

Opossum

(*Didelphis marsupialis*)

Opossums are nocturnal and usually spend their time in trees. They have whitish gray fur, a white long pointed face and a naked pink tail. Their young will sometimes "ride" on the backs of the adults.



Raccoon

(*Procyon lotor*)

The raccoon is easily recognized by its black mask and ringed tail. It will eat almost anything it can find including fish, crayfish, insects, rodents, fruit, nuts, corn, garbage and carrion. Raccoons are nocturnal, which means they sleep during the day and come out at night in search of food.

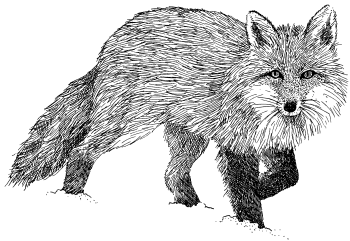


Red Fox

(*Vulpes fulva*)

The red fox is known for its beautiful fur that can range in color from red

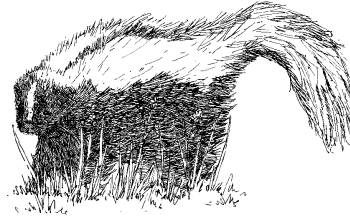
to silver, brown and even black. It lives in open forests, fields and even areas where there are people. Foxes eat a wide variety of food including fruit, berries, worms, insects, eggs and small animals. In the cold weather they can wrap themselves in their fluffy tail to help stay warm.



Striped Skunk

(*Mephitis mephitis*)

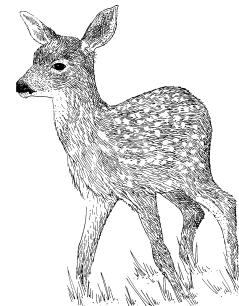
When the striped skunk feels threatened they give a warning before spraying their smelly liquid. Their warnings may include hissing, stamping their feet, arching their back or raising their tail. They can shoot their smelly liquid as far as 16 feet. It takes them about a week to replace the liquid. Young skunks can spray when they are seven weeks old. If left alone, skunks are harmless and help humans by eating many insect and rodent pests.



White-tailed Deer

(*Odocoileus virginianus*)

White-tailed deer have highly developed senses of smell, sight and hearing. When alarmed they try to sneak away quietly. If that does not work they will quickly run away raising their tail up providing a large warning signal to other deer. They are herbivores and feed on a wide variety of plant material such as leaves, stems, shoots and sometimes acorns. It is common for a mother to leave her fawn in the underbrush during the day while she goes out to feed. Don't worry though, she will return to care for her young.



COMMON MAMMALS of SPRUCE RUN RECREATION AREA, VOORHEES & HACKLEBARNEY STATE PARKS



NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Parks & Forestry
State Park Service



This brochure describes some of the common mammals that can be found in Spruce Run Recreation Area, Voorhees & Hacklebarney State Parks. Some, like squirrels, rabbits and groundhogs are seen in the daytime. Others, like opossum, raccoon and fox are nocturnal and are most often seen at night. No matter when they come out, the surrounding fields and forests of Spruce Run Recreation Area, Voorhees & Hacklebarney State Parks provide ideal habitats for these animals.

If you would like to report a sighting or share any photographs you make have taken, email sravspinfo@gmail.com or stop by the Spruce Run Recreation Area Park Office and make note in our Sightings Book.

Please remember to respect the wildlife at all times and observe from a distance for your safety and theirs. For more information call the Spruce Run Recreation Area Park Office at (908) 638-8572.



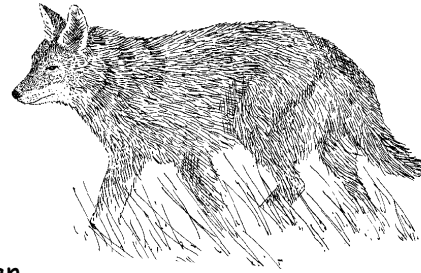
American Black Bear
(*Ursus americanus*)

Black bears are native to New Jersey and are the largest land mammal in the state. They can be found in mixed hardwood forests, dense swamps and forested

Wetlands. They can run up to 35 miles per hour and have short non-retractable claws that make them excellent tree climbers. Black bears eat a wide variety including plants, berries, wild cherries, acorns and beech nuts. They will also eat food and garbage left by people.

Coyote
(*Canis latrans*)

Coyotes are members of the dog family and can resemble a small German shepard, but will have a long snout and bushy black-tipped tail. Keep an eye on the tail as coyotes run with their tail down, dogs run with their tail up and wolves run with their tail straight out. Coyotes do most of their hunting at night and eat rodents, rabbits and birds but will also take advantage of food and garbage left behind. Adults can weigh anywhere from 20–50 pounds.



Eastern Cottontail
(*Sylvilagus floridanus*)

The Eastern cottontail is the most common rabbit in North America. Look for their gray-brown coloring and fluffy white tail. They are usually most active between dusk and dawn and may hide in burrows and brush piles during the day. They eat a variety of plant material, including bark, grass, herbs and twigs. To avoid danger, a rabbit will stay perfectly still, hiding its white tail but if chased, the white tail becomes a warning signal to other rabbits.



Eastern Gray Squirrel
(*Sciurus carolinensis*)



Eastern gray squirrels spend most of their time in the upper branches of trees, using their bushy tails for balance and

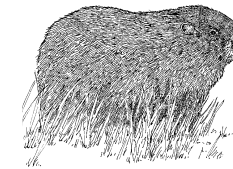
steering. They feeds on nuts, tree buds, fruit, seeds and sometimes on insects, mushrooms, small birds and bird eggs. Gray squirrels stay active all winter, living in tree dens and searching for stored nuts.

Eastern Chipmunk
(*Tamias striatus*)

The Eastern chipmunk is reddish-brown with five black stripes and one white stripe on its back. It can often be seen gathering seeds and nuts and storing them in its cheek pouches. Chipmunks live in underground dens which have many rooms connected by tunnels.



Groundhog (*Marmota monax*)



Groundhogs, or woodchucks are large rodents known for their burrowing. They are

brown with a round body, short bushy tail and short strong legs with curved claws used for digging. They consume approximately 1/3 of their body weight in vegetation each day. They typically emerge from their burrows to gather food in the early morning and early evening. In winter they hibernate in complex underground burrows.