



West Chester Fact Sheet Wildlife Management

The presence of wildlife is a reminder of a time when our neighborhoods and commercial districts were forests and fields. Wild animals are enjoyed by visitors to our parks and open areas, but when these same animals come into our neighborhoods they are sometimes considered to be a nuisance.

Geese, deer, coyotes, beaver, raccoons, squirrels, opossums, chipmunks and groundhogs are all easily found in West Chester Township.

- West Chester Township does not manage animal populations in the community, except in public parks. On public property, Township employees are trained and licensed in various techniques to manage the goose population and occasionally steps are taken to reduce the beaver population in areas where water management is negatively impacted by their presence.
- Concerns on private property related to nuisance animals are referred to a number of private companies that handle animal removal or to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. These organizations are better equipped to handle these questions and concerns.
- In general, these wild animals DO NOT want to come into contact with humans and the best practice is to not approach them or take action that will invite them onto your property.
- Do not leave food out in your yard or on porches. This includes leftovers from a picnic, or pet food. Birdseed attracts birds, and birds are a food source for other larger animals.
- Keep your yard well lit, especially if this area is used by a household pet.
- Monitor household pets outside, especially at night.
- Keep in mind that some animal populations help control other animal populations. Ex. Bats control the mosquito population, foxes and coyotes help control the population of geese and small mammals.

For more information, call Aaron Ireland of The Ohio Department of Natural Resources at 937-372-5639, ext. 5207.