



Other Features: Urban

Description

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

General Condition of Feature

Urban areas generally provide little wildlife habitat and new urban areas often displace more favorable wildlife habitat.

Associated Natural Communities

N/A – No defined natural communities

Associated Species of Greatest Conservation Need

REPTILES

black rat snake (*Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta*)

BIRDS

Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*)

Associated Threats

HABITAT CONVERSION

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

BIOLOGICAL INTERACTIONS

- Invasive plants and animals: House cats and exotic pets may impact native wildlife community composition.
- 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 urban 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 which predict urban growth and its impacts on wildlife.
- Evaluate land management and development practices within urban settings to determine methods that minimize impacts on wildlife value.
- 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 urban systems. How does this effect the wildlife value of these systems?
- Examine the status of wildlife corridors in urban 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 that increase their value to wildlife?

Monitoring

- Track the density and distribution of urban systems across the landscape.
- Track collision mortality (vehicle, tower, etc.) of wildlife species.

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

- Track the intensity and diversity of pesticide use.