

Village of Bloomingdale



Nuisance Wildlife Information

The presence of wild animals in urban areas reflects their ability to adapt to replacement of fields, trees and streams by lawns, ponds, gardens and homes.

Animals may use this new environment at the expense of their human neighbors, creating a disturbance or causing property damage. However, these animals are behaving naturally, not acting with malicious intent.

It is illegal to live-trap or kill most wild animals without appropriate permits from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Furthermore, trapping doesn't always resolve wildlife conflicts. The best solution is to block access or remove the attractive qualities of a place.

Questions regarding nuisance wildlife can be addressed to the Director of Public Works at 630-671-5800. Suggestions for dealing with wildlife concerns are available from the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County's Willowbrook Wildlife Center in Glen Ellyn at 630-942-6200, <http://www.dupageforest.com/livingwithwildlife/>.

Nuisance Wildlife Control Policy

The purpose of this policy is to control nuisance wildlife activity in the Village of Bloomingdale that threatens public health and/or safety. This policy is limited to non-domestic nuisance wildlife to include; skunks, wasps/bees, injured/dead animals, or any other non-protected wildlife that threatens public health and/or safety on a per incident basis. The Director of Public Works is responsible for administering and interpreting the conditions of this policy.

SKUNKS: Upon receipt of a residential skunk complaint, the Director of Public Works (or his designee) will investigate the property in question and provide the resident with a list of recommended skunk deterrence methods, to include:

- Removal of outside food/watering dishes, bird feeders, & garbage cans
- Covering window wells securely
- Using welded wire to exclude access under decks elevated sheds, concrete slabs & porches
- Securing outside access to crawl spaces
- Placement of lighting in or near den during the day for at least one-week
- Placement of a radio in or near den during the day for one week to disturb their rest
- Placement of rags soaked in ammonia in den for one week
- Lawn treatment for grub control (both skunks & raccoons love grubs)

If in the opinion of the Director of Public Works, all preferred skunk deterrent options have been exhausted or are not appropriate for the situation, the resident will be provided with a list of area Trappers for them to contract with directly. The Director of Public Works will maintain and annually update a list of area trappers that have furnished the Village with a copy of their state trapping license and current trapping rates. In turn, the Village will agree to reimburse the resident "up to" the following amounts for skunk trapping on their private property:

\$75.00	One time initial set-up fee
\$40.00	Per skunk trapped
\$0	Per non-target animal trapped

As a condition of reimbursement, residents will be required to sign a reimbursement agreement that:

- Releases the Village from all liability resulting from the trapping on their private property.
- Acknowledges that the Village will not reimburse for trapped non-target animals, unless such animal has been classified as a nuisance by either the Village, or by the Director of Public Works on a per incident basis.
- Acknowledges that the Village will not reimburse for the trapping of nuisance animals located inside of a resident's home.

- Acknowledges that only protected wildlife and domestic animals will be released, and that all trappers will euthanize both target and non-target animals trapped (squirrels, opossums, raccoons, prairie dogs, etc.), regardless of whether they are adult or baby animals.
- Requires as a condition of reimbursement, residents to submit a copy of the Trapper's detailed paid invoice that identifies the address of trap set-up, number of skunks trapped, cost per trapped skunk, and number/cost of non-target animals trapped by animal type.
- Reserves the Village's right to request additional evidence or documentation, if in the opinion of the Director of Public Works, the trapping activity and/or billing are found to be questionable.
- Directs all reimbursement requests to be forwarded to and processed by the Director of Public Works.

WASPS/BEES - All complaints regarding wasp/bee nests are to be directed to the Director of Public Works. Wasp/Bee nests located on Village parkways will be removed by Village Forestry personnel. If in the opinion of the Director of Public Works a Wasp/Bee nest located on private residential property threatens public health and/or safety, Public Works personnel will be employed to remove the nest, subject to the property owner's written permission.

INJURED/DEAD WILDLIFE - Any injured or dead wildlife on Village property/right-of-way will either be disposed of or transported to the DuPage County Animal Control Department. Injured/dead wildlife on private property that threatens public health and/or safety will also be collected and disposed of by Public Works personnel, or transported to the DuPage County Animal Control Department, subject to the property owner's written permission.

OTHER WILDLIFE - Residents with non-nuisance wildlife concerns will be sent a copy of the Willowbrook Wildlife Center's animal nuisance brochure, and will also be advised of the preferred wildlife deterrence options. If in the opinion of the Director of Public Works the specific wildlife concern threatens public health and/or safety, then, at his discretion, Village employees or a private trapper will be used to either deter or remove the nuisance wildlife.

Trapper Referrals

(The Village does not endorse any one trapper over another. This list is provided to assist residents. We encourage residents to obtain pricing from more than one (1) trapper.)

ABC Humane Wildlife	Vito Brancato	847-870-7175
Critter Control	Brad Reiter	847-991-9909
Critter Detectives	Lou Ocasio	630-916-7678
R-Mark Wildlife	R. Mark Romano	630-476-1198

LIVING WITH WILDLIFE IN DUPAGE COUNTY

(Provided by Forest Preserve District of DuPage County)

Wildlife and People

The presence of wild animals in urban areas reflects their ability to adapt to replacement of fields, trees and streams by lawns, ponds, gardens and chimneys. Animals may use this new environment at the expense of their human neighbors, creating a disturbance or causing property damage. However, these animals are behaving naturally, not acting with malicious intent.

NOTE: It is illegal to live-trap or kill most wild animals without appropriate permits from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Some community police departments have an animal control service authorized to live-trap and remove an offending animal. Also, commercially licensed animal removal services can be found in the yellow pages under "Animal Removal." However, trapping seldom resolves wildlife conflicts. The only permanent solution is to block access or remove the attractive qualities of a place as detailed below.

Suggestions for dealing with wildlife concerns are available from the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County's Willowbrook Wildlife Center in Glen Ellyn (630) 942-6200, or <http://www.dupageforest.com/livingwithwildlife/>. The Wildlife Center provides information to approximately 12,000 callers each year. Recommended procedures for resolving most wildlife situations are described here with a list of the animals commonly involved.

Common Wildlife

Raccoons: Property damage often results when a raccoon is seeking a den site within an attic, crawl space or porch. Any opening or soft, rotted surface will invite a raccoon to investigate with its clever paws. Chewing and clawing then enlarges the entry hole.



Use a flashlight directed at their entry point along with a small radio playing for three to four days to evict the animal. From early spring through summer, infants may be present. If the noise and lights do not cause a female raccoon to move her young, let her raise them until they are weaned at three months and vacate the den. Any repair work to the entry point must be sturdy to prevent re-entry.

Chimneys are common den sites for female raccoons and their young. Damage is minimal for the homeowner. Wait until the young are able to climb out with the mother, and cap the chimney. (A chimney cap blocks animal access while allowing the chimney to function normally.)

Woodchucks (Groundhogs): These daytime animals are not easily discouraged from open areas. A burrowing animal, the woodchuck can dig four feet down before it starts tunneling. If you wish to persuade a woodchuck to move, you will succeed most easily by acting early. Using ammonia-soaked rags can work with woodchucks if used with persistence. This procedure should not be used during the breeding season, April through June. This animal usually digs two or more entrances to its tunnel for use as escape routes. Extensive property damage can be reported to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.



Skunks: This nocturnal animal is particularly fond of denning under concrete slabs, driveways, stoops, patios and sidewalks. When a den is discovered, wait until after dark to use the ammonia procedure to avoid confronting the animal. White vinegar is a good odor neutralizer. Young are born in May and are weaned in six weeks. Allow the female to raise her young to the weaning stage, and then evict the family. Skunks are rabies carriers, but most skunks do not have rabies. Skunks will spray only when threatened or frightened.



Birds: Spring and summer are when birds engage in seemingly unprovoked attacks on people. This defensive behavior is a sign that you are close to the nest. Avoid the area, wear a large brimmed hat or carry an umbrella. The aggressive behavior subsides when the nest is vacated after three to six weeks.

Snakes: Contrary to popular belief, snakes are an asset in lawns and gardens, controlling rodents and insects. There is only one poisonous snake in DuPage County, the massasauga. This is a very rare, small rattler found in wet, marshy habitats and almost never in populated areas.

To regulate their body temperatures, snakes move from sun to shade. When a snake is found on a stoop, concrete patio or against a foundation, it is merely seeking a sun-warmed place. It can easily be removed by draping it over a broom handle, or simply lifting the animal onto a shovel. A snake under a stoop can be discouraged with a few sprays of ammonia.

Woodpeckers: Buildings constructed with rough wood siding may be perceived by woodpeckers as giant trees. Drilling behavior is prompted by the search for food or shelter, or to announce territorial boundaries. Hang mobiles, strips of colored cloth, mylar or aluminum foil on the portion of the siding being drilled. Plastic drop cloths or garbage bags can be tacked on the siding to prevent the bird from attaining a foothold.

Opossums: These nocturnal animals often wander into open garages seeking food or shelter, becoming trapped when the door is shut. Open the door just before dark and the animal will leave voluntarily. To discourage an opossum from a den site, use ammonia and then close entrances. If an opossum has fallen into a garbage can, turn the pail on its side and the animal will leave after dark.



Breeding season is May and June, during which time ammonia should not be used. The opossum is not aggressive, in spite of its display of sharp teeth to discourage predators. When cornered or frightened, it may play dead until the danger passes.

Squirrels: Nest sites in attics, crawl spaces and garages can be handled with ammonia, except during breeding season -- early spring and late summer. The young are weaned in four to six weeks. Squirrels gain access to roofs by climbing nearby trees, powerlines or trellises. Trim back branches that overhang roofs.



RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES

These procedures identify what is attracting the animal and how to remove the attraction or block access to it. (IMPORTANT: When ammonia is recommended, do not use it during the breeding season. It will injure infant wildlife that are too young to escape.)

To discourage an animal from an outdoor den site: Spread baking flour in front of the den entrance at dusk and monitor for paw prints. When the animal has left, place an ammonia-soaked rag in the den and fill it in, leaving additional soaked rags along the outside perimeter of the site. Leave the rags in place for two to three days, re-soaking daily when needed. The hollow spaces under concrete stoops can be filled in with instant concrete. Another barrier is hardware cloth buried with the lower end bent outward in an "L" shape, which discourages animals when they reach the curve of the "L".

To discourage an animal from an indoor den site: Illuminate the den with as much light as possible and leave a loud radio playing 24 hours for two to three days. Ammonia-soaked rags may be placed inside or outside the entry hole. After the third day, tape a piece of paper over the hole and monitor for 24 hours. If it remains unbroken, the animal has vacated. Make repairs immediately.

To assist an animal out of a window well: Lower a rough-surfaced board (tacked with burlap, carpet scraps, etc.) into a window well at an angle. Nocturnal animals climb out after dark.

To discourage garbage-raiding: Garbage attracts animals -- dogs, cats, raccoons, skunks, opossums and crows. To effectively discourage garbage-raiding, store garbage cans where they cannot be reached or use cans with lids that can be tied or locked in place. Ammonia-soaked rags can be placed on top of the garbage can before securing the lid.

Trapping and relocating animals: This is not recommended, even when legal. Removing one animal does not eliminate the presence of others. Relocation causes stress for the animal, for any young left behind, and for the existing population at the place of release. It is illegal to relocate wild animals to any forest preserve.

NUISANCE WILDLIFE REMOVAL REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT

This agreement is entered into between the Village of Bloomingdale and _____ (Resident), for the reimbursement of private residential trapping services at _____ (Property).

Whereas, the Village of Bloomingdale endorses humanitarian and environmentally sensitive nuisance wildlife deterrence options recommended by the Willowbrook Wildlife Center, and

Whereas, the resident has exhausted all environmentally and humanitarian preferred nuisance wildlife deterrence options, and

Whereas, the resident desires to employ the services of a licensed trapper to trap, remove and euthanize all skunks on their resident property, and

Whereas the Village of Bloomingdale adopted a Nuisance Wildlife Control Policy (Resolution 2000-R-5) providing for residential skunk trapping reimbursements for all residents who have complied with said policy,

Now therefore in consideration of the premises and of the mutual premises agreements, covenants and undertakings set forth herein, the parties agree as follows:

1. All trapping arrangements are to be made directly between the resident and their licensed trapper of choice who is on file with the Village.
2. The resident indemnifies and holds the Village and its employees and officers harmless from any and all liability for damages of all kinds, whether it be damage to person or property that may arise from the utilization by the resident of a licensed trapper whose name is supplied to the resident by the Village pursuant to this agreement.
3. Any trapping on residential property is an exclusive agreement between the resident and their trapper.
4. As a condition of reimbursement the resident expressly understands and agrees that:
 - a) Any performance bond or insurance policies required of their trapper, shall in no way limit the resident's responsibility to indemnify, hold harmless, and defend the Village of Bloomingdale, its officials, agents, employees from all liability resulting from the trapping on their private property
 - b) Reimbursement is limited to \$75.00 for a one-time set-up and \$40.00 for each skunk trapped on the exterior property.
 - c) The Village will not reimburse for interior residential trapping or for trapped non-target wildlife, unless such wildlife has been classified as a nuisance by either the Village, or by the Director of Public Works on a per incident basis.
 - d) Only protected wildlife and domestic animals will be released; all other wildlife trapped will be euthanized, (squirrels, opossums, raccoons, etc.), regardless of whether they are adult or baby animals.
 - e) All reimbursement requests are to be forwarded to and processed by the Director of Public Works, and must include a copy of the trapper's detailed paid invoice, identifying the service address, number of skunks trapped, cost per trapped skunk, and number/cost of non-target animals trapped by animal type.

The Village reserves the right to request additional evidence or documentation if in the opinion of the Director of Public Works, the trapping activity and/or billing are found to be questionable.

Resident Signature

Date

VILLAGE OF BLOOMINGDALE

Director of Public Works

Date

RESOLUTION 2000-R-5

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A NUISANCE WILDLIFE CONTROL POLICY FOR THE VILLAGE OF BLOOMINGDALE

Whereas, the over-population of nuisance wildlife habitat in residential neighborhoods can present a threat to public health and/or safety; and

Whereas, other wildlife activity can present unique situations that also threaten public health and safety on a per incident basis; and

Whereas, it is the desire of the Village to protect the health and safety of its residents; and

Whereas, a Nuisance Wildlife Control Policy has been developed whereby the Village can better address the health and safety issues that arise from nuisance wildlife activity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BLOOMINGDALE, DU PAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, PURSUANT TO ITS HOME RULE POWERS, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: That the Village President and the Village Board of Trustees hereby acknowledge and support the Nuisance Wildlife Control Policy.

SECTION 2: That the Village of Bloomingdale hereby approves and adopts the Village of Bloomingdale Nuisance Wildlife Control Policy.

SECTION 3: That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

ADOPTED THIS 27 day of March.

AYES: Trustees Czernek, Dabrowski, Mulizio and Gebis

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustees DeMoon and Reyes

ABSTAIN: None

APPROVED this 27 day of March.

Village President

ATTEST:

Village Clerk