



LEAVE IT TO BEAVER!

Join the Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE) in celebrating the return of one of our largest aquatic mammals, the beaver, to our local natural areas. A sign of a healthy ecosystem, the North American beaver (*Castor canadensis*), has returned to District parklands and streams following the completion of several stream restoration projects. Beaver are a keystone ecological species, meaning they are essential for maintaining biodiversity, and are the original environmental engineers.

Known locations where beaver and their tell-tale signs can be seen, include Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens, Nash Run, Spring House Run in the National Arboretum, and Watts Branch in Marvin Gaye Park. You may see freshly gnawed tree trunks, beaver dams, or even beaver lodges (their homes). Beavers are nocturnal, typically active at night, but you may see them active close to dawn and dusk.

Beavers are a wildlife species of greatest conservation need in the District.

Learn more about the District's Wildlife Action Plan:
doee.dc.gov/service/wildlifeactionplan

Learn more about Stream and Habitat Restoration:
doee.dc.gov/service/stream-habitat-restoration





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT BEAVERS

Q: What should I do if a tree near a road, sidewalk or trail is being damaged by a beaver, especially if it looks like it will fall?

A: Report the tree and its location to 311 as soon as possible so that an urban forester from DDOT's Urban Forestry Division can evaluate the hazard situation and determine if a tree needs emergency removal.

Q: What can I do to protect trees and plants on my own property?

A: Installing metal wire fence around tree trunks can discourage beaver from chewing into trees. 2"x4" mesh sizes or smaller is best, to ensure the beaver does not get ensnared in it.

Q: What kind of plants do beaver like best?

A: Beaver use a wide variety of trees, shrubs and plants for food and building their dams and lodges. Some of their favorites include dogwood, elm, sweetgum, redbud and willow.

Q: What should I do if I see a beaver or hear its tail slap?

A: If you see or hear a beaver slap its tail, be sure to leave it be! That is a warning sign to Watch Out and Stay Back! It's always best to observe wildlife from a safe distance.

Q: What should I do if a beaver appears to be sick or injured?

A: If you find any wildlife that may be sick or injured and in need of assistance, please contact DC Animal Care and Control at 202-723-5730 or City Wildlife at 202-882-1000.

Q: Should I take a picture of beavers that I see?

A: Sure! Share your photos of beavers, dams, lodges and other beaver activity at fishandwildlife.photos@dc.gov.

Q: What should I do if I am concerned a beaver dam will cause flooding to public or private property?

A: Beaver dams actually help slow storm surges, but will typically wash away during larger storm events. Call DOEE at (202) 535-2600 to have an environmental protection specialist evaluate the situation to determine if any action is required.

