



Preventing Wildlife Conflicts

We have noticed an increase in bobcat and coyote activity around community buildings and parks which coincides with the increase in rodent and squirrel activity on the Reservation. Although bobcats and coyotes do not pose a significant threat to human safety, wild animals can attack pets and livestock.

First, let's understand these animals and their ecological role.

BOBCATS: Bobcats are two to three times as large as a housecat and have a short "bobbed" tail. Bobcats are generally carnivorous and enjoy rabbits, rodents, birds, reptiles, and invertebrates. They are important animals for controlling small mammal populations. Bobcats are by nature wary of people and tend to be most active at night and during twilight hours but it is also not uncommon to see them during the daytime.

COYOTES: Coyotes are medium sized members of the dog family, weighing between 25-35 pounds. Coyotes are opportunistic feeders and enjoy small rodents, fruit, rabbit, and may even dig through your garbage. Coyotes are adaptable and have learned to live alongside people. They are also key in keeping rodent populations under control and are generally fearful of humans.

Reviewing a few key facts about these species, it is easy to see why they might be attracted to our community spaces! We have water, shrubbery, garbage, and an abundance of pesky squirrels, birds, and other rodents! Prevention is key to keep animals wild and to protect public safety by making our public spaces less hospitable to wildlife.

Resources: California Department of Fish and Wildlife—Keep Me Wild—wildlife.ca.gov/Keep-Me-Wild

PREVENTING CONFLICTS

- NEVER feed wildlife.
 - Feeding squirrels, birds, and other wildlife will attract bobcats and coyotes.
 - Wildlife may lose their natural wariness of people
- REMOVE all potential food and water sources.
 - Keep pet food and water indoors.
 - Secure trash bin lids.
- SECURE pets and livestock.
 - Do not leave small domestic pets unattended outdoors.
 - Properly pen chickens and livestock so they are inaccessible to predators.
 - Bring dogs and cats in at night.
- If threatened by wildlife, make loud noises and throw rocks in the animal's direction. Do not run. Report the animal to Reservation Patrol Dispatch at 951-634-4810, when you are safe.



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