

2025

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*These notes do not replace our voice or text communications during or just after my visits that are intended to communicate any more urgent or time relevant concerns. This communication is intended to help further communicate to other lake stakeholders who may be interested. Leisure Ponds does provide a Detailed Yearly Report and monthly Data Sheets can be made available.*

May 2025

Lake notes from my Lake Visit in May.

**Lake 1: Small Lake**

At the time of my visit the lake was milky slightly brownish black - OK. Geese were present and likely nesting. Nutrient levels were low – good.

**Lake 2: Large Middle Lake**

Milky slightly brown looking OK. Geese likely nesting. Nutrient phosphorous high. Nitrogen low – good.

**Lake 3:**

At the time of my visit Lake Superior was milky brown - OK. Nutrient levels were high for phosphorous and low for nitrogen.

During this time of year Canadian Geese are active and begin nesting in our area. Geese are native to the US and Canada and several species migrate through Missouri. Giant Canadian Geese, once thought almost extinct in Missouri, have recovered and native populations survived and are populating our urban areas.

Geese are a beautiful and interesting bird, unfortunately the Giant Canadian Goose is one that may cause problems when introduced into urban environments in higher-than-normal concentrations. And unnatural urban landscapes of close-cropped grass provide ideal habitat for geese.

Canadian Geese evolved as short grass tundra nesters, and are grazers that feed on grass and other plants. Geese are attracted to the short cut grass of lawns and golf courses as well as new sprouting crops. They prefer areas that have a ready source of food and water, usually with a pond or lake nearby. They prefer gently sloping shorelines with manicured lawns and areas that allow a good line of sight against approaching predators.

Geese become sexually active at 2 years old and may mate for life. In Missouri they begin establishing nesting sites as early as February and nest through May. A nest may contain a clutch of 5-6 eggs that may incubate for 28 days. The young are usually swimming within 2 days and learn to fly within 70 days of hatching. Young geese may imprint the area they are born in, and are likely to return to produce young of their own in that same area. A Canadian Goose may live 20 or more years.

Geese and their nests and eggs are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Canadian Geese can produce up to ¼ lb. of feces daily, Many States are developing Canadian Goose management plans to maintain a stable population of geese, and to discourage geese from urban areas. Participation in some programs may require special permits and training.