


4 Reasons not to Feed Ducks & Geese

What seems like kindness can be very harmful.



1.
HUMAN FOOD IS NOT GOOD FOR WATERFOWL.

Human food — such as bread and popcorn — is junk food for ducks and geese. It lacks nutrients they need to stay healthy, so they suffer from disease, such as “angel wing,” which causes deformed wings that cannot be used.



2.
FEEDING WATERFOWL INTERFERES WITH NATURE.

Feeding encourages ducks and geese to overwinter in crowded conditions that encourage the spread of diseases and the buildup of poop in a small area.

3.
PARASITES IN WATERFOWL CAUSE SWIMMERS ITCH.

Tiny parasites that live inside waterfowl release their eggs into the water. The eggs hatch into larvae that burrow into snails. There they grow and eventually leave and burrow into the skin of swimmers, sometimes causing an allergic, itchy rash.

4.
INCREASED NUTRIENTS CAUSE ALGAE & WEED GROWTH.

Waterfowl waste pollutes the water, shoreline and trails. Nutrients from these droppings fertilize murky green algae blooms and speed the growth of aquatic weeds, crowding out other plants and animals. Lakes and ponds choked with aquatic weeds, such as Eurasian watermilfoil, make it difficult or impossible to swim or fish in the lake.

Healthy Lake Winona is working to make Lake Winona cleaner and healthier, so it's better for swimming, fishing, wildlife and everybody who visits Lake Park.

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To learn more, check out our Facebook Page or HealthyLakeWinona.weebly.com.

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