Another Wild Goose Chase®

CASE STUDY

Gull Presence Reduced by 93% at Country's Largest Water Purification Plant

The Problem

The largest water treatment plant in the United States is located in Chicago on Lake Michigan. This water treatment plant, which was once the largest capacity water purification plant in the world, currently processes **70%** of metro Chicago's potable water.

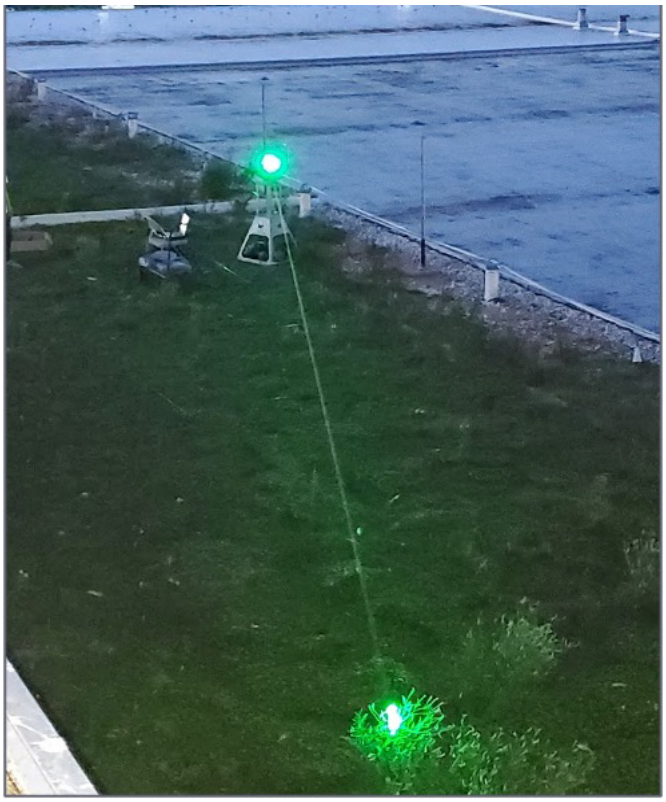
The plant consists of 4 buildings, whose roofs stand at varying heights, and are composed of various materials (e.g., asphalt, green, etc.). The roofs have a combined surface area of approximately **998,210 square feet**, which is the largest roof surface area in Illinois.

A nesting gull colony, as well as migratory and resident Canada geese, settled on the water treatment plant's property and caused a number of issues, including:

- **Property and asset damage:** birds damaged structures, vehicles, and roofs
- **Facility health risks:** birds increased the presence of organic contaminants and decreased quality of the raw water; to compensate, additional treatment/ chemical feed parameters were used to treat water
- **Human health and safety risks:** aggressive birds endangered employees and the public, and the accumulation of fecal matter and nesting materials posed additional health threats

Actions

The water treatment plant contracted with Wild Goose Chase (WGC), an environmental services company, to manage their nuisance gull and geese issues through science-based, ecological solutions.



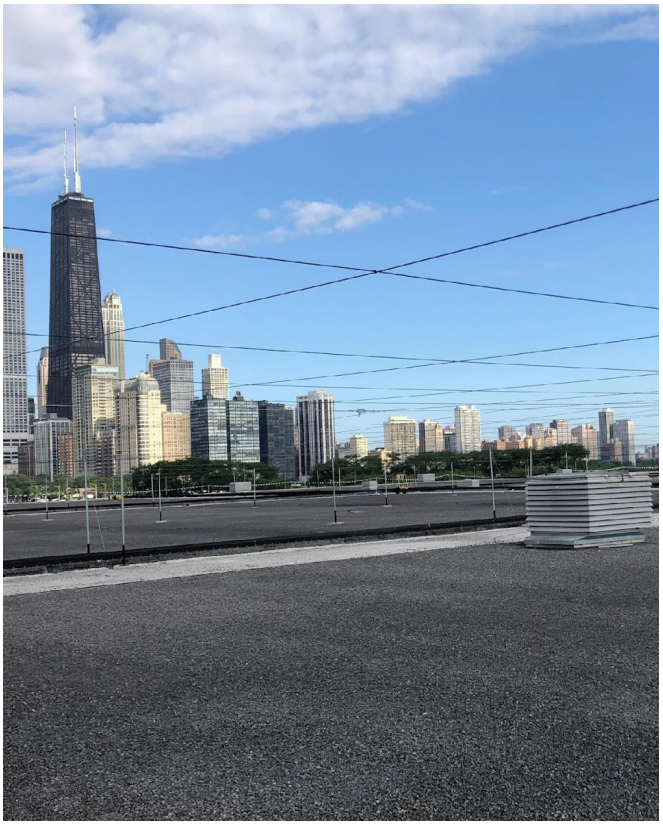
WGC's staff of experienced animal biologists, structural technicians, and landscape architects designed and implemented an Integrated Pest Management (industry best practice) strategy that combined solutions to address the bird issues in the near- and long-term:

- **Trained canine harassment program:** trained canines were deployed regularly at various intervals and locations on property to harass nuisance birds
- **Population control:** nests and eggs were managed to reduce the overall presence of targeted nuisance birds in accordance with state and federal regulations

Another Wild Goose Chase®

CASE STUDY

- **Structural deterrents:** in-market optical deterrents were implemented and a custom grid system was fabricated to prevent access to certain high-risk areas on the property
- **Cleaning:** roof surfaces impacted by nuisance birds were commercially cleaned to extend asset life and maintain facility health
- **Automated lasers**: lasers were installed to cover high risk areas of the property and provide continual harassment to coincide with nuisance bird developmental milestones



Impact

Over a multi-year period, nuisance gull populations were reduced **by 93%** and nuisance geese populations **by 58%**. The reduced presence of these nuisance birds had a direct impact on the water treatment plant's property:

- **Reduced property damage:** less weight pressure was placed on roofs, and damage to roof membranes was reduced
- **Reduced asset damage:** vehicle maintenance costs were reduced
- **Strengthened facility health**: fewer chemicals were needed to compensate for organic contaminants
- **Improved human health & safety:** employees and the public had significantly less exposure to aggressive birds and the accumulation of fecal matter and nesting materials

About Wild Goose Chase

Our philosophy is predicated on a sound understanding of wildlife heritage and the responsibility it requires. We have helped our customers better manage the negative impact of wild Canada geese, seagulls and other nuisance birds upon their properties since 1998. The Wild Goose Chase team, through years of experience and research, has formulated an approach that is both highly successful and conscientious. In fact, we are one of the first companies to develop a truly “integrated approach” which has proven most effective and humane in managing bird populations according to the Wildlife Society.

More at: www.wildgoosechasers.com

Another Wild Goose Chase®

ISNETWORLD ISN MEMBER VENDOR

Certified WBENC Women's Business Enterprise

9955 S. Virginia Chicago Ridge IL 60415 **TEL** (708) 529-3858 **FAX** (708) 907-3195