

Urban Habitats

When you think about habitats, you probably think of rainforests, deserts or oceans. Did you know that a city is a habitat, too?

In a city, much of the soil is covered with buildings, roads, sidewalks, and parking lots, leaving less room for plants and animals to live. But cities have wildlife, too. Plants grow in parks, gardens, or even medians in the middle of the street. They are usually planted and cared for by people. Sometimes seeds are carried into the city by birds and other animals. Those seeds take root and grow into wild plants.

The plants and trash people make attract animals.



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Plants grow in cracks in the sidewalk.



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Pigeons find plenty of trash and food scraps in the city.

Smaller animals, such as mice, rats, pigeons, insects, squirrels, and raccoons, all do well in a city habitat. When food is scarce, sometimes larger animals that will eat almost any kind of food come into the cities to eat small wild animals as well as pets. Animals that live in cities are often willing to eat more kinds of food than animals in rural areas.

Plants and animals live in city habitats and thrive just as they do in the country. So, even though when you hear the word city you may not think of the plants and animals that live there, city habitats are alive with all kinds of life.

Do You Know?

Feeding wild animals that live in cities can cause problems. Feeding wild birds brings larger animals such as rats, snakes, and hawks that eat the birds or are attracted to the birdseed. Rats can carry diseases.



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✓ Brain Check

- What makes a city a habitat?
- Name five animals that live in a city.
- Explain why you might find a bear in an urban habitat.