

Wildlife Management City of Madison Parks

All of our Conservation Parks and many of our General Park lands, including adjacent bodies of water, provide ideal habitat for wildlife amidst heavily populated urban areas. We welcome the biodiversity that this fosters and the educational encounters that this provides to our park visitors. However, when wildlife species become too densely populated within a specific area there can be serious consequences (ie. destruction of habitat and neighboring properties, public health and safety concerns and interference with recreational services).

The Parks Division applies the principles of Integrated Pest Management to wildlife management as well. Populations are monitored through staff field observations and public feedback. Acceptable population sizes for each species are determined on a site by site basis, based on past experience, current damage, and consultation with other agencies such as WiDNR or USFWS.

Habitat modification is implemented where appropriate and feasible, in order to deter use of an area by certain species. Examples of this may include adjustment of mowing patterns, and installation of fences and barriers. In addition, wildlife may be hazed or harassed to keep them from getting too comfortable in specific areas. Examples of this include ordinary public use of areas within parks, as well as staff or volunteers actively scaring away individuals of problem species.

For some species, populations are simply too large, or individuals too resistant, for these methods to be effective. In these cases, the Parks Division may, as a last resort, lethally remove such wildlife under permit requirements or otherwise applicable regulations. Such management will be conducted in accordance with advice from other agencies such as WiDNR or USFWS. Parks and any contractor employed through Parks will strictly follow the requirements of existing regulations and/or the permits that have been obtained.