

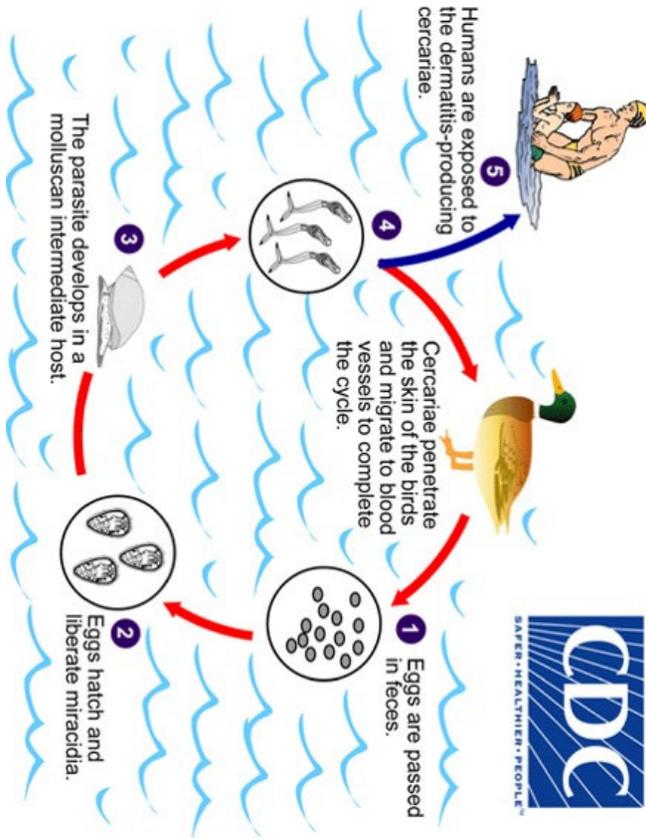
For more information visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/swimmersitch>

<https://www.nwtoxicalgae.org>

<http://bit.ly/mvstormwater>

SWIMMER'S ITCH LIFECYCLE



THE CITY OF MAPLE VALLEY

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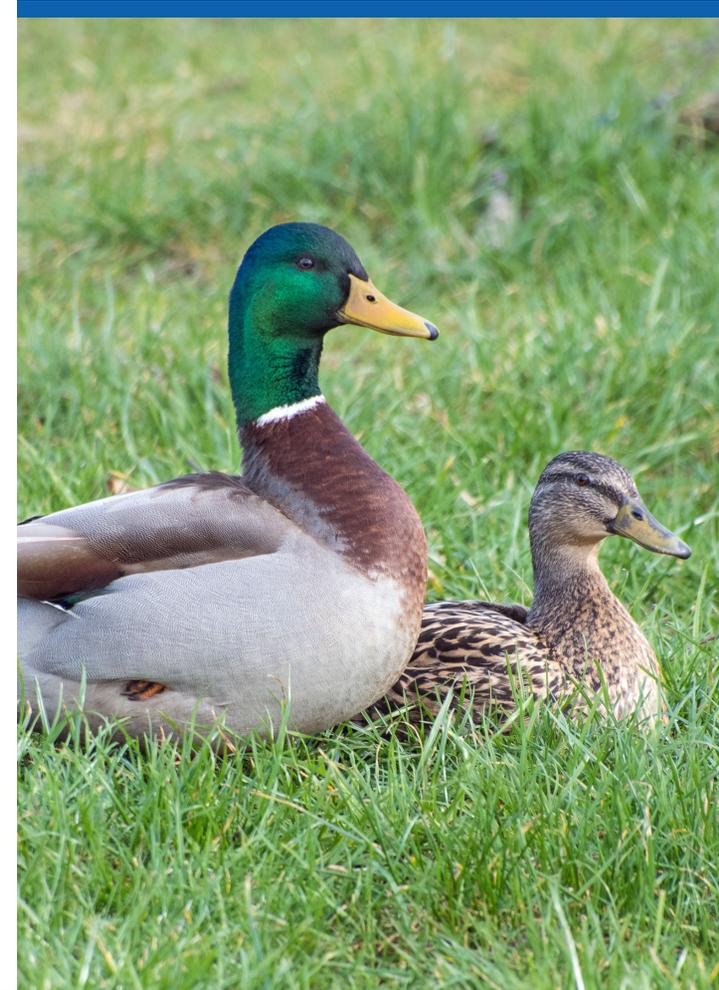
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Please Don't Feed the Waterfowl



Thank you for not feeding the waterfowl!

The City of
MAPLE VALLEY



Here's Why...



POLLUTION

We all live in a watershed and when it rains the fecal matter from waterfowl, pet waste, and nutrients from lawn fertilizers get washed into our lakes and streams and eventually into Puget Sound. This surface water runoff increases the nutrient loading of our waterbodies, degrades water quality, and leads to increased plant and algae growth, including an increase in dangerous toxin producing cyanobacteria blooms.



SWIMMER'S ITCH

Swimmer's Itch is a rash caused by parasites that live in the blood of infected ducks, geese, swans, and gulls. Eggs from the parasite are passed in the feces of infected birds. The eggs hatch in the water and release microscopic larvae that search for suitable hosts. The larvae burrow into swimmers' skin and cause a rash of red itchy welts. Although the larvae die, the welts can last up to a week and scratching them can cause a secondary infection.

IT'S BAD FOR THEM AND FOR OUR LAKES

Bread, and similar products like crackers, chips, doughnuts, and popcorn, offer little nutritional value for ducks, geese, and other birds. Bread is like "junk food" for the birds and too much of it can lead to excessive weight gain and malnutrition, as well as a host of other problems.

OVERCROWDING

When food is readily available and abundant, birds lay more eggs. This makes it hard for them to find healthy natural food sources and it can lead to territorial aggression. Attracting large groups of waterfowl can wreak havoc on natural areas, causing erosion and an increase in fecal matter on the ground and in our waters.

DISEASE

Feeding the waterfowl can increase disease in three ways: **1)** by causing the birds to come in closer contact with people than they normally do, **2)** by creating a higher level of bacteria-infested fecal matter that causes a number of diseases, and **3)** by subjecting an entire flock of waterfowl to a fatal lung infection caused by exposure to moldy bread.

HEALTH RISKS TO HUMANS

Animal and bird feces can contain potentially harmful bacteria and other pathogens that can make people sick. Cyanobacteria blooms can produce nerve and liver toxins that can cause sickness and death in people and pets if ingested. (Always avoid contact with scum formations.)

