

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. Habitat modifications (ie. adjustment of mowing patterns, fencing and barrier installation) are taken into consideration to limit wildlife damage to Park lands. In addition, wildlife may be hazed or harassed to keep them from getting too comfortable in specific areas. Where wildlife species are difficult to control by any other methods and the impacts of their overpopulation on the habitat, neighboring properties, public health and/or recreational services are too great, the Parks Division may, as a last resort lethally remove such wildlife under permit requirements or otherwise applicable regulations. Parks and any contractor employed through Parks will strictly follow the requirements of existing regulations and/or the permits that have been obtained.