

Humane Goose Deterrent Solutions: Landscaping, Devices, Services

(For residential, business, and public spaces.)

Ecological Landscaping



Mowed lawns near water and the open vistas they create play havoc with the Canada goose's migratory and nesting instincts; protective parents seek clear, line-of-sight vistas that allow them to identify predators. Effective landscape modification prompts geese to perceive improved areas as unsafe neighborhoods.

National organizations and experts view landscape modification as the most effective long-term solution, and the most cost-efficient. As an added bonus, native vegetation and grasses are low maintenance. Modification and improvement of degraded landscapes (turf grass near water) can range from planting tall grasses to restoring natural shoreline vegetation, with a variety of options in-between. Washington

State's [Green Shoreline](#)¹ initiative promotes the benefits of restored and replanted shorelines and notes fewer geese in improved areas.

On the simpler side, homeowners can:

- Add variety to landscaping with native shrubs, flowers, and clumps of taller plantings where predators hide.
- Reduce lawn areas and the young grass shoots that geese prefer.
- Let grass grow taller – in a strip measuring 10 to 20 feet – along the water's edge. Over winter, leave the taller grass.
- Use dense, tall plantings along shorelines as barriers between the food and the water.
- Maintain or establish stands of trees or native shrubs between water and grass. The plantings prevent geese from flying – and seeing – straight through.
- Replace Kentucky bluegrass with other grasses such as tall fescue (this works where geese can eat somewhere else). [FlightTurf](#)², a low maintenance turf grass, is unpalatable to geese.



Beautified and improved habitat deters geese

This permanent, common sense approach can include the artful use of split-rail fencing, wildflower meadows, and gates.

¹ https://www.seattle.gov/dpd/cs/groups/pan/@pan/documents/web_informational/dpdp025742.pdf

² <https://www.flightturf.com/about-us/meet-us/>

Finding an ecological landscape designer: A qualified landscape designer can help with plantings along the edges of properties and water. Knowledgeable ecological landscape designers will be providing the Greenwood Lake Commission with guidelines to make sure that the professional you hire understands geese, line-of-sight requisites, and wetland and riparian plantings.



Modified lake beach in Seattle, Washington

Devices and Technology

Harassment – chasing with dogs, flying balloons and flags, decoys, and noisemakers – has temporary and limited success. Egg addling is traumatic for nesting geese who are highly protective parents. The Animal Protection League and Friends of Animals, the national organization, do not condone the practice.



Dock Unit

In certain situations some technologies or a combination thereof are working for towns in New Jersey. Away with Geese (www.awaywithgeese.com) offers a variety of tools to deter geese from business, public, or residential properties. Municipalities, golf courses and private residences in New Jersey have installed 12,000 of its solar-powered units, with positive feedback (the company promises satisfaction or your money back).

Note: Timing of installation can effect outcome or address humanitarian concerns. Aside from dock units, individuals should install units between September and February to prevent the harassment of geese during nesting or molting when they cannot leave the area. The company recommends its dock unit for floating docks and “docks where geese congregate, and to control geese on the land and water immediately around the dock” and tailors installations for beaches and marinas.

Learn more about the Dock Unit at (www.awaywithgeese.com/product/dock-unit/). The products carry warranty policies up to 12 years or more.³

Disclaimer: Many companies sell goose-related products. New Jersey municipalities use the products cited here.

“Doody Calls” - the Goose Dropping Clean-Up Company

We hire professionals to mow our lawns or care for our gardens. Now, we can hire workers to clean up geese droppings on the dock or yard. [Doody Calls](http://www.doodycalls.com)⁴ bases its charges on property size, amount of droppings, and frequency of visits. Clients include properties in Randolph and Rockaway.

Contact Kevin Mahoney at Doody Calls to schedule an initial consultation at 1-800-Doody Calls (366-3922)

To Sum Up

An integrated approach, with landscape modification where practicable, perhaps augmented by goose deterrent devices, will bring significant change. So too will uniform enactment and enforcement of feeding bans and educational programs focused on living with Canada geese.

(The Animal Protection League of New Jersey does not receive financial remuneration from any of the organizations or vendors included in this flyer.)

³ Away with Geese can send clients maps of their property and recommended unit placement. The company is able to provide references for similar properties.

⁴ <http://www.doodycalls.com/goose-poop-cleanup/>