

## Coyote Survey Summary 2008

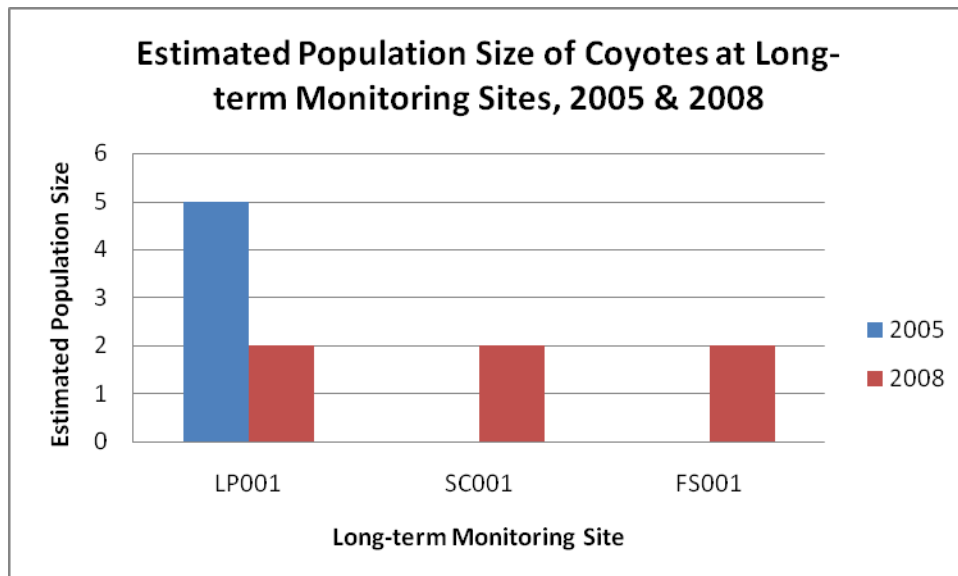
The coyote survey was conducted this year at the long-term monitoring sites in Liberty Park, Firestone Metro Park and Silver Creek Metro Park. Long-term monitoring occurs every three years for hawks, owls and coyote surveys. Long-term monitoring was conducted for the first time in 2005 for coyotes and the 2008 data gives us the opportunity to compare results for the first time.

Surveys began at 22:00 hours. Each site was visited once a week from mid-September through October for a total of six visits. At each site, a coyote greeting howl was played for 30 seconds. Five minutes of silent listening followed. If no coyotes responded to the first call, the call was played for an additional 30 seconds.

Direction, distance and time was recorded for each coyote heard. Basic weather conditions were documented for the evening including temperature, wind speed and direction, cloud cover and precipitation. A Wildlife Technologies © 2007 caller box was used to produce the sounds.

Graph I demonstrates the estimated population size of coyotes found at the long-term monitoring locations during the 2005 and 2008 survey seasons. As you can see, the number of coyotes in Liberty Park declined, while Silver Creek and Firestone recorded coyotes in 2008 for the first time at the long-term sites.

Graph I. Estimated Population Size of Coyotes at Long-term Monitoring Sites in 2005 & 2008.



This population estimate is for the long-term site only and does not necessarily mean that there are, for example, only 2 coyotes residing in Liberty Park. It is simply a way to estimate population size from a fixed location within a park that is surveyed on a regular basis. The long-term monitoring gives us the ability to monitor population trends over time. With this in mind, the data suggests that the coyote population in Liberty Park is in decline, while the populations in Silver Creek and Firestone Metro Parks are on the rise.

The long-term monitoring efforts will continue in 2009 with the hawk surveys. The same sites will be monitored within Liberty, Firestone and Silver Creek Metro Parks. Coyotes will not be surveyed again until 2011. See Table I for a long-term monitoring schedule

Table I. Long-term monitoring schedule

	2009	2010	2011
<b>OWLS</b>	X		
<b>HAWKS</b>		X	
<b>COYOTE</b>			X