

# What You Can Do

## To Help (Cont.)

runoff. By doing so hundreds of gallons of water are kept out of the catch basins and ultimately the Storm Water System. If you would like to learn more about these alternatives, The Riverhead Town Engineering Department has published a pamphlet in regards to multiple ways to reduce your storm water runoff.

**Create a Riparian buffer** - Riparian is another word for the habitat, plants, and wildlife associated with the bank of a watercourse. If you live along a river, maintaining a healthy buffer consisting of native plants between your property and the water will reduce runoff laden with possible animal pathogens and many other pollutants. By maintaining a 3ft or higher buffer of native plants along the waterfront, Canadian Geese are less likely to frequent your property. Please consult the NYS DEC website for a list of natives plants suitable for your area.

**Clean up after your pet** - Pet waste can contribute up to 90% of E. Coli loading in storm water runoff. Even if you're miles from a waterbody, the stormwater carrying bacteria from dog waste may very well find its way to a water body through gutter and storm piping.

**Be Responsible** - When at the waterfront, use public restrooms and pack out your waste. These measures will help keep the bacteria associated with feces out of the water.

- Always clean up after your pet.
- Use a Pooper Scooper, bag or shovel to pick up pet waste and dispose of properly.
- Double bag pet waste before disposing in trash.
- Do not dispose of pet waste in a storm drain, catch basin or storm sewer.



Above: (Before) A field full of Canadian Geese.

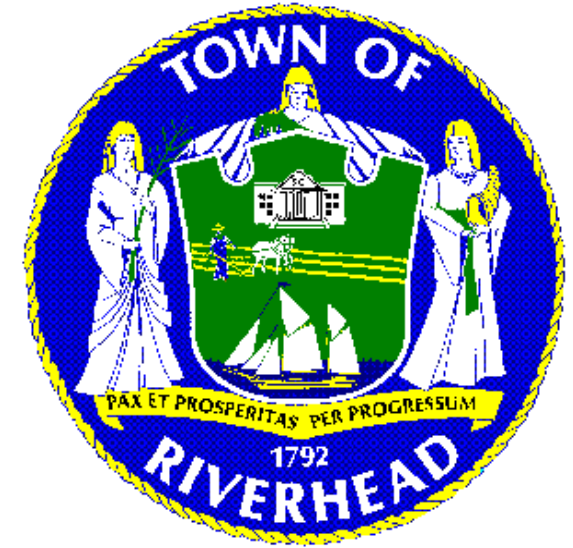
Below: (After) A field full of Canadian Geese feces.



### Sources

[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/06/nyregion/nyregionspecial2/06Rgeese.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/06/nyregion/nyregionspecial2/06Rgeese.html?_r=1)

[http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/brent\\_geese\\_keyhaven.jpg](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/brent_geese_keyhaven.jpg)



# PET WASTE MANAGEMENT AND STORMWATER

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# Impacts of Feeding Canadian Geese

Did you know animal waste can be a health hazard and a stormwater pollutant?

Stormwater runoff can wash bacteria from animal waste directly into local creeks and waterways. Bacteria, parasites and viruses contained in animal waste can be a health risk to other animals and people, especially children. Pollution from animal waste is easily prevented.

When it comes to feeding Canadian Geese, the common thought is that there is no harm being done and the Geese are helped by feeding them.

That's if you consider helping the Geese to be changing their feeding habits, creating widespread disease among the local population, and starving the animals. In reality feeding the Geese creates unhealthy habits and could actually destroy the animals by altering their digestive systems and affecting their migratory behavior.

The Town of Riverhead has enacted a law, Chapter 112 of the Town Code, that prohibits the feeding of Canadian Geese. This law is to benefit both the residents and the Geese. Our goal for this law is to try and keep wildlife wild in order to reduce the extra load on our environment.

# NUISANCES

Canadian Geese are becoming an increasing nuisance in the Town of Riverhead. Whether it is in parking lots, sports fields, or in the river, Canadian Geese are everywhere. Local municipalities are starting to take action against these Geese who are leaving behind a seemingly endless trail of feces.

In places such as New York City, roundups are being implemented in order to control the local Canadian Geese population. Contrary to popular belief, the geese are not transported to another part of the state or even the country for that matter. The geese are rounded up during their molting season when they are easy targets because they are unable to fly. Once captured the geese are put down and disposed of.

The Town desires to control its Canadian Geese problem before geese roundups become necessary. By following the tips in this brochure, you can help reduce the impact that the Canadian Geese have on the local environment.

US Airways flight 1549 was downed by a flock of birds. Since then New York and New Jersey have developed round up programs for areas up to seven miles away from airports.



# What You Can Do To Help

Even though Riverhead is going to great lengths to reduce the E. Coli and Fecal Coliform pollutants through their MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) program, there are a number of things that the homeowner can do to help.

**Don't feed the wild animals** - Canadian Geese become reliant on handouts and visit those locations frequently. As a result there are higher concentrations of feces in the area, which in turn can create an E. Coli hotspot and place a heavy burden on the ecosystem. The easiest and most effective measure is to refrain from feeding Canadian Geese.

**Disconnect your downspout and manage your storm water on site** - During a rain event it's possible for the Town's storm system to become overloaded due to massive amounts of runoff coming from homes. If an overflow occurs the system may pick up large amounts of debris and waste such as animal feces on the side of the road. In order to reduce the possibility of an overflow the homeowner could install Rain Barrels or a Rain Garden to catch and treat their