



For more information on
urban wildlife in Saskatoon visit
saskatoon.ca/wildlifemanagement
or contact Urban Biological Services
at 306-975-3300.

Badgers



Badger Characteristics

Appearance

- Stocky body with short powerful legs.
- Elongated face with a distinctive black and white pattern.
- Small round ears.
- Fur is brown, black and white.
- Large fore claws.

Behaviour & Habitat

- Use aggression as a defence mechanism and will snarl, hiss or bare their teeth if provoked. Typically they do this while backing away. Sometimes they move forward in an attempt to chase a threat away from their burrow.
- Have many burrows within their home range. Many of these are re-used by other animals such as other badgers, foxes and coyotes.
- Habitat is typically open grasslands where badgers can find prey. They prefer prairie regions containing sandy loam soil.
- It is rare for badgers to live within a city. However, they can be seen moving through urban areas in May and June when the young are dispersing and in the fall when they are expanding their territory to find mates.
- When seen in the city, it is usually in neighbourhoods close to large natural areas.
- They are mostly solitary and nocturnal.
- Despite being nocturnal, badgers can be seen during the day, especially during the spring when females forage and return at night to stay with their young.
- Do not hibernate but become less active during the winter.

Diet

- Badgers are fossorial carnivores, meaning they dig and feed on animals under the ground.
- Feed predominantly on agricultural pests such as ground squirrels, pocket gophers and voles, but will also prey on insects (including bees and honeycomb) and some vegetation.

Co-existing with Badgers

What to do if you have a close encounter with a badger

- Never approach or feed a badger.
- Identify and maintain escape routes to allow badgers to retreat to their burrows.
- Badgers will act aggressive when they feel threatened. If this occurs calmly leave the area. Badgers will not pursue over great distances.
- If you see a badger in the city it is most likely just moving through, take the opportunity to admire it from a safe distance.
- If the badger is injured, trapped or diseased call Urban Biological Services at 306-975-3300.

