Urgent Action Needed to Prevent the Slaughter of the Crystal Lake Park Geese



Today Before 6:00 PM, Call the Urbana Park District Commissionaires at 217-367-1544 to Express Your Opposition to the Plan

If you can, please also attend the Urbana Park District Board meeting (virtually) this evening at 7:00 PM on Zoom at: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81469474163 with password 294232

or by telephone: 312-626-6799, then meeting ID 814 6947 4163 #, then password 294232 #

There is public input time near the beginning of the regular board meeting.

Meeting agenda and packet are here: https://www.urbanaparks.org/documents/?CategoryId=28

At this evening’s meeting, Urbana Park District Board of Commissioners is going to vote on the Park District's proposal to kill off 60–100 geese in Crystal Lake Park to make the Park more attractive to visitors and the day-to-day work of the Park more manageable. To distract the public from the blood bath that would be the outcome, they call their proposal a “Charity Harvest”. You can see their proposal at [https://](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.surveymonkey.com%2Fr%2FK6R2HWQ%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR3_D7lWJ58VTs8qIn31m9_pKF8cMaXpkETUoKO5BI5gLh-f4BeqvLQ8FrA&h=AT0SF94-m0OtVWrzoXR4MgtfZMV6W99UN4jEW08Rz44Iuo4yxidEPbGaHNavKYJykTtDV2axrlsfTkAfazGjb0AzxtJyo5EqoroU588ZLkfK1n1Ejl95xLNW_sGHQpQwWHFjRqBFtjKzV5lpK8QhMtr3)[www.urbanaparks.org/projects/geese-population-and-management](https://www.urbanaparks.org/projects/geese-population-and-management/?fbclid=IwAR1GT0hOdvQglMz9xvMolhT8lEbR7DNsW5mIqW6mbPz2l9egSdFQ1l-avf8).

We believe that there are creative landscaping solutions to the perceived overcrowding that are non-violent, ecologically sound, and long term. The community and experts must be invited to work together to draw such a plan.

The Park District’s proposal is misguided on many levels, all of which harms the children’s development into compassionate critical thinkers:

* It follows the same pattern of decision-making, which demands quick and short-term solutions that are almost always destructive and against sensible long-term goals;
* It ironically goes against the philosophy that has guided the work of Anita Purves Center, which sees humans as part of nature, not its master;
* Slaughtering the creatures that are loyal partners to each other and protective and caring parents to their babies is unethical and numbs people to violence;
* Geese do not behave aggressively towards people, if they’re not frightened by us.
* As the book, *Wild Neighbors* suggests, "Scientific studies do not show that goose droppings pose any special health threats. Obviously, people want to avoid contact with any animal droppings. Ordinary good hygiene, such as washing hands and leaving shoes at the door, are adequate prevention if you accidentally contact animal droppings."
* It’s unjustifiable to inflict pain and terror on animals just because they inconvenience us;
* Next year another group of geese would descend on the Park to make families and raise their goslings. Do the Park officials plan to make the slaughter of geese a yearly activity?
* The idea of feeding the flesh of wild geese to people is particularly ignorant and dangerous, especially now that we know how Covid-19 was transmitted to humans.

**The list of Urbana Park District Commissioners:**

Michael Walker / President

Nancy Delcomyn / Vice President

Roger Digges / Commissioner

Meredith Blumthal / Commissioner

LaShaunda Cunningham / Commissioner