

## Effects on humans

Congregating birds can create problems in the water as well as on land. Increased levels of contamination can make waters unsafe for swimming, shellfishing, and other recreational activities. Large numbers of birds on the beaches and lawns along the waterfront may also cause increased levels of excrement, requiring clean-up.

## What does this mean for me?

Water quality is important. If we want to continue to enjoy our waterbodies, we must try to keep our water clean. Stopping feeding the birds is an easy step to allow these animals to resume their natural habits and reduce the amount of poop going into our water. Less poop, cleaner water!

## How to help

- **Stop feeding the birds!**
- **Spread the word and encourage others to do the same.**
- **Pay attention to signs that indicate whether a waterbody is safe for shellfishing and other forms of recreation.**



Green Pond, Falmouth. Photo by Sarah Paulson



# PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE WATERFOWL.

**It is unhealthy for them as well as for the environment!**



## What birds are important to focus on?

- *Swans*
- *Geese*
- *Ducks*
- *Herring gulls*



Great Pond, Falmouth. Photo by Mark Kasprzyk

## Effects on the birds

Feeding the birds can result in health problems and unnatural habits for the birds.

Giving them food can cause:

- Disrupted migration patterns
- Disease resulting from insufficient nutrition in food given by humans such as bread and corn
- Abnormally large flocks which lead to increased:
  - Competition for food
  - Stress
  - Contamination in the water

## Where is this happening?

Waterbodies around Falmouth have experienced increases in bird populations which can lead to shellfish closures due to fecal coliform contamination.



## Effects on water quality

**Birds poop.** These added nutrients can cause algal blooms and contribute to dangerous fecal coliform counts. The Town of Falmouth works to improve water quality and keep waterbodies open for recreation. Feeding the birds counteracts those efforts and leads to unviable water quality that can be harmful to both humans and wildlife.