



WHAT CAN BE DONE

To control nuisance goose populations



- Do not feed or leave out food for geese or other waterfowl and tell others to do the same
- Allow grass to grow tall along waterways: geese prefer to walk to water and will move away in search of areas with shorter grass
- Support local geese control programs: the Town of North Hempstead has restarted their egg-oiling program on Town-owned land. You can report possible nesting sites to the Town's 311 number. To learn more about this humane population control program, visit www.geesepeace.com

Feeding geese human food (such as bread or crackers) can cause:

- A painful and debilitating vitamin-deficiency disease called Angel Wing
- Over-population
- Nesting in areas that interfere with humans and/or are dangerous for the birds
- Excessive bird droppings which are a source of pollution (both bacteria and nutrients) to Manhasset Bay causing swimming closures
- Bird feces interfering with the use of athletic fields and other locations
- Birds learning not to fear humans, causing a possibly dangerous situation
- Aggressiveness
- An increased risk of vehicle/goose and aircraft/goose collisions
- Erosion leading to filling-in of the Bay, especially along the coast where birds eat grass
- Disease transmission among the birds that gather at an unnatural spot to eat

Geese need natural, vitamin-rich foods.

Resident [non-migratory] Canada Goose facts:

- One goose can produce up to 1.5 pounds of feces per day, though this number is disputed with claims of anywhere from 1 ounce to 2 pounds.
- A goose can eat up to 4 pounds of grass per day.
- The population increases at a rate of 10-17% each year with one goose laying an average of 6 eggs per nest.
- Resident Canada Geese have a life span of up to 25 years.
- They were introduced by human activity, including captive breeding and the use of live decoys for hunting in the early to mid 1900s.

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Tips for Clean Boating

With more than 1700 vessels regularly plying its waters (some from as far away as France!), Manhasset Bay is one of the most active recreational harbors on the east coast. Unfortunately, boating contributes to the pollution that enters the bay. Although each vessel may be the source of only a small amount of pollution, the cumulative effect can help undermine water quality.

The Town of North Hempstead Bay Constable monitors Marine Channels 9 and 16 and operate from the Town Dock in Port Washington.

Conserve Fuel¹

- Keep your engine properly tuned.
- Use a bilge sock to soak up fuel and oil that may get into your bilge
- Know how much fuel your tanks hold and don't top off. Install a device like a Fuel Whistle so you know when you are reaching the top.
- Use oil absorbent pads to catch drips while handing the fuel nozzle between the dock and the boat.

Don't be a Litter Bug

- Remove excess packaging before you board
- Keep trash secured and pick up trash that accidentally falls overboard.
- It all counts- cigarette filters are the # one item picked up at beach clean ups, so don't toss that butt.

Do not discharge

- It's the Law! Manhasset Bay is a No Discharge Zone. Call the Bay Constable on Channel 9 for the pump out boat. Pump out is also available at the Town Dock and marinas.
- If you don't have a head on board, use onshore bathrooms before casting off, make restroom stops when needed, or bring a portable toilet on board.

Swab the decks

- Regularly scrub your decks with fresh water and a brush to reduce the need to use heavy cleaners.
- If you are trailering your boat from another water body, wash it thoroughly on the trailer to remove any hitchhiking invasive species.
- Try to do large cleaning and maintenance jobs while the boat is out of the water.
- Ask your marina or underwater diver to recycle used zincs
- Use a hard (non abrasive) anti-fouling paint if you plan on scrubbing the boat bottom while in the water.

Friendly Fishing

- Keep only those fish that you will eat today.
- Don't clean your fish and toss the entrails overboard – bring them back to shore for proper disposal.
- Don't cut lines into the water.
- Pick up your traps regularly and haul them when your season is over.
- Obey shellfishing regulations: Manhasset Bay is closed to shellfishing.

The bay belongs to everyone. It is everyone's job to use it responsibly.

A clean bay supports a recreational economy that includes boating, fishing, restaurants, and other waterfront businesses.

¹ Bilge socks and fuel whistles may be available for free or low cost at the Town Dock from the Bay Constables