

## Coyote FAQs

**Why can't the Township just hunt the coyotes?** There are a number of reasons. First, whenever coyotes are hunted in an area, they respond by having larger litters of pups. Next, when coyotes from one area are removed, coyotes from another will fill the void. Lastly, when weighed against the fact that coyotes pose no realistic threat to humans, discharging firearms around homes and schools is a far greater threat.

**But, aren't coyotes a threat to humans and pets?** Coyotes typically will avoid humans every chance they get. In fact, most people in the Township will never even see a coyote. The only time coyotes will become a nuisance or aggressive is when they have learned to associate humans with food. When this occurs, they lose their fear of humans. Small pets could be taken by a coyote (or other predators), so pet owners should accompany their pet outside, especially in the winter. Looking at nationwide statistics, there is a far greater chance of being bitten by a 'domestic' animal than a coyote.

**What can I do to keep coyotes away from my home?** First, realize that if a coyote keeps visiting your neighborhood or subdivision, it's because it has found either food or habitat nearby. Eliminate both of these and the animal will likely move out of the area. Frighten the animal away anytime it is seen. Yell, wave your arms, bang pans together, throw something at it, etc.

**Should I be alarmed if I see a coyote in my subdivision?** NO! Just the appearance of a coyote means nothing in itself. Remember, the coyote has been in the Township for many years now. Because you see one does not mean their population has 'exploded'.

**Where can I learn more?** Check out the Township's website:  
[WWW.BloomfieldTwp.Org](http://WWW.BloomfieldTwp.Org)



Cut along this line. Keep this near your phone!

### **Bloomfield Township Police Department**

**EMERGENCY 9-1-1**

**Non-Emergency 248-433-7755**

**Animal Welfare 248-433-7757**

**Community Liaison 248-433-7724**



## Coyotes in the Township: *We Can Live Together!*

Simple, effective strategies  
to minimize conflict

### **Bloomfield Township**

4200 Telegraph Road  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302  
[WWW.BloomfieldTwp.Org](http://WWW.BloomfieldTwp.Org)

One of the truly beautiful aspects of Bloomfield Township is the wide diversity of wildlife that still resides here in spite of human population growth and land development. Hawks, owls, squirrels, groundhogs, and even deer can be found in abundance. Playing a very important part in this mix is *Canis latrans*, the coyote.



An adult coyote is about the size of a medium size German Shepherd, the largest reaching a maximum weight of 45 pounds, having an average life span of about 2 years.

The coyote is an opportunistic omnivore, eating mice, voles, rabbits, groundhogs, rats, young deer, and even fruits and vegetables.

**Coyotes are not considered a threat to humans and actually try to avoid contact with them.** Public health officials state there is a much greater incidence of bites from rodents and 'domestic' animals. In a ten-year study in Illinois, 2,000—3,000 people were bitten or scratched by domestic animals every year. **In contrast, not one human was bitten by a coyote in that entire ten-year period!** The only time coyotes truly become aggressive is when they associate food with humans. This is most often the case when coyotes are fed by well meaning people who do not understand they are actually training the coyote to be less fearful of humans. From that point, whenever the coyote is hungry it will look for a human to feed it.

Some Township residents have asked if hunting the coyotes would solve the problem. The answer is 'no'. Coyotes (being very adaptive) actually have larger litters of pups as soon as their population experiences downward pressure! Further, if the coyotes from one community are removed, coyotes from adjacent areas will fill the void.

What can you do if you want to keep coyotes away from your property? First, realize that if a coyote stays on or near your home, it's because it has found either food or a safe place in which to live. Take away the habitat and the food, and the coyote will have little reason to stay in the area.

- Remove brush piles from your property and keep grass trimmed short. These provide rodents with habitat. Wherever the rodents are, the coyote will follow.
- Remove bird feeders from your property. Birds will scatter the seed onto the ground. This, in turn, will attract rodents who feed on that scattered seed. Again, the coyotes will follow.
- Trim the landscaping on your property. Specifically, coyotes may look for large bushes that provide them shelter and concealment. Trim bushes up from the ground to deny them a place to make a den.
- If there are any heavily wooded areas on your property, remove brush piles from there, as well, keeping the ground as clear as possible. Coyotes may use fallen trees to make a den as well.
- Frighten away any coyote you see by yelling at it, waving your arms, banging pots and pans together, or throwing something at it. Do not try to hurt the animal, however.
- Install coyote frightening devices around your yard, changing their location frequently. Some of these devices can be motion detecting strobes with sirens, motion sensing ultrasonic irritants, and even motion sensing water sprinklers. There are many such devices and some may be more effective than others. Here are just a few such devices. **NOTE: the appearance of these devices in this pamphlet is not an endorsement of a particular product, manufacturer or retailer.**



A motion activated ultrasonic frightening device sold by Deer Busters®.



The Motion Activated Scarecrow® lawn sprinkler.



The Lentek® YC-12 animal motion detector / frightener