

BEAUTIFUL TO LOOK AT AND FUN TO WATCH
BUT

Unfortunately, there are some inherently dangerous, unforeseen and serious consequences associated with encouraging ducks into our communities. We should all know by now, our retention pond water is not ideal and therein lies my concern.

There appears to be an inordinately large number of multiple species of ducks enjoying both our retention pond and the adjoining shore line this year more than any other. I realize we do live in a “bird sanctuary” but we do not live in an “aviary”. The fecal material being deposited by the ducks on lawns roofs as well as deposited into our retention pond causes concern.

DISCONTINUE FEEDING THE DUCKS

1. Ducks attract other ducks; ask any hunter, they erode shorelines by trampling and feeding on shoreline plants.
2. What consequences can we realistically expect in the summer months as to algae blooms when the water temperature begins to rise due to the nutrients being added by our feathered friends?
3. Ducks introduce invasive weeds that are stuck to their feathers and also carried in their digestive tracts.
4. Please remember our retention ponds are interconnected so impacts are not limited to only Quail Lake. Additionally, other communities irrigate yards and gardens from their retention ponds.
5. Ducks deposit large volumes of feces (excrement) which are high in nitrogen and phosphorus that increase algae and weed growth and introduce disease causing pathogens into the water that threaten the health of residents, pets, and the birds themselves, they make water muddy and cloudy as they sift through the mud for invertebrates and uproot vegetation
6. Under natural conditions, *algae* growth is restricted because nitrogen and phosphorus are generally in limited supply. But when runoff carries excess nitrogen and phosphorus into a *pond*, or when heavy rainfall causes additional runoff, an *algae* bloom becomes possible.
7. Many germs that might be found in bird droppings can infect humans. Duck droppings, in particular, might contain germs such as E. coli, Salmonella, Campylobacter, or Cryptosporidium.
8. The material on the lawns will be spread by lawn providing vendors to other properties where children and pets are allowed to play thus exposing them to the germs and other potential medical consequences.
9. Feeding the birds seeds/grains, etc. will inevitably bring pests such as rats and mice to the area at night to feed on leftover food.
10. Reported on January 3, 2017 by the CDC: “Keep birds away from children who are younger than 5 years old, adults older than 65 years of age and anyone else who may have a weaker immune system (e.g., chronic disease). Salmonella can be especially devastating and deadly among such people.” Remember, birds may look cute, but they could make you sick.

Lastly, there are no additional funds within the lakes budget for additional treatments of our retention ponds. Any additional action required will be taken but unfortunately at the expense of other projects.

Patrick P. Vinti, Chairman
EVMA Lakes Committee