

A stylized, colorful illustration of a landscape. In the foreground, there are rolling green hills with dark brown soil visible at the base of some hills. On the left, there is a green tree with a brown trunk, a purple flower with a brown stem, and a small orange bush. A red bird is flying in the sky above the tree. The background consists of light blue and white wavy lines representing the sky.

# Discussion on the Feeding of Waterfowl in Boerne Parks

*City of Boerne*

# *Why Shouldn't We Allow People To Feed The Ducks?*

- *Causes malnutrition and disease*
- *Increases maintenance in city parks*
- *Water pollution from excess food and feces*
- *Overpopulation*
- *Erosion and habitat degradation*

*Supported by: US Fish & Wildlife, Texas Parks & Wildlife, and the Humane Society*

# Options

- Continue on our current path of education and discouraging the feeding of waterfowl.
- Establish an ordinance and enforce it along with continued education.
- Refocus education efforts towards feeding healthier snacks and not worry about other issues. (This is not recommended)



# Questions?



## DON'T FEED DUCKS!

Feeding bread to ducks and geese is often perceived as a harmless and fun activity, but many people don't realize the negative effects it has on wildlife and the environment. Bread, chips, and crackers are "junk food" – ducks and geese will happily eat this food, but it lacks the nutrients to keep waterfowl healthy.

These animals don't know bread is bad for them. They will fill up on the non-nutritional meal, making them too full to consume their natural diet that keeps them healthy.

Ducks and geese who eat bread commonly suffer from metabolic bone disease and other deformities like "angel wing". These birds are often unable to fly, which limits their ability to migrate, find food, and escape predators.

Leftover food can attract rats and other opportunistic wildlife that can carry and transmit disease.

Ducks and geese in this environment can become overcrowded, which leads to over-competition, aggression, and injury. Waterfowl can also become habituated to humans, which leads to behavioral issues and an increased risk of injury and predation.

Uneaten food and excess waste from waterfowl can degrade water quality and make it unsafe for wildlife and you!

Wild animals who normally migrate may stay put due to the present food supply, which leads to exposure to elements, lack of food, and possible starvation during the winter.

It's best not to feed the ducks and geese.  
Instead, we encourage you to:

- Take pictures
- Organize a trash pick-up
- Collect stray fishing lines, hooks, and sinkers
- Learn more about ducks, geese, and their habitats