



# Shelbyville – Shelby County Board of Parks & Recreation



A joint agency of Shelbyville and Shelby County, KY  
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**Shawn W. Pickens, Director**

*“To develop, maintain and enhance a spirit of pride and belonging for all citizens of Shelby County.”*

I know the controlled goose hunt at Lake Shelby has caused an uproar and has made a lot of people upset. We have a major human health and cleanliness problem at Lake Shelby we are faced with. I understand that not everybody approves of the step we have taken to help control the problem and I completely understand and respect that position, however moving forward I am asking everyone to put our differences aside and help us to manage this problem. Taking a positive out of this, this has brought awareness to the problem and the difficulties and challenges to finding a solution. If we can use this as spring board and all band together as a community and work together towards a solution to this problem, we would be much more productive. Our number one goal is to keep our parks clean and safe for our families, children, and all park users. Our park system and parks board is 100% committed to working with the community on a solution to the problem that fits everyone's interest as best as possible.

Here are a few steps we are taking and can potentially take moving forward working together as a community:

- 1) Purchasing additional signs stating “Please Do Not Feed the Wildlife”. And place them strategically throughout Lake Shelby.
- 2) Creating and designing an educational campaign to better educate the public to the dangers and downfalls to feeding the wildlife. Informational literature, brochures, social media campaigns, etc. Work with local media outlets to run stories to help educate the public.
- 3) The park has researched recently into potentially placing “geese friendly feeding stations”, which supposedly is feed that geese can digest properly and create less droppings. The theory is that it is hard to stop the public from feeding the wildlife 100% of the time, so encourage to feed them with food they can digest properly. Further research is needed however.
- 4) Creating a donation fund to help fund the efforts to reduce the geese population. Work with groups and organizations committed to conservation for funding assistance.
- 5) Organize volunteer days to carry out harassing techniques, removal of nest and eggs, adding deterrents, etc. Also have park clean-up days regularly to reduce the amount of geese droppings
- 6) Work with federal, state, local officials, and other groups and organizations to create a feasibility plan to trap and relocate the geese or other methods to disperse the geese population.
- 7) Work with UK Extension Office and other organizations to potentially test the soil and test water quality at Lake Shelby to monitor the health of the soil and water.
- 8) Work with local police department, sheriff's department, and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Officers to help us enforce the no feeding the wildlife regulation. Note, our park rangers do not have law enforcement capabilities, we have to rely on local law enforcement. It is a park regulation; however, at this time it is unclear if it's an official ordinance in the city of Shelbyville to not feed wildlife. We will work with the mayor and city council to see if it is or not, if it is not, we can work to having it added.

I feel positive that if we put all of our heads together and combine our efforts, we can greatly reduce the problem and make our parks a safer and cleaner place.

Sincerely,

Shawn W. Pickens  
Director of Parks and Recreation

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