

## Please Do Not Feed Us!



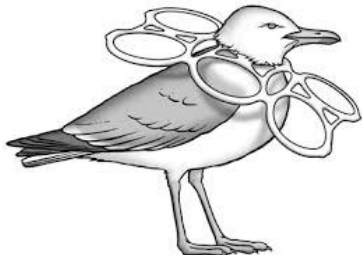
Feeding us white bread, popcorn, chips, doughnuts, etc. is very bad for our health. Our natural food is highly nutritious and keeps us strong. Goslings eating such "junk" food can develop wing damage, rendering them permanently flightless. (The deformity is called "Angelwing.")

Feeding us changes our behavior from being wild geese to ones who approach humans. This can be frightening for people and present danger for the geese.

As left over food mixes with feces on the ground, the potential for disease to spread among the geese increases.

**Please help us by picking up fishing line, hooks, and litter.**

**We do not have fingers To remove these items once we are entangled.**



## What is GeesePeace St. Louis?

GeesePeace St. Louis is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit all-volunteer organization. We work under a permit from the Missouri Department of Conservation, and in cooperation with the Humane Society of Missouri and the Wildlife Rescue Center in Ballwin. Our program follows protocol developed by the Humane Society of the United States. Our mission is to build better communities by using effective and humane solutions to resolve conflicts with our native resident Canada geese. We have been serving the St. Louis metro area since 2001.

### Contact Information

Voicemail – 314-567-2081

[www.geesepeacestlouis.org](http://www.geesepeacestlouis.org)

## Can We Talk?



**You may see my  
family and me  
around the  
neighborhood.**

**I'd like you to  
know that...**

## We Are Not All From Canada!



Whoever described all of us as "Canada geese" started a lot of confusion. It's hard for us to carry our passports when flying, but truly we are **not all** Canadians!

Sure, some of our distant relatives are from Canada. They migrate to Missouri for the winter and return north for spring.

However, those of us who are year-round residents of Missouri are the descendants of geese, who lived in the Midwest for thousands of years prior to the arrival of any people.

Our scientific name is *Branta canadensis maxima*. We are native to this area. We are part of the beautiful natural heritage of Missouri.

Our natural homes are the wetlands along the major rivers in Missouri. Unfortunately, most wetlands have been destroyed, leaving us to search elsewhere for feeding and nesting sites.

## What Brings Us to Your Neighborhood?



We are attracted to parks and suburban neighborhoods, because they provide three important features necessary for our survival. These features are:

**A Food Source** such as the juicy tips of short cut grass. When you mow you create a goose buffet for us!

**A Water Body** such as a pond or lake. As waterfowl we are designed for swimming. A water body provides us a safe place to sleep at night, where predators cannot reach us; drinking water; and the habitat to raise our young, called goslings.

**An Absence of Predators** which gives us a sense of safety. Parks and the suburbs typically remove underbrush, which would provide hiding places for predators. Landscape that provides a clear line of sight allows us to detect an approaching predator.

## How Can Your Site Humanely Resolve Conflicts with Geese?



Continue or begin a GeesePeace program at your home, workplace, park, school, golf course, etc.

GeesePeace advocates *prevention* of human/goose conflicts by managing nests to keep the goose population in check. Volunteers carefully remove eggs from the nest, then test them to make sure NO gosling has formed. If an egg is in the earliest stages, it is removed and replaced with a wooden egg, so the mother will not lay another egg in its place. This is regarded as the most humane and effective way to prevent an overpopulation of geese in urban areas.

The goals are to make your site unattractive to geese and to prevent the growth of the goose population on your site and the surrounding area.

We invite you to join this regional effort to live in "peace" with our native "geese."