

BROADLANDS

Association, Inc.

Dear Broadlands Residents,

We are very pleased to announce a partnership between the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS), Loudoun County Public Schools, and Broadlands Association, Inc. to address the health and property damage concerns caused by the vulture population in the Broadlands area. LCPS and Broadlands HOA have contracted with USDA to perform dispersal tactics to deter vultures from roosting in and around the Broadlands area. Vulture remediation is scheduled to commence on Monday, March 1st, with efforts continuing through Sunday, March 7th if necessary. See below for detailed information from USDA regarding dispersal strategies and the impact on the community. We would like to thank Hillside Elementary and the LCPS Environmental Office for their collaborative efforts to address this problem.

Problem: Vultures Roosting at their current locations are causing property damage and health concerns

- More than 150 Black and Turkey Vultures are roosting and loafing near residential areas.
- The loafing and roosting vultures defecate on roofs, yards, vehicles, playground equipment, and damage rooftops and vehicles by picking at rubber seals and roofing material.

Background Information: The USDA Wildlife Services Program is working together with Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) and Broadlands Association, Inc. to relocate the vultures away from areas where they are causing damage.

- Vulture/human conflicts are not a recent occurrence and prior attempts by residents to disperse vultures have not been successful.
- USDA assistance was requested by the LCPS & Broadlands HOA. USDA officials will disperse vultures for up to 7 consecutive days to try to relocate the birds.
- Dispersal efforts will occur on LCPS, Broadlands HOA, and Southern Walk at Broadlands Apartments property.
- Vultures serve an important function in the environment, but the current location causes property and health concerns.

Procedures: Some of the dispersal techniques may cause temporary local disturbances.

- Just before dark, USDA officials will use pyrotechnics, lasers, and other dispersal devices that are noise- and light-makers to disburse the birds.
- These noises may disturb some people and pets. Noise from pyrotechnics may be conducted in the three hours prior to dark, mostly in the last hour before dark. They may sound like bottle rockets or shot guns.
- A few deceased vultures from other properties will be used as effigies, which reinforces the effectiveness of pyrotechnics. Effigies will only be used on LCPS, Broadlands HOA, and Southern Walk at Broadlands Apartments property.
- Vultures respond very well to the presence of effigies, which are actual or artificial vulture images, hung upside down from trees or towers. The effigies will remain following the 7 days of pyrotechnics to reinforce that the community is an unwelcoming environment for roosting.
- The pyrotechnic and laser devices may be required for 7 consecutive evenings to achieve results.
- Effective dispersal of this roost will benefit residents and vultures in the long term.