

Geese:

Humane Conflict Resolution:
Landscaping
Devices
Services



Landscaping

Mowed lawns near water and the open vistas they create play havoc with the Canada geese's migratory and nesting instincts as protective parents seek clear, line-of-sight vistas that allow them to identify predators. With effective landscape modification, geese 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 beautify and are low maintenance. Turf grass near water is a degraded landscape; improvement 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.



Beautified and Improved Habitat Deters Geese

Riparian buffers are vegetative barriers. They are the single most effective and long-term solutions.

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.

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

Finding an ecological landscape designer: A qualified landscape designer can help with plantings on shorelines or sports fields; ensure that he or she has proven riparian buffer experience. Knowledgeable ecological landscape designers understand geese, line-of-sight requisites, and wetland and riparian plantings.

¹ <https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/SDCI/Vault/ShorelineMasterProgram/GreenShorelines.pdf>

² <https://www.flightturf.com/>

Devices and Technology

Harassment – chasing with dogs, flying balloons and flags, decoys, and noisemakers – has fleeting and limited success. The use of dogs in frigid weather is not humane. Egg addling is traumatic for highly protective parents. The Animal Protection League of New Jersey and Friends of Animals, the national organization, do not condone the practice.

Riverside townships have reported some success with high quality laser products. Away with Geese (www.awaywithgeese.com) offers a variety of tools to deter geese from business, public, and private properties. The company manufactures a laser to keep geese away from docks.

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.

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



Dock Unit

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



Doody Calls³ bases its charges on property size, amount of droppings, and frequency of visits. Clients include properties in Randolph and Rockaway.

Changes should be accompanied by enforcement of feeding bans and educational materials that focus on living with Canada geese.

(Disclaimer: The Animal Protection League of New Jersey does not endorse, or receive financial remuneration, from any of the organizations or vendors included in the above list of sources. This flyer is preliminary and pre-dates materials on pilot proposals from experts and vendors.)

³ <https://www.doodycalls.com/commercial-services/goose-poop-removal/>