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For immediate release

## Coyote Tag-and-Track Program to Begin in Early February

Milwaukee, WI (Jan. 28, 2016) – Trapping and ear-tagging of coyotes that use Milwaukee County parkland in Wauwatosa and West Allis will begin in early February and continue through late March. Researchers from the University of Wisconsin–Madison Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology’s Urban Canid Project will set cable restraints (live traps which do not harm the animal), place ear tags on trapped coyotes, and release them for monitoring.

“During this phase of coyote management, we want to remind the public to follow ordinances by keeping their pets leashed and on the designated trails,” said Julia Robson, Assistant Natural Areas Coordinator for Milwaukee County Parks. “We also want to be clear that tampering or interfering with the trapping is illegal, as is trapping by individuals who are not authorized by the Parks Department.”

Residents throughout Milwaukee County are being encouraged to submit reports of coyote sightings. As tagging occurs in the targeted areas, citizens will be able to include information on the coyotes with uniquely colored ear tags, helping to tie observations and behaviors to a specific animal. Residents are asked to submit all reports at [inaturalist.org/projects/milwaukee-county-coyote-watch](http://inaturalist.org/projects/milwaukee-county-coyote-watch) or use the related mobile app.

To provide more information about coexisting with urban coyotes, a series of educational programs will be offered. The first program will be presented Monday, Feb. 22, from 6-7:30 p.m. at Wil-O-Way Underwood, 10602 Underwood Parkway, in Wauwatosa. Researchers from the Urban Canid Project will discuss coyote ecology, coyote-human conflict, and behavior modification, as well as ongoing monitoring and management efforts in Milwaukee County. ADA accommodation requests may be filed with the Milwaukee County Office for Persons with Disabilities by calling 278-3932 (voice) or 711 (TRS).

The Parks Department, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Urban Canid Project researchers are collaborating to prepare a coyote management plan for Milwaukee County, to implement coyote population monitoring, and to conduct educational outreach in targeted areas of the County.

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The main objective of this collaborative effort is to develop a proactive coyote management program by learning more about Milwaukee's urban coyote populations, monitoring their behaviors, and determining which specific animals are exhibiting habituated, or bold, behavior so that targeted educational outreach can be implemented.

“Through a proactive process, we can address problems before they become a matter of human or pet safety,” said Robson. “We can coexist with urban coyotes—not all are problem animals. The ‘tag and track’ approach could help us identify a problem animal and determine if it needs to be removed.”

A targeted approach is necessary in coyote removal because populations reproduce to fill voids.

For more information on the coyote management program, visit [countyparks.com](http://countyparks.com) and search “coyote.”

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