

CITY OF MINNETRISTA

BUSINESS / DISCUSSION ITEM



Subject: MN DNR Canada Goose Removal
Process Update

Prepared By: David Abel, Community Development Director

Meeting Date: April 20, 2026

Issue:

There have been recent updates to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) permitting process and the associated requests directed to the city.

Background:

The recent procedural changes implemented by the DNR simplify the permitting process for certain activities, specifically those related to wildlife (e.g., goose management). Previously, municipalities were required to obtain permits on behalf of residents. Under the updated process, this requirement has been removed.

Instead, individual homeowners may now apply for permits directly. The only prerequisite is a formal letter issued by the city confirming that the homeowner is authorized to proceed independently. The homeowner assumes full responsibility for all matters related to the permit, including compliance, costs, and any associated obligations with the DNR.

A Minnetrista resident is requesting assistance in obtaining such a letter, to fulfill the new requirement.

Discussion:

Further clarification was obtained through a conversation with a DNR representative. Key takeaways include:

- A goose management plan is no longer required under the revised regulations.
- The city's role is limited to providing a statement of acknowledgment or approval for the homeowner's independent action.
- Due to the recency of these changes, there is currently no standardized template or formal guidance for the required letter.
- Historically, similar requests have primarily come from commercial entities such as businesses or golf courses, rather than private residents.

Mission Statement:

The City of Minnetrista will deliver quality services in a cost effective and innovative manner and provide opportunities for a high quality of life while protecting natural resources and maintaining a rural character.

Conclusion:

The DNR's updated permitting process represents a shift toward individual responsibility and streamlined municipal involvement. The immediate need is for the city to provide a simple authorization letter enabling the homeowner to proceed with their permit application.

City staff intend to handle these requests administratively by issuing the required authorization letters upon request, rather than requiring formal Council action. This approach is consistent with the simplified DNR process and reflects the limited role the city now plays. Staff may develop a standard letter template to ensure consistency, efficiency, and clarity in communicating that the homeowner is permitted to proceed and assumes all associated responsibility.

Attachments:

- MN DNR Canada Goose Removal Guide Sheet

Mission Statement:

The City of Minnetrista will deliver quality services in a cost effective and innovative manner and provide opportunities for a high quality of life while protecting natural resources and maintaining a rural character.

Canada Goose Removal

Canada geese are a valuable part of Minnesota's ecosystem and provide recreational and subsistence opportunity. While most people enjoy observing Canada geese, conflicts can occur when they damage crops or become too numerous, causing yards, beaches, and docks to be fouled with their feces. Removal is not a long-term solution to these conflicts but may provide temporary relief.

Minnesota law allows a person or their agent to nonlethally haze geese causing damage: [Minnesota Statute 97B.668 GAME BIRDS CAUSING DAMAGE](#). However, removal may be warranted under a Cooperative Damage Management Agreement (CDMA) which can include a Canada Goose Management Plan and Hunt Management Plan. As a jointly managed species and a federally protected migratory bird, both a state and federal permit is required to conduct any removal.

Egg and Nest Removal Only:

- Register at the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Resident Canada Goose Registration site.
 - <https://apps.fws.gov/rcgr/>
 - You will be required to create a Login.gov account: <https://login.gov/create-an-account/>
 - You need to list the contractor, if one is hired for this work.
- Bring registration confirmation/permit to MN DNR Area Wildlife Manager for state permit.
 - Office Locator: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/areas/wildlife/index.html>
- Reporting: (required by both state and federal)
 - Report to the state of MN no later than 10 days after expiration of permit.
 - Report to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service by December 31st of the year you were issued a permit.
- Renewal:
 - Federal [registration](#) must be completed annually.
 - New state permits are required annually.

Adult Canada Geese (and egg and nest removal):

- Contact Area Wildlife Manager for Cooperative Damage Management Agreement
 - Office Locator: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/areas/wildlife/index.html>
 - Material assistance may be available.
- Contact U.S. Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services to obtain completed Form 37 (**valid for 3 years**)
 - Contact: Alan Schumacher
 - 644 Bayfield St., Suite 215, St. Paul, MN 55107
 - Phone (651) 224-6027
 - Alan.K.Schumacher@usda.gov
- Apply or renew for a US Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Migratory Bird Depredation Permit
 - <https://fwsepermits.servicenowservices.com/fws>
 - **Attach completed Form 37 to online depredation application.**
 - Within application, for Section E, question #2, reply: "Have applied will provide on request"
- Provide Federal Migratory Bird Permit to MN DNR Area Wildlife Manager for state permit
 - Office Locator: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/areas/wildlife/index.html>
- Reporting: (required by both state and federal)
 - Report to the state of MN no later than 10 days after expiration of permit.
 - Report to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service by January 1st following the permit expiration.
- Renewal:
 - Federal renewal (required annually), go directly to USFWS [ePermits](#) website.
 - New state permits are required annually.
 - If you require changes to your permit, both federal and state amendments are required.