

Pigeon Roosting Mitigation – Telegraph-Channing Garage

Berkeley Public Works Site Visit Summary

September 03 2024

Summary

- Pigeons have become a persistent problem, roosting on various levels of the parking garage and causing operational and cleanliness issues.
- **Purpose of the site visit:** To observe the current pigeon deterrent measures and identify areas for improvement.



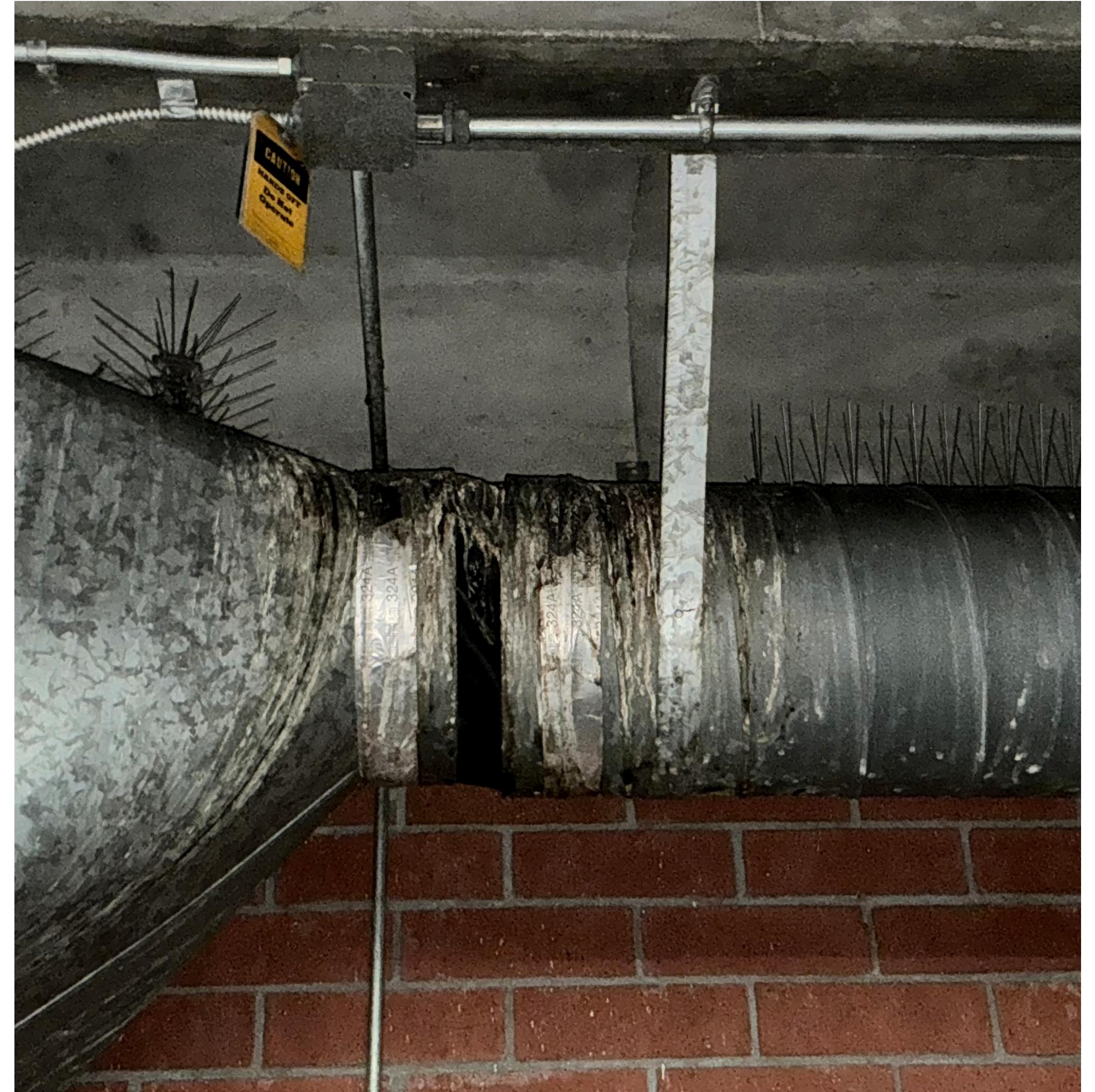
Current Garage State

- The parking garage is primarily maintained by outsourced companies that focus more on revenue than building upkeep.
- **This leads to ineffective maintenance, which exacerbates the pigeon roosting issue. Grey space with responsibilities.**



Existing Solutions

- The Public Works Department has deployed several tactics, with varying degrees of success. Some have proven effective, others require improvement, and a few have not worked at all.



Existing Solutions

Nylon Netting

- Rather successful in preventing pigeons from accessing certain areas, particularly in the middle levels of the garage. However, the netting has torn over time and requires consistent maintenance to remain effective. This is a material issue, and we feel can be resolved with the deployment of stronger netting. Also, netting is inside building, so pigeons still perch on ledge.



Existing Solutions

Nylon Netting



Existing Solutions

Sticky Solution

- Initially seems like a good deterrent but loses effectiveness quickly as it attracts debris, loses stickiness, and becomes both unappealing and nonfunctional over time.



Existing Solutions

Sticky Solution



Existing Solutions

Spikes

- The most successful method so far, as pigeons avoid roosting where they are placed. However, they are only effective if fully intact, meaning any missing or broken spikes lead to pigeons returning.



Existing Solutions

Spikes



Existing Solutions

Electric Shock System

- Initially designed to deter pigeons by delivering small shocks when they land.
- However, due to lack of maintenance, the system has stopped working, and pigeons now roost on the wires.



Existing Solutions

Electric Shock System



Primary Pain Points w/ Current Methods

1

Upkeep

Methods like *electric shocks* and *nylon netting* require regular upkeep, but due to outsourcing and budget constraints, they have fallen into disrepair, making them ineffective over time.

2

Aesthetic Degradation

The *sticky solution on ledges* collects debris, loses its stickiness, and becomes visually unappealing. This reduces both its functionality and the overall appearance of the garage.

3

Lifespan

Nylon netting and other physical deterrents suffer from wear and tear, reducing their effectiveness over time. Torn netting allows pigeons to access previously blocked areas, necessitating expensive and frequent replacements.

4

Ineffective Deterrents

Some methods, such as the *sticky solution*, have failed to deter pigeons effectively, leading to more problems like debris accumulation rather than solving the core issue.

Opportunities for Improvement

1

Upgrade Nets

Upgrade the netting material to something more durable, capable of withstanding the outdoor environment

2

More Spikes

Install color-matching spikes along the red exoskeleton of the building to maintain aesthetics while preventing roosting

3

Predator Noise

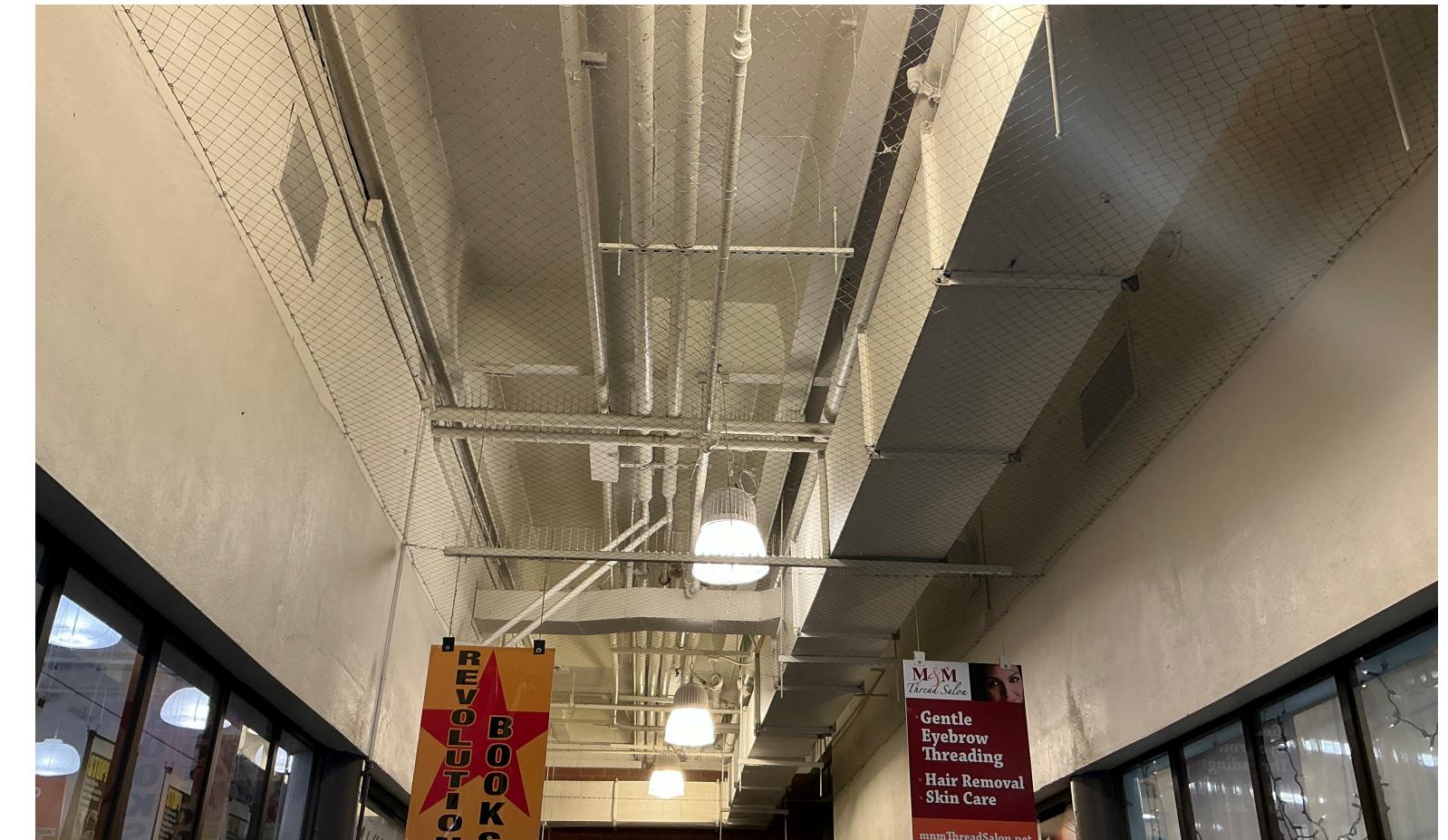
Implement a system of speakers throughout the structure, primarily on the roof and ledges facing north which sound predator noises on automation.

Opportunities for Improvement

Designated Roosting Spots

As observed in areas where spikes are missing, pigeons will find any available surface to roost on. This suggests that we could intentionally leave certain spots open for pigeons to roost, as long as they do not affect the building's operations or pose any issues. This approach could be seen positively by the community, showing that we are not completely displacing the pigeons. Additionally, since Berkeley's animal rights group is headquartered downstairs, we may be under close scrutiny, so it's important to be mindful of our actions.

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