

# PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE DUCKS

## (Por favor, no alimentar a los patos)

Many people enjoy feeding the ducks and other local waterfowl that congregate around certain areas of the Community. The effects of this seemingly generous act can be detrimental to the animals. Ducks and other waterfowl will eat when food is available, not just when they are hungry. The excessive food supply encourages migrating ducks to stay, which in turn creates overpopulation. For the pond to survive, there must be a balance of all elements: fish, waterfowl, plants, sun, air and water.

Help keep the Community's pond environment and wildlife healthy. *Please do not feed the ducks.*



### REGULAR FEEDING OF DUCKS AND OTHER WATERFOWL CAN RESULT IN:

#### Malnourishment

Human food is like junk food for ducks. It lacks the minerals needed to make strong, healthy waterfowl.

#### Overcrowding

Feeding attracts birds in unnatural numbers, beyond natural food and water supplies and, frequently, in numbers beyond what people will tolerate.

#### Disease

Lowered nutrition and overpopulation allow disease to spread more quickly, potentially infecting thousands of birds with fatal diseases such as Avian Cholera, Duck Plague, Avian Influenza and Avian Botulism.

#### Unnatural Behavior

Artificial feeding often attracts birds to human habitats - parking lots, fast food restaurants, and retention ponds - where they are more subject to accidental death.

#### Delayed Migration

Feeding encourages waterfowl to "overwinter" in local lakes and ponds which interrupts their natural migration.

#### Pollution

Regular feeding can cause unnatural amounts of water contamination, leading to algal blooms and even the death of fish.

#### Costly Management Efforts

Techniques to control duck populations are costly. Additionally, the overcrowding of ducks creates a greater wear and tear impact on community property.

### How Can Residents Help?

#### STOP FEEDING THE DUCKS!

