

Eastern Cottontail Rabbit

(*Sylvilagus floridanus*)



Identification:

Size: Average wt. = 2-4 lbs.

Coloration: Rusty brown, mixed with salt-and-pepper gray.

Other distinguishing features: Long ears and a cotton-like white tail

Habitat:

Found frequently around brushy areas and fields of tall grass. May spend the daylight hours in small culverts, thick clumps of grass or shallow burrows.

Benefits:

Rabbits are herbivores (plant eaters) and are therefore an important species in the food web, providing food for many species of predators.

Problems / Concerns:

Rabbits are only infrequently a problem. Their occasional nibbling on garden or landscape plants is usually a minor issue rather than a real nuisance.

City Management Policy:

Since these animals aren't a real problem, the city will not actively manage against them.

Citizen's Responsibility:

Rabbits are a beneficial component of our locally native ecosystems. It therefore recommended they be left alone.

Similar Species:

The Swamp Rabbit (*Sylvilagus aquaticus*) is visually almost identical to the Eastern Cottontail, but prefers to inhabit the lowlands of creeks, streams, and wetlands (no photo available).

The Black Tailed Jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*) is larger and has longer ears and legs than the cottontail.

