

St. Louis Park Coyote Management

**Hazing as
Management**

[The Neighborhood Files](#)

(INTERACTIVE MAP) Where Are the Coyotes in SLP?

Tell us where you've spotted coyotes by putting a pin on our map.

By [Michael Rose](#) [Email the author](#) May 13, 2012

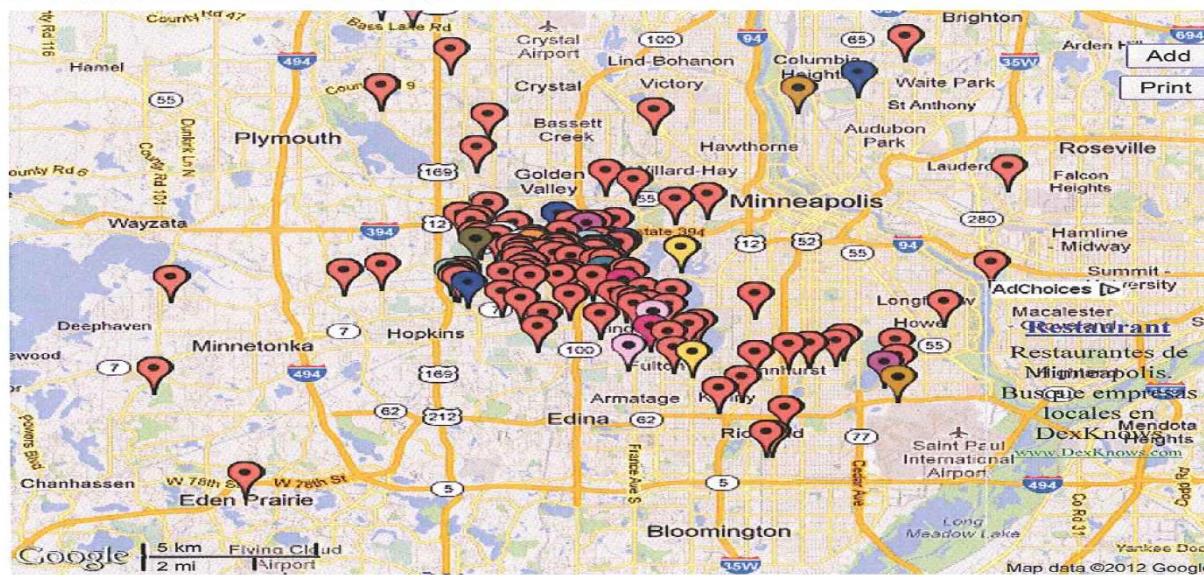
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***14 Coyote Police Incidents in 2014 – scattered throughout City*

Estimated between 30-35 coyote in SLP

Coyote Management

- Things you can do before even seeing a coyote
- How to identify coyotes
- Brief overview of coyote behavior
- Hazing tools and techniques
- Conclusion

Before you see a Coyote:

- Clean up fallen fruit from trees/bushes
- Secure trash cans, compost heaps & garbage



Before you see a Coyote:

- Landscape/property management
 - Fences – coyote rollers, fence extensions



Before You See a Coyote:

- Landscape/property management
 - Minimize hiding spots and attractants on your property or at least be aware of them



Before You See a Coyote:

- Secure foundations of buildings and decks. These provide ideal shelter and denning locations for both fox & coyote



Before You See a Coyote:

- Never leave pets out unsupervised
- Cats are safest in the house
- Do not feed pets outside
- Clean up around bird feeders



Coyote Identification

- A coyote is:



- A Coyote is *not*:



Coyote Identification

- At a distance there can be some confusion between fox and coyote, but there are some distinct differences:
 - **Coyotes are larger** – they come up to about your knee or a little higher
 - **Fox are smaller** – below your knee, Grey fox are shorter than Red fox

Coyote Identification



Coyote Identification

- Coyotes are also different colors:



- As are Fox:



Coyote Identification

- And there are 2 different kinds of fox!

- Red:



- And Grey:



Coyote Identification

- Coyote Face



- Fox Face



Coyote Behavior

- Why do Coyotes like St. Louis Park?
 - They are attracted to the food, shelter and water available in St. Louis Park
 - They enjoy a lack of competition for these resources
 - They are top dog here and have no threats to worry about

Coyote Behavior

- Although coyotes are carnivores, they are opportunistic and eat almost anything, including vegetables, plants and bugs!

Frequency of Food Items in the Diets of Coyotes in Cook County, Illinois*

Diet Item	Occurrence
Rodents	42%
White-tailed Deer	22%
Fruit	23%
Eastern Cottontail	18%
Bird Species	13%
Raccoon	8%
Grass	6%
Invertebrates	4%
Human-associated	2%
Muskrat	1%
Domestic Cat	1%
Unknown	1%

- Based on the contents of 1,429 scats collected during 2000-2002. Some scats contained multiple items, therefore the percentages exceed 100%

Coyote Behavior

- Coyotes are also vulnerable to a variety of diseases, including parvo enteritis, mange, distemper and rabies. Heartworms afflict coyotes in areas, as do other internal parasites.

- Coyotes are considered to be old at 10 to 12 years of age.



Coyote with Mange

Coyote Behavior

- Coyotes are very opportunistic feeders – whatever is available and easiest to obtain is what's on the menu (*not just other wild animals*)!
 - Pet food
 - Compost waste
 - Feed sites (Bird Only) –DON'T FEED WILDLIFE;
City of SLP ordinance
 - Unattended pets – they look like prey to Coyotes



Coyote Behavior

- **Shelter** – Coyote find shelter in anything from low brush to culverts to dens dug underneath decks, sheds and other out buildings.



Coyote Behavior

- **Water** – landscape water features, swimming pools, natural ponds and streams all provide water sources. Be aware of what sources they may be accessing near your homes.



Coyote Behavior

- A Coyote's year is broken down into 4 "seasons":
 - **Breeding/Mating Season** – Dec – Mar
 - **Denning Season** – Mar – May
 - **Rearing Season** – May – Sept
 - **Dispersal Season** – Sept - Dec
 - Coyote behavior changes with these "seasons"

Coyote Behavior



- **Breeding/Mating Season** - Mid-December through mid-March
- *During this time Coyotes become more socially aggressive:*
 - Defending against potential mating challengers. Tend to mate for life...
 - Become more territorial – defending hunting and breeding areas against threats (i.e. other Coyotes and large dogs).
 - Litter size dependent upon population density

Coyote Behavior



- **Denning Season** - Mid-March through mid-May
- *During this time coyotes spend more time providing for the pups:*
 - Coyotes are less vocal during this time.
 - Territorial behavior focuses on the "core" areas around the den and less around the perimeters.

Coyote Behavior



- **Rearing Season** - Mid-May through mid-September
- *As the pups get bigger and more independent:*
 - Territorial behavior still focuses on the den area and less on the outer parts of the territory.
 - Hunting and movement activity is more concentrated in night or dawn/dusk hours.

Coyote Behavior



- **Dispersal Season** - Mid-September through mid-December
 - *Young adults begin to disperse, searching for their own territories:*
 - *With more young adults looking for new home territories, sightings of Coyotes increase.*
 - *Territorial behavior relaxes among established individuals and family units.*

When You See a Coyote

- Make sure you:
 - NEVER run from a Coyote
 - This teaches the Coyote that it wins!
 - It is likely to invoke a “Chase” reflex
 - Coyotes can run up to 40 mph, can you?
 - Get the Coyote's attention
 - You want to make sure it knows YOU are the reason its scared and is running away
 - Ensure the coyote:
 - Is able to run away (i.e. not sick/injured)
 - Has a place/direction to run (i.e. not cornered)
 - If the Coyote can't run away, hazing will not be effective

Why Not Just Kill or Remove Them?

- You will never kill/remove 100% of the coyotes
- Will trigger biological rebound response
- New coyotes will move into vacated territories
- Only Effective Methods:
 - Poison – Only legal for Federal Agents
 - Traps –
 - Very low rate of capture
 - Time & labor intensive = Expensive
 - Illegal by ordinance
 - Risk of capturing “non-target” animals - pets

Why Not Just Kill or Remove Them?

- Shooting
 - Danger of collateral damage
 - Illegal by ordinance
 - Extremely limited areas safe for firearms
 - Coyotes will learn areas and simply avoid them
 - Can't create more safe shooting lanes

Why Haze Coyotes?

- Removal (Lethal) Methods don't work
- Problems with coyotes arise when resident coyote populations become accustomed to human activity and are no longer scared of humans
- Hazing reestablishes and reinforces the fear of humans and breaks the cycle of conflict
- Hazing puts you in control of the situation.

Why Haze Coyotes?

- **When ever we see wildlife, we have 3 options:**
 - Actively entice it closer
 - Do nothing – ignore it or simply watch it pass by
 - Active discourage it or chase it away
- The first 2 options present no negative consequence and teach wildlife we are not a threat.
- *Hazing* provides that *negative consequence* and teaches Coyotes to be afraid of us.

Why Haze Coyotes?

- No other method provides the long term results that Hazing does.
- Hazing can be done immediately – no wait time for Police or another service to address the situation.
- Hazing is free.
- Hazing presents no potential for collateral damage.
- Hazing is legal for everyone to do.

Hazing Coyotes

- What does this coyote think of the spectators?
- Not much!
- Why?



Hazing Coyotes



- For hazing to be effective, you must get the coyote's attention. The coyote needs to understand you are what it is scared of & running away from.

Hazing Coyotes: Tools of the Trade

- Voice
- Body
- Noise Makers
- Air Horns
- Cans with pennies, rocks or old batteries in them



Hazing Coyotes: Tools of the Trade

- Whistles
- Water hoses (when weather permits)
- Squirt guns
- Pots & pans



Hazing: Got the Tools, Now What?

- **When do I haze a Coyote?**
 - Any time, EVERY time you see a Coyote
- **How do I haze a Coyote?**
 - Start with yelling and waving your arms
 - If that doesn't work, escalate your efforts
 - Use shaker cans, noise makers, throw things
 - Run towards the Coyote
 - Get another person to help, if available

Hazing: Got the Tools, Now What?

- **Things to expect:**

- The Coyote will not run away immediately
- The Coyote may only run a few feet or yards and then turn around and look at you. It's checking to see if the threat is real.
- Initially, you will need to use the most aggressive methods to haze
- The Coyote may return after the initial hazing

Hazing: Do's & Don'ts

○ Do

- Get the Coyote's attention
- Get between the Coyote & any children or pets
- Continue hazing until the Coyote has left the area
- Use a variety of methods

○ Don't

- Haze obviously sick or injured Coyotes or Coyotes with no escape path
- Haze from inside a house, car or behind cover. Be in full view!
- Haze "pre-emptively"
- Allow the Coyote to stay in the area

Hazing: Final Tips

- Be aggressive
- Use a variety of techniques and tools
- Don't be afraid
- Be diligent

Hazing: Final Tips

- If you need assistance, do not hesitate to call
 - Emergency situation – 911
 - Non-Emergency – 952-924-2618
 - Explain situation
 - Ask for Animal Control to respond

Hazing Coyotes: Links to Other Sources

- Videos
 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bKhP7tt3ZfU>
 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o5IFe0S2WhE>
- Print Information:
 - <http://urbancoyotereseearch.com/>
 - <http://www.humanesociety.org/>
 - http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/livingwith_wildlife/coyotes/index.html
 - <http://www.denvergov.org/Portals/626/documents/Natural%20Areas/BrochureCoyotesinDenver.pdf>
 - <http://www.denvergov.org/Portals/626/documents/Natural%20Areas/BrochureHazingCoyotes.pdf>
 - http://www.humanesociety.org/assets/pdfs/wild_neighbors/coyote_mgmt_plan_co.pdf

Conclusion

- Coyotes are not looking to hunt & eat you!
 - Coyotes only present problems if we allow them to
 - Coyotes perform many pest removal services
 - You can control most every encounter