



## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

### District Impacted

- ☐ 1 = Anzollitto
- ☐ 2 = Woolard
- ☐ 3 = Boyd
- ☐ 4 = Cisneros
- ☐ 5 = Colvin
- ☒ All

<b>DATE</b>	<i>October 24, 2017</i>
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Feeding of Waterfowl in City Parks
<b>STAFF'S RECOMMENDED ACTION (be specific)</b>	Staff is looking for direction on what action if any to pursue.
<b>CONTACT PERSON</b>	Danny Zincke
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<p>Staff has received several requests for additional action pertaining to the feeding of waterfowl particularly in River Road Park. Currently there are signs posted in multiple locations along the River Road curb line asking citizens to please not feed the waterfowl. These signs were installed about 5 years ago in coordination with efforts to reduce the number of birds in the park. At that time City Council did not want to establish an ordinance and fine people for feeding the birds but did want to discourage the feeding.</p> <p>The feeding of the waterfowl along River Road Park is not only unhealthy for the birds it also creates other issues inside the park and in the roadway itself. The feeding leads to increased population, malnutrition, water pollution, dependency, disease, environmental degradation, increased maintenance cost, and an unwelcoming atmosphere in the park. Frequently traffic flow is disrupted as the birds slowly cross the road and there are often collisions and injured birds reported. Heavy feeding of the waterfowl produces a significant amount of waste on the trails, benches, and tables inside the park. Currently the parks department dedicates an inordinate amount of resources to this park just to try and keep the trails and other amenities clean. Even with this effort we are unable to keep it as clean as we would like.</p> <p>These issues have been made public through efforts of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and City of Boerne Parks Department and continued education of the effects should be a part of whatever efforts we adopt moving forward. There are several options to consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue on the same path we are currently on. Educate and discourage without enforcement.</li> <li>2. Pass an ordinance and enforce the rule of not feeding waterfowl inside the park.</li> <li>3. Continue to educate and encourage people to feed more</li> </ol>

	<p>healthy alternative snacks.</p> <p>Continuing on the path we are currently on will continue to produce similar results. This option is best if City Council is satisfied with the current conditions.</p> <p>Option 2 while probably the hardest and most unpopular, should result in the best chance to achieve the desired effect of reducing the feeding of the waterfowl and reduce the population of birds over all. This option would require a collaborative effort including education, additional signage, and enforcement. All State and National Parks enforce a strict no feeding of wildlife policy in their parks.</p> <p>The final option while seemingly a workable compromise is not recommended by either the TPWD or the Boerne Parks Department staff. While encouraging the feeding of more healthy options vs. bread seemingly solves the issue of malnutrition it does nothing to address any of the other issues. This option would require new signage and education efforts.</p> <p>While staff understands the unpleasant thought of enforcement of this type of ordinance it is without doubt the best option if the desire is to lower the population and limit the effect of the waterfowl on the park.</p>
<b>COST</b>	NA
<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	NA
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>	

This summary is not meant to be all inclusive. Supporting documentation is attached.