



City of South Pasadena

Peafowl Management Plan



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Purpose

The purpose of this Management Plan is to humanely manage the peafowl population within the boundary limits of the City of South Pasadena.

Goal

The goal of this Management Plan is to reduce or eliminate the peafowl population within the City of South Pasadena. The goal will be achieved by implementing the following two strategies:

1. Public Education and Deterrent Measures
2. The Humane Trapping and Relocation of the Entire Peafowl Population.

Peafowl Management Plan

The intent of the Management Plan is to provide educational guidance for the City on how to manage the peafowl population in the City of South Pasadena through education and trapping. The guidelines and provisions of this Plan do not supersede federal, state, and county regulations or policies.

The City will update and modify the Plan as needed, based on the frequency of resident complaints and annual census survey data from the Pasadena Humane Society (PHS).

Peafowl Background

Since 2017, residents in the Monterey Hills area have raised concerns regarding peafowl nuisance including damage to residential properties and vehicles. The feeding of peafowl perpetuates this nuisance.

In 2019, PHS conducted two educational programs regarding coexisting with wildlife; however, complaints concerning the peafowl population have continued to increase.

In response to community concerns, the City commissioned PHS to conduct a census to determine the size of the peafowl population. In June 2021, PHS counted 36 peafowl and recommended increasing public education.

On July 20, 2022, during the general Public Comment period of the City Council regular meeting, several residents from the Monterey Hills area voiced concerns with the growing peafowl population and the nuisance posed. The residents cited examples of peafowl scat containing disease, peafowl screeches in early morning hours, and damage to vehicles along with other property. These concerns led the City Council to pass a motion for the creation of a management plan for initial review at the August 17, 2022 City Council regular meeting.

On September 21, 2022, the South Pasadena City Council adopted the Peafowl Management Plan. Further discussions on amending ordinances of the South Pasadena Municipal Code Sections 5.20, Noisy Animals and Fowl, and 5.5,

Certain Fowl Prohibited, to include a No Feeding clause will be considered by the Council at a later date.

Peafowl General Information

Males are referred to as peacocks and females are referred to as peahens, and are collectively known as peafowl. The term “peacock” is commonly used to refer to birds of both sexes.

Peafowl follow a certain routine every day. They roost overnight in large groups in tall open trees. They are safe from predators during the night, and the males can travel via short flight through the branches. In the morning, the birds break up into small groups. Outside of the breeding season, groups consist of one peacock and several peahens, or all bachelors. These groups forage on the ground for food. During midday, peafowl drink water, preen their feathers, rest in the shade, or take dust baths. Once the weather cools down, the birds go back to foraging for food before taking one last drink, and returning to their roost for the night.

Peafowl are ground feeders. They hunt for small animals, like spiders, reptiles, and amphibians in tall grasses, and minnows in shallow streams. They also eat plant parts such as flower petals, seeds, berries, figs, and leaves.

Generally, nesting/hatching season takes place between April and June. During this period, a peahen lays three to eight light green or tan eggs. The peachicks are able to walk and forage on their own right after they hatch, but they are very vulnerable. It takes two weeks before the peachicks can fly into a tree for safety, where they crowd on both sides of the peahen. At two months old, the peachicks look like peahens (both males and females), but are only half the size. It is not until their second year that the males achieve their mature coloring. The typical lifespan of peafowl is 15 years.

Management Plan

1. Public Education and Deterrent Measures

The public education campaign will occur on a yearly basis using the following methods to disseminate information to the public:

- Website updates through the Community Services homepage.
- Social Media outlets for upcoming events and current issues.
- Public Forums with presentations from PHS, City officials, and community concerns.
- Preparing and distributing educational leaflets to include deterrent techniques for residents.
 - **Peafowl do not like water.** Water is one of the best known deterrents for peafowl. During drought conditions motion activated water spray devices can be attached to garden hoses.

- **Peafowl are afraid of dogs.** Walk your dog around the property and neighborhood. Keeping your dog in the backyard will act as a deterrent.
- **Trim or Remove large trees.** Peafowl prefer to roost in large overhanging trees, and trimming or removing trees will help to deter peafowl. Balloons in trees can deter peafowl from roosting.
- **Be cautious when composting.** Avoid open compost and manure sacks as they tend to attract peafowl because they love to take dirt baths. Use a covered compost bin and keep the composting area clean.
- **Peafowl eat wild birdseed, bread and pet food.** Peafowl are attracted to these foods and it is difficult to wean them off them. Feed pets indoors and remove any pet food from outdoors.
- **Peafowl eat seeds and plants.** Peafowl are attracted by certain plants and deterred by others. A list of plants can be found on the Community Services webpage.
- **Prohibition of Feeding Peafowl.** South Pasadena Municipal Code Sections 5.20, and 5.5 include a prohibition to feed peafowl.

2. Trapping and Humane Relocation

In order to reduce the peafowl population, this section of the Management Plan describes a citywide trapping and humane relocation program. The trapping and humane relocation program consists of the following four stages which are described below:

- Peafowl Census
- Seasonal Trapping
- Trapping Protocols
- Relocation

Peafowl Census

The peafowl census will be conducted annually to assess the peafowl population trends based on past census data. The census will occur over a three-day period in July. Neighborhoods may be added, deleted, or modified for future census years, based on previous census results or the success of previous trapping efforts.

Seasonal Trapping

The breeding season takes place between April through June. Seasonal trapping will occur during the months of October through February.

Trapping Protocols

The neighborhoods selected for trapping will be determined by the City based on peafowl population trends reflected in the yearly census as well as public input provided to the Community Services. The humane trapping of peafowl will occur as follows.

- Traps will be maintained and monitored in accordance to the State of California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Department of Wildlife and Fish standards.
- Traps will be serviced on a regular basis, but no less than once a week by the City's trapping vendor.
- The City will establish a list of residents who volunteer private property to trap peafowl in the backyards of the properties.
- The peafowl traps consist of chain-link fencing and provide food and water for the birds.
- Traps occupied by peafowl will be serviced within 24-hours. The property owner where the traps are placed will be required to notify the City and the trapping vendor within 24-hours of the trap being occupied by peafowl.
- The trapping vendor will then humanely relocate the peafowl to a foster home.

Relocation

Once peafowl are trapped by the vendor or removed from a trap by the vendor, they become the property of the trapping vendor. Trapped peafowl will be relocated from the City to foster homes that have been screened by the trapping vendor and reviewed by the City. This will ensure the individuals adopting the peafowl have some avian experience and have adequate room for the peafowl to roam freely. The location and contact information (name and phone number) of the individual(s) accepting the trapped peafowl will remain confidential to protect their privacy. Under no circumstances will the trapped peafowl be euthanized or treated inhumanely.

Conclusion

At the conclusion of the trapping and relocation season, City staff should conduct a review of the current status of the pride, recommendations for future actions and distribution of funds. City staff should present these recommendations to the City Council for final approval.