



## 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 many 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

#### AMPHIBIANS

blue-spotted salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*)  
northern leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*)

#### REPTILES

western fox snake (*Elaphe vulpina*)  
Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*)

#### BIRDS

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)  
Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*)

#### BIRDS cont.

Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*)  
Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*)  
Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*)  
Purple Martin (*Progne subis*)

#### MAMMALS

red bat (*Lasiurus borealis*)  
hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*)  
eastern pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus subflavus*)

### Associated Threats

#### HABITAT CONVERSION

- Industrial, residential, and recreational development: Suburban sprawl of homes and retail facilities degrades habitat quality for wildlife.

#### BIOLOGICAL INTERACTIONS

- Invasive plants and animals: House cats and other feral pets may impact native wildlife communities.

### Conservation Actions Needed [Threats addressed]

#### LAND, WATER, & SPECIES MANAGEMENT

- Develop and implement plans for invasive species control and prevention. [Invasive plants and animals]

#### LAW & POLICY

- Develop local ordinances to retain larger parcel sizes in suburban systems which contain natural land cover. Work with municipalities to promote planning and zoning insuring adequate protection for suburban greenspace. [Industrial, residential, and recreational development]

#### EDUCATION & AWARENESS

- Provide education to pet owners on the impact of free ranging pets to wildlife. [Invasive plants and animals]

### 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 the value to 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 suburban systems. How does this effect the value to wildlife 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.