

BOBCATS

BENEFITS OF BOBCATS

Bobcats are significant contributors to the ecological balance of an ecosystem. They are highly effective predators of small mammals, such as rodents and rabbits, which helps regulate the population numbers of these and other herbivores. In addition, bobcats occasionally take down larger mammals but they typically target the weaker individuals.

This natural regulation of prey populations is essential for maintaining a healthy balance in the ecosystem. The presence of bobcats helps ensure that the populations of both prey and predators remain in check.

NATURAL HISTORY

- Bobcats are part of the feline family and are found throughout the continental United States, preferring areas with dense vegetation and plenty of prey. They are increasingly common in urban areas as their native habitats shrink.
- Bobcats live in dens such as tree trunks, caves, brush piles, or fallen trees.
- They are carnivores and prefer to eat rabbits, but will also eat rodents, insects, birds, and even deer.
- Female bobcats have territories of around 5 square miles and are very territorial, with no overlap in their ranges. Male bobcats have larger territories of approximately 30 square miles, which may overlap with other males.
- Bobcats are most active during dawn and dusk, which makes them crepuscular animals.

TIPS FOR REDUCING HUMAN-BOBCAT CONFLICTS:

- **Tightly cover garbage and compost bins.** Open bins encourage scavenging.
- **Remove fallen fruit from yards.**
- **Trim and clear vegetation** around homes, paying attention to hiding spots such as woodpiles and brush piles.
- **Install motion-activated lights and sprinklers** to deter bobcats from entering your property.
- **If you encounter a bobcat,** make noise, raise your arms to appear larger, and back away slowly. Do not turn your back or run, as this may trigger the bobcat's natural instinct to chase.



City of

Saginaw