Discouraging Avian Feeding Webinar

Hannah Allen, Environment and Development Planner II
North Central Texas Council of Governments
What is the North Central Texas Council of Governments?

- Voluntary association of local governments
- Established in 1966
- Assists local governments in:
  - Planning for common needs
  - Cooperating for mutual benefit
  - Recognizing regional opportunities
  - Resolving regional problems
  - Making joint decisions
What does impairment mean?
- A waterway is not meeting state water quality standards for its designated use.

What could be causing the impairment?
- Pet waste, sanitary sewer overflows, agricultural practices, wastewater treatment plants, illicit discharges, onsite sewage facilities (septic systems), and wildlife waste.

What is a total maximum daily load (TMDL)?
- A budget for a pollutant that estimates the amount of a pollutant that a waterway can receive and still support its designated use.
Greater Trinity River Bacterial TMDL Implementation Plan Subwatersheds

- Upper Trinity River Segment 0805,
- Elm Fork Tributaries of Grapevine Creek and Cottonwood Branch
- Lower West Fork Trinity River Segment 0841 and 11 of its tributaries,
- Upstream of Mountain Creek Lake Segments 0841F, 0841K, 0841N, 0841Q, and 0841V
- Sycamore Creek Segment 0806E
How is NCTCOG working with local governments to address TMDLs?

Through the Implementation Plan for Twenty-Three Total Maximum Daily Loads for Bacteria in the Greater Trinity River Region, NCTCOG works with local governments to implement best management practices (BMPs) to reduce the sources of bacteria.

- Examples of BMPs:
  - Participation in regional initiatives,
  - Education and outreach, and
  - Ordinance, guideline, or management plan adoption.

This Implementation Plan also guides the projects and workshops selected by the TMDL Coordination Committee. This document was recently updated to include North Fork Fish Creek and is now ADA compliant!
Rachel Richter
Wildlife Biologist
Texas Parks & Wildlife
Negative Impacts of Feeding Waterfowl

Rachel Richter
Urban Wildlife Biologist
Texas Parks and Wildlife
Ducks and geese should NOT eat ...
Natural Food For Ducks

- Small fish
- Snails
- Worms
- Mollusks
- Small crustaceans
- Grass
- Algae
- Aquatic plants
Human food is not healthy for wildlife

Photo Credit: Cengland0 via Creative Commons
Increased Disease Spread
Habituation

Photo Credit: Birdies100

Photo Credit: pbyrne

HOW TO SURVIVE A GOOSE ATTACK

> Stare down the goose.
> Back away slowly. Never turn your back.
> Do not punch or kick.
> Reevaluate the life decisions that brought you to this point.
Invasive Species
Non-target Species

Photo Credit: Vermin
Habitat Degradation
Water Quality

Photo Credit: KSAN
Management Options

- Outreach and education
- Feeding ordinances
But what about “healthy” foods?
Management Options for Non-native Waterfowl

- No state regulations for non-native waterfowl
- Oiling or addling eggs
- Trap and remove
Alternatives

- Birdwatching
- Contribute to citizen science projects
  - iNaturalist, eBird
- Photography
- Learn about wildlife
- Improve your local park
Promote Healthy Habitats
Questions?

Rachel Richter
Urban Wildlife Biologist
Texas Parks and Wildlife
Avian Feeding & Management
New Braunfels, TX

Mark Enders
Watershed Programs Manager
City of New Braunfels
Why Urban Wildlife Mgmt in NB?

Negative impacts associated with overabundant urban wildlife:

1) Water quality concerns
2) Deer/ traffic collisions
3) Wildlife Health

Annual Deer/ Auto Collision Reports*

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In Sept 2018, NB City Council passed and approved an ordinance prohibiting the feeding of wildlife within the City limits (Ord No. 2018-58, City Code Section 82-25). The ordinance became effective March 10, 2019.

The ordinance prohibits the feeding of all wildlife on both public and private property.

1st offense: warning, 2nd offense: fines $75-500

Exceptions: bird feeders hung at least 5ft above ground & Hunting Land Permit holders

Enforcement: Park Rangers & Animal Control (Code Compliance)
Wildlife Feeding Ordinance Signage

- Signage is funded in part by the US Environmental Protection Agency through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.
Non-Native Waterfowl Mgmt

Since late 2018:
- 145 non-native waterfowl have been trapped and removed from Landa Park
- 97 non-native waterfowl eggs have coated with vegetable oil
Outreach and Education

- Local Newspapers
- Local NB Radio
- Television News Stations
- Wildlife Mgmt Workshops w/ TPWD
- Annual Summary, Infographic
Outreach and Education

• Educational Postcards & Door Hangers
Outreach and Education (Cont’)

Watershed Educational Video
- Production to be finalized in August/Sept 2020. Focuses on wildlife feeding.
- To be shown at two local movie theaters prior to each movie for 10 weeks, website links will also be included in theater email marketing campaigns
- Will be shown on New Braunfels local access channel, CoNB facilities with video screens, CoNB WPP website
- Shortened versions for social media distribution
Outreach and Education (Cont’)

• Presentations to students

• Science curriculum training for teachers

• Outreach at community events
Questions?

Mark Enders
Watershed Programs Manager-
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(830) 221-4639
Questions?
Available NCTCOG Resources for Discouraging Avian Feeding

- Template Signage
- Social Media Toolkit
- Template Flyers and Brochures

These resources are available for download and use on the TMDL webpage: www.nctcog.org/TMDL under the Resources banner.
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