



Memorandum

To: Mayor, Town Council
From: Holli George
Date: Mar 1, 2022
Re: Discussion of Town Code 5-5-4 Revision: Trapping Prohibited

5-5-4: - TRAPPING PROHIBITED:

- It shall be a class C misdemeanor, subject to penalty as provided in section 1-4-1 of this Code, for any person to trap, set a trap or engage in trapping in this Town. (1978 Code § 13-374; amd. 2001 Code)

5-5-2: - DEFINITIONS:

- **Trapping:** The use of any mechanical device which entraps, snares or snaps closed on any animal.

As the Parks Lead, I am requesting a revision to this code to allow for rodent or nuisance wildlife to be trapped within the Town Of Springdale.

I have reached out to a professional company for advice in this matter. Critter Control is a wildlife control service in Southern and Central Utah. Typical nuisance wildlife in southern Utah are raccoons, squirrels, rodents, snakes and bats. All of which require trapping to safely remove from homes and off of properties.

Gophers are very detrimental to our park's trees as they like to tunnel to the outer edge and eat the fine roots that feed the trees much needed nutrients. They are a hazard to humans as they create large holes and weaken the ground. They damage our lawns and sprinkler lines with their large tunnels and mounds. Gopher burrows can feature up to 600 feet of tunnels marked by mounds of dirt that ruin the appearance of lawns.

Rodent traps, such as gophers, in public spaces will be planted facing inward deep inside the tunnel. They are not harmful to humans or any animal larger than a rodent. Gopher traps are much like a rat trap built for holes. Traps will need to be checked 2-3 times a week until the area empties of gophers. Each active

mound will have a trap inside. In inactive mounds, the tunnel will then collapse and smooth out.

With the practice of trapping and removal as parks employees it will eliminate the guesswork that we have safely removed all gophers in the area. We will be able to confidently clear our parks and cemetery of this nuisance.

My suggestion is for council to review and discuss the merits of allowing trapping and to consider alternative options, including the possibility of striking the ordinance from the record or adopting a new position, such as the revised policy stated below,:

5-5-4:- Trapping Prohibited with exceptions of nuisance rodents:

- It shall be a class C misdemeanor, subject to penalty as provided in section 1-4-1 of this Code, for any person to trap any animal with the exception of a nuisance rodent, set a trap or engage in trapping of non nuisance animals in this Town of Springdale.

5-5-2:- Definition:

Trapping: The use of any mechanical device which entraps, snares or snaps closed on any non nuisance animal. nuisance wildlife in Springdale are raccoons, squirrels, rodents, snakes and bats.