

REPORT ON THE GEESE SURVEY

Subcommittee on Geese and Wildlife Management¹

The Geese and Wildlife Management Subcommittee (of the HOA Grounds Committee) is pleased to report on the results of the email survey conducted between 04/01/26 and 05/08/26. The response rate was 56% (80 of 144 household owners), which is considered very high and robust in the social sciences.² This is evidence that Adams Run residents care for their community and that the survey topic was salient for you.

Historically, Adams Run has attracted a diverse community in term of age, from soon-to-be born children to retirees. Today it maintains a good representation of young families, with about 25% reporting children under 7 years of age. By most standards, it is a well kept residential area.

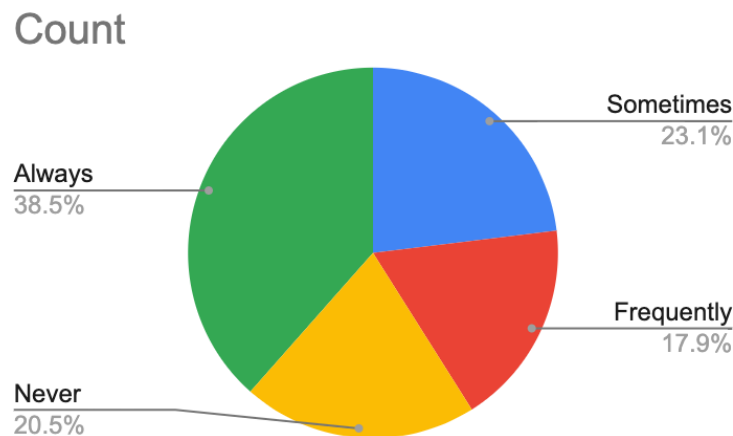
FINDINGS

The felt experience of community residents

The Subcommittee explored five everyday experiences with our goose population.

1. Droppings on driveways, roads, and common areas

This is the category that had the highest rating among respondents. While 20.5% reported they were never affected by goose droppings, 79.5% said it was a concern. The degree of concern varied, with 38.5% residents reported always being affected to 18% and 23% frequently and sometimes, respectively.



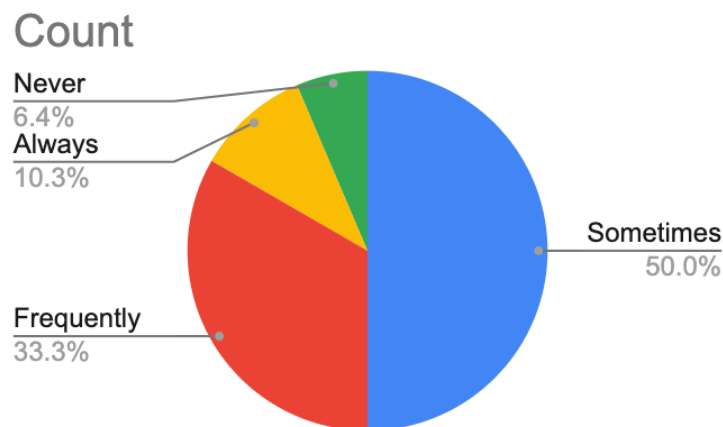
¹ Jennifer Jones, Danice Young, and Nelly Stromquist, Chair.

² Dillman, Don. (2000). *Mail and Internet Surveys: The Tailored Design Method*. John Wiley & Sons.

2. Road obstruction

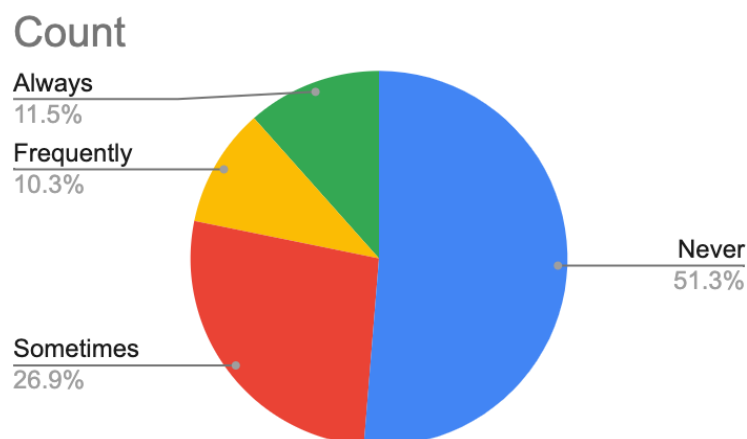
This is the second most widely felt experience. While 6.4% of the respondents reported never being affected by this problem, most said they are—again to varying degrees. About half reported being affected sometimes, 33% frequently, and 10% always. Drivers commonly encounter geese crossing roads, mostly those near the community access points, namely Scutffletown and Adams Mill.

Several community members submitted lengthy statements describing road incidents with geese both day and night, causing traffic jams and near accidents, especially at night when the geese are less visible.



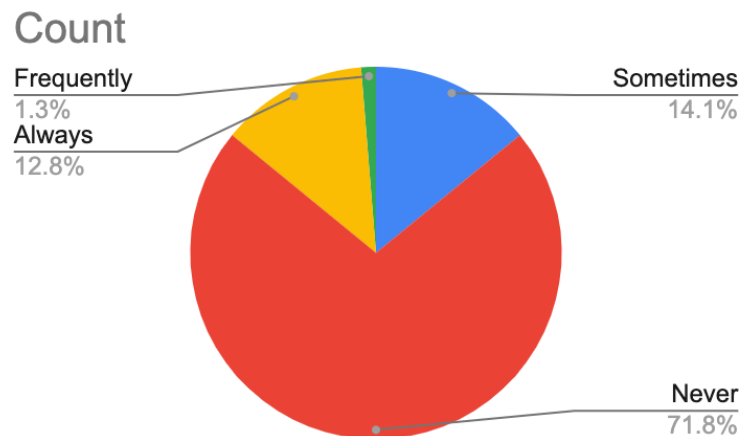
3. Noise

The third most felt experience. Slightly more than half said they were never affected by the noise. Of those who were affected (49%), 12% said it was always, others (10%) said the noise was frequent and many (27%) heard it sometimes. Naturally, the intensity of the problem appears to be localized to those living closest to the pond.



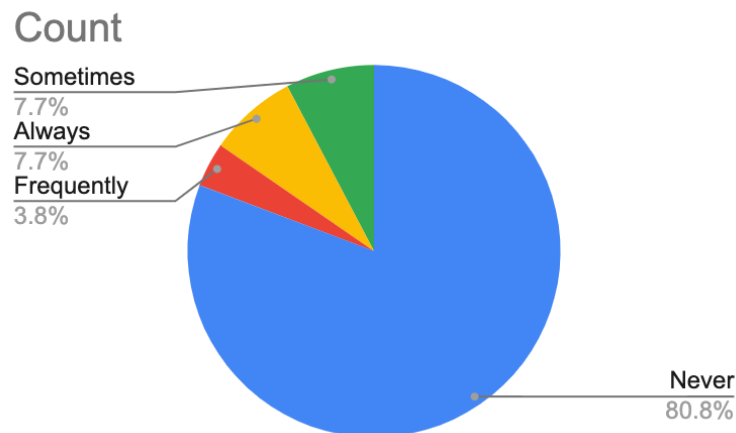
4. Goose droppings in residents' yards

This concern was among the two least frequently felt. About 72% of the respondents declared they had never experienced goose droppings their yard, but 28% felt they had to clean their yards always (13%), frequently (1.3%), or sometimes (14%). Most affected are, again, those living close to the community areas of the pond.



5. Damage to residents' yards from goose droppings

This problem was reported by few residents, as 81% said they had never experienced damage to their lawns, although 19% did report damages ranging from always (8%) to frequently (4%) to sometimes (8%). Again, this damage affects mostly those residents close to the community areas facing the pond.

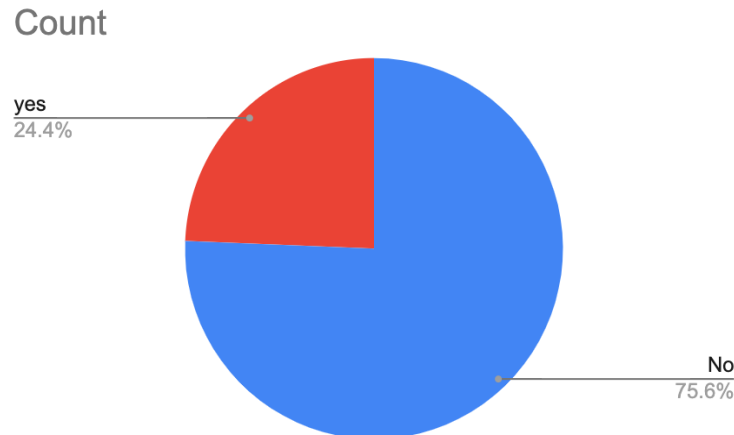


In short, these two types of disturbance to residents' yards (either through droppings or by actual *damage* to their lawns) appear to be the most localized negative experiences. This in no way diminishes their annoyance nor their subsequent expenditures for lawn repair.

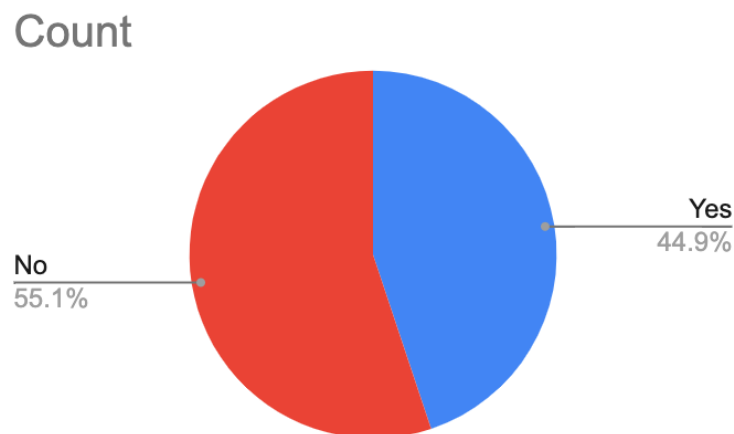
Children and pets

We asked the respondents whether they had children and whether they owned dogs or other pets. About one-quarter of the respondents have children and a larger number have pets (45%). We did not ask specifically for dogs, so this percentage may include cats. In any case, it is probable that, outdoors, the number of dogs is greater than the number of cats. As is well known, dogs go for walks much more than cats.

- Households with children:



- Households with pets:



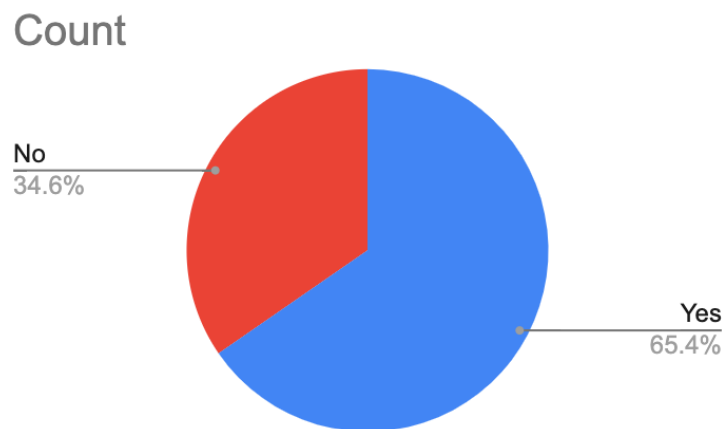
Given the health hazards goose droppings have been found to present, this condition must be considered of particular concern to the community: those who drive cars, walk/run around the pond, carry infants in their baby carriages, and ride bicycles and scooters. Because it is difficult to avoid stepping on the goose droppings, the bacteria in them are carried back home by people and their dogs (and some cats). One resident who complained of droppings “always” in their yard strongly suspects that their dog’s stomach ailment, requiring a visit to the vet, was the result. Another noted, “We now have ‘outdoors-only’ shoes.” This, unfortunately, cannot be a

solution for dogs and vehicle tires. Many of the community children walk or ride bikes on the loop road—an uninterrupted path that provides some 0.8 miles for community enjoyment.

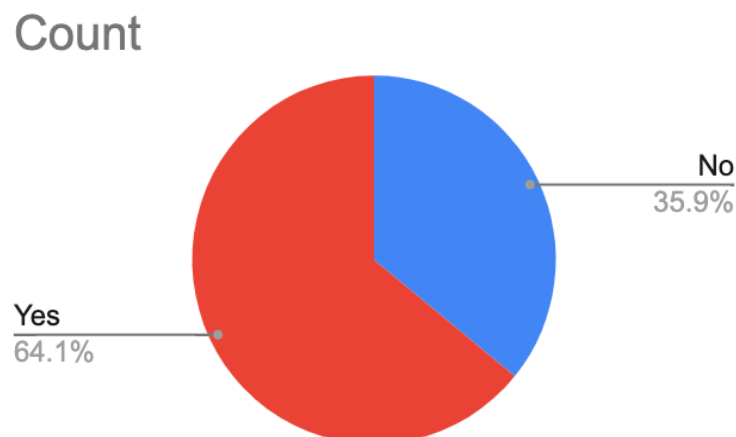
Recommendations for Action

We separated future steps in two categories: whether the residents saw a need for action and whether such action might mean changes to the HOA Covenant.

A total of 65.4% of the respondents expressed the need for action—almost two-thirds of the respondents. Clearly, there is a prevailing feeling that the status quo needs to improve.



Subsequently, we asked the respondents whether they felt that changes to the HOA Covenant might be needed to specify enforceable actions regarding the geese. Replies here were almost as high as those expressed regarding the need for action (64.1%), again with almost two-thirds in favor of modifying/expanding the Covenant as necessary.



Future Action

The open question at the end of the survey asked respondents to indicate what solutions, if any, they suggested. Their replies were mostly optimistic, but a few thought there was nothing to be done to improve the situation. The latter group is not entirely wrong. The geese love well-manicured lawns as well as nearby water (which protects them against predators), so Adams Run provides a perfect habitat. A realty group describes the neighborhood today as “*Adams Run Lakeside Community: Beautiful by Design*.” It seems the geese have read the same description.

While frustration with the goose problem is not unanimous, it is a very strong sentiment throughout the community. The widespread presence of goose droppings on driveways, roads, and community areas by the pond is identified as the most negative experience attached to the geese. Road obstruction, the second most negative experience, is now being felt day and night. Noise presently affects areas closer to the pond, but as the population of geese grows larger and bolder, their voices will become more audible to other community members. The noise is most notable in the evening and early morning, but when they are fighting, which seems rather frequently—it can be heard at any time. Costs to keep the geese from intruding and to repair damaged lawns have already been incurred by some residents.

The Subcommittee on Geese and Wildlife Management proposed this community survey as a *consultation*. To advance this objective, we are requesting that a dedicated discussion item be placed on the agenda of the September HOA meeting. At this time, a detailed discussion of the recommendations by the community to the survey will be addressed, with the intention of reaching a *decision* on next steps for the Geese and Wildlife Subcommittee in preparation for final presentation to the community at the December Annual Budget meeting.

Acknowledgments: The support and advice of the Grounds Committee is gratefully acknowledged. Special thanks go to Jennifer Jones for her skills in using Google Office to distribute the questionnaire on email and produce the pie charts.