

Animal Tracks

Many animals inhabit the **Smith Creek Park Preserve**, but you may never see them because they are only active at night or their instinct is to hide from humans. One way to find out which animals visit the preserve is to look for the tracks they leave behind.

The animals on the following pages have been spotted in or near the preserve. As you walk along the nature trail, look for tracks and see how many you can find.

Record what you see with photos or sketches. Help us keep track of our animal visitors by sharing your photos and findings on our [facebook page](#).

While visiting the preserve, be sure to follow these very important safety rules:

- Remain on the designated trails**
- Be aware of your surroundings**
- Don't disturb any plants or animals**

Black Bear

Ursus americanus

The black bear is usually black with a brown muzzle and sometimes a white patch on its chest. The average length is 5-6 ft and height is 2-3 ft at the shoulder. Adult females weigh 100-300 lbs and males 200-700 lbs.



Front



Hind

Bobcat

Lynx rufus

The bobcat's fur is light brown to reddish brown on its back, and its underside and insides of the legs are white with brown spots or bars.

Adults are about two times the size of a domestic cat and can weigh 10-40 lbs.



1 3/4"



Fox Squirrel

Sciurus niger

The fox squirrel is nearly twice the size of the gray squirrel.

Its fur can be gray, red or black, but most in North

Carolina are gray, sometimes with black patches. They are 20-26 inches long and weigh 1.5-2.5 lbs.



Eastern Gray Squirrel

Sciurus carolinensis

Eastern gray squirrels are the most

common squirrels in North Carolina.

They measure 15-20 inches and weigh a little over a pound.



Red Fox

Vulpes vulpes



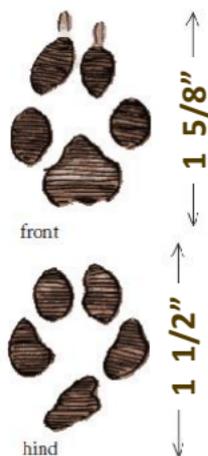
The red fox is named for its reddish orange coloration. Its underside is light and the tips of the ears and lower legs are black. The tail is long, bushy and has a white tip. Adults are the size of a small dog and weigh 7.7-15.4 lbs.

Gray Fox

Urocyon cinereoargenteus

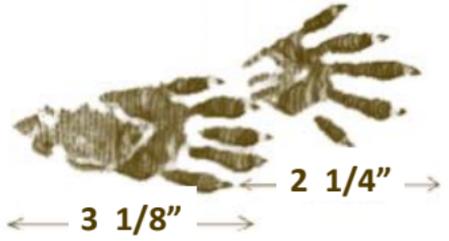
The gray fox is slightly smaller than the red fox and much darker in color. They are typically salt & pepper gray with a dark streak down the back and top of the tail.

The main differences between it and the red fox are its ability to climb trees and the black tip on its tail.



Raccoon

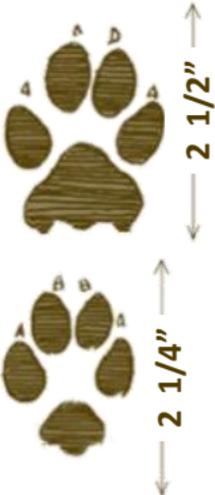
Procyon lotor



The raccoon can be recognized by its grayish brown fur, its black-ringed tail and mask-like black band around its eyes. They are medium-sized



mammals and weigh 8-20 lbs.



Coyote

Canis latrans

The coyote is typically dark gray, but can range from blonde, red and black. Its tail is long, bushy and black-tipped. Adults are about the size of a medium-sized dog and weigh 20-45 lbs.



Virginia Opossum

Didelphis Virginia



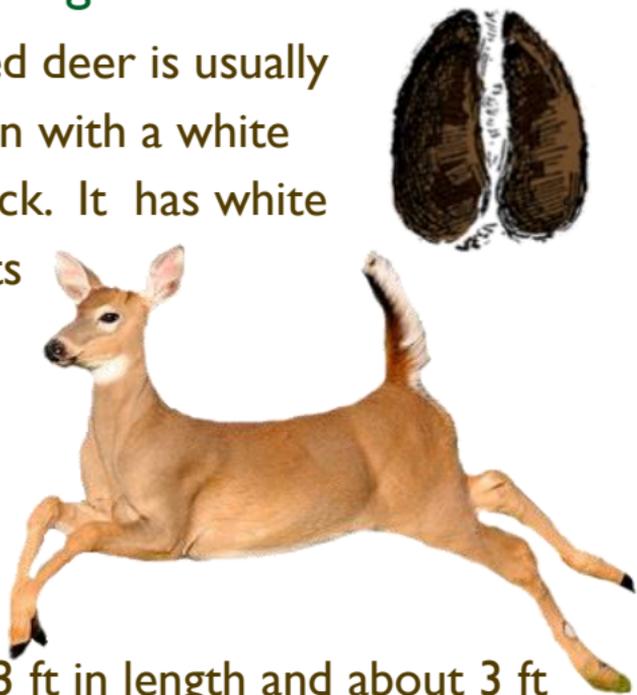
The Virginia opossum is about the size of a house cat with a long, pointed nose, black hairless ears and a nearly hairless tail. Its fur color ranges from light gray to nearly black. The average length is 21-36 inches long and weighs 4-15 lbs.



White-Tailed Deer

Odocoileus virginianus

The white-tailed deer is usually tannish brown with a white patch on its neck. It has white rings around its eyes and muzzle. The average deer weighs 80-200 lbs and is about 3 ft in length and about 3 ft high at the shoulder.



Copperhead Snake

Agkistrodon contortrix

Brown or chesnut hourglass-shaped markings on a brown or pinkish background. Belly is light brown, yellowish or pinkish and may be mottled with gray or black.



Corn Snake

Elaphe guttata

Orange, reddish, gray or brown with large reddish brown blotches and smaller lateral blotches bordered with black. Belly has a black and white checkerboard pattern.



Cottonmouth Snake

Agkistrodon piscivorus

Also known as the water moccasin, its name comes from the white color inside its mouth.

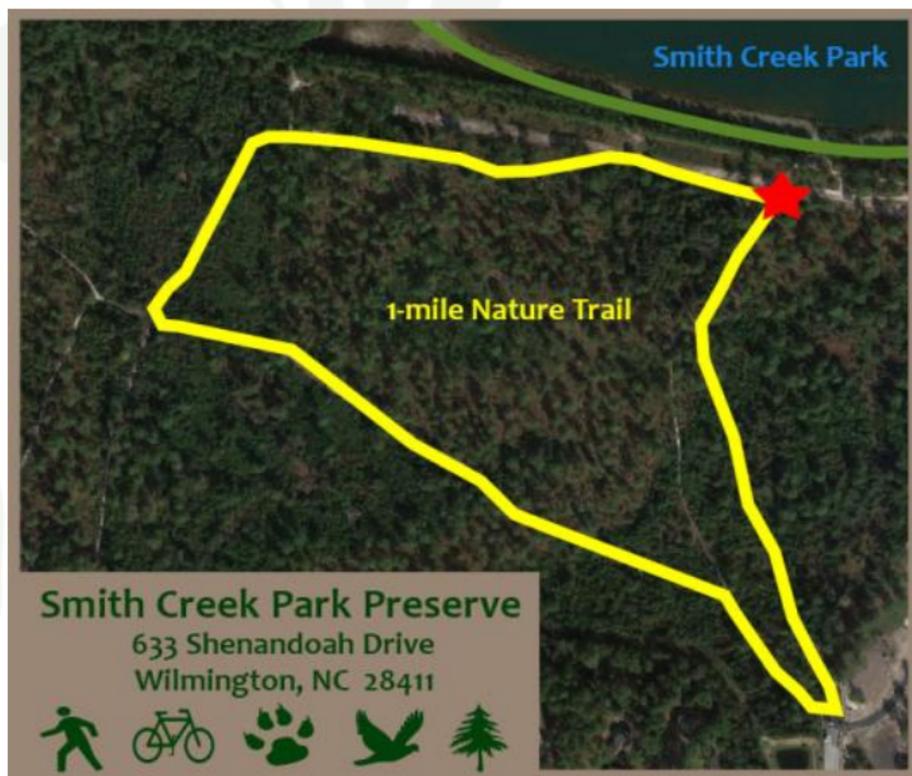


Patterned with dark crossbands with light olive or brown centers.



For additional information on the animals
in this brochure and more, visit:

www.parks.nhcgov.com/smithcreekparkpreserve/



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