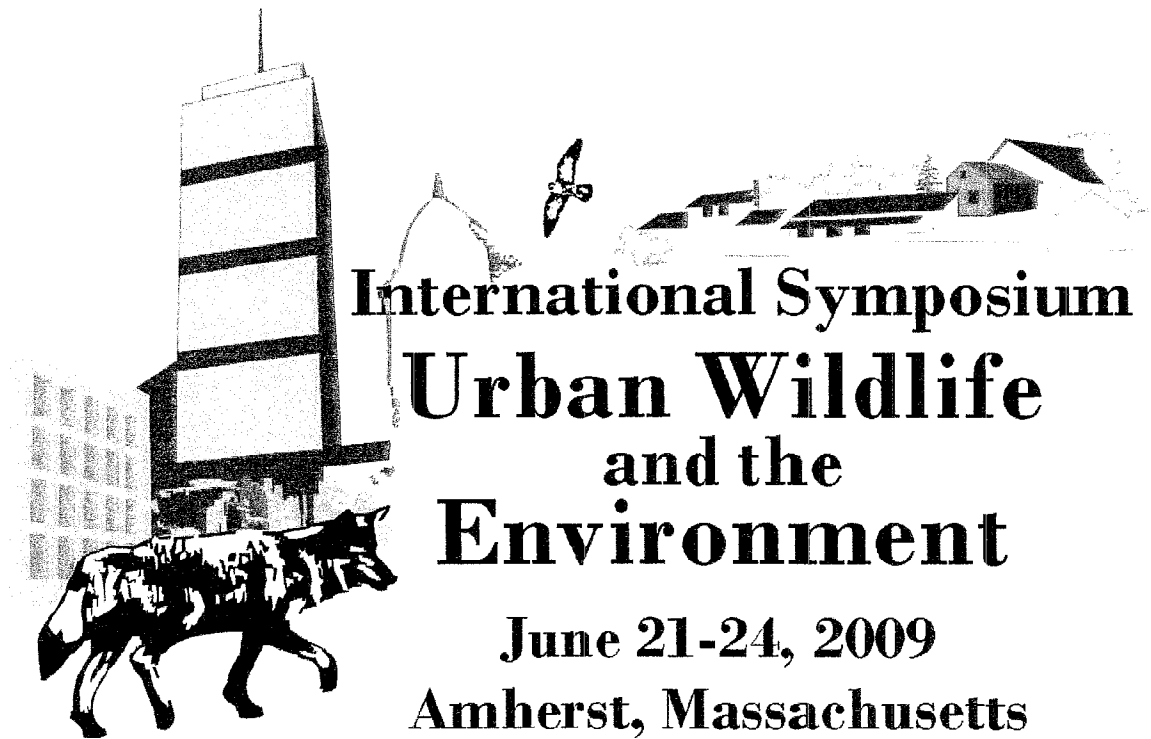




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ballast. Modifications such as cut-outs near the base of median barriers may allow some terrestrial animals to cross roadways and pass through temporary work area barriers. Modified drains and curbing may allow some small animals to exit the roadway rather than falling into road drains. Reinforced preformed channels with ramps securely placed between two ties provide under rail crossings-escape channels for small animals (primarily turtles). These simple modifications are not in general use; however, under specific conditions (primarily the presence of species and suitable habitats on both sides of the ROW or developments adjacent to suitable habitats) their use could be valuable in reducing impacts to wildlife. These and other modifications are recommended and described for potential future use and evaluation.

An international research agenda for urban green space

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As urban populations continue to grow, the requirement for more residential and commercial buildings and transport infrastructure puts increasing pressures on green open space within cities. However, green open spaces are increasingly seen as an integral part of cities because of the ecological and cultural benefits they provide. The needs for development and maintenance of open green space can create tension among departmental personnel in city management, are multi-faceted, and operate at different social and ecological scales. To address this complexity, a multidisciplinary group of 40 academics, practitioners and consultants from across Europe, under the auspices of Urban Nature (an international multidisciplinary community of interests focussing on urban and urban influenced environments), came together to develop a research agenda for green open spaces in cities. Based on the Delphi technique, an iterative process was employed to address this task. This iterative process consisted of email-mediated discussions and a 2-day symposium. One output was an integrated framework for transdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research. This framework identified four research areas (i.e., ecosystem services, drivers of change, pressures on urban green space, and human processes and goals of provision of urban green space) and five emergent research themes in urban green space studies (i.e. physicality, experience, valuation, management, and governance). Further, the framework provides an international research agenda within which detailed, locally relevant research questions can be placed. A key factor, demonstrated by this agenda, is that a traditional approach based on a single discipline is insufficient to address the complexity and interrelationships of issues. Trans-, inter- and multidisciplinary research will be required to address this agenda.

Southeastern coyote activity patterns across an urban to rural gradient

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Recent increases in both human and coyote populations, along with the rising number of human-coyote interactions in the southeastern U.S., have brought the issue of coyote populations in urban areas to the forefront. Studies have shown that coyotes living in rural areas or areas without many humans in the western U.S., tend to be more crepuscular, while urban coyotes adjust their activity schedules to be more active during the night. There is currently no information on spatial and temporal behavior of urban coyotes in the Southeast. As human-coyote interactions increase, there will be a greater need for information on behavioral adaptations of the southeastern coyote so that appropriate management plans may be developed. Studying activity patterns of coyotes in urban areas will be helpful in determining how much the southeastern coyote has adapted to urban areas. If we do find that urban southeastern coyotes are changing their activity patterns to avoid humans, we will know that they are adapting to the area, which has important management implications because it shows behavioral adaptations by landscape. We expect that coyotes in urban areas will be more active during the night to avoid human contact, while coyotes in rural areas will be most active during dawn and dusk. We radio-collared and are tracking 15 coyotes living in