

Every few years there is an article in the paper regarding coyotes. The Tribune did a good job recently of not sensationalizing the animal's presence. Unlike last year when they chose the headline "Coyotes *Invading* Grand Haven." Nik Kalesj from the DNR did a good job as well, telling people the coyote has always been here, is a critical part of our ecosystem and is generally not a problem.

This document is one they hand out in Bloomfield Township, MI and the URL/web address for the .pdf can be found at:

<http://www.bloomfieldwp.org/Services/Police/Coyotes.htm>.

In St. Joe, MI, coyotes near downtown are live trapped and released into areas more rural. Information can be found at <http://michiganradio.org/post/st-joseph-pays-capture-relocation-coyotes>.

The more pressure that is placed on the coyote population, the more they will be urged to survive and they will reproduce more often than once per year. This is because coyotes will reproduce MORE if they feel threatened. More than most other animals, they will reproduce to keep themselves from becoming extinct. Killing some of them just leads to more. This is not only because they reproduce at higher rates when they feel their numbers threatened but also because the food supply increases if some of them are killed, triggering their bodies to produce more young. When the first programs aimed at eradicating Coyotes in California began, nearly 500,000 coyotes had been reported destroyed at a cost of an estimated \$30 million of the taxpayer's money. Attempting to completely eliminate coyotes is both expensive and futile. The Native Americans knew this and said the coyote will be the last mammal on earth.

That said, people need to be smart. Leaving garbage, pet food, etc., outside trains the animal to associate us with food. Just like the bears in New Jersey - you leave out trash and they will be in your yard. Dogs and cats should not be running loose regardless of coyotes and the same goes for little children. Like every species, the coyote will protect her den and her young. It is our hope that the residents of Wildwood Springs where coyotes were seen, will remember their subdivision was named after the wild woods that were there before their homes and that we are fortunate some wildlife is finding a way to continue existing in our area(s).