



Arvada Coyote Decoy

Natural Resource Bulletin

Deterring Canada Geese with Coyote Decoys

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Quick Facts:

Decoy effectiveness increases if the decoys are moved regularly (as in every 3-4 days). Frequent moves decrease the likelihood that geese will habituate (get used to) to the decoys and ignore them.

Decoys will not deter geese completely from a property or render a property goose free. Strategically located decoys can encourage geese to avoid sidewalks or turf areas with high human use.

Professionally manufactured coyote decoys are widely available online. Prices vary from \$35 - \$98, depending on materials and durability.

If you wish to create your own Do-It-Yourself (DIY) coyote decoy, here are some tips:

- Aurora DIY coyote decoys are made out of painted plywood.
- If possible, emphasize yellow eyes, pointed ears and a bushy tail; these are important features that help identify a coyote as a coyote.
- Consider using a fabric tail. Gentle breezes will blow the tail around, making the decoy more life-like.
- Be sure you consider frequent moves (pivots count as a move) into your design and installation plan.

Canada geese love turf just as much as we do, but for different reasons.

While humans love to run and play on turf, Canada geese love to eat it. Because Canada geese love turf so much, it is nearly impossible to keep them away from it, particularly in winter months.

Coyotes are a natural and effective Canada goose predator.

Coyotes hunt adult geese and goslings and will raid goose nests for eggs. This fact makes Canada geese naturally wary of coyotes or anything that might look like a coyote.

Coyote decoys provide a natural management tool for deterring geese.

While effectiveness varies by individual goose boldness and habituation, coyote decoys can provide site-specific relief from Canada goose congregations and the mess they leave behind. Borrowing the idea from other municipalities including Greenwood Village and Arvada, the city of Aurora decided to test coyote decoys in a few irrigated turf parks including Utah Park and Expo Park. The intent is not to make the parks goose free, but rather to discourage congregation on sidewalks and in high human use areas. In many cases, the decoys worked toward this goal.

You have a role in reducing conflict between people and geese.

Tips for sharing turf with geese:

- Do not feed geese, it encourages them to congregate.
- Remember that many of the geese will leave for the summer months as they migrate north to raise a family.
- It is not legal to harass or harm a goose, unless you are a natural predator.

Borrow a decoy from us, if you would like to have one to use as a pattern.

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department has a loaner coyote decoy, which citizens can use as a pattern if they choose to create their own coyote decoys. *Please note that decoys can only be placed on private property or with permission from the property owner, if the property is community or publically owned.*



Aurora coyote decoy being inspected by a domestic dog.