

## General

The City annually budgets funds for the management of wildlife. It is the policy of the City to manage human and wildlife conflicts within the resources allocated to the Public Safety Department and the Parks and Recreation Department.

## Policy

Each year through the budget process, the City Council authorizes the management of wildlife based on public safety and health. The management criteria includes:

- Minimizing vehicle-wildlife crashes
- Improving water quality
- Reduction of property damage

The City will provide handouts, articles and website information throughout the year to educate residents on wildlife within the City.

The Best Management Practices (BMP) for controlling unwanted wildlife includes:

- Assist in eliminating wildlife feeding sources
- Planting vegetation less desirable to wildlife and/or protect vegetation from damage (e.g. fencing, hardware cloth cylinders to protect individual trees)
- Discouraging wildlife from property by harassment
- Maintaining a tall buffer of native vegetation along bodies of water to discourage wildlife use

When all practical measures for controlling have been exhausted, the City contracts with a qualified, responsible organization to carry out removals, as resources allow.

## Procedures and Responsibility

The Parks and Recreation Department, works cooperatively with the Public Safety Department to respond to wildlife issues. City staff utilizes resident reports, crash statistics and survey data to identify locations where wildlife populations are causing public safety and/or public health risks.

The response to resident request for management includes:

- Verify wildlife is causing a public safety and/or public health issue
- Verify BMP mitigation solutions have been attempted
- Require submittal of neighborhood-wide permission forms
- Traps set by residents must be in compliance with City ordinance and Minnesota State Law
- Parties who choose to trap unwanted wildlife are responsible for releasing them safely and promptly

## Deer

- Cooperate with Three Rivers Park District to assess deer populations using an aerial survey
- Request removal permits from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Contract with the United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) or other comparable contractor to conduct appropriate removals
- Deliver all usable meat to processor for distribution to food shelves
- Work with responsible contractor for disposal or roadkill
- Document and report to DNR

## Beaver

- Under State Law, nuisance beaver doing damage can be removed by the property owner without permit
- A property owner using a removal contractor must obtain a nuisance beaver permit from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

## Geese

- Identify sites with excessive damage/droppings and water quality issues.
- Cooperative with the City of Medicine Lake and Three Rivers Park District for control of geese on Medicine Lake
- Request removal permits from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Work with Canada Goose Management or other comparable contractor to conduct appropriate removals and/or implement egg and nest removal where appropriate
- Document and report to DNR
- The City will pay for the cost of management on City owned sites and selected public sites. It is the City Council's policy that any amount of the program's annual budget not expended for City owned sites and public sites, will be available to cost share goose management on private sites up to 25% or a maximum of \$500 per private site

## Turkey

- Request removal permits from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Contract with the United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (USDA-APHIS) or other comparable contractor to conduct appropriate removals
- Deliver all usable meat to processor for distribution to food shelves
- Document and report to DNR
- The City will pay for the cost of management on City owned sites and selected public sites. It is the City Council's policy that any amount of the program's annual budget not expended for City owned sites and public sites, will be available to cost share turkey management on private sites up to 25% or a maximum of \$500 per private site

## Coyotes

- The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) does not recommend removal of coyotes as attempts to do so only exacerbates the problem

- Educate the public about the steps to reduce coyotes on private property (e.g. not leaving pet food outside, never feeding coyotes, securing garbage, and not leaving small pets outside unattended, especially at night)
- Promote the importance of harassing/hazing of coyote should they enter private property so that they retain their natural wariness of humans
- Work with responsible contractor for disposal of roadkill

*Resolution No. 2017-007, January 10, 2017  
(Supersedes Resolution 2006-213, May 23, 2006)*