

## Hooray for our goose chasers!



Border collies have been coming to Bloomfield parks to help reduce the geese problem – that green gloppy gunk all over the playing fields and picnic areas. Eeew!

Four city parks and one school have been inundated for years by Canada geese. While addling (oiling the eggs to prevent hatching) has helped, it hasn't been enough.

Bloomfield health officials signed a two-year agreement with Geese Chasers, LLC, whose dogs have been working in Bloomfield since April. The dogs chase the geese a couple of times a day (more if township workers cite a particular need).

The chasing will continue until mid-November when geese will fly to more southerly environs. Geese Chasers will resume in February of 2017.

Experts say geese return to the exact site of their previous year's nest or to a nearby body of water. However, when they are chased away multiple times, many give up and don't return.

Chasing and addling will be used simultaneously this year and next year to try and break the cycle of returns in Bloomfield.

**For those who like to feed ducks, geese and other wildlife,** please know that doing so is illegal. Also, in the case of aquatic birds, you are not doing them a favor; human food can cause wing deformities (often called "angel wing") that can prevent flight or lead to early death.

### Where the dogs are working:

- Brookside Park
- Memorial Park
- Wright's Field
- Halcyon Park
- Clark's Pond/  
Bloomfield Middle School