

**What tracks can tell us:**

**Leg Size:** the closer the tracks are together, the shorter the leg. A fox has about 10 inches between tracks and the wolf has about 18 inches between tracks.

Animal	Distance between Tracks
Skunk	3"
House Cat	4"
Bobcat	7"
Fox	10"
White-tail	18"
Buffalo	34"

**Speed:** tracks are farther apart when an animal is running.

Animal	Walking	Running
Skunk	3"	12"
Raccoon	6"	15"
Fox	10"	40"
White-tail	18"	40"
Elk	36"	45"

**# of Toes & Shape - Animal Families**

<b>2 Toes &amp; Heart</b>	Goat, Sheep, Pig, Deer or Elk
<b>4 Toes &amp; Oval</b>	Dog, Coyote, Fox
<b>4 Toes &amp; Round</b>	House Cat, Bobcat or Mountain Lion
<b>4 Toes &amp; Oblong</b>	Cottontail or Jackrabbit
<b>4 Toe &amp; Thumb</b>	Opossum
<b>5 Toes &amp; Pointed</b>	Minks, Martens & Fishers
<b>5 Toes &amp; Hand-like</b>	Raccoon

**Two-toed Animal Tracks: Buffalo, Cattle, Deer, Elk, Goats, Pigs and Sheep**

Often the front part of the toe is spread apart when the animal is in soft surfaces such as snow or sand.

In deep snow, sand or thick mud the 2 dew claws (small toes further up the foot) may show as circular marks behind each foot.

**Four-toed Animal Tracks:** All **canines (dog family)** have four toes in an oval print with claws showing.

All **felines (cat family)** have four toes in a circular print with no claws showing.

**Cottontail and Jackrabbit** rear foot tracks are easy to identify. The tracks are very long and narrow.

**Five-toed Animal Tracks:** The Weasel family (**Weasels, Skunks and Otters**) have five toes but the very small fifth toe may not often show.

**Raccoons** have five clear toes on front and rear print.

**Opossum** rear foot tracks show 4 toes and a thumb print.

**Beaver** have large tracks with long "fingers" and webbing.

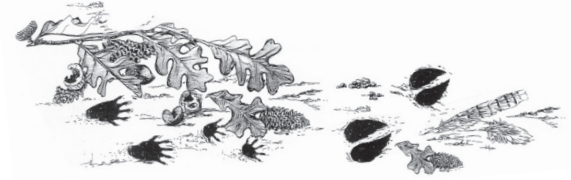
**Porcupine** tracks seldom show the toe pads. A large oval foot pad is all that usually shows.

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# Tracks of Quartz Mountain State Park

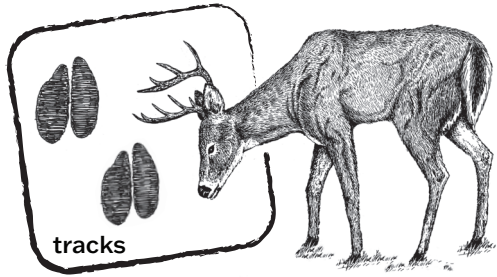


Other than road kill or a quick glimpse as an animal scurries out of sight, most of us don't get to see the animals that live at Quartz Mountain. Some animals are nocturnal (active at night), while others are quite rare. Some animals are camouflaged to hide from predators and others are very stealthy as they hunt their next meal. However, just because we don't see the animal doesn't mean it's not there. Signs of animal life are everywhere: a nibbled leaf here, a pile of scat there, some bent grasses here or a lost feather there. These signs are subtle, obscure and difficult to decipher.

Tracks are the easiest evidence of animal life to interpret. Tracks can be found near the lakeshore or along the edge of a stream. If it has rained recently, you may find tracks around mud puddles. Loose sand doesn't hold tracks long once the wind begins to blow, so check those locations first thing in the morning.

This brochure is just a brief introduction into the interesting field of animal tracks. Visit your local library or go online to learn more about common animals and their tracks where you live.



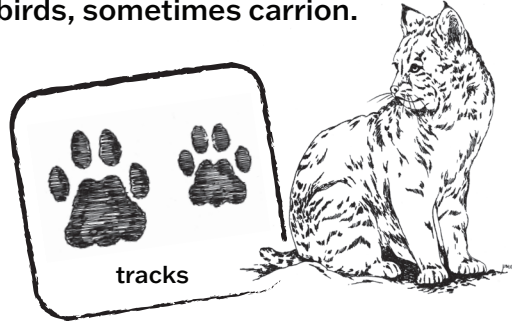


## White-tailed Deer

**Abundant year round - Frequently pass through campgrounds.**  
**Summer:** most likely to be seen at dusk or dawn. **Winter:** can be seen throughout the day. **Herbivore:** eats grass, leaves, and twigs.

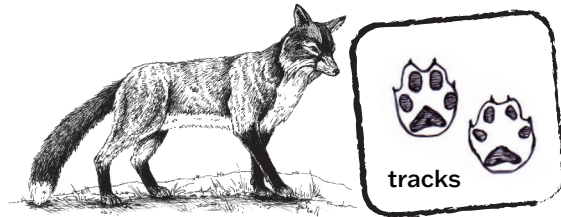
## Bobcat

**Uncommon year round.**  
 Found near the mountain.  
 Chiefly nocturnal.  
**Carnivore:** eats small mammals, birds, sometimes carrion.



## Raccoon

**Abundant year round.**  
 Frequently found in campgrounds.  
 Chiefly nocturnal.  
**Omnivore:** eats fish, amphibians, mice, eggs, insects, grubs, fruit, berries, nuts & vegetation.



## Red Fox

**Uncommon year round.**  
 Chiefly nocturnal.  
**Omnivore:** eats small mammals, birds, insects, eggs, fruits and nuts.

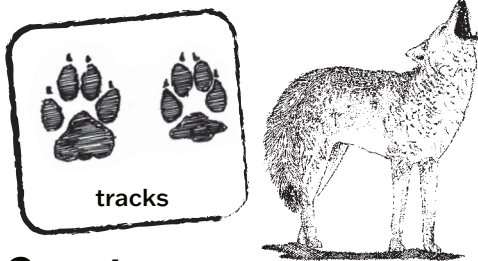
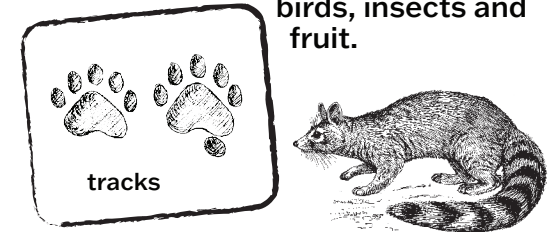
## Cottontail Rabbit

**Abundant year round.**  
 Frequently found in campgrounds.  
 Chiefly nocturnal.  
**Herbivore:** eats grass, clover, leaves and twigs.



## Ringtail

**Uncommon year round.**  
 Found on the mountain. Tracks may be found near lake's edge.  
 Chiefly nocturnal.  
**Omnivore:** eats small animals, bats, birds, insects and fruit.



## Coyote

**Common year round - More likely to be heard than seen.**  
 Chiefly nocturnal.  
**Omnivore:** eats rodents, small mammals, fish, carrion, insects, berries, nuts and vegetation.

## Striped Skunk

**Abundant year round.**  
 Frequently found in campgrounds.  
 Chiefly nocturnal.  
**Omnivore:** eats mice, eggs, insects, grubs, fruit & carrion.



## Opossum

**Abundant year round.**  
 Frequently found in campgrounds.  
 Chiefly nocturnal.

**Omnivore:** eats fruits, vegetation, insects, small mammals, birds, eggs and carrion.

