

SQUIRRELS

BENEFITS OF SQUIRRELS

The ecological significance of squirrels lies in their role as effective dispersers of seeds and spores.

Squirrels have the ability to collect and bury nuts and seeds in the soil and trees, which can later germinate and grow into new plants and trees.

Additionally, squirrels aid in the spread of mushrooms by consuming them and subsequently releasing the spores unaltered through their feces. This dispersal of spores throughout the forest helps to distribute the fungal species and promote their growth.

NATURAL HISTORY

- Squirrels belong to the Sciuridae family, which includes small and medium-sized rodents. Tree squirrels are commonly found in various habitats, from woodlands to city parks.
- Tree squirrels have an omnivorous diet, which means they consume both plants and animals. Although they are skilled climbers and spend most of their time in trees, squirrels also forage on the ground for food such as nuts, acorns, berries, flowers, bark, eggs, and even baby birds.
- Tree squirrels tend to live in family groups that are territorial, with the male holding the highest rank in the hierarchy and primarily responsible for defending the area.
- Tree squirrels are primarily active during the day (diurnal) and at dawn and dusk (crepuscular)

TIPS FOR REDUCING HUMAN-SQUIRREL CONFLICTS:

- It is important not to feed wildlife, including squirrels, as this can lead to them losing their natural fear of humans and becoming aggressive.
- It is not advisable to attempt to pet squirrels, as they may seem friendly but are still wild animals. Squirrel bites can cause injury and transmit diseases.
- If you come across what appears to be an abandoned baby squirrel or nest, it is best to leave it where you found it. The mother squirrel will likely be searching for it nearby.
- To keep squirrels out of bird feeders, it is recommended to place the feeder at least 10 feet away from any location where the squirrels can jump to it.
- To prevent squirrels from denning in your home, you can seal off potential entryways such as chimneys, crawlspaces, attics, and under porches by placing caps and blocking outside entryways.



City of
Saginaw