

NEIGHBORHOOD ALERT - Coyote Sightings

Recently there have been multiple sightings of coyotes roaming through the Block House Creek neighborhood specifically in Comanche and Tumlinson parks during the daylight hours and along streets where houses back up to the creek or drainage areas.

Reports of coyotes in the Central Texas area are not unusual and have been reported in residential neighborhoods throughout the state and in and around Austin, Cedar Park, Leander and Georgetown. A Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) game warden has been notified about the coyote sightings as well as the Williamson County Animal Control Office. The game warden said urban coyotes are not uncommon and the only solution would be to humanely trap the coyote and relocate.



Common-sense precautions people can take to minimize the potential for danger associated with urban coyotes include:

- Do not feed coyotes! Keep pet food and water inside. Keep garbage securely stored, especially if it has to be put on the curb for collection; use tight-locking or bungee-cord-wrapped trash cans that are not easily opened.
- Keep compost piles securely covered; correct composting never includes animal matter like bones or fat, which can draw coyotes even more quickly than decomposing vegetable matter.
- Keep pets inside, confined securely in a kennel or covered exercise yard, or within the close presence of an adult.
- Walk pets on a leash and accompany them outside, especially at night.
- Do not feed wildlife on the ground; keep wild bird seed in feeders designed for birds elevated or hanging above ground, and clean up spilled seed from the ground; coyotes can either be drawn directly to the seed, or to the rodents drawn to the seed.
- Keep fruit trees fenced or pick up fruit that falls to the ground.
- Do not feed feral cats (domestics gone wild); this can encourage coyotes to prey on cats, as well as feed on cat food left out for them.
- Minimize clusters of shrubs, trees and other cover and food plants near buildings and children's play areas to avoid attracting rodents and small mammals that will in turn attract coyotes

- Use noise making and other scaring devices when coyotes are seen. Check with local authorities regarding noise and firearms ordinances. Portable air horns, motor vehicle horns, propane cannons, starter pistols, low-powered pellet guns, slingshots, and thrown rocks can be effective.

Source: Precautions from Texas Parks and Wildlife Website