



# GEESE MITIGATION

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# Canada Geese Background

- Recognized and loved species known for honking calls, protective parenting, and synchronized v-formation flights
- Native to Canada and naturally migratory
- Conservation work in the 70's resulted in a southern Canada resident population – this group is considered introduced and they do not migrate



# Canada Geese

## Background: Food

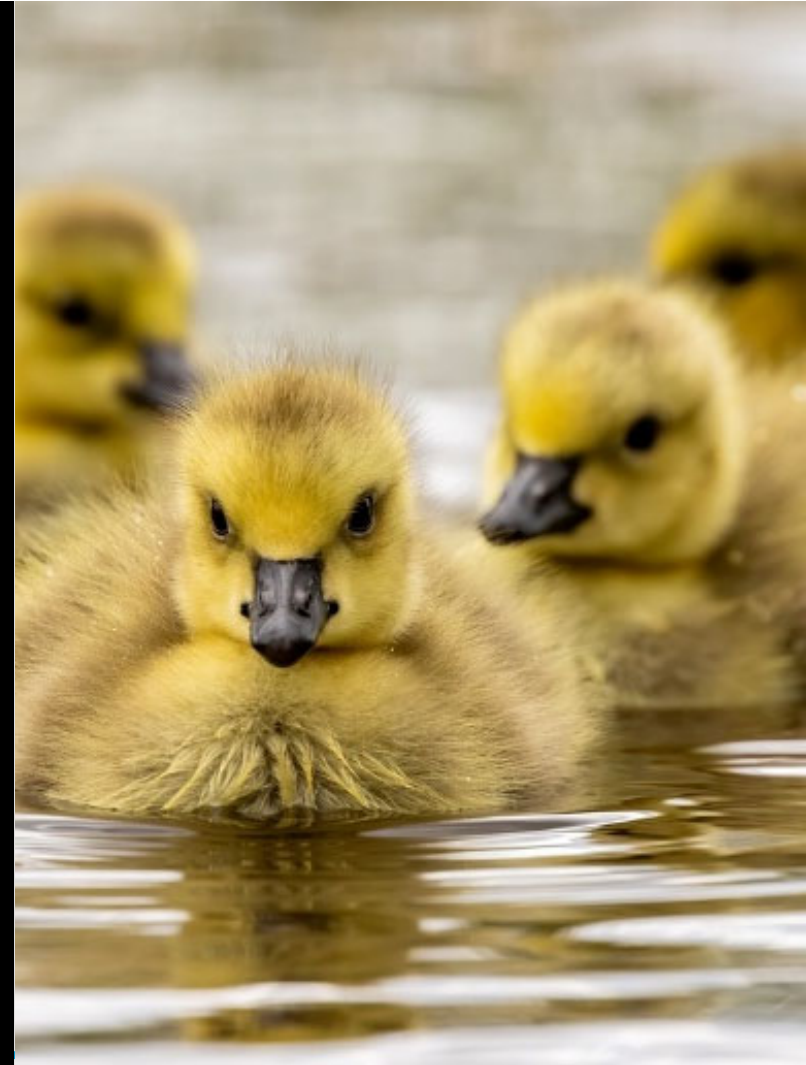
- Eat grass and other tender plants
- Prefer mowed lawns for more protein in young shoots of grass
- More mowing = more young shoots
- Taller, older grasses are coarser and offer less nutrition



# Canada Geese

## Background: Water

- Drinking, preening, and bathing
- Rarely stray from water when with goslings and during moult
- Best avenue of escape
- Nest at water's edge or near shoreline





# Canada Geese: Provincial Impacts

- Public health
- Environmental
- Agriculture
- Tourism and recreation



# Canada Geese: Local Impacts in West Vancouver

- Impacts recreational uses and aesthetics
- Fecal matter on park pathways, grass, beaches, and sports fields
- Heavy grazing and hole digging in park turf
- Conflicts with park users at water features



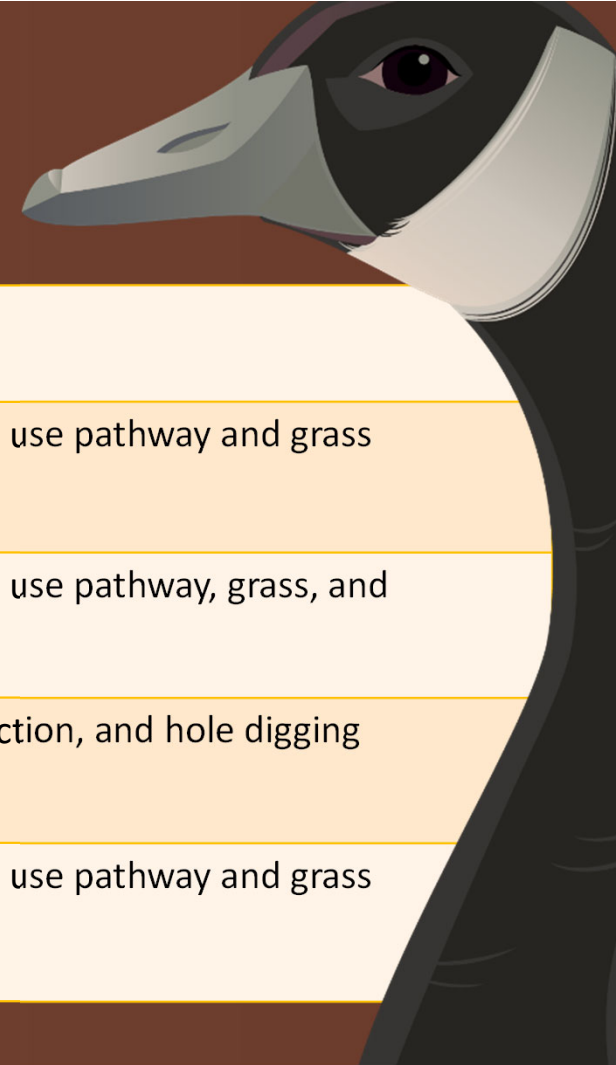


# Canada Geese: Conflict Locations

- Geese and humans share the love of maintained grass near open water
- These two features, lawns and water, are key components of many urban landscapes



# Canada Geese: Conflict locations in West Vancouver

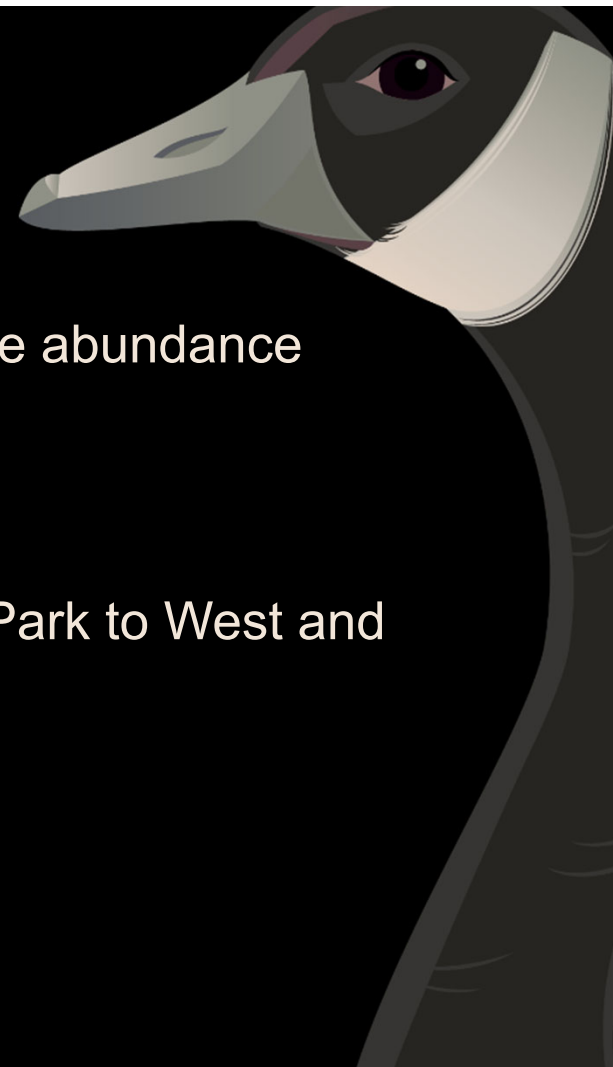
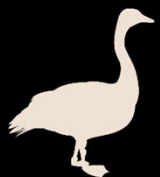


Location	Goose Attraction	Impacts
Dundarave Park	Shoreline abuts the Seawalk and open grass area	Fecal matter on high use pathway and grass
Horseshoe Bay Park	Shoreline abuts the pathway and open grass area	Fecal matter on high use pathway, grass, and playground
Sport fields	Irrigated and regularly mown grass	Fecal matter, compaction, and hole digging
West Vancouver Community Centre (WVCC)	Fountain and Great Lawn	Fecal matter on high use pathway and grass



## Scope of Issue in West Vancouver: Population

- The District does not currently have data on Canada Goose abundance and distribution within West Vancouver
- Easily cross municipal and property boundaries
- Have been observed moving back and forth from Stanley Park to West and North Vancouver
- A goose banded in Coquitlam later surveyed in Vancouver



# Canada Geese: Regulations

- *Federal Migratory Birds Regulations (2022)*
- *BC Wildlife Act (1996)*
- Federal and Provincial permits required for hazing and egg addling



# Canada Geese: Mitigation Categories

- Landscape modification
- Scaring / hazing
- Population control





# Mitigation options we have implemented with success

- Reduced mowing in high conflict locations
- Reduced irrigation of open grass areas that abut open water at Dundarave and Horseshoe Bay Parks
- Turned off water features at Dundarave Park, Horseshoe Bay Park, and WVCC\*
- Research and learning from what other municipalities are implementing





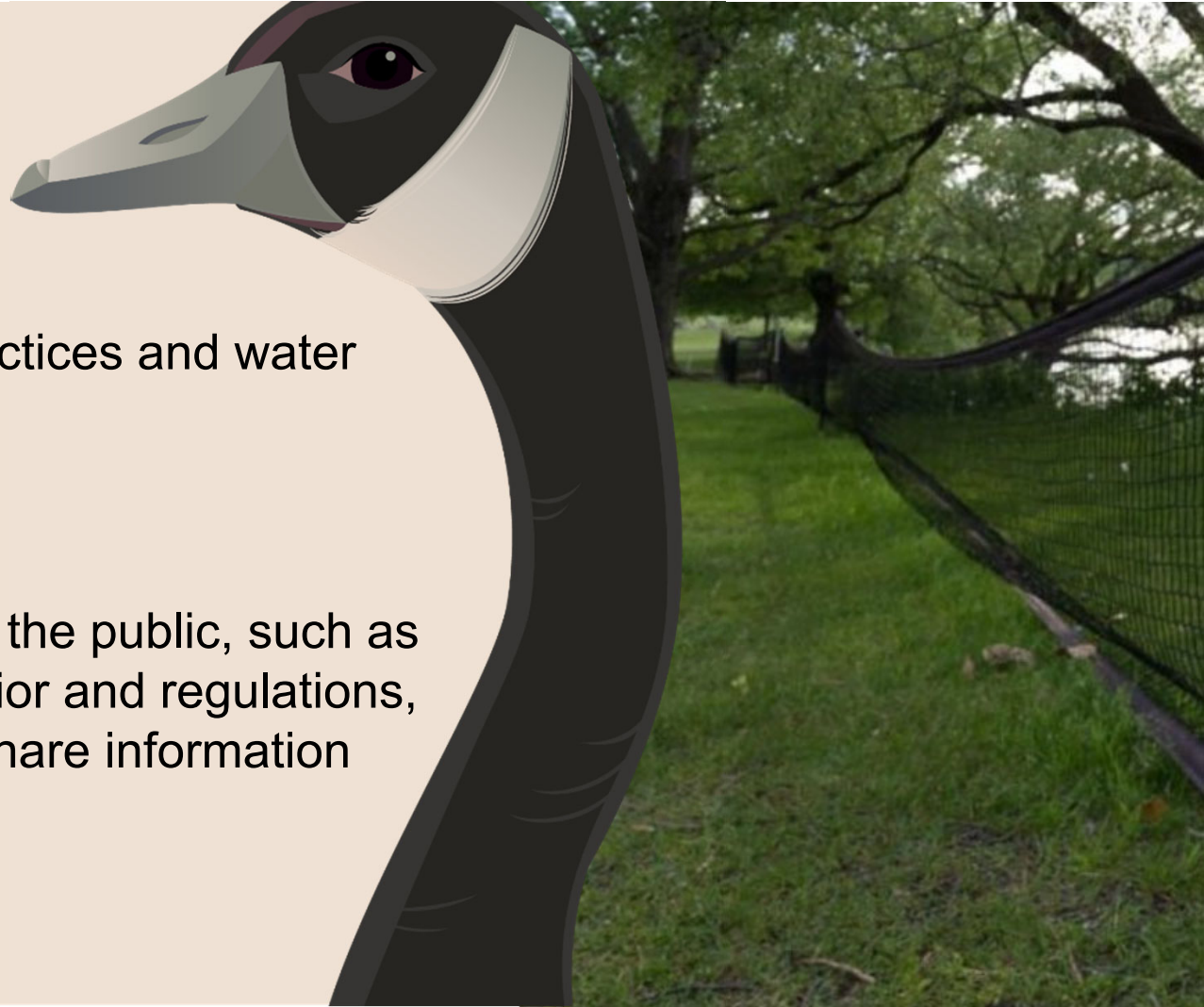
# Mitigation options we have implemented with success

- Increased cleaning at high conflict locations
  - Goose poop collector purchased in 2022
  - Additional contracted power washing



# Further mitigation options that can be implemented

- Refine turf maintenance practices and water management
- Pilot barriers
- Provide more information to the public, such as signage about geese behavior and regulations, and utilize social media to share information





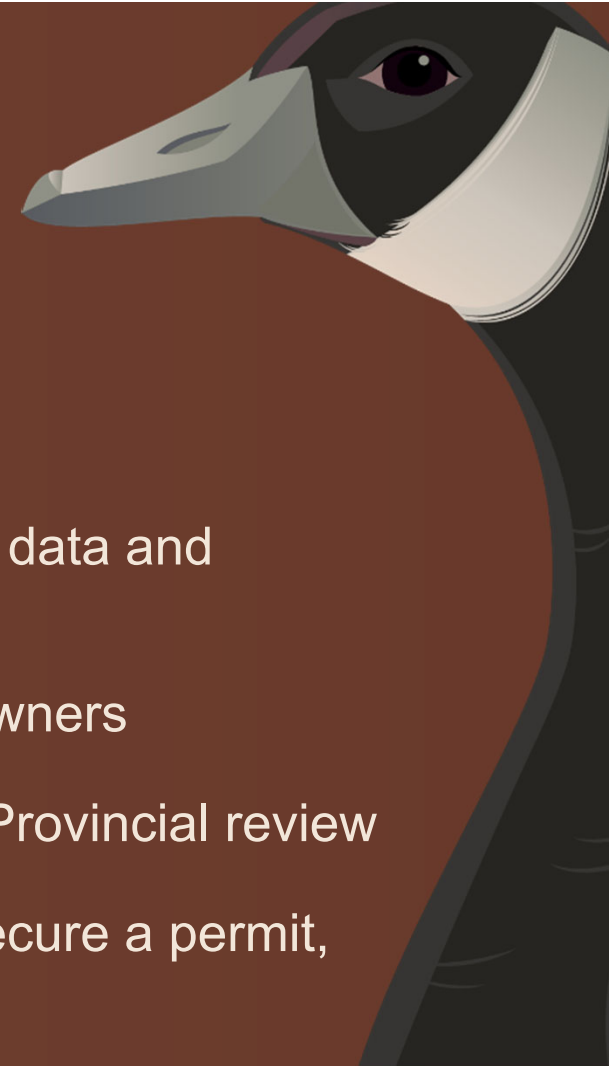
# Mitigation options that require a plan and permits

## Hazing

- Federal permit and Provincial review
- Earliest, if we can secure a permit, is 2026

## Egg Addling

- Contracted biologist
- Requires population data and nesting sites survey
- Permission of landowners
- Federal permit and Provincial review
- Earliest, if we can secure a permit, is 2026



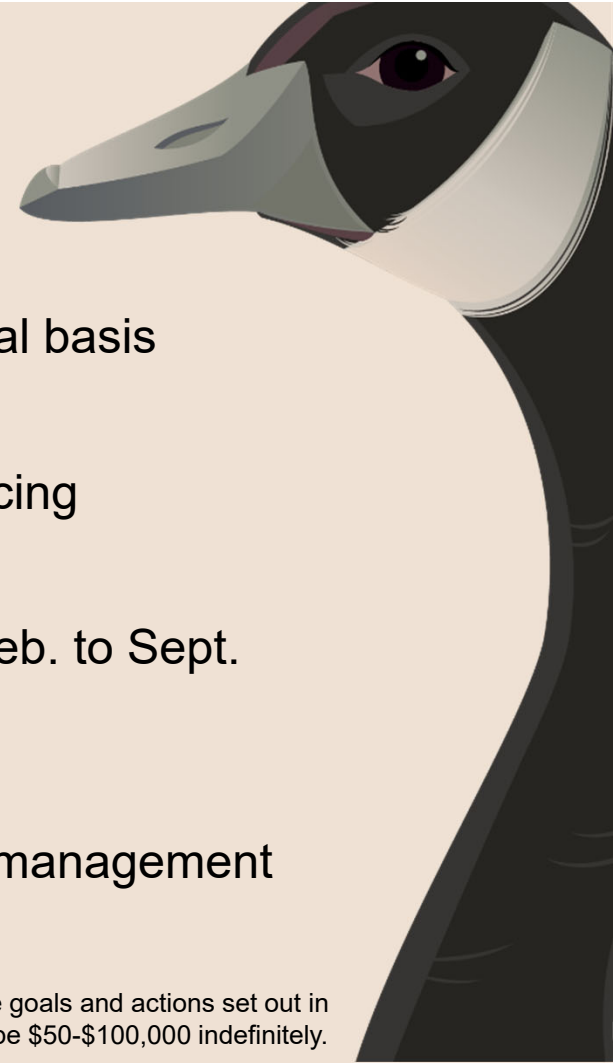
# Damage or Danger Permit under the *Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022*

To obtain permits the District would require:

- Population data
- Management plan
- To demonstrate that we are implementing other mitigation measures (landscape modification etc.) but they are inadequate
- Identify a qualified professional that would undertake the work



# Canada Goose Management Options



## **Option 1 (no additional funding required)**

Continue to implement mitigation techniques on an operational basis

## **Option 2 (estimated budget request: \$20,000)**

Increase cleaning frequency and pilot seasonal shoreline fencing

## **Option 3 (estimated budget request: \$15,000)**

Retain expertise to survey and gather population data from Feb. to Sept. 2025

## **Option 4 (estimated 2026 budget request: \$10,000)\***

Using population data gathered in 2025 develop a long-term management plan



\*For Option 4, annual costs of implementing the long-term plan would vary based on the population data, and the goals and actions set out in plan. If the goal is to control population and actions such as egg addling, the annual costs would be expected to be \$50-\$100,000 indefinitely.





THANK YOU

Questions