PLEASE SIGN THE PETITION

The Coldwater Lake Association has proposed a humane and sustainable resolution to both the Kinderhook Township Board and the Ovid Township Board to manage the resident Canada goose population on Coldwater Lake.

Despite homeowners' attempts to deter the geese away from the shores, the resident goose population has soared in recent years on Coldwater Lake. Population control has become necessary to protect the Coldwater Lake environment from public safety hazards, environmental damage, including advance eutrophication of the lake due to excessive droppings.

Public health and safety concerns:

Contamination: Geese produce a significant amount of fecal waste, with a single goose producing up to two pounds per day. Large accumulations of droppings can pose a health risk to people and pets, as the feces can contain harmful bacteria like E. coli and Salmonella.

Water quality: Excess goose droppings on Coldwater Lake introduce high levels of nutrients, particularly phosphorus. This can accelerate eutrophication, leading to an overgrowth of algae that depletes oxygen and can harm aquatic life.

Eutrophication: Advanced eutrophication of Coldwater Lake is evidenced by the monitoring conducted by Progressive Companies AE. The 2024 Water Quality Summary Report produced by Progressive Companies AE for the Marble-Coldwater Chain has shown significant decreases in Dissolved Oxygen levels, decreased Secchi Transparency, increased phosphorus levels and increased chlorophyll levels since 2017. Coldwater Lake, historically an oligotrophic lake, now registers as mesotrophic and continues to move in this negative water quality direction. Water

Quality Summary Reports can be found the Coldwater Lake Association's website. https://www.coldwaterlakeassociation.com/water-quality...

Aggressive behavior: Geese, especially during nesting season, can become territorial and aggressive towards people. Egg destruction can eliminate the incentive for this aggressive nesting behavior in high-traffic areas.

Displacement of other wildlife: Overabundant goose populations can displace other native waterfowl and compete for resources, negatively impacting Coldwater Lake's biodiversity.

Habitat damage: Constant grazing can lead to the destruction of shoreline vegetation, increasing soil erosion and sedimentation.

We are proposing a comprehensive and humane strategy

Population control: Geese egg collection and destruction is a humane and effective way to stabilize and reduce the local goose population over time by limiting the number of goslings.

Legality and permits: The required permits will be obtained from USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services through Michigan's Department of Natural Resources.

Data and precedent: Many other community lake associations have established this protocol including the Marble Chain of Lakes Association which has acquired Ovid and Algansee Township resolutions since 2024 collecting over 700 eggs in those two years.

Humane: The Humane Society International encourages such practices, noting its advantages over more drastic measures, such as culling.

Before voting on this proposal, the Kinderhook and Ovid Township Boards asked the Coldwater Lake Association to gather feedback from Coldwater shoreline residents. To do so, we have created this petition to support geese egg collection and destruction as a humane and effective method of controlling the goose population over time.

Your support for implementing a comprehensive egg collection strategy is critical. This method ensures a sustainable approach to managing local geese populations, leading to healthier and safer water conditions.

By signing this petition, https://forms.gle/CTxNDPsWLihLxx4T8 you're advocating for a responsible and compassionate approach to wildlife management. Together, let's create a lake environment that is safe and welcoming for both humans and wildlife. Please sign and share this petition to promote humane and effective geese population control measures.

https://forms.gle/CTxNDPsWLihLxx4T8