

THE LAKE MERRITT INSTITUTE

A Center For Urban Runoff And Watershed Research

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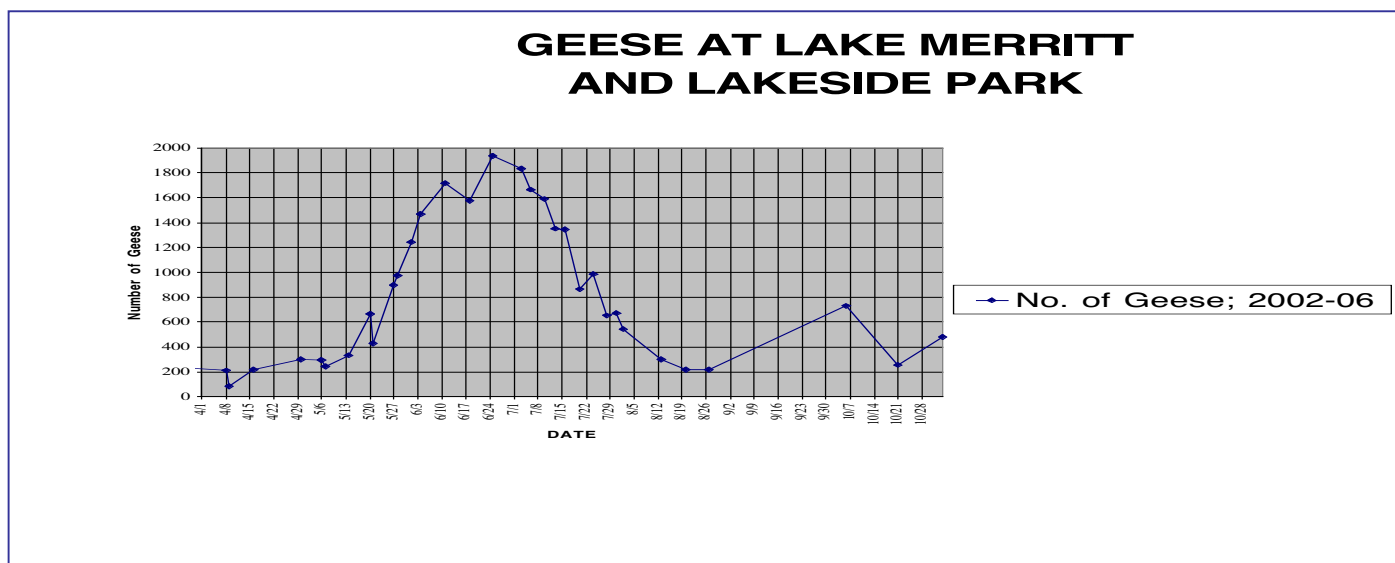
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VOLUNTEER LETTER

GOOSE LEAVINGS MAKE CLEAN-UP MORE DIFFICULT: Volunteers who clean the Lake a lot in the summer are very aware of our geese, as well as what they leave behind. What is deposited on lawns and in water quickly decomposes, but that which is left on parking lots, sidewalks and curbs dries up, and stays there until winter rains wash it into the Lake. At this time of the year, many areas around the Lake are loaded with dry goose dung.

But relief is on the way. As shown in the graph below, the number of geese calling Lake Merritt home is highly seasonal. Our winter population is about 250 – 400. Then, about Memorial Day, they start arriving from all over the Bay until – in late June – they number more than 1900. In July and August, having molted, they depart. Numbers in this graph are a compilation of data from 2002 – 2006, but the curve is remarkably smooth. On July 28th, we counted 651.



SUMMARY FOR JULY:

- 0.00 inches of rain
 - 1,380 pounds of trash
 - 116 people
 - 49 bags of trash.
 - Clean ups were conducted on 16 out of 31 days.

Join us in August when it gets too hot to stay home. Lake Merritt is your local climate moderation factor, and a cool place to be in a heat wave. And while you're here, you might as well pick up trash.

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To donate to the Institute, contact us at 238-2290 or 568 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610.**