

Additional Information about Living with Wildlife

Some of the most common animals in our neighborhood are squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, opossums, foxes, coyotes, chipmunks, woodchucks (groundhogs), ground squirrels, mice, voles, moles, white tail deer, wild turkeys, garter snakes, many kinds of bees and beetles, and those woodpeckers that drill into our siding. Many state wildlife and natural resource agencies have information on living with these animals. One example is:

http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/wildlife/living/living_home.htm

Our rock retaining walls are especially attractive to burrowing animals such as chipmunks and woodchucks; a concern is whether they are doing structural damage to the wall.

The City has been somewhat successful in managing the whitetail deer population in the PBC. Deer are fond of some Woodcreek trees and shrubs, especially arborvitae and yews. There are repellents that can be used to discourage deer from rubbing and browsing and there are some other home remedies that may work.

A good source of information on insects is the UW-Madison, Department of Entomology Insect Diagnostic Lab headed by Professor Phil Pellitteri. His website is:

<http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/diaglab/entodiag.html>

**Adopted by WCV Board
May 2012**

Woodcreek Village Condominium Association Living with Wildlife Policy

Introduction

Living with wildlife is not new to Woodcreek residents. While the Pheasant Branch Conservancy has attracted many WCV residents, the WCV, in turn, attracts many residents from the PBC! We know that many kinds of wildlife are highly adaptable and thrive living near people in urban communities, especially in urban areas with extensive protected natural areas. This means more responsibilities for Woodcreek residents and for the Woodcreek Condominium Association so that our animal neighbors do not end up in places that are not safe for them or for us, and our pets.

Policy

Unit owners who do not take precautionary measures may be asked to cover the cost of removing animal pests and repairing preventable damage caused by them.

Many public and private wildlife-related organizations provide detailed information about living with wildlife without major conflicts. These are a few general rules that seem to greatly minimizing nasty encounters:

- ✓ Keep garage doors shut when not in use or attended.
- ✓ Do not feed wild animals or provide easy access to food for them.
- ✓ Do not put trash and garbage out for pick up before collection day (even though our bins are sealed, odors attract unwanted wildlife onto our premises).
- ✓ Do not feed pets outdoors or let them roam freely.
- ✓ For residents who have bird feeders, monitor them so they do not attract animals like squirrels, raccoons, opossums, chipmunks, mice and moles that, in turn, can attract other animals. This means keeping the area under the feeders clean and suspending feeders or baffling them to restrict access by unwanted visitors, and curtailing feeding during warm months.

The Association will continue to do preventive treatment for ants and some other insects in the early spring and can provide some contact treatment for pests like box elder beetles and Asian lady beetles. When shrub and tree replacement are approved, they will be restricted to known pest and disease-resistant species and cultivars.

Reporting a Wildlife Issue/Problem

Wildlife problems that affect buildings and grounds should be reported on the annual Building Survey and Grounds Survey. Emergency issues should be reported to condo management for referral to the respective committee chairs. Follow-up decisions are the responsibility of the WCV Board and its committees.