Shannon Pederson

ENST 461 Urban Wildlife Management

This course focuses on ecology and management of wildlife in urban and urbanizing areas. Although many of the same species found in rural habitats can inhabit the urban environment, different management approaches are needed in the complex urban environment with dense human populations and small land units with multiple ownerships. We will investigate the ecology of the urban environment and examine the unique nature of managing wildlife biodiversity in such urban ecosystems, along with human interest and its role in supporting wildlife in their neighborhoods.

The course is geared toward students interested in the human- wildlife relationship in the metropolitan environment and provides a foundation for management in these unique ecosystems. While sustainability concepts have not been a primary component of this course previously, it will be worthwhile to highlight and appreciate them.

To succeed in this course, students will evaluate urban habitats to determine if they are suitable for wildlife or what modifications could be made to make them more suitable. Biodiversity is measured by the different number of species in area, so students will learn to identify many plant and animal species common in urban areas. Biodiversity depends on healthy ecosystems, so students will learn management options to improve ecosystem functions in urban areas. Many renewable energy concepts will be addressed. Urban areas world-wide employing renewable resources will serve as case studies. Walks around campus will highlight additional renewable resources. The course will culminate in a group project where students will design a city utilizing the best management practices they learn during the semester while balancing the needs of urban residents, wildlife habitat needs, socio-economic justice, and future generations in the urban ecosystem.