

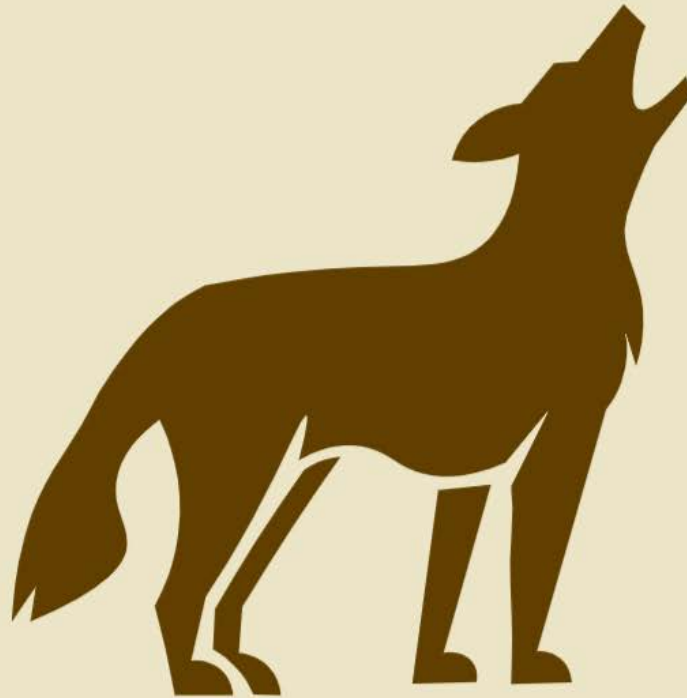


Community Services
& Parks

TRAIL TUESDAY:

CAPTIVATING

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Parks
Make
Life
Better!

Coyote (Canis latrans)



Coyotes are present in nearly every U.S. city.

While coyotes prefer open space or wilderness they have learned to adapt to urban areas as well.

Coyotes play an important role in the ecosystem, helping to keep rodent populations under control.

Coyote Fun Facts



Coyotes are naturally diurnal & crepuscular (meaning to hunt at dawn & dusk), but urban coyotes often become more active at night (nocturnal) to avoid humans.



Coyotes are good swimmers, have a strong sense of smell & keen hearing.



Coyotes can run up to 40 miles per hour.



Coyotes are highly social animals that form extensive family packs.



Coyotes are monogamous & stay together until the death of their mate.



Even when there is a lack of resources or pressure from other coyote packs, a mated pair will stay together year after year.



Only the alpha pair in a pack will mate each year, typically around February.



More Coyote Fun Facts



During pup season coyotes will use a den; otherwise, coyotes usually sleep above ground in the open or in cover.




Litter sizes often range from 4 - 7 pups. Coyotes have the ability to adjust their litter sizes based on food abundance & population density.



Pups stay in the den for about 6 weeks & then begin traveling short distances with adults.



Coyotes usually disperse from the family unit at about 1 year of age. However, some coyotes remain with the pack & help raise the next litter. Males & females that remain with the pack do not mate & do not have litters.

A photograph of a coyote walking across a dry, cracked desert landscape. The coyote is in profile, facing right, with its head slightly lowered. The background is a vast, flat, arid plain under a clear sky.

Once a coyote disperses to find a mate & claim his own territory, he matures to an alpha male. When he finds a mate, she becomes the alpha female.

Coyotes sometimes live solo for part of their life: after dispersing from the pack in search of a territory & mate; or after a mate dies.

Coyotes can live up to 14 years but the majority do not live more than 3 years in the wild.

When people hear coyote howls, they often assume they're hearing a large pack of animals, all raising their voices at once. But this is an auditory illusion. 1 coyote has the ability to sound like 3 or 4 coyotes.