



## Grand Lakes Wildlife Committee Update

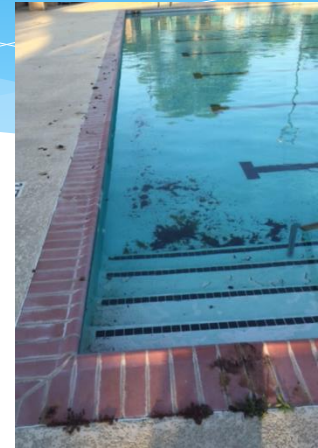
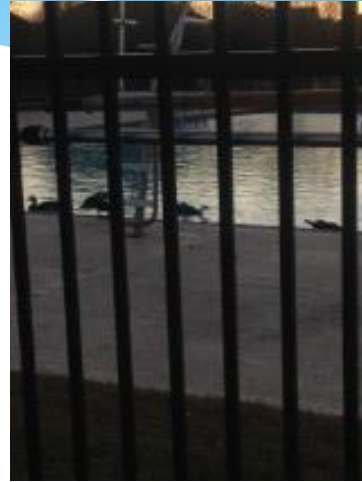
*Grand Lakes Wildlife Committee:*

*Stephen Lucas, Pedro Rodriguez, Dirk Smit, Susan Gray, Cecil Jones, Stephanie Waters*

# DUCKS !

- Do we have a duck problem?
- Surveys
- Signage
- Control Methods
- Federal Law
- Community Education
- Removal Options
- Wildlife Committee Requests of HOA Board

# Do we have a duck problem?



- Predators
- Hygiene
- Deterioration of common areas, brand and value of our community
- Fast reproducing invasive species (Muscovy) competing for natural resources and damaging the pond ecosystem
- Conflicts between neighbors
- Residents and non-residents feeding ducks
- Ducks expect being fed – aggressive behavior
- Other communities have ordinances to control ducks – Seabrook, Sugar Land, Cinco Ranch

# Surveys

Wildlife Committee

Recommended Ducks per Acre:

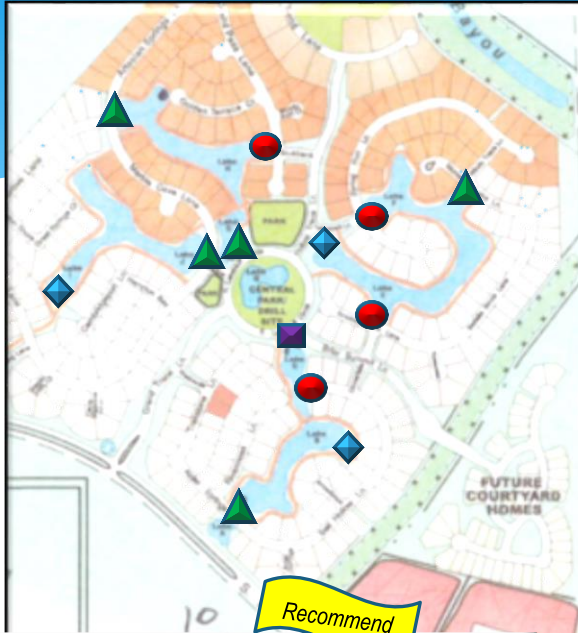
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Duck Population Survey

	Acreage	Duck Allotment	Signs	Week 1 (2/1 - 2/7)	Week 2 (2/8 - 2/14)	Week 3 (2/15 - 2/21)	February Average	Variance
Phase I South:	7	15	2	11	11	9	10	(5)
Phase I North:	12	23	1	30	33	27	30	7
Phase II:	9	18	0	20	15	17	17	(1)
Phase III:	8	16	2	58	64	62	61	45
Phase IV:	17	34	1	30	39	42	37	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>50</b>

\* Consensus from Texas A&M (<http://publications.tamu.edu/WATER/SCS-2013-02.pdf>) and pond professionals (<http://www.ponds.org/waterfowlproblemsinastormwaterlake.html>)

# Do not Feed the Ducks Signage



Options	1	2	3	4
	Existing ■	All Out ◆●▲	Optimal ●▲	Minimum ▲
# of New Signs	0	54	50	36
Existing Signs	6	6	6	6
Total Signs	6	60	56	42
Impact	Little to no awareness	Minimum two signs per lake.	Focused on entry points to lakes	Initial focus on lakes with abundant ducks. Minimum one sign per lake.

# Control Methods

- Sterilization Stations (\$225/station + Feed)
- Egg Destruction – Oiling and Addling
- Harassment – Dogs, Noisemaking Devices, Effigies
- No Feeding Rules
- Repellents
- Volunteer Days by Residents
- Tarps Over Pools
- Neighborhood Election
- Duck Removal
  - Can we remove without euthanization?

# Federal Law

Federal Register: March 1, 2010 (Volume 75, Number 39), Rules and Regulations  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - Fish and Wildlife Service  
50 CFR Part 21, Docket Number FWS-R9-MB-2007-0017; 91200-1231-9BPP, RIN 1018-AV34

- “prohibit sale, transfer, or propagation of Muscovy ducks for hunting and any other purpose other than food production. . . .”
- “. . . you may . . . acquire or possess live Muscovy ducks, . . . or their eggs, . . . to raise them to be sold as food.” “ You may not release them to the wild, sell them to be hunted or released to the wild, or transfer them to anyone to be hunted or released to the wild.” (Section 21.14 – Paragraph (g) – Acquisition and Transfer of Muscovy Ducks)

# Action - Community Education

Mailers, Newsletter, Website

- Address Nesting/Eggs Immediately
  - Addling
  - Remove eggs
  - Campaign to stop feeding the ducks
- Need More “Do Not Feed The Ducks” Signs



# Action - Removal Options

- Full replacement of Muscovy ducks and replace with Mallards (2/water acre)
  - Replace fast reproducing invasive species (+/- \$3,750) with slower reproducing native species (\$ 350 / lake: 6-8 indigenous species)
  - Easier to control, less maintenance expenses, no increase in HOA dues
  - Muscovy ducks will be transferred to farms and remainder will be dealt with according to Federal Law
  - Preserves the ecosystem in the ponds
  - Good compromise between pro and anti ducks
  - Possible Future Problem - Risk of over population; hence, the need to continue capturing ducks on an on-going basis
- Complete removal of Muscovy ducks and no replacement (+/- \$3,750)
  - Muscovy ducks will be relocated to farms and remainder will be dealt with according to Federal Law
  - Eliminates issues from ducks, e.g. maintenance, hygiene, conflict between neighbors
- Reduce population of Muscovy ducks (+/- \$1,250)
  - Does not address the root cause. Will face similar issues months later. Kicking the can down ...
  - Continuity of issues, e.g. conflicts between neighbors, pool maintenance, increase HOA fees...



# Thank you!

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