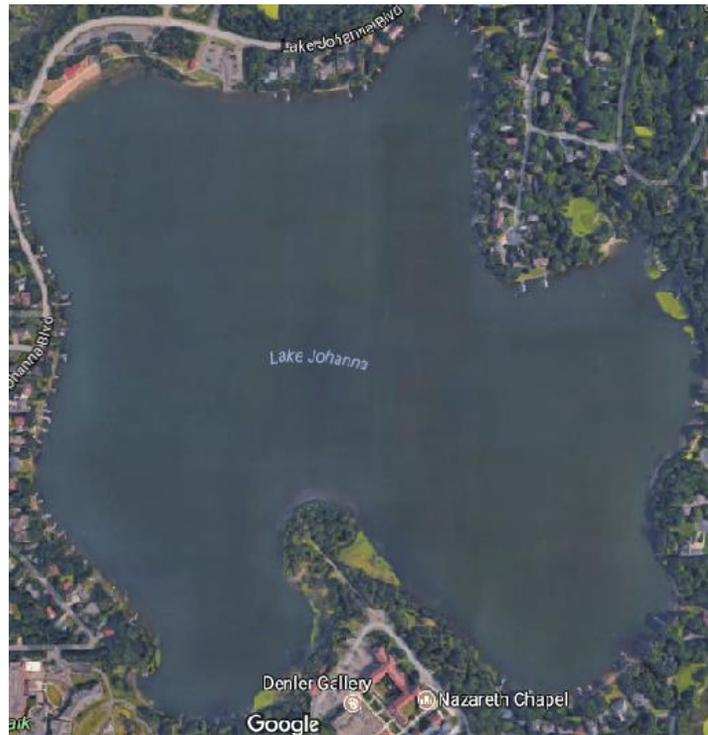


# CANADA GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLAN LAKE JOHANNA IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY LOCATED IN ARDEN HILLS, MN



Plan Includes Lake and Shoreline of Lake Johanna as shown in the above map.

## **1. Lake Johanna, Goose Management Concerns**

### **1.1 Canada Goose Habitat Use and Population Estimate**

Lake Johanna, located within Arden Hills and Ramsey County, MN, encompasses approximately 213 acres of varied habitats. Little Lake Johanna feeds into Lake Johanna; the lake feeds directly into the Rice Creek Watershed. Urban development, wetlands, shared neighborhood areas (associations) and recreational areas are the dominant land cover types on Lake Johanna.

Disproportionately high populations of geese are found on Lake Johanna properties, as well as neighborhood-use (shared access to the lake) properties, including, but not limited to:

- Johanna Shores
- University of Northwestern St Paul (UNWSP)
- Arden Hills Island Association
- Lametti Lane Association
- Lake Lane Association
- Arden Hills #3 Association
- Ramsey County Tony Schmidt Park (note that Ramsey County Parks and Trails has a separate plan; LJS will partner with Ramsey County in a situation where there are high fecal bacteria issues at the public beach area)

Canada geese use all areas of Lake Johanna. Nesting occurs in the undeveloped areas of the lakeshore, such as University of Northwestern St Paul, Johanna Shores, Little Lake Johanna and undeveloped personal property. Newly hatched broods tend to loaf and feed along the lakeshore areas, docks and floating swim platforms.

During the late spring and early summer months, when adult geese pair and build nests, approximately 90 breeding adult geese are typically present. In mid-summer, at least 70 goslings are also present, depending on reproductive success. Later in the summer, (late July through September) flocks exceeding 200 individuals are observed in area, due to birds flying into the vicinity from surrounding areas.

### **1.2 Concentrated Habitat Use and Human Use Conflicts**

Shoreline and recreation areas typically experience excessive goose excrement; including shoreline swimming, swimming platforms, docks, hiking/walking trails (Tony Schmidt Park, Johanna Shores and UNWSP), boat/canoe/kayak launching and general shoreline spaces. These excrement deposits are a nuisance and elicit numerous complaints by lakeshore users due to the inability to use the shoreline, docks or floating swim platforms.

In addition to the E.coli and nuisance concerns on the green spaces and hard surfaces, Lake Johanna is directly connected to the Rice Creek Watershed via a weir system located on the NW edge of Ramsey County Tony Schmidt Park.

## **2. Canada Goose Management Recommendations**

### **2.1 Goals and Measures**

Canada goose management goals for Lake Johanna have historically been conducted by trap and removal practices of adult birds and goslings in the summer (before goslings take flight). Lake Johanna Improvement Society (LJIS) has worked with the University of Minnesota (1995-2005) and Canada Goose Management Company (2006-2015) for Canada goose removal activities on Lake Johanna properties. No geese have been removed in 2015 (unable to capture) or 2016.

Historically, on an annual basis, 10-15 adults and 8-10 goslings have been removed through the capture and trap approach. More recently unofficial early summer counts are in the 90 to 150 geese range. The increased numbers are largely due to the unsuccessful management of geese the past 2 years.

Lake Johanna is 213 acres in size and the resident population goal is 2 nesting pairs of geese.

### **2.2 Geographic Scope**

The population reduction and concentrated use reduction goals are focused on Lake Johanna, Arden Hills, Ramsey County MN

#### **Habitat Modification**

The Lake Johanna Improvement Society provides education to lakeshore owners on landscaping to reduce the issues of geese excrement while loafing and feeding along the lakeshore.

Several private homeowners as well as University of Northwestern St Paul and Arden Hills Island Beach Club have worked with RCWD to landscape along the shoreline to reduce geese along the shoreline.

Many homeowners use reflective tape, tall plantings, limited mowing or motion detector sprinklers to deter the geese from loafing and feeding along the lakeshore.

#### **Excrement Removal**

Homeowners perform sporadic removal of goose excrement from the lakeshore, docks and floating swim platforms during the late spring and summer months. The primary goal is to effectively redistribute geese away from these areas, with the goal being a reduction of feces in these areas. However, it is necessary to remove incidental goose feces from these areas on an as-needed basis.

#### **2.2.1 Population Reduction**

**Trapping and removal (during flightless period)** Capture and removal of flightless, mixed age groups of geese during the summer flightless period is the approach that will be used to reduce the localized population of geese during the peak beach use time (June-July). Contractors or trained staff to humanely capture, remove and dispose of geese will be utilized.

In addition to working with a goose removal consultant, Lake Johanna Improvement Society plans to pursue future goose management techniques such as coyote silhouettes, temporary fencing along the shoreline and nest removal.

### **2.2.2 Public Information**

Lake Johanna Improvement Society regularly communicates through a strong email network that reaches nearly every homeowner on Lake Johanna. This communication medium will be utilized to provide information to the residents about geese and ongoing activities.

### **2.2.3 Coordination**

Lake Johanna Improvement Society works closely with the City of Arden Hills and Ramsey County. In addition to the approval of the Goose Management Plan, there will be ongoing communication to ensure all aspects of the plan are being managed appropriately.