

Beaver

(*Castor canadensis*)

Identification:

Size: 3-4 ft. long, average wt. = 40 lbs.

Coloration: Rich, dark brown

Other distinguishing features: Large yellow incisors and a large, paddle-like tail also characterize this animal.



Beaver Photo: TPWD

Habitat:

Beavers are found in and near area lakes, ponds, and streams.

Benefits:

Beavers create valuable wetland habitat. They also create a series of ingenious dams in streams, which help dissipate and absorb floodwaters generated by heavy rainfall.

Problems / Concerns:

Beavers damage trees. Beavers may simply eat the bark of trees, or they may cut and remove them to build dams or to store them as food for later.

City Management Policy:

Management options for this species vary greatly. Depending on the individual situation, the city may choose one or more of the following options.

1. No action.
2. Protecting selected trees with metal barriers at least 3 feet tall.
3. Physical exclusion (fencing) from an area.
4. Cultivating favored tree species to direct beaver attention away from other trees.
5. Installing drains through beaver dams.
6. Trapping, sterilizing, and returning the resident animals.
7. Destroying the offending animal.

Note: Trapping and relocating animals does not work. It is not a viable solution.

Citizen's Responsibility:

Beavers are a natural part of our aquatic ecosystems in Arlington. Citizens are encouraged to tolerate some of the beaver's activities. In problematic situations, physically isolating beavers from trees seems to work best.

Similar Species:

Nutria. These animals have been introduced from South America. Therefore, they are not a natural component of our aquatic ecosystems. They are smaller than beavers and do not possess the paddle-like tail.



Nutria Photo: John Davis