

# Report of the Hains Park Enhancement Sub-Committee

Thursday, November 2, 2023

## \* *Mission and Charge of the HPEC:*

- \* To develop a prioritized list of recommendations with suggested timings to the PRC for using donated funds for the beautification and enhancement of Hains Park. The recommendations are to include, but are not limited to, the purchasing and installation of new ADA-accessible playground equipment, additional landscaping, and whether to retain any funds for future enhancements.

# HPEC members

- \* Full members (5):

- \* Sara van Vliet, PRC member and Chair
- \* Mary Ellen Garbarino, PRC member and Vice Chair/Secretary
- \* Phil Parcak, Teri Lewis, and Greg Hack

- \* Ad-hoc members:

- \* Don Bugbee, Winnie Edmed, Tom Meyer
- \* Martha Shoemaker, Selectwoman, ex officio

*\* The goals of HPEC include:*

- \* Enhancing the natural beauty of the Park
- \* Creating a space for the community to enjoy many outdoor activities
- \* Investing in maintenance and care of the property
- \* Preserving the resource for the future

## *Funds available in support of Hains Park Enhancements:*

- \* \$60,000 in Town (P&R) budget for new playground equipment
- \* \$20,000 in Town (P&R) budget for fencing/parking lot/discretionary
- \* \$53,438 remains from Hains Park fundraising efforts which took place at the time of the Boathouse construction project
- \* **Total:** \$133,438

# Prioritized list of Recommendations, with anticipated costs



13 total recommendations in this report

See printed report for details

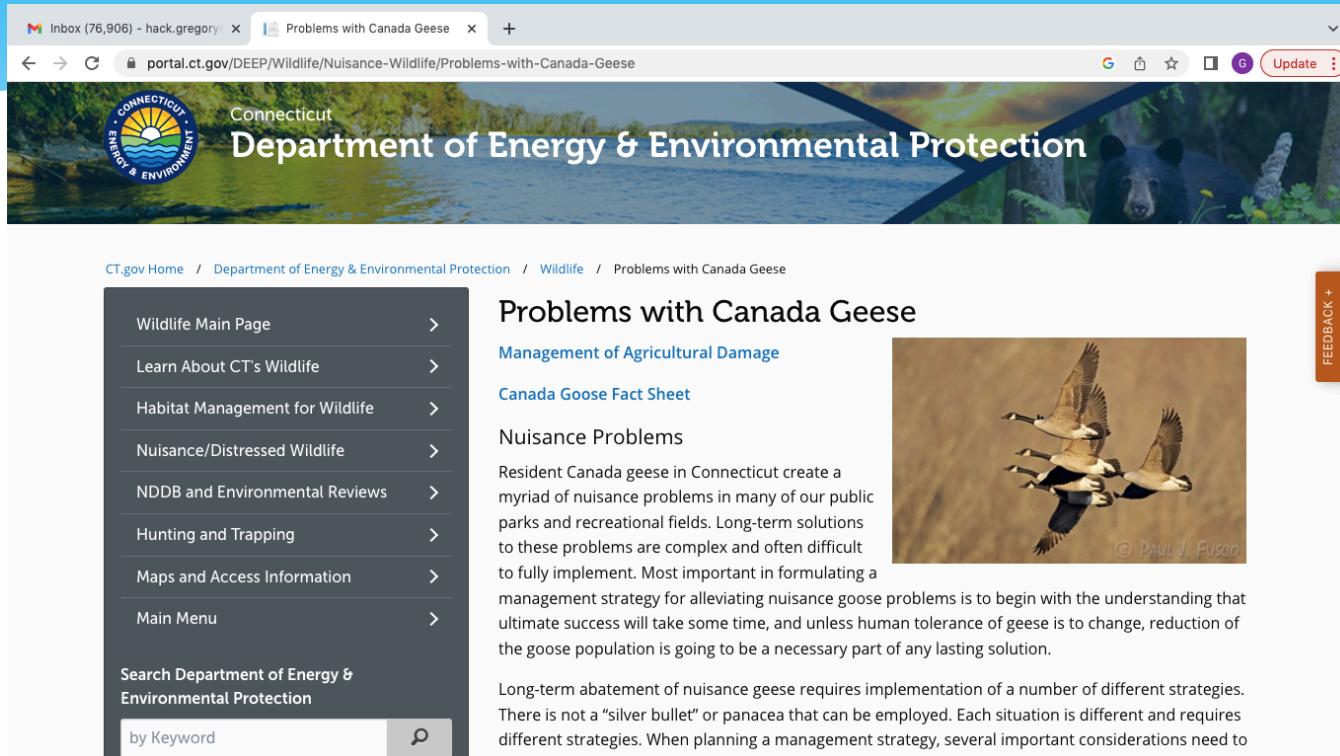
# #1 Improvement of drainage

- \* **Improvement of drainage of rainwater** off of the Boston Post Road. This essential work has direct impact on the quality and longevity of any other enhancements to the Park. Both East Driveway and West Driveway are areas of concern.
- \* **COST borne by the Town of Old Lyme (West/South Driveway repair approved by BOS and BOF) (\$13,500) (completion is pending DOT permit/contract execution)**

1. The new paving will not exceed the existing footprint of the existing paved area.
2. The revised surface will allow the water to flow across the entire paved surface.
3. Compacted 3/4 in. gravel will be placed in an area 21 ft. x 10 ft. as part of the work. This will provide attenuation for the water to slow erosion during rain events.



# #2 Goose Nuisance Mitigation



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following details:

- Address Bar:** portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Wildlife/Nuisance-Wildlife/Problems-with-Canada-Geese
- Header:** Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
- Left Sidebar (Menu):**
  - Wildlife Main Page
  - Learn About CT's Wildlife
  - Habitat Management for Wildlife
  - Nuisance/Distressed Wildlife
  - NDDB and Environmental Reviews
  - Hunting and Trapping
  - Maps and Access Information
  - Main Menu
- Search Bar:** Search Department of Energy & Environmental Protection by Keyword
- Content Area:**
  - Section Title:** Problems with Canada Geese
  - Links:** Management of Agricultural Damage, Canada Goose Fact Sheet
  - Text:** Nuisance Problems. Describes the impact of resident Canada geese on parks and recreational fields, noting the complexity of long-term solutions.
  - Image:** A photograph of several Canada geese in flight, with the credit "@ PAUL J. FUSCO" visible.
  - Text:** Long-term abatement of nuisance geese requires implementation of a number of different strategies. It emphasizes that there is no "silver bullet" and that each situation is different.
- Right Sidebar:** FEEDBACK +

- \* ***The goose population in the Park, along with their droppings on the beach and grassy areas, has become a major annoyance and significant health concern.*** Our research indicates that successful management requires a combination of methods to be effective.

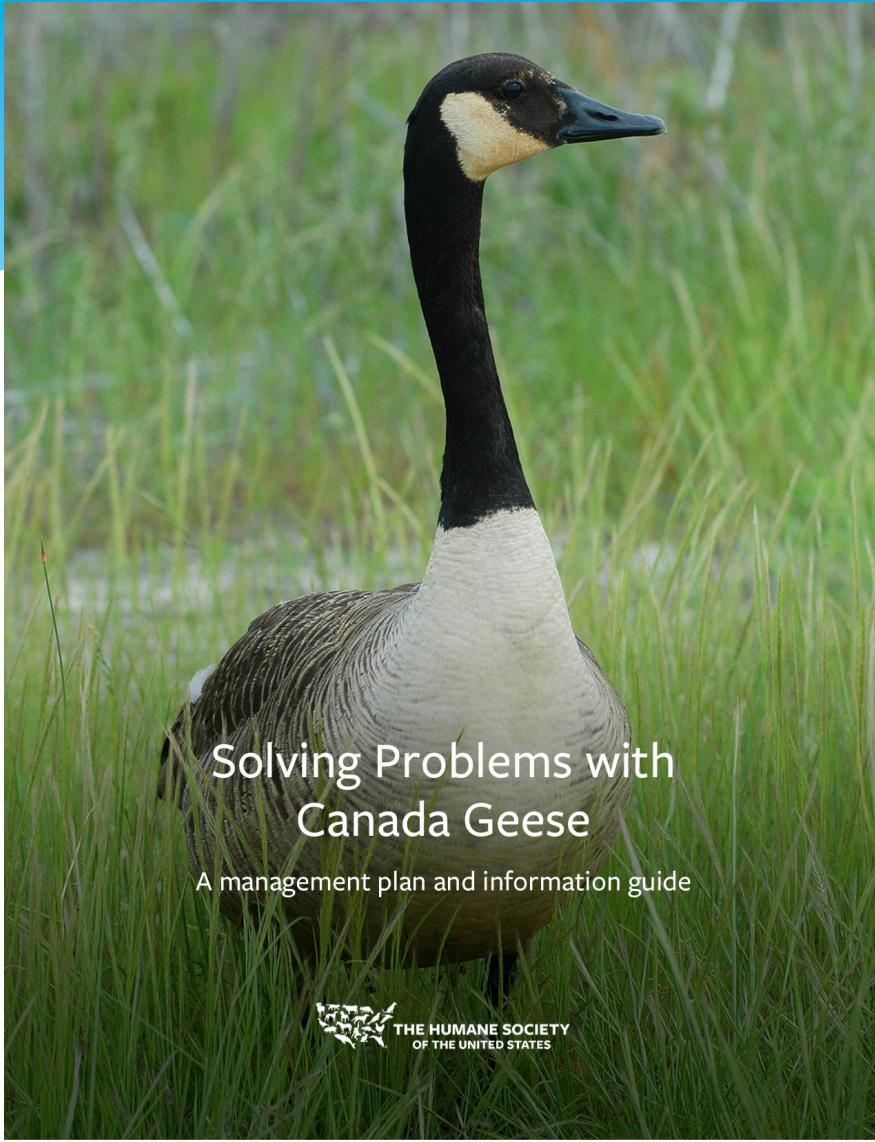
- \* Such methods may include:
  - \* Curtail reproduction (egg addling, contraceptives)
  - \* Site aversion (harassing or scaring geese to teach them the site is not safe). Use visual scaring devices like coyote, flagging, spraying fountains.
  - \* Habitat modification (allow tall grass and native shrubs on shoreline of the Lake)
  - \* Noise making devices
  - \* Frequent patrol with dogs

# Continued.....

- \* Physical barriers such as fencing where geese tend to land on water and walk up to grassy area to feed or rest. This strategy works best during the summer molting season when geese are unable to fly and must walk between feeding and resting areas. (**NB rope fence on the docks**)
- \* Physical barriers in the water, such as continuous swim buoys along the swim area to block access to the beach.
- \* **CONSIDER hiring a wildlife management specialist to develop and manage a plan.**



Thin rope fence supported by PVC pipe repels geese



## Solving Problems with Canada Geese

A management plan and information guide



THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES

- \* COST for goose nuisance mitigation borne by the Town of Old Lyme, long-term, with funding in the annual budget.
- \* **Note that prior P&R Budget included \$9,900 annual budget for Hains Park and \$5,000 for TWP – these items were removed in recent years at direction of BOF rep.**

# #3 Hains Park master plan rendering

- \* It is imperative to produce a professionally created document that includes existing conditions, dimensions, and elevations in order to develop a precise plan for all proposed future enhancements and construction, including all of the structures and enhancements described in this Report.



# #4 Playground

- \* **Playground** – working with Dave Catalano from Ideal Grounds. Proposal includes large PipeLine playground structure and PipeLine double belt swing.
- \* Estimate approximately \$70,000 for equipment, embedment mounting, and woodchip surfacing.



PipeLine 9843  
Shown

# Playground, continued.....

\* COST borne by previously budgeted funds from the Town of Old Lyme, and supported by Hains Park fundraising (if needed).



# #5 concrete bulkheads for the docks

- \* Replace the bulkhead on the West dock, and create/ place a new bulkhead on the East dock. Placement of these bulkheads will enable secure attachment of the docks, and will eliminate uncertainty during installation each year and ensure proper orientation of the docks for proper rowing, kayaking and swimming activities.
- \* COST borne by the Town of Old Lyme. (**Est. \$2,000**)



Existing concrete bulkhead on West dock

# #6 Topsoil, grass, edging etc.

- \* **Topsoil, grass seed, edging, new sand, and improvement in borders and appearance of all Park areas. New decorative plantings, in conjunction with plantings as appropriate to hinder the geese.**
- \* COST borne by Town of Old Lyme. SEE PRINTED REPORT for details.



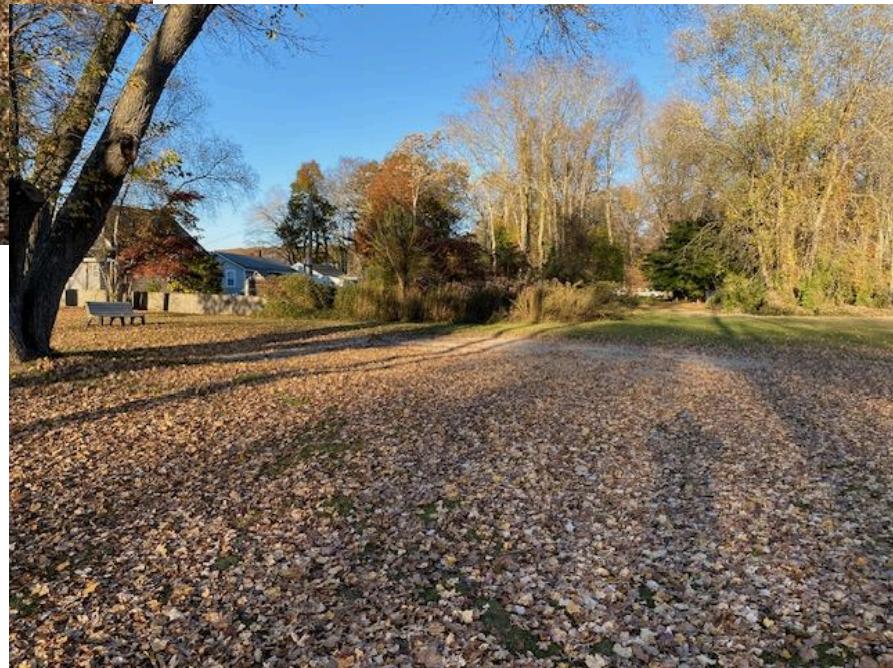
The beach area today

# #7 Pavilion

- \* **Pavilion**, to be placed close to the new playground structure. This will allow for attractive shelter from sun and rain, picnicking, and will allow direct viewing of the playground area.
- \* ***The HPEC endorses moving ahead with such a structure, at the location as described, presuming that the base is of a more natural material (not concrete) and is rated for public use.***



Proposed area of playground and pavilion



# #8 Public water fountain/fill and foot rinse shower

- \* Contamination of the faucet water at the Park is a persistent issue and a threat to public safety, as Park users routinely fill water bottles from the faucet. It is imperative to invest in a safe public drinking water source, likely of the water bottle filling type.
- \* COST supported by Hains Park fundraising. (**Est. \$TBD**)

#9

# Kayak racks and fixed bicycle racks

- \* **Kayak racks and fixed bicycle racks** will further enhance the utilization of the Park. The Town can determine a system of permitting for the use of the kayak racks. Location and installation method to be determined based on as-built plan.
- \* COST supported by Hains Park fundraising. (**Est. \$400 per rack.**)



Image is NOT Hains Park ☺

# #10 Long-term maintenance

- \* **Long-term maintenance.** It is imperative that the investments in Hains Park are preserved through regular seasonal upkeep and maintenance.
- \* The HPEC recommends development of a seasonal checklist outlining tasks that are to be completed each season at the Park, which will help ensure allocation of responsibilities, timely completion of tasks, and appropriate budgeting.

# #11 Enhanced Security

- \* **Enhanced security** for the Park. Remote cameras with internet connection to discourage vandalism. The Park should be included in the security system upgrade currently under development by the Town. While that system is in development, interim measures to deter vandalism, such as increased police patrolling, should be considered.

# #12 Dredging of Beach area

- \* **Dredging of Lake bottom in beach area.** A long-term project that will require surveying and coordination with State and local authorities, including the Rogers Lake Authority. *COST to be borne by the Town/State grants.*

# #13 Parking lot efficiency

- \* **Parking Lot** – develop a system to improve efficiency of parking at Hains Park.
- \* COST borne by the Town of Old Lyme.

# Timing of Proposed Enhancements

- \* The HPEC recommends a coordinated phased/sequenced approach to implementation of the enhancements:
  - \* **Phase 1 (Fall/Winter 2023):** Master plan, drainage, bulkhead, R&D for goose mitigation
  - \* **Phase 2 (Spring 2024):** Goose mitigation, capital improvement installation (playground, pavilion, water filler/foot shower, kayak/bike rack)
  - \* **Phase 3 (Summer 2024):** Goose mitigation, landscape improvements (topsoil/grass/sand/edging/plantings)
  - \* **Phase 4 (post-Summer 2024):** Goose mitigation, annual upkeep, R&D for dredging, security cameras

## ONGOING COMMITTEE SUPPORT AND OVERSIGHT:

- \* *The HPEC recommends that its Mission and Charge be expanded to include assistance and oversight of the implementation of the Park enhancements ultimately adopted by the PRC.*

# Final Summary

- \* The Hains Park Enhancements Sub-Committee has worked together in a collaborative and collegial manner to develop a list of priorities that will greatly enhance the appearance and functionality of Hains Park for many years to come.
- \* ***The Hains Park Fundraising Committee (Greg Hack, Candace Fuchs, and Skip Sibley) have reviewed the report, and are prepared to sign a note of endorsement of the report and utilization of the funds raised towards enhancements noted in the report.***

# Thank you!

