

RACCOONS

BENEFITS OF RACCOONS

Despite occasionally causing trouble, raccoons fulfill several vital ecological roles, including serving as gardeners, pest controllers, and members of the "clean-up crew". They help distribute plant seeds throughout their habitat by consuming berries and nuts, in addition to meat.

Raccoons also consume carrion and prey on small rodents and insects, which helps maintain the cleanliness of their environment and regulates pest populations. Therefore, raccoons play an important role in balancing and preserving the ecosystem.

NATURAL HISTORY

- "Little bears" is a common term used to categorize raccoons as members of the Procyonidae family.
- Raccoons are adaptable and can live in various environmental settings, including both urban and rural areas throughout the United States.
- Omnivorous in nature, raccoons will eat almost anything, with their diet typically consisting of 40% invertebrates, 30% plant material, and 30% vertebrates.
- Although raccoons are solitary creatures, they are semi-social and may share territory with a small group of other raccoons, without conflict.
- Raccoons are primarily nocturnal, meaning they are most active at night, but they may also be awake during the daytime.

TIPS FOR REDUCING HUMAN-RACCOON CONFLICTS:

- **Keep bird feeders clean** and bring them inside at night. Raccoons are attracted to bird feeders and spilled seeds on the ground.
- **Use a motion-activated sprinkler or light** to scare raccoons away. These devices are harmless and effective in keeping raccoons away from gardens and other outdoor areas.
- **Trim tree branches.** Raccoons are skilled climbers and can use tree branches to access roofs and other areas of your home.
- **Do not approach raccoons** or their young. Raccoons can carry diseases such as rabies and can be dangerous if cornered or threatened.
- **Contact a professional wildlife removal service** if you have a raccoon infestation in or around your home. Attempting to remove raccoons on your own can be dangerous and ineffective.



City of

Saginaw