

It's The Law

The feeding of migratory, non-migratory, and resident waterfowl is detrimental to the waterfowl and may result in damage to flora, fauna and property, harm water quality, increase potential to spread disease and cause a public health nuisance and safety hazard that is detrimental to the health and general welfare of the public

West Milford Ordinance 2011-006~Amended

Definitions

Waterfowl: Any bird that frequents the water, or lives about rivers, lakes, etc., or on or near the sea; whether migratory or not, including but not limited to ducks, geese, swans, heron, and egrets

Feed: To give, place, expose, deposit, distribute or scatter any edible material in a location accessible to waterfowl; any type of food, including but not limited to corn, wheat or other grains, bread, popcorn, salt, scraps or any similar nutritive substance to be eaten by waterfowl

Waterways: Lakes, ponds, streams, creeks, rivers and stormwater basins

For questions and comments
please visit our website at

www.gwlc.org

Or write or call

**The Greenwood Lake
Commission**

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Keep The
WILD

In Wildlife



**Do Not
Feed The
Waterfowl**

What's The Big Deal...

Artificial Feeding of Waterfowl Causes

Poor Nutrition

- The foods that are normally fed to waterfowl by humans include bread, chips, and popcorn. These processed foods contain little nutritional value and just fill the birds' stomach
- Feeding at artificial sites creates unnatural competition and leads to birds "missing out" on their meal, in turn leading to **starvation, deformed wings, decreased reproduction, loss of flight, lowered life expectancy, and increased risk of predation**

Water Pollution

- The abundance of birds causes an unnatural amount of droppings, the nutrients of which can enter the waterways and cause:
 - **Summer algal blooms**
 - **E-coli**
 - **Swimmers Itch**
 - **Disease**

Spread of Disease

- At artificial feeding sites, birds feed in the same place they defecate
- Large concentrations of birds facilitate the spread of disease
- **Bird Flu, Botulism, Avian Cholera, Aspergillosis and Duck Virus Enteritis etc.**

Environmental Degradation

- Attracts large amounts of birds beyond what the natural ecosystem can support
- De-vegetates natural areas and landscapes
- Creates unsanitary conditions due to bird droppings

Overcrowding

- Attracts birds to unnatural areas such as parking lots, golf courses, and fast-food restaurants where accidents can happen
- Can go from pleasure to nuisance in very little time as more birds flock to the area
- Abundance of birds equals an abundance of food scraps which can lead to an abundance of scavengers such as rats and raccoons
- Interbreeding of domestic and wild birds causing **species degradation**

Unnatural Behavior

- Loss of fear of humans which can cause unusual and unpredictable aggressive behavior
- Dependency on human handouts causes the loss of ability to compete and ultimately survive

The Allure of Wild Waterfowl hinges on the fact that they are wild creatures. Once you begin to feed them unnaturally they lose that wild feel and become nothing more than pests