

# Town of Belmont, MA

## Public Involvement with Coyote Sightings

*"We strive to educate the public on all animal matters; especially issues involving coyotes. This mapping system gets the residents involved and also provides a great deal of information. This is a very unique and helpful tool."*

- John Maguranis, Belmont Animal Control Officer

### The Need

Coyotes have been spotted in Belmont for a long time and the Animal Control Officer needed a better way for the public to report sightings. The only way they could respond in the past was by using a simple drop down of addresses on the website. More information was needed to help identify the coyote's characteristics and roaming patterns. There also needed to be a more interactive way to inform the public.

### The Solution

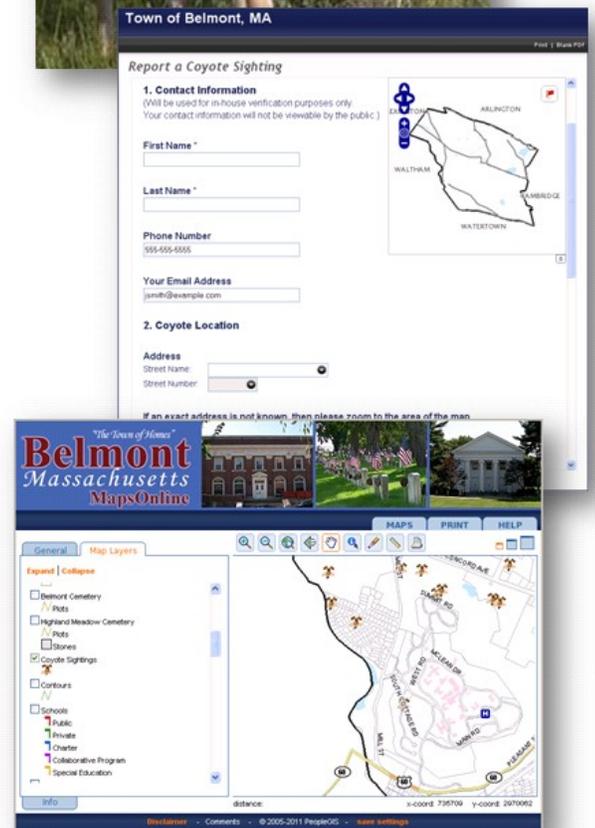
The Town of Belmont created a simple yet comprehensive Coyote Tracking PeopleForm, giving the public access through the town website. The information requested gives the Animal Control Officer a current and complete picture of the sighting. A layer on the MapsOnline site was created so that the location can also be viewed graphically on the public MapsOnline site..

### The Result

Now, as the public spots the coyotes and wishes to report them, they can go to the "Report a Coyote Sighting" PeopleForm through the Town of Belmont's Animal Control Officer web page. There they can enter critical detailed information concerning the location and the characteristics of the coyote. Once the form is submitted, the information updates the MapsOnline layer immediately. The information is immediately sent to the Animal Control Officer via e-mail.

### Benefits

The Animal Control officer in Belmont now has a comprehensive reporting tool with which to inform The Town Manager and other interested departments about coyotes. The needs of the public are also addressed, especially when parents of young children or pet owners are concerned about coyotes in their neighborhoods. In addition, The Animal Control officer, over time, can now create population statistics and coyote movement more effectively and accurately for future responses. This system gets the residents involved and helps to reduce fears and misinformation.



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