

COYOTES

BENEFITS OF COYOTES

Coyotes are essential to maintaining healthy ecosystems and promoting species diversity. As the top predator in some ecosystems, coyotes regulate the populations of smaller predator species, such as skunks, raccoons, and foxes, which contributes to the overall biodiversity.

By controlling these populations, coyotes prevent overgrazing and protect smaller prey species from being eliminated, thereby maintaining a healthy balance in the ecosystem. Overall, the role of coyotes in regulating predator populations is crucial to the health and stability of ecosystems.

NATURAL HISTORY

- Coyotes belong to the canine family and can be found in every state of the continental United States. They prefer deserts, grasslands, and forests, but can adapt to almost any habitat.
- Coyotes are omnivores, with a diet that includes both plants and animals. Although they eat a wide range of food, they prefer meat and hunt for small mammals, birds, mice, and snakes. They may also consume fruits and berries during times of food scarcity.
- Coyotes are semi-social animals and may live alone, travel in pairs, or form pack. In urban areas, coyotes are more likely to be transient and travel alone.
- Coyotes may be active during the day (diurnal) or at dawn and dusk (crepuscular), but tend to become more nocturnal when they live near humans.

TIPS FOR REDUCING HUMAN-COYOTE CONFLICTS:

- **Avoid feeding wildlife** as it can cause them to lose their natural fear of humans.
- **Ensure that dogs and cats are fed indoors** and that their droppings are cleaned up, as the scent can attract wildlife, including coyotes.
- **Do not leave pets unattended outdoors**, especially at night, when they may become prey to coyotes.
- **Keep dogs leashed** while out for a walk to minimize the chance of a negative wildlife encounter.
- **Keep pet birds and poultry enclosed** in a secure pen or house to reduce the risk of becoming prey to coyotes.
- **Use tightly covered garbage and compost bins**, as open bins may attract scavengers.



City of

Saginaw