

TO: Lake Forest Council, City Manager Rose

FROM: Randy Johnson, Lake Forest Resident

DATE: Nov 15, 2022

SUBJ: Item 10 - Veterans Park Pond and Wildlife Maintenance

I request this written comment be made part of the public record for Item 10 at the Nov 15, 2022 city council meeting.

I ride my bike and walk through Veterans Park on a regular basis. Overall, the city has done a very good job at keeping the Park goose-free and clean. Couple broods of ducks make their home at the Park – but they stay mostly in the water or in the outlying brush and don't cause any problems.

In the last month the conditions in the Park have deteriorated. I've counted as many as 20 Canada Geese in the park (on the grass, walkways and in the water). Large amounts of goose feces are found on the walkways again. This is a significant change from the last 2-3 years when it was uncommon to see geese at the park or large amounts of bird feces on the walkways.

If AquaBio Environmental Technologies, Inc. (AET) has the current contract to mitigate geese migration into the Park – why have we observed this large influx of geese into the park and the soiled walkways increase in the last month?

At one time the city had a Nieves Landscape employee in the park during daylight hours. He did an outstanding job at chasing away the geese (used a remote controlled miniature boat on the pond water) and also did grounds and maintenance work on the Park landscape. It was a very successful program. Why did the city discontinue it? Is it possible to start it up again?

Once the geese flock to the park – it will only attract more and more. I haven't noticed people feeding the ducks or geese, but the geese do feed on the grass.

If the city does approve the contract amendment for AET - please make sure they implement some sort of plan to keep the geese away from the Park.

Also, is the company that cleans the walkways spraying the geese feces into the pond water? If so, that needs to stop or we'll run into the same problems we had with the Village Pond Park: Botulism and infrastructural decay.

We spent over \$2 million on the Park renovation. Let's keep it properly maintained.

(see attached photos taken on 11/12/22).

Randy Johnson, Lake Forest Resident, District 5



