

There have been some recent reports of coyote sightings in Prince William County. Most sightings have been reported in or around Manassas, Lake Jackson Drive and Prince William Parkway, and specifically in the Montclair neighborhood on the following streets: Jonathan, Barrington, and Cliffview. As human populations continue to rise and move into traditional wildlife habitats, human/wildlife contact becomes more prevalent.

Coyotes are primarily nocturnal; however they are commonly seen during the day in urban and suburban areas and are usually attracted by a food source or appealing areas to make dens such as under porches/decks, crawl spaces, or out-buildings. The best way to prevent them from becoming a problem is to not give them a reason to take up residence in your community.

- If anyone in the neighborhood is feeding wildlife directly - or indirectly - it can cause trouble for everybody. Feeding wildlife will cause coyotes and other wildlife to lose their natural fear of humans.
- Do not leave pet food outside; keep pet feeding areas clean.
- Remove bird feeders when problem species have been seen around them.
- Close up all openings under and into your buildings. Animals look for places to make dens and raise their young - don't give them that opportunity.
- Clear fallen fruit from around trees.
- Keep brushy areas in your yard cut down to prevent cover for coyotes.
- Keep small pets inside and on a leash when outside; they may be viewed by a coyote as prey. Larger dogs are viewed as a threat, particularly from January to June while coyotes are mating and birthing pups. Keep dogs on a leash at all times when off your property.
- Install coyote proof fencing to protect unsupervised pets.

Authorities are telling people that if a coyote does approach them, which is unusual, they can make a lot of noise either by clapping, yelling or stomping their feet to scare the coyotes away.

If a coyote appears to be sick, injured, or acting aggressively, call Animal Control at 703-792-6500.

For further information, please refer to the following link:

<http://www.pwcgov.org/government/dept/police/animalcontrol/Pages/Nuisance-Wildlife.asp>