

Urban Wildlife Program

Helping Indiana's Urban Citizens and Native Wildlife Thrive Together

Designed primarily as “people habitats,” urban landscapes provide unique challenges and opportunities for wildlife conservation. As such, the Urban Wildlife Program specializes in supporting sustainable, wildlife-friendly practices in Indiana's most populated areas.

DNR urban wildlife biologists work with private businesses, local government, and individual citizens to develop attractive landscapes that provide habitat for beneficial wildlife, reduce conflicts with “nuisance” wildlife, improve water quality, and increase outdoor recreation opportunities for urban citizens.



Our Current Focus:

1. Keeping wildlife wild - reducing the habituation of wildlife through public education
2. Lose the lawn and go native! - Encouraging replacement of high-maintenance turf grass and invasive species with low-maintenance, native landscaping.
3. Monarch and pollinator conservation
4. Reducing wildlife conflicts through effective landscape modification

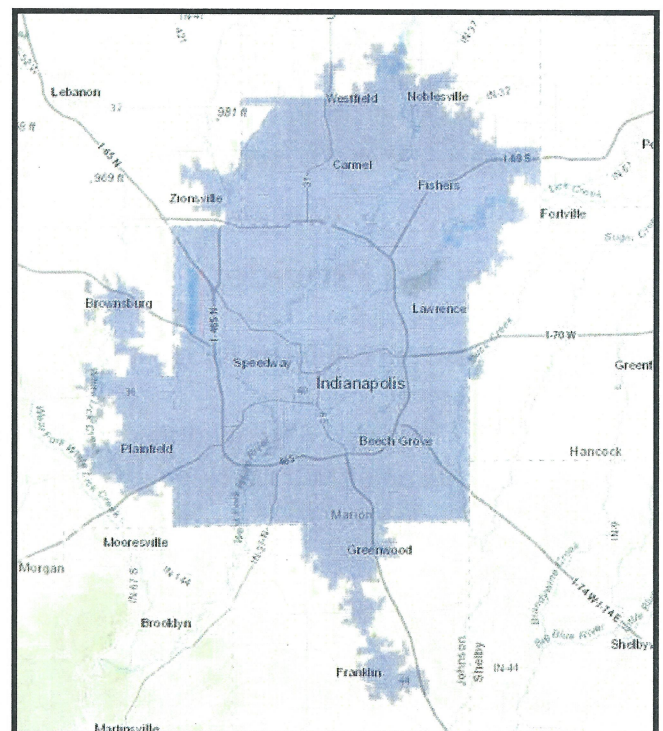
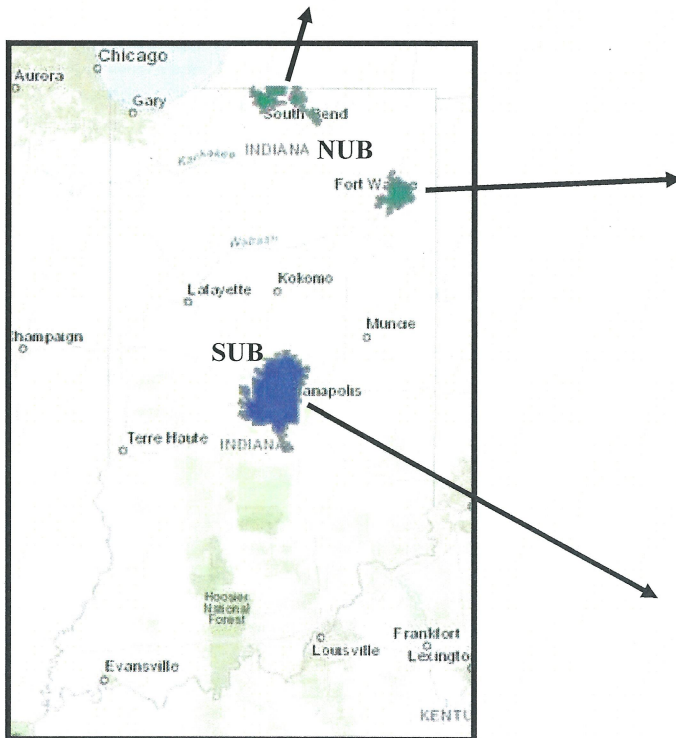
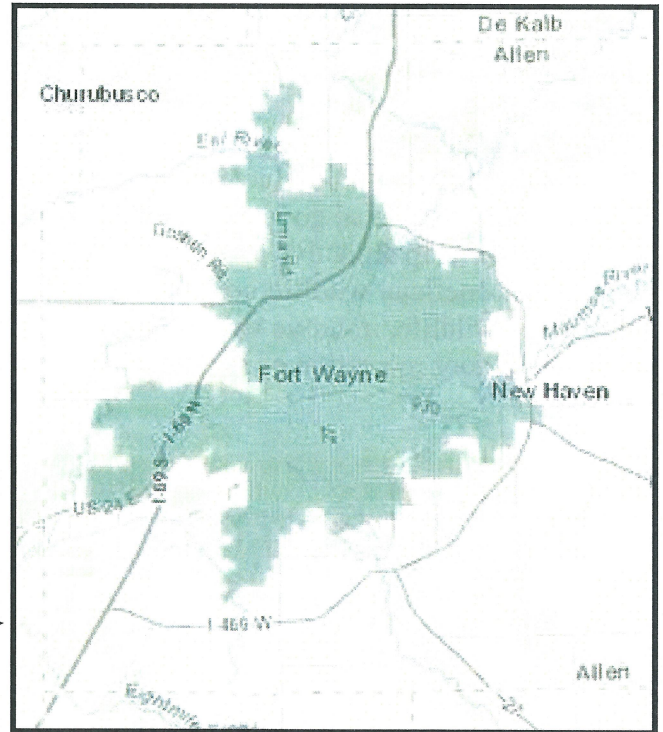
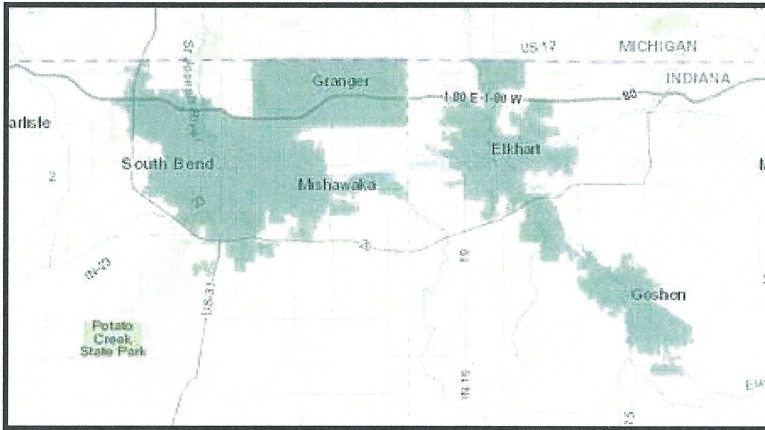
Services We Provide:

- Cost-share opportunities for habitat establishment
- Technical assistance for wildlife-friendly planning and development
- Educational presentations/workshops
- Guidance to prevent/reduce conflicts with wildlife (does not include nuisance animal removal)



Urban Wildlife Program Coverage Areas

The Urban Program currently operates within three target areas of the state, including: South Bend, Mishawaka, Elkhart, Fort Wayne, and the greater Indianapolis area. Contact your nearest Urban Biologist for more information about eligible partnership regions. Habitat questions for non-priority areas can be directed to dfw@dnr.in.gov.



North Urban Biologist (NUB):
Jessica Merklng
Northeast Regional Office
1353 South Governors Drive
Columbia City, IN 46725
Phone: 260-244-6805
Email: jmerkling@dnr.IN.gov

South Urban Biologist (SUB):
Megan Dillon
Atterbury Fish and Wildlife Area
7970 S. Rowe St.,
Edinburgh, IN 46124
Phone: 812-526-4891
Email: mdillon@dnr.IN.gov