

**BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP  
HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**Ordinance # 485.2023  
Wildlife Feeding Ordinance**

**SECTION I. Purpose:**

An ordinance to prohibit the feeding of unconfined wildlife in any public park or on any other property owned or operated by BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP, so as to protect public health, safety and welfare, and to prescribe penalties for failure to comply.

**SECTION II. Definitions:**

For the purpose of this ordinance, the following terms, phrases, words and their derivations shall have the meanings stated herein unless their use in the text of this Chapter clearly demonstrates a different meaning. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words used in the plural number include the singular number, and words used in the singular number include the plural number. The word "shall" is always mandatory and not merely directory.

- a. Feed – to give, place, expose, deposit, distribute or scatter any edible material with the intention of feeding, attracting or enticing wildlife. Feeding does not include baiting in the legal taking of fish and/or game.
- b. Person – any individual, corporation, company, partnership, firm, association, or political subdivision of this State subject to municipal jurisdiction.
- c. Wildlife – all animals that are neither human nor domesticated.

**SECTION III. Prohibited Conduct:**

- a. No person shall feed, in any public park or on any other property owned or operated by BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP, any wildlife, excluding confined wildlife (for example, wildlife confined in zoos, parks or rehabilitation centers, or unconfined wildlife at environmental education centers, or feral cats as part of an approved Trap-Neuter-Release program).

**SECTION IV. Enforcement:**

- a. This ordinance shall be enforced by the **ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICIAL** of BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP.
- b. Any person found to be in violation of this ordinance shall be ordered to cease the feeding immediately.

**SECTION V. Violations and Penalties:**

Any person(s) who is found to be in violation of the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine not to exceed **\$50.00** per occurrence.

**SECTION VI. Severability:**

Each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase of this Ordinance is declared to be an independent section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase, and the finding or holding of any such portion of this Ordinance to be unconstitutional, void, or ineffective for any cause, or reason, shall not affect any other portion of this Ordinance.

**SECTION VII. Effective date:**

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption and any publication as may be required by law.

ALL OF WHICH IS ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023, by the Township Committee of Bethlehem Township.