



## Wildlife refuge owner ask permission to rescue hibernating Beaver Pond animals

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The owner of a West Carleton wildlife refuge is asking a developer for permission to rescue hibernating animals that have lost their homes because of clear cutting in the Beaver Pond forest development.

Lynn Rowe, the founder of the Constance Creek Wildlife Refuge, said the tree-cutting could displace dozens if not hundreds of animals.

Rowe has sent an e-mail to Urbandale about the issue and is waiting for a response.

"We feel pretty desperate about the situation and the animals and want to feel we can do something at least," said Rowe.

Rowe estimates dozens to hundreds of animals hibernating underneath the ground could be crushed by the tree cutting machinery.

Mary Jarvis, director of planning and land development for Urbandale, said the company won't allow Rowe onto the land.

"We're not granting permission for anyone to get on the site," she said. "It's a construction site."

Jarvis said the developer has finished tree clearing and is moving on to the next stage of the development, performing geo-technical analysis of the land.



**Wildlife refuge owner seeks to rescue hibernating animals.**

### BIRDHOUSES

Ever since the tree clearing in the Beaver Pond forest started last month, Rowe has been building bird houses and make-shift animal dens on publicly-owned land near the development.

Rowe and a group of volunteers have built four birdhouses and six more are in the works; the group hopes to build at least 20 birdhouses over the coming weeks.

Rowe said she has received e-mails and phone calls about injured or dead porcupines found on or near the Beaver Pond development.

Rowe set up shelters for porcupines and other small animals near the development using Rubbermaid boxes with holes cut out of them and filled with straw.

The shelters are anchored to the ground with logs.

## HIBERNATION

Hibernating animals have a slowed metabolism and have no chance of survival if they are woken up during that period, said Anita Utas, a volunteer with the Constance Creek Wildlife Refuge.

Porcupines don't hibernate during the winter but stay close to their den during cold weather.

Several porcupines have climbed up trees during the clear cutting, but when the trees are cut down the animals can fall to their death or be injured, Utas said.

"A lot of the animals who have nowhere to go end up on the tops of the trees and some of them can't find any shelter so they're freezing to death," she said.

Utas said she has received reports of dead deer, porcupines and beavers.

The tree cutting also disturbs animals' food stores, she added.

"We were hoping that Lynn Rowe would be allowed to be sent in and look for animals in distress."

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