

Bobcats Spotted Just North of Darien: Potential Danger to Cats But Not Humans

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A bobcat crossed in front of a jogger at Waveny Park, just north of Darien, on Monday, Nov. 20, and one was spotted there on Nov. 8 as well, according to a New Canaan official, who said that they don't hurt humans.

Nevertheless, Officer Allyson Halm, the head of the New Canaan Police Department's Animal Control unit, suggested Waveny Park visitors bring a hazing tool with them after the two reported bobcat sightings in the park this month.

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The park, just north of the Merritt Parkway, is less than a quarter of a mile away from the Darien border.

In the latest, Nov. 20 sighting, a bobcat crossed in front of a jogger's path at Waveny, according to Halm said. It's a good idea at Waveny to have a hazing tool of some kind, mostly because of coyotes, she said.

“Bobcats are fairly elusive and not really a concern, but I have to assume their breeding season is approaching, so maybe that's why they're on the move. When you are out on the trails by yourself, have some sort of whistle or air horn. I encourage people to have walking sticks, and just make yourself 'loud and

large' to frighten the animal away.”

New Canaan police recently alleged there was a problem with a member of a different species at the park:

- [Police Arrest Man, 20, Accused of Accosting Teen at Waveny Park, Offering To Pay for Sex](#) (Nov. 22)

Other recent New Canaan public safety news with a Darien connection:

- [Three Darien Teens, Two of Them Football Players, Arrested After New Canaan Boy Beaten \[UPDATED\]](#) (Nov. 22)

Although Bobcats pose no real threat to humans, they will prey on domestic cats. According to the [Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection](#), bobcats' prey includes rabbits, woodchucks, squirrels, chipmunks, mice, white-tailed deer—typically young or injured—birds, and, to a much lesser extent, insects and reptiles.

They breed between February and March, and one to four kittens generally are born in a litter in April.

New Canaan two breeding seasons ago — in early 2016 — had a string of bobcat sightings, including on Dogwood Lane ([MAP](#)) on the west side of town.

In 2015, bobcats were [spotted on:](#)

- [Jelliff Mill and Gerdes Roads](#) in February (**Map:** [Jelliff Mill Road](#); **Map:** [Gerdes Road](#)),
- [Wahackme Road](#) in April ([MAP](#))
- [Oenoke Ridge](#) in October ([MAP](#)) and
- [Michigan Road](#) in December ([MAP](#)).

Officials [long had believed](#) that New Canaan had two bobcats: One that travels the Ponus Ridge corridor on the western side of town and another in the area of Gerdes Road (to the east of Waveny Park and also near the Darien border).

In September 2014, a [bobcat kitten was seen on Deep Valley Road](#) ([MAP](#)), and Animal Control officials predicted at the time that the town would see more of them.

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Seldom seen, they're most active after dusk and before dawn, and bobcats make dens from which they may travel up to four miles per day.