predators and avoid them. It is important that dogs are handled properly in order for this technique to be effective. Letting household dogs roam a property may chase geese away, but if a dog catches or harms a goose at any time, it is a violation of federal law. Also, dogs are not allowed to harass geese when they are flightless.

**Repellents:** Repellents can be applied on lawns to deter geese from feeding on the grass. The disadvantage to using repellents is that they are effective only over a short period, before rain or mowing reduces their impact. Remember, geese are more prone to avoid sites where repellents have been used if alternative feeding sites are available.

**Barrier Fencing:** Fence barriers constructed at least 30 inches high can exclude molted (non-flightless) geese from lawns in June and July. Barriers can be constructed from plastic snow fence, chain link, woven wire, string, mylar tape or chicken wire. Barrier fencing works most effectively when placed along shorelines, but it should not be used at times when young birds would be trapped on land.

**Landscaping or Habitat Modifications:** Making your yard less attractive to geese can reduce use by Canada geese. An unmowed 6-foot-wide shoreline buffer of tall native grasses or a hedgerow 20 to 30 inches tall can discourage geese from visiting your lawn. Allowing lawns or common areas used by geese to grow taller vegetation can also discourage geese from using these sites. Geese are especially attracted to lawns that are heavily fertilized, watered, and mowed. Studies show that fertilizing lawns increases their nutritional value to geese. Letting the lawn grow longer and not fertilizing or watering it will make it less attractive to geese.

**Nest/Egg Destruction:** If other methods of control are ineffective, destroying Canada goose nests and eggs may be an option for reducing local Canada goose populations. If done properly and at the right time, nest destruction will prompt Canada geese to migrate north on what is called a molt migration. Nest/egg destruction can only be done under a permit issued by USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services.

**Goose Capture, Transport, Hold, and Euthanize:** Removing or killing geese outside of the normal hunting season is considered a last resort after other techniques have been unsuccessful. Problem geese are captured at the request of local residents and/or a local unit of government. This program takes place in late June when the birds are flightless. Birds that are captured are killed and either disposed of or taken to a processor and donated to a charitable organization.

Special permits from the DNR or from USDA Wildlife Services must be obtained for the capture of Canada geese. It is strongly recommended that sites try other alternative control methods before applying for permits for capture and euthanasia. It is required that sites have an approved human health and safety situation or have a minimum number of birds and have completed nest and egg destruction before being eligible to receive permits for capture and euthanasia.

When considering nuisance goose control methods for an area, you have to consider several things: how large is the problem area, how do the geese get there, and what specifically is the problem. If geese always walked to the site, then consider exclusion techniques. If they fly onto the site, use harassment techniques. Another consideration is size of the affected area.

The best results are obtained by using a combination of several different control methods and changing tactics often to prevent geese from becoming conditioned to any one of them. In addition, studies show that geese exposed to hunting are more likely to respond to scare devices outside the goose hunting seasons. There are private animal control companies available that can be consulted for help in scaring and controlling geese. Before using any explosive devices, remember to check local ordinances, federal permit requirements, and inform your neighbors.

## **WILDLIFE DAMAGE AND WILDLIFE “NUISANCE”**

The term “damage” is easily understood; however, “nuisance” means different things to different people. For some, the mere presence of a red fox in the woods behind their house constitutes an intolerable situation. For others, glimpsing the same animal would be a thrilling and rewarding experience. Education can play an important role in nuisance recognition and resolution. A wild animal that poses no real threat to the safety of the public, livestock, crops, or property should not be viewed as a nuisance simply because it exists. A public that is knowledgeable about the habits and life history of wild animals is better equipped to recognize and solve wildlife damage and nuisance situations. One role of the DNR is to ensure the well-being of the state’s wildlife populations while also assuring that individual wild animals are not posing a threat to human safety or creating unreasonable property, crop, or livestock damage. As long as humans coexist with wild animals, conflicts will arise. The DNR attempts to resolve these conflicts through direct action, education, and

technical assistance in cooperation with private businesses, the federal government, and other state agencies. Care must be taken to ensure that damage and nuisance control measures are necessary and warranted.

## TYPES OF PERMITS

Under the authority of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act and the Wildlife Conservation Order (WCO), the DNR administers a permit system for damage and nuisance animal control of Canada geese when legal hunting cannot alleviate problems. The permit system allows nuisance Canada geese causing damage to property to be taken during times of the year and by methods not normally allowed under the regular hunting and trapping rules.

Under the damage and nuisance control system the following types of permits are issued:

### 1. Damage and Nuisance Animal Control Permit

This permit, issued by a Conservation Officer or Wildlife Biologist at one of the offices listed at the end of this circular, is provided to the landowner, lessee, or their designated agent and is not transferable. The permits are issued, following inspection, on a case-by-case basis usually for crop damage purposes.

### 2. Nuisance/Damage Application and Permit for Canada Goose Contractors

Contractors may destroy Canada goose nests and eggs and address aggressive geese on a case by case basis (capture, transport, hold, and kill) only by permit issued by the DNR. The deadline to apply is **March 31**.

#### a) Permit to Conduct Nest and Egg Destruction for Population Control by Contractor (Fee \$100)

- Permits a nuisance animal control business (public or non-profit) to destroy Canada goose nests and eggs. Sites interested in nest and egg activities for nuisance or damage control must fulfill program guidelines and possess an individual site permit for nest destruction.
- Aggressive geese are also included under this permit. Contractors may assist with aggressive geese situations, including capture, hold, transport, and kill. However, you need to get a site- authorization from your local DNR biologist for each aggressive goose situation.
- Canada Goose Contractors must train all employees and maintain records on birds captured, banded birds, and locations. In addition, this information shall be supplied to the Department at any given time.

### 3. Canada Goose Nest/Egg Destruction Permit

The DNR encourages landowners to increase their tolerance of Canada geese to reduce human-geese conflicts in situations where there are no human safety or health threats. The DNR recommends applicants to attempt alternate control techniques to address human-geese conflicts before they are permitted to destroy nests/eggs or capture and euthanize birds. DNR encourages homeowners to learn more about non-lethal techniques including habitat modification and scare tactics to reduce conflicts. You can find out more information on alternative methods to address goose conflicts on our website: [Nuisance Wildlife](#).

This program addresses local resident goose populations on sites. The Canada Goose Nest/Egg Destruction Program allows landowners to request a permit to destroy nests and eggs, which then encourages geese to migrate north. A copy of the approved Canada Goose Nest/Egg Destruction Permit must be supplied to any hired contractors. All individuals new to the nest destruction program must complete mandatory training prior to the issuance of the permit.

## Permit Requirements

Applicant must submit a permit application for nest/egg destruction area. The lake, body of water or site must be located in Michigan.

- It is recommended that the applicant have tried to control geese using alternative measures which may include legal hunting; feeding bans; habitat modification; fencing; barriers; repellents; scare techniques such as scarecrows, flags, reflective tape; and harassment.
- A representative from each new site must have completed mandatory training before a permit will be issued. An application is required annually to participate in the program.
- Applicant will be responsible to assure that all new persons involved with the actual nest destruction (i.e., harassing birds from nest sites, removing eggs) have completed training as designated by the DNR; OR be directly supervised by an individual who has completed this training. If applicant is hiring a nuisance animal control business to conduct the nest destruction, applicant (or representative) must have completed the mandatory training prior to a permit being issued. The DNR maintains a list of all individuals who have completed this training.
- Applicant is responsible for providing any and all personnel to handle the goose eggs, or use a state permitted private nuisance animal control company to carry out the work.
- Applicant will be responsible for providing complete and accurate record keeping of the nest destruction operations and file a report providing details as required by the DNR. Report must be submitted to the USDA-APHIS-WS office by **May 9**.
- Applicant will be responsible to assure that all eggs, eggshell fragments, and/or contents that are removed from nests be destroyed as specified in the mandatory training.
- Applicant may destroy Canada goose eggs and nests only within the timeframe specified and, in a manner, approved by the DNR. This information will be conveyed in the mandatory training.
- All applications should be postmarked by **March 24**.
- This permit does not authorize trespass.
- There is no fee for eligible participants.
- Applicant must notify **all** lakefront landowners (this includes sites with multiple property owners) of Canada goose control activities.

## 4. Capture, Transport, Hold, and Euthanize Permit

The DNR encourages tolerance and coexistence with Canada geese. There are numerous non-lethal techniques available to help address conflicts with Canada geese. Capture and euthanasia should be considered a last resort to address conflicts. To receive a new permit for capture, transport, hold, and euthanize, sites must first get approval from a DNR Wildlife Biologist.

## Permit Requirements

Permitted sites must meet the following criteria:

- Have received a permit and participated in Canada goose nest and egg destruction in the current year, AND
- Have a minimum of 100 birds at their site at the time of permit application, OR
- Have an approved human health and safety situation that meets at least one of the following:

- Where exposure to geese could have serious health consequences because at least some patients/residents will have compromised health or mobility (e.g., nursing homes, medical care facilities, hospital containment ponds).
- Serious broad scale health-related concerns that cannot otherwise be prevented (e.g., from ponds used to supply fire suppression water at corporate sites or wastewater treatment ponds where droppings and feathers can clog water intakes) or safety concerns (e.g., car proving grounds).
- Public or private swimming beaches where there are elevated E. coli counts according to EGLE's water quality standards and large numbers of Canada geese (e.g., >100) that pose a threat to large groups of people. A permit may be issued for a site that provides documentation of a swimming beach closure last year due to elevated E. coli counts and has a large number of geese currently using the area.
- Public parks that participated in the Canada Goose Round Up Program since 2017, either continuously or intermittently, and where the average number of birds over the last three round up periods is  $\geq 500$ .

To receive a permit to capture, transport, hold, and euthanize Canada geese, the Applicant must agree to the following:

- It is recommended that the applicant has tried to control geese using alternative measures which may include hunting; feeding bans; habitat modification; fencing; barriers; repellents; scare techniques such as, scarecrows, flags, reflective tape; and harassment.
- All applications for transport, capture, hold, and euthanize Canada geese must be postmarked by **May 16**.
- Geese will only be captured during the summer flightless period (approx. **June 1-July 1**).
- A Cooperative Service Agreement (CSA) with USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services is required. Additional fees will be associated with this service.
- Capture, transport, hold, and euthanize Canada geese of Canada Geese will only be allowed during the dates designated by the DNR. Each individual site must have a valid site permit.
- The applicant must bear all associated costs of the capture, transport, hold, and euthanize Canada geese and any subsequent removal operations.
- Sites are required to participate in Canada goose nest and egg destruction prior to receiving a permit to capture, transport, hold, and euthanize Canada geese.
- A completion report must be submitted for your site by August 1 to remain eligible for future permits.
- Applicant is responsible to notify all lake front landowners or sites with multiple property owners of Canada goose program activities and that any geese captured will be killed.

\*Note: Capture, transport, hold, and euthanize Canada geese permit, does not allow for the handling and transporting of live birds. Handling and transporting of live geese may be done by USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services

#### **Fee structure for Capture, Transport, Hold, and Euthanize:**

- Single Family Residence: \$100.00 Non-Refundable (i.e., a residence that owns a lake or pond in entirety)
- All Others: \$200.00 Non-Refundable (includes all lake associations, businesses, apartments, condos, parks, golf courses, etc.)

## **Additional Nest/Egg Destruction and Capture/Transport/Hold/Euthanize Requirements:**

Permits may be issued only to those that meet one or more of the following definitions:

### **1. LAKE, LAKE ASSOCIATION, OR SITE WITH MULTIPLE PROPERTY OWNERS, SURROUNDING THE LAKE/SITE:**

This will require one of the following to be submitted with your application:

- a. **Resolution:** A resolution approved in writing by a local government official (township, city etc.), which represents the property owners on the subject lake, body of water and/or site, approving Nest/Egg Destruction, Capture/Transport/Hold/Euthanize, or both for their site. A copy of resolution must be sent with application. Contact your local township/city clerk to request a resolution. Resolutions are usually valid for one year but can be valid for up to 5 years. Resolutions for Capture/Transport/Hold/Euthanize must clearly state that geese will be killed.
  - b. **Petition:** Approval consisting of signatures of at least 70% of the lakeshore property owners, which clearly states what Canada goose control activity is being requested. For Capture/Transport/Hold/Euthanize, those signing must understand that geese will be killed. Petition forms are available from the Michigan DNR. The petition will be valid for a 5-year period, though the applicant must apply annually for the program. A copy of signed petition must be on file with the DNR.
2. **COMMERCIAL/BUSINESS:** Applicant is an institution, corporation, or other single entity which owns/controls all lands surrounding or containing the subject lake/body of water/site. This can include golf courses, apartments/condos, parks, and recreation areas. This requires only a signature from the owner/land manager of the site.
  3. **SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE:** Applicant is an individual with sole ownership and control of the subject lake/body of water/site, with no public access.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS FOR WILDLIFE DAMAGE AND NUISANCE CANADA GOOSE PROGRAMS**

### **New Permits**

All applicants should read and understand the following steps involved in the application and permitting process.

- 1) Read this Information Circular (IC 2088) and the application/permit forms entirely. If you have questions, contact USDA-APHIS WS at 517-318-3471 or [mi.goose.permits@usda.gov](mailto:mi.goose.permits@usda.gov). Contractors should contact DNR Wildlife Division Permit Specialist at 517-284-6210 or [DNR-PermitSpecialist@michigan.gov](mailto:DNR-PermitSpecialist@michigan.gov).
- 2) Complete the application form. Be sure to completely fill out the application, enclose the correct fee (if applicable), sign and date the form, and provide any additional documentation that may be required.
- 3) Submit your application and required attachments to: USDA-APHIS-WS, 2803 Jolly Rd., Suite 100, Okemos, MI 48864 or [mi.goose.permits@usda.gov](mailto:mi.goose.permits@usda.gov). Contractors should submit applications to DNR Wildlife Division Permit Specialist, PO Box 30444, Lansing, MI 48933.
- 4) Permits may not be mailed out until just before the start of egg and nest destruction. Please plan accordingly. If you hire a contractor for egg and nest destruction, it is your responsibility to provide them with a copy of your permit. They must have a copy of your permit prior to starting any collection or handling activities.

- 5) Capture/Transport/Hold/Euthanize of live geese will be done by USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services. A copy of the approved site Capture/Transport/Hold/Euthanize permit must be given to USDA-APHIS Wildlife Service. A Cooperative Service Agreement with USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services **will be required**.
- 6) You will be required to maintain records throughout the duration of your permit and to report permit activities, per *Record Keeping Requirements*.

## Training

Training is required for all those participating in the Egg and Nest Destruction Program and in order to be a licensed contractor within the State of Michigan. Below lists all those required to take training:

- Egg and nest destruction training is required for all sites new to the Egg and Nest Destruction Program.
- Egg and nest destruction training is required for all new contractors.
- Egg and nest destruction training is required for sites that have already been accepted to the program and have new people to train.

## Criteria for Multiple Sites

For applicants that have multiple sites, sites must be located within one mile of each other in order to be included on the same application and permit. Information on Canada goose brood movements indicate that about 80% of broods will move one mile or less between nesting sites and brood-rearing areas.

In general, multiple lakes cannot apply for nest destruction or capture/transport/hold/euthanize permits under one application. Lakes that are identified and named as separate and individual water bodies (e.g., on plat maps, USGS topo maps, etc.) must apply as individual sites in an application regardless if they are connected by channels. Likewise, lakes that have separate lake associations must apply individually.

Applicants that do not comply with the above criteria will risk ineligibility of program participation the following year.

## Lake Association/Condos

Lake Associations must follow the Nest/Egg Destruction and Capture/Transport/Hold/Euthanize Requirements above. If there are lakefront landowners that do not belong to the lake association or there are multiple lake associations, all parties must be adequately notified of Canada goose control activities prior to the control activity. This includes Condominiums with multiple owners. **All members must be notified of the program prior to conducting Canada goose control on the property.**

## Legal Status

Canada geese are an important natural resource and are federally protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. They can be legally hunted during the hunting seasons with the proper licenses. The permitted harassment techniques and repellants described in this circular are legal methods. Throwing firecrackers or chasing geese with any motorized device (on land or water) are *NOT* authorized scare methods. Killing geese outside of the established hunting season and disturbing nests with goose eggs present can be done only under special permit, which can be applied for only when other techniques have been unsuccessful.

## Liabilities

Through the wildlife damage and nuisance control permit system, the DNR provides a mechanism with which landowners can address wildlife damage problems. However, the DNR is not liable for

any action, or lack of action, taken by the permittee or the landowner, nor is the DNR liable for any damages or injuries caused or suffered by either party. Any control measure undertaken by a nuisance animal control operator is considered a contractual matter between the permittee and the complainant.

### **Record Keeping Requirements**

Each permittee must keep records of their egg /nest destruction and capture/transport/hold/euthanize activities. Such records shall be reported on the DNR report form (form numbers PR2088-1 and PR2086-1) and sent to USDA-APHIS-WS by **May 9** for egg /nest destruction and **August 1** for capture/transport/hold/euthanize. Submission of the report is a condition for eligibility for future permits. Permittees shall allow, at any reasonable time, a DNR official to examine and inspect such records and animals in their possession.

### **Complaints**

All complaints regarding violations in relation to the nuisance Canada goose program should be forwarded to the Law Enforcement Division, PO Box 30031, Lansing, MI 48909. If immediate action is required, call the nearest DNR Office, Conservation Officer, or the toll-free RAP Hotline 1-800-292-7800. The RAP Hotline number is exclusively for reporting violations and is not a general information number.

## **PERMIT SUSPENSION/REVOCATION PROCEDURES**

Statutory law, quoted in WCO Section 5.55, provides the legal basis for permit suspension or revocation. Permittees should be aware that any conviction for a violation of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act or Wildlife Conservation Order, including a violation of a condition of the permit, shall result in the revocation of the permit upon action by the Department of Natural Resources. Permit suspensions or revocations are conducted by an Administrative Hearing Officer under the procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act. Persons under a hunting, trapping, or fur dealer license revocation are ineligible to obtain a commercial nuisance animal control permit for the period of their revocation.

### **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)**

HPAI is a virus which may be carried by migrating waterfowl and can infect waterfowl and domestic poultry, such as chickens, turkeys, quail, ducks and geese, wild and domestic mammals, and humans. HPAI viruses are extremely contagious and can cause high death loss in flocks. It is important that permit holders understand that the Canada Goose Program can be cancelled at any time if HPAI is detected in Michigan and determined to be a high risk to wildlife, domestic animals, and humans. All permittees will be notified should the program be cancelled.

### **Permit Conditions**

The applicant/permittee's signature on the permit application certifies that the applicant/permittee:

- 1) Has read and understands this Information Circular (IC2088) and the application/permit form and agrees to abide by all requirements therein.
- 2) Understands that questions regarding the rules and regulations governing this permit should be directed to the USDA-APHIS-WS at 517-318-3471 or DNR Wildlife Division Permit Specialist, PO Box 30444, Lansing, MI 48909-7944, 517-284-6210.
- 3) Understands that making a false statement on the application/permit form, resolution/petition; or failure to comply with the provisions of this permit, is a violation of state law and may result in the revocation of this permit, denial of future permits, and criminal penalties.



- 4) Understands that this permit does not provide any authorization to circumvent any federal, state, local laws, or any other local zoning and ordinances, and that it is the applicant/permittee's responsibility to know and comply with federal, state, and local laws.
- 5) Understands that any conviction for a violation of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act or Wildlife Conservation Order, including a violation of a condition of this permit, shall result in the revocation of the permit upon action by the DNR.
- 6) Understands that this permit expires on **May 8** for nest destruction and that the activity report must be turned in by its deadline: **May 9**.
- 7) Understands that Capture/Transport/Hold/Euthanize applications are due by **May 16** and that the activity report must be turned by its deadline: **August 1**.
- 8) Understands that the permit for Canada goose nest/egg destruction is held by one trained primary permit holder. Additional people may participate under direct supervision of the permittee without the needing a separate permit for each person.
- 9) Understands that this permit authorizes permitted activities in the state of Michigan, but not outside of the state of Michigan.
- 10) Understands that all permitted activities shall be for legitimate Canada goose related nuisances.
- 11) Understands that this permit allows wildlife damage and nuisance control activities only on the animals listed within WCO Section 5.51a.
- 12) Understands that animals captured under the authority of this permit will be euthanized.
- 13) Understands that animals, or parts thereof, held under the authority of this permit shall not be sold.
- 14) Understands the difference between Damage and Nuisance Animal Control Permit, Nuisance/Damage Application and Permit for Canada Goose Contractors, Canada Goose Nest/Egg Destruction Permit and Canada Goose Capture/Transport/Hold/Euthanize Permit.
- 15) Hereby releases, waives, discharges and covenants not to sue the State of Michigan, its departments, officers, employees and agents, from any and all liability to permittee, its officers, employees and agents, for all losses, injury, death or damage, and any claims or demands thereto, on account of injury to person or property, or resulting in death of permittee, its officers, employees or agents, in reference to the activities authorized by this permit.
- 16) Hereby covenants and agrees to indemnify and save harmless, the State of Michigan, its departments, officers, employees and agents, from any and all claims and demands, for all loss, injury, death or damage, that any person or entity may have or make, in any manner, arising out of any occurrence related to (1) issuance of this permit; (2) the activities authorized by this permit; and (3) the use or occupancy of the premises which are the subject of this permit by the permittee, its employees, contractors, or its authorized representatives.

### **WILDLIFE DAMAGE CONTROL RULES AND REGULATIONS**

By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by sections 40107 and 40113a of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40107 and 324.40113a, it is ordered that effective October 10, 2024, the following section(s) of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

#### **5.51a Damage and nuisance animal control permit, Canada goose site permit issuance; definitions.**

(1) For the purposes of sections 5.51a and 5.51b of this order, the terms in this section shall have the meaning ascribed to them in this section.

(a) "Permit" means a site permit for Canada geese issued under the authority of the department's federal special Canada goose permit.

(b) "Permittee" means a person who has applied for and been issued a site permit by the department. History: Am. 1, 2010, Eff. Jan 7, 2010.

**5.51b Damage and nuisance animal control permit; Canada goose, eggs, nests, site permit, requirement, issuance, reporting.**

(1) To transport, capture, hold, and euthanize Canada geese, destroy Canada goose eggs and nests under the authority granted to the state of Michigan by the federal special Canada goose permit a permittee must:

(a) Successfully complete a department sponsored training to handle and/or destroy Canada goose eggs and nests.

(b) Provide the department with one of the following:

(i) A petition requesting transport, capture, hold, nest/egg destruction, and euthanasia of geese. This must be signed by a minimum of 70 percent of the riparian lake front landowners on the involved water body.

(ii) A signed resolution for transport, capture, hold, nest/egg destruction, and euthanasia of geese from a governmental agency representative of the riparian lake front landowners.

(iii) Proof of sole ownership of the site.

(c) Ensure all program related requirements are met.

(d) Make application for and be issued a Canada goose site permit on a form provided by the department at the fees noted in section 5.110 (3).

(e) Submit an annual report as required by section 5.54 of this order.

(2) An annual Canada goose site permit shall be valid for the period from March 11 through August 31 per federal regulation 50 CFR 21.120. Failure of the permittee to comply with the permit provisions will make the permittee ineligible to receive a Canada goose control permit for a period of one year.

(3) The department shall not be liable for any damage suffered by a complainant as a result of the performance of the permittee operating under the authority of a permit.

(4) Permits shall be issued only to bona fide landowners or lessees and shall not be transferable.

History: Am. Eff. Oct. 10, 2024.

**5.52b Nuisance animal control businesses, public nuisance animal control agencies and non-profit nuisance animal control organizations; Canada goose permit, requirements, issuance, reporting.**

(1) To capture, hold, and euthanize aggressive Canada geese, destroy Canada goose eggs and nests under the authority granted to the state of Michigan by the federal special Canada goose permit, a permittee must:

(a) Possess written certification of the successful completion of a department sponsored training to handle and/or destroy Canada goose eggs and nests.

(b) Make application for and be issued a Canada goose permit by the wildlife permit specialist on a form provided by the department at the fee noted in section 5.110 (4).

(c) Submit an annual report as required by section 5.54 of this order.

(2) An annual Canada goose permit shall be valid for the period from March 11 through August 31 per federal regulation 50 CFR 21.120. Failure of the permittee to comply with the permit provisions will make the permittee ineligible to receive Canada goose control permits for a period of one year.

(3) The department shall not be liable for any damage suffered by a complainant as a result of the performance of the permittee operating under the authority of a permit.

(4) An annual Canada goose permit shall be valid for the period from March 11 through August 31 per federal regulation 50 CFR 21.120. Failure of the permittee to comply with the permit provisions will make the permittee ineligible to receive Canada goose control permits for a period of one year.

History: Am. 1, 2010, Eff. Jan 7, 2010; Am. 2, 2022; Eff. Mar. 11, 2022; Am. 9, 2024, Eff. Oct. 10, 2024.

### **5.110 Special permits; fees; disposition.**

Sec. 5.110 The following fees are established for permits issued by the director:

- (1) A fee of \$100 shall be collected for each taxidermy permit issued. Taxidermy specimen identification tags shall be \$10 per fifty.
- (2) A fee equivalent to the fee charged for a resident antlerless deer hunting license shall be collected for each managed deer hunting permit.
- (3) An annual fee of \$200 shall be collected for a site permit to participate in the capture and holding of Canada geese, as specified in section 5.51b of this order, except as follows:
  - (a) An annual fee for a single family residence shall be \$100.
- (4) An annual fee of \$100 shall be collected from a nuisance animal control business, public nuisance animal control agency, or non-profit nuisance animal control organization to participate in the following, as specified in section 5.52b of this order:
  - (a) Capture, holding or euthanasia of aggressive Canada geese.
  - (b) Destruction of Canada goose nests and eggs.
- (5) A fee of \$100.00 shall be collected for each falconry permit issued as described in section 10.3(7) of this order.
- (6) A fee of \$10 shall be collected for each deer management assistance permit purchased by a permittee.
- (7) All moneys received from the sale of permits and licenses as provided in this section shall be turned over to the state treasurer and credited to the game and fish protection fund.
- (8) No fee shall be collected for any of the following permits:
  - (a) Highway killed deer/bear permit.
  - (b) Deer damage shooting permit.
  - (c) Damage and nuisance animal control permit, except as noted in section 5.110(3) and section 5.110(4) of this order, including disease control and disease control replacement permits.
  - (d) Rehabilitation permit.
  - (e) Permit to take game with a crossbow.
  - (f) Permit to hunt from a standing vehicle.
  - (g) Permit to hunt using a laser sighting device.
- (9) A fee of \$200 shall be collected for a common merganser site permit as specified in section 5.51c of this order, except as follows:
  - (a) A fee for a single-family residence shall be \$100.
- (10) An annual fee of \$500 shall be collected from a nuisance animal control business, public nuisance animal control agency, or non-profit nuisance animal control organization to participate in the following, as specified in section 5.52d of this order, except as follows:
  - (a) An annual fee for the capture and transport only of common merganser shall be \$300.
  - (b) An annual fee for the egg and nest destruction of common merganser shall be \$200.
  - (c) An annual fee for the harassment of common merganser with lethal reinforcement shall be

\$200. History:., Eff. Oct. 10, 2024

## CONTACTS

### **Nest/Egg Destruction and Capture/Transport/Hold/Euthanize Application Questions**

Contact: USDA-APHIS-WS, 2803 Jolly Rd, Suite 100, Okemos, MI 48864, 517-318-3471 or [MI.Goose.Permits@usda.gov](mailto:MI.Goose.Permits@usda.gov).

### **Permit Regulations and Contractor Permit Questions**

Contact: Wildlife Permit Specialist, DNR, Wildlife Division, PO Box 30444, Lansing, MI 48909-7944, 517-284-6210 or [DNR-PermitSpecialist@michigan.gov](mailto:DNR-PermitSpecialist@michigan.gov).

### **Site Specific Questions and Aggressive Geese**

Contact your local Wildlife Field Office Biologist.

### **Biological Questions**

Contact: Waterfowl and Wetland Specialist, DNR, Wildlife Division, Lansing Customer Service Center 4166 Legacy Parkway, Lansing, MI 48911 or the DNR website at [Customer Service Centers](#).

## **DISTRICT LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICES**

Applicants may contact a Michigan DNR District Law Enforcement Office at one of the locations listed below:

**DNR District 1 Law Enforcement Office**, 1990 US-41 S, Marquette, MI 49855, 906-228-6561.

**Counties:** Keweenaw, Houghton, Ontonagon, Gogebic, Baraga, Iron, Dickinson, Menominee, Marquette.

**DNR District 2 Law Enforcement Office**, RR4, PO Box 796, 5100 State HWY M-123, Newberry, MI 49868, 906-293-5131. **Counties:** Alger, Delta, Schoolcraft, Luce, Chippewa, Mackinac.

**DNR District 3 Law Enforcement Office**, PO Box 667 1732 W M-32, Gaylord, MI 49735, 989-732-3541. **Counties:** Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, Otsego, Alpena, Montmorency, Presque Isle.

**DNR District 4 Law Enforcement Office**, 8015 Mackinaw Trail, Cadillac, MI 49601, 231-775-9727.

**Counties:** Benzie, Leelanau, Grand Traverse, Manistee, Wexford, Mason, Lake, Osceola, Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta.

**DNR District 5 Law Enforcement Office**, PO Box 128, 8717 N Roscommon Rd, Roscommon, MI 48653, 989-275-5151. **Counties:** Kalkaska, Missaukee Crawford, Oscoda, Alcona, Roscommon,

Ogemaw, Iosco, Clare, Gladwin, Arenac.

**DNR District 6 Law Enforcement Office**, 503 N Euclid Ave, Suite 1, Bay City, MI 48706, 989-684-9141. **Counties:** Montcalm, Saginaw, Huron, Sanilac, Tuscola, Isabella, Midland, Bay, Gratiot.

**DNR District 7 Law Enforcement Office**, 621 N 10th St. Plainwell, MI 49080, 269-685-6851.

**Counties:** Muskegon, Ottawa, Kent, Ionia, Allegan, Barry, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph.

**DNR District 8 Law Enforcement Office**, 4166 Legacy Parkway, Lansing, MI 48911, 517-284-4720.  
**Counties:** Clinton, Shiawassee, Eaton, Ingham, Jackson, Hillsdale, Branch, Calhoun.

**DNR District 9 Law Enforcement Office**, 1801 Atwater St. Detroit, MI 48207, 313-396-6890.  
**Counties:** Livingston, Washtenaw, Lenawee, St. Clair, Oakland, Macomb, Wayne, Monroe, Lapeer, Genesee.

### **WILDLIFE OPERATION SERVICE CENTERS**

Applicants may contact a Michigan DNR Customer Service Centers Below:

#### **Upper Peninsula**

**Baraga Operation Service Center**, 427 US-41 N, Baraga, MI 49908, 906-353-6651.

**Marquette Operation Service Center**, 1990 US-41 S, Marquette, MI 49855, 906-228-6561.

**Newberry Operation Service Center**, 5100 M-123, Newberry, MI 49868, 906-293-5131.

#### **Northern Lower Peninsula**

**Gaylord Operation Service Center**, 1732 W. M-32, Gaylord, MI 49735, 989-732-3541.

**Cadillac Operation Service Center**, 8015 Mackinaw Trail, Cadillac, MI 49601, 231-775-9727.

**Roscommon Operation Service Center**, I-75 & M-18 S, 8717 N Roscommon Rd., Roscommon, MI 48653, 989-275-5151.

#### **Southern Lower Peninsula**

**Bay City Operation Service Center**, 3580 State Park Dr. Bay City, MI 48706, 989-684-9141.

**Plainwell Operation Service Center**, 621 N. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Plainwell, MI 49080, 269-685-6851.

**Detroit Metro Operation Service Center**, 1801 Atwater St. Detroit, MI 48201, 313-396-6890.

**Lansing Customer Service Center**, 4166 Legacy Parkway, Lansing, MI 48911, 517-284-4720.