



Other Features: Suburban/small town

Description

Suburban areas are those areas where 10-25% of the structures are man-made (e.g., parking lots, buildings).

General Condition of Feature

While some small towns and suburban areas provide habitat for some wildlife, including some SGCN, many of these areas are highly modified and provide little wildlife habitat.

Associated Natural Communities

N/A – No defined natural communities

Associated Species of Greatest Conservation Need

INSECTS

barrens buckmoth (*Hemileuca maia*)

AMPHIBIANS

blue-spotted salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*)

eastern tiger salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum tigrinum*)

Fowler's toad (*Bufo fowleri*)

western chorus frog (*Pseudacris triseriata triseriata*)

northern leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*)

REPTILES

eastern fox snake (*Elaphe gloydi*)

eastern massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus catenatus*)

Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*)

REPTILES cont.

eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*)

BIRDS

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*)

Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*)

Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*)

Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*)

Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*)

Purple Martin (*Progne subis*)

Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*)

MAMMALS

red bat (*Lasiurus borealis*)

hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*)

eastern pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus subflavus*)

Associated Threats

HABITAT CONVERSION

- Industrial, residential, and recreational development: A lack of greenspace management poses a threat to suburban systems. Collisions with artificial structures (e.g., buildings, cell towers) may pose a threat in suburban systems.

POLLUTION

- Urban, municipal, and industrial

CONSUMPTIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE USE

- Removal of wildlife: Collection of wildlife (e.g., school science experiments) may have an impact in suburban systems.

BIOLOGICAL INTERACTIONS

- Invasive plants and animals: House cats and exotic pets may impact native wildlife community composition. Emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire) may have an impact in suburban systems.
- Disease, pathogens, and parasites: Diseases like oak wilt may alter community composition. Improper bird feeding may aid disease transmission.

Conservation Actions Needed [Threats addressed]

LAND, WATER & SPECIES MANAGEMENT

- Institute invasive species monitoring, prevention and control programs. [Invasive plants and animals]
- Institute disease monitoring and control programs. [Disease, pathogens, and parasites]

LAW & POLICY

- Work with municipalities to develop planning and zoning ordinances which incorporate greenspace planning. [Industrial, residential, and recreational development]
- Develop new and enforce existing regulations restricting contaminant disposal in suburban and rural systems. [Urban, municipal, and industrial pollution]

EDUCATION & AWARENESS

- Educate local planning and zoning boards about the value of greenspace planning for wildlife. [Industrial, residential, and recreational development; Removal of wildlife]

Research and Survey Needs

- Develop models that predict urban growth and its impacts on wildlife.
- Evaluate land management and development practices within suburban settings to determine methods that minimize impacts on wildlife value.

MICHIGAN'S WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN
TERRESTRIAL SYSTEMS: NORTHERN LOWER PENINSULA

- Assess the impact of contaminants on wildlife. Which contaminants are present and in what concentrations? Does the reaction vary by species?
- Evaluate the impact on wildlife populations of collisions, both with stationary and mobile objects.
- Evaluate the impact on wildlife of light pollution. Do different wavelengths have different effects? Do effects vary by species? Are there other characteristics of artificial light which are important to wildlife behavior and the value of urban systems to wildlife?
- Assess the biological and chemical composition of effluent and run-off that is generated in suburban systems. How does this effect the wildlife value of these systems?
- Examine the status of wildlife corridors in suburban systems. How large do they need to be? How far may isolated patches of greenspace be separated before individuals require connecting habitat to travel between them? Are there characteristics of corridors which increase their value to wildlife?

Monitoring

- Track the intensity and distribution of development in suburban systems.
- Track changes to local zoning and planning ordinances.