

## The District of Columbia's Wildlife Action Plan

The District of Columbia provides valuable habitats for all types of wildlife, from tiny crustaceans (lobster-like creatures) to the majestic bald eagle. To keep habitats healthy and species viable, the District Department of the Environment (DDOE) developed a Wildlife Action Plan, an interactive, proactive blueprint for wildlife conservation. The District's Wildlife Action Plan is one of 56 plans that form a national network to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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# WILDLIFE

## ACTION PLAN FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



## Is there really wildlife in the District of Columbia?

You bet! Wildlife encompasses any plant or animal that finds its basic needs without human intervention. DDOE biologists have identified 782 animal species in the District.

## Why is wildlife important?

Wildlife has value in its own right, and should be cherished and protected on that basis alone. Wildlife populations also provide a wide range of aesthetic, recreational, and economic opportunities for humans. We learn much about overall environmental health by studying wildlife – as goes wildlife, so goes the world around it. When negative health effects are observed in plants and animals, it's only a matter of time before humans are affected.

## What is a wildlife habitat?

Habitat, simply put, is where plants and animals live. There are 13 quantifiable habitat types identified in the Wildlife Action Plan. Habitats can be very small or very large, and vary greatly across the living world. Additionally, many animals require more than one habitat to thrive, so an animal's population is threatened when any portion of its habitat is threatened.



## The Goal of the Wildlife Action Plan

The goal of the Wildlife Action Plan is to prevent wildlife from declining to the point at which it becomes endangered. In doing so, DDOE will:

- Increase public knowledge and understanding of local species, ecosystems, and the effects of human interactions.
- Restore depleted habitats, aid in the recovery of declining wildlife populations, and manage existing wildlife populations so that they remain viable.
- Build partnerships with neighboring jurisdictions, nonprofits and public conservation groups.
- Spark public interest to increase participation in wildlife conservation actions.
- Examine the District's regulations and make revisions to further protect the District's wildlife populations.

## Wildlife Actions.

### DDOE's Wildlife Biologists:

- Continuously survey plants and animals across their entire ranges in the District and note changes in overall population numbers, population densities, and population health.
- Take action to offset any decline in wildlife population.
- Created a database that houses information on all animal species and habitats identified in the District.
- Search for rare, threatened, and endangered species and are prepared to protect them.
- Host workshops to teach District residents how to turn their yards into a Backyard Habitat.

### DDOE works with the federal government, neighboring jurisdictions, and nonprofits to:

- Manage and decrease a myriad of threats posed to native wildlife, including invasive species, contamination, and habitat loss.
- Spark public interest to increase participation in wildlife conservation actions.
- Increase public knowledge and understanding of local species, ecosystems, and the effects of human interactions.

