



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

Some small towns and suburban areas provide habitat for wildlife, including some SGCN, but 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

Kirtland's snake (*Clonophis kirtlandii*)

eastern fox snake (*Elaphe gloydi*)

eastern massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus catenatus*)

Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*)

eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*)

BIRDS

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*)

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*)

Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*)

Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*)

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)

Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*)

Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*)

Purple Martin (*Progne subis*)

Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*)

Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*)

MAMMALS

red bat (*Lasiurus borealis*)

hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*)

evening bat (*Nycticeius humeralis*)

eastern pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus subflavus*)

Associated Threats

MODIFICATION OF NATURAL PROCESSES

- Grazing and mowing patterns
- Fragmentation

HABITAT CONVERSION

- Industrial, residential, and recreational development: Residential development, with supporting industrial and retail facilities, is common within this feature.
- Incompatible natural resource management: The loss of greenspace is a concern in suburban systems.

POLLUTION

- Urban, municipal, and industrial: This pollution is often generated within suburban systems and can be prevalent.
- Pesticides and herbicides

BIOLOGICAL INTERACTIONS

- Invasive plants and animals

EDUCATION

- Social attitudes: Public attitudes toward resident species and their control influence management goals.

Conservation Actions Needed [Threats addressed]

LAND, WATER & SPECIES MANAGEMENT

- Manage to approximate natural disturbance regimes using grazing or cutting, where appropriate. [Grazing and mowing patterns]
- Assess management goals to ensure that they provide for a diversity of communities across the landscape. [Incompatible natural resource management]
- Coordinate trash and litter collection efforts to remove illegally dumped waste materials. [Urban, municipal, and industrial pollution]
- Develop and implement construction best management practices that incorporate consideration of wildlife use issues and wildlife habitat quality. Promote the establishment and improvement for wildlife of suburban greenspace. [Industrial, residential, and recreational development; Incompatible natural resource management; Social attitudes]

LAW & POLICY

- Work with municipalities to promote planning and zoning insuring adequate protection for suburban greenspace and potential wildlife habitat. [Industrial, residential, and recreational development; Fragmentation]

- Enforce existing and develop new legislation to restrict emissions that contribute to acid rain. Also address industrial discharge issues for both waste chemicals and return of water used in cooling systems. [Urban, municipal, and industrial pollution]
- Enforce ordinances regarding dumping of waste materials in suburban areas. [Urban, municipal, and industrial pollution]

EDUCATION & AWARENESS

- Educate the public about managing wildlife conflicts and wildlife damage. Educate the public about resident species and their roles in the ecosystem. [Social attitudes]

ECONOMIC & OTHER INCENTIVES

- Provide economic incentives for the development of corporate campuses that incorporate greenspace. [Industrial, residential, and recreational development; Incompatible natural resource management]

Research and Survey Needs

- Develop models that 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.
- 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 value to wildlife of these systems?
- Examine the status of wildlife corridors in suburban areas. 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.