Preface: This plan was developed with the assistance and endorsement of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources – Wildlife Resources Division and the Gwinnett County Board of Health.

Objective:
To develop a comprehensive waterfowl management program that addresses the need to create a sustainable ecological balance while meeting the needs of the park users within the park system.

Goals:
The Gwinnett County Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Waterfowl Management Plan (GCPR CWMP) establishes a list of five goals. Each is listed, but not to be construed as in any order of priority.

Goal 1: To manage the waterfowl in the Gwinnett County Parks System with efforts towards increasing the biodiversity of flora and fauna species associated with wetlands, ponds, streams, and lakes.

Goal 2: To reduce the number of non-native and introduced flora and fauna species found currently within the parks systems lakes, rivers, and impoundments.

Goal 3: Develop an education component to increase public awareness regarding the importance of limiting human interactions with waterfowl including feeding of wildlife.

Goal 4: To improve the water quality and cleanliness of the parks systems water bodies and adjacent lands.

Goal 5: To establish a method and criteria to evaluate the success of each site's result and launch a long-term collection of this data.

Methods:
The success of the GCPR CWMP is based upon the use of an integrated management plan. Therefore, the process of improving conditions to arrive at success within each site is directly correlated to the use of an assortment of solutions. In no way are the methods listed in any order of importance nor a percentage of use within an agencies operation. One option listed below has witnessed both short and long-term success in its application, while others listed are more short-term in their success rate. Any success to be seen on a long-term basis must include an assortment of methods employed.

Method #1: Public Education – This method includes the use of mixed media, park signage, public lectures, and local grassroots support from stakeholder groups.

Method #2: Habitat Modification – In this method, the habitats within the waterfowl management areas will be arranged, replanted, and/or material removed to improve species biodiversity found on site.

Method #3: Population Control/Egg Addling – In this method, GCPR staff will be trained on the proper way to prevent eggs laid by target species of waterfowl to hatch. Following federal guidelines, and under the authority of the US Fish and Wildlife Service permits office, staff will render eggs terminated.

Method #4: Population Control/Waterfowl Round-Ups – In extreme cases where the waterfowl have overpopulated an area or have been infused with a high number of non-native waterfowl, the use of a round-up procedure can be employed. The round-up method is a process by which professional trappers are contracted to come on site and remove a targeted species(s) or an overall population of birds.

Outcomes:
The overall intended outcomes of the GCPR CWMP are based upon the before mentioned objectives.

Outcome #1: This plan will allow the department to improve wildlife biodiversity within the park's confines. We will see a reintroduction of species not seen in recent years, while reducing the overpopulation of unwanted species.

Outcome #2: Through this plan, the department will reduce the quantity of invasive plants and animals found within the managed zones. This will increase overall health of the ecosystem while reducing potential risk to wildlife.

Outcome #3: By developing and integrating a large educational component to this plan, we will observe a diminution in the feeding of wildlife in our parks. This in turn will lessen the quantity of health issues found along our playgrounds and lakesides. Furthermore it will decrease human vs. wildlife interactions and the potential for injurious complaints.

Outcome #4: The reduction of the waterfowl population will decrease proportionally the aquatic and terrestrial contaminants emitted by the group.

Outcome #5: Conservation park staff has begun to capture data related to our waterfowl populations. We will be utilizing a college student’s “volunteer” biology project as part of this fall’s assessments. Any data collected will continue to add to our information and give us greater insight to the cycles found within our waterfowl population. This will enable the department to further build upon its goal of volunteer support within the parks.