












Ranger's List

Animal Tracks in the Parks

- Cottontail rabbit 
- Fox squirrel 
- Opossum 
- Raccoon 
- Woodchuck 
- White-tailed deer 
- Coyote 
- Skunk 
- Mouse 

Animal Tracks Facts

Look for the following four pattern categories when looking for animal tracks:

- **Zig Zaggers (Perfect Walkers):** These animals walk very carefully to conserve energy. Their rear paws land in the spot where their front paws previously fell, thus leaving a zig-zag pattern. Deer, foxes, coyotes and bobcats are perfect walkers.
- **Hoppers** move by placing their rear feet slightly ahead of their front feet and pushing off so their front feet land first and their back feet land in front. This pattern of leapfrogging is found in rabbits, mice, squirrels and chipmunks.
- **Bounders** place their front feet down, and in one motion they leap forward by lifting up their front feet and putting their rear feet in the exact spot where the front feet previously landed. Their tracks appear as two paws that fall side by side. Otters, weasels and mink are bounders.
- **Waddlers** appear to move one side of their bodies and then the other when they walk. The rear foot does not land in the print of the front foot. Their tracks are comprised of four prints. Raccoons, muskrats, opossums and beavers are waddlers.