



Image courtesy of Wikipedia.

The City of Winchester's streams and ponds are part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the largest estuary in the United States.

When it rains, pet waste, geese droppings, fertilizer, and other stormwater pollutants flow into the City's waterways and into the Chesapeake Bay system.

These pollutants are harmful to the thousands of species of plants and animals living in the Bay watershed (including fish, crabs and shellfish, birds, bay grasses, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians).

These pollutants are also harmful to people using the Bay system for recreational activities such as swimming, fishing, and tubing.

## the law

THANK YOU FOR NOT FEEDING THE WATERFOWL!



- \* Winchester City Code, Chapter 5, Article III, Sections 5-40, 5-41, 5-42, and 5-43

A violation of this code shall result in a civil penalty.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:



15 North Cameron St.  
Winchester, VA 22601  
(540) 667-1815

[www.winchesterva.gov/engineering/stormwater](http://www.winchesterva.gov/engineering/stormwater)

The City greatly appreciates your help in protecting our precious water resources.

## KEEP THE WILD IN WILDLIFE



## PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE WATERFOWL



- IT IS UNHEALTHY FOR THE GEESE
- IT CONTRIBUTES TO WATER POLLUTION
- IT VIOLATES THE LAW!

Winchester City Code, Chapter 5, Article III

# the problem

Geese droppings have been a major problem in our park system for a long time. Obviously, feeding them only makes the problem worse because it encourages them to stay. Some of the problems include:

- Accumulation of droppings on lawns and sidewalks
- Erosion on lawns when geese overgraze the area
- Risk to young children and pets when geese become aggressive, especially during breeding season
- Water quality problems (such as noxious algal blooms in summertime and small fish kills) caused by excess nutrients in ponds from waterfowl droppings



# the facts

Waterfowl can threaten human health through fecal matter when contaminated water or fecal droppings are ingested by inhalation of contaminated organisms. Some of the diseases caused in humans are cryptosporidiosis, giardiasis, and chlamydia.



Some people enjoy feeding waterfowl. They toss bread, corn, popcorn, or table scraps to waterfowl that congregate in parks and around lakes and ponds.

Such artificial feeding can:

- Cause birds to become overweight and unhealthy,
- Alter the migration patterns of waterfowl,
- Domesticate the birds and make them reliant on humans,
- Facilitate the spread of diseases, and
- Cause overcrowding of waterfowl.

# the solution

Virginia is for Waterfowl Lovers!

If you care for waterfowl, here is what you can do to help them retain their “wildness” and maintain their well-being:



**Stop Feeding Them!** They don't understand the problem—you do.

Preserve the spirit of America by allowing waterfowl to stay wild.

Observe and appreciate wildlife from a distance.

Please consider the effects of feeding waterfowl and do what's right.

