

Big Backyard

Mammal Tracks Scavenger Hunt



Learn to be a wildlife detective! Wild animals are often secretive and shy, but you can search for clues to prove that they are nearby. Animals leave footprints, or tracks, in the mud just like we do. How many different tracks can you find?

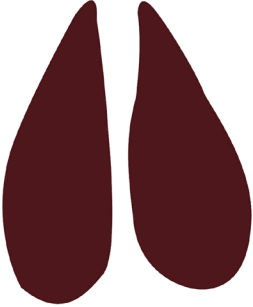





Best Places to Look





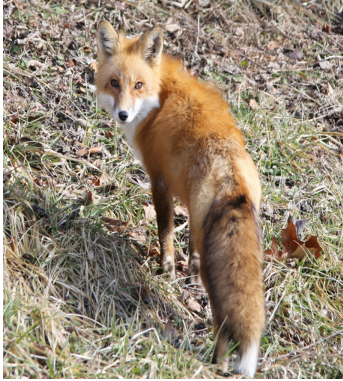




Grant Park: Red, Blue, Brown and Purple Trails

Bill Yeck Park: Red, Blue, Brown, Yellow, Orange and Purple Trails

Hints:

- Go searching after a rainy day.
- Look closely around pond edges and stream banks.
- Don't forget to wear your mud shoes!

Native Wild Mammals			
		White-tailed Deer stomp their hooves to alert other deer of danger. They raise their large white tails to make it easier for other deer to follow while they are running away.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Raccoons have five toes on their front and rear feet, making their tracks look like little human hands. Their forepaws (front feet) are extra sensitive for grabbing and manipulating small objects.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Eastern Cottontails can leap 15 feet using their strong hind legs. This adaptation helps them escape from predators like coyotes, foxes and hawks.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Native Wild Mammals			
		<p>Coyotes belong to the Canid family, which also includes foxes and dogs. Coyote prints are more oval than dog prints. They are longer than they are wide.</p>  <p>Dog Print</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<p>Red Foxes use their front feet to pounce on prey. Extra food is buried in the ground in caches that the fox will dig up when food is scarce.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<p>Virginia Opossums, like other marsupials, have a clawless big toe called a hallux on their front and back feet. The hallux works like a thumb and helps the opossum grab branches when it climbs.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<p>Striped Skunks have long claws on their front feet that are used to dig up insects and worms. Before spraying to defend itself, a skunk may stamp its feet, growl and hiss. A skunk can spray up to 15 feet, and the smell can carry a mile!</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>