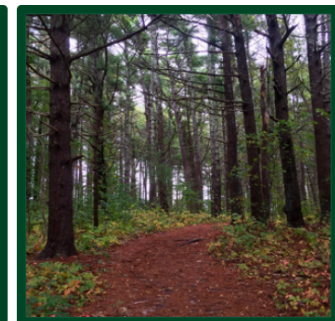




Field Guide to the

# Animal Tracks of Wareham



## Use this key to help identify the tracks you have found!

How many toes can you count on each track?

4 Front, 4 Hind > Are the tracks close to 2.5 inches long and wide?

Yes, they are around 2.5 inches.

> **Coyote!**

No, they are under 2.5 inches.

> **Red Fox!**

4 Front, 5 Hind > Are the tracks over 1 inch wide or long?

Yes, they are bigger.

> **Grey Squirrel!**

No, they are 1 inch or smaller.

> **Eastern Chipmunk!**

5 Front, 5 Hind > Are the tracks over 1 inch wide or long?

Yes, they are bigger.

> **Raccoon!**

No, they are 1 inch or smaller.

> **Eastern Mole!**

Other > What are the dimensions of the tracks?

Front 1.8in. x 3in., Hind 1.5in. x 2.6in

> **White-tailed Deer!**

Front 1in. x 1in., Hind 1in x 3in.

> **Eastern Cottontail Rabbit!**



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# Coyote

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*Canis latrans*

Coyote footprints are oval shaped, and generally measure 2.5 by 2 inches wide. The hind foot is generally slightly smaller than the front.

Domestic dog tracks are often mistaken as coyote footprints. Tracks of domestic dogs are generally rounder, have blunt nails, and are less symmetrical. On coyotes, an X-shape can be drawn in the negative space, whereas on most domestic dogs, the negative space does not form an X-shape.

Additionally, dogs tend to meander whereas coyotes take longer strides, and walk in straighter lines.





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# Red Fox

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*Vulpes vulpes*

Red fox footprints are generally around 2 inches, with front prints measuring slightly larger, around 2.25 inches.

Foxes walk in similar patterns to coyotes, but are smaller so they will have lighter tracks. Foxes, like coyotes, will often place their rear foot directly into the track of their front foot. This is known as 'direct register' or 'perfect walking'.





# Grey Squirrel

*Sciurus griseus*

In eastern gray squirrels, the front foot is approximately 1 1/4" to 1 3/4" long (but will appear shorter if the hind pad did not imprint), while the rear foot is approximately 2 to 2 1/2" long.

When squirrels are bounding, the front feet will actually be behind the imprints left by the hind feet, and each set of tracks can be spaced two to three feet apart. It is also worth noting the relatively symmetrical front foot placement in squirrel tracks; this can help differentiate them from the tracks of rabbits in less clear examples.





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# Eastern Chipmunk

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*Tamias Striatus*

Eastern chipmunks have 4 front and 5 back toes. They have claws, but the claws don't always show up on their tracks. Their front feet are roughly 1/2 inch wide and long, but can be a bit larger. Their back feet will usually be just a little bit longer.

The eastern chipmunk lives in deciduous wooded areas and urban parks throughout the eastern United States and southern Canada. It prefers locations with rocky areas, brush or log piles, and shrubs to provide cover.





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# Raccoon

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*Procyon lotor*

Claws are normally visible on raccoon tracks. Their front feet are between 1 and 2.5 inches in width and length, but their back feet are a bit longer (up to 4 inches long).

Raccoons typically walk by grouping their right and left paws together, so when you see the tracks you will find a long string of groups of two tracks at a time. Raccoons can be found in the woods but they also like to hang out near people and their trash.



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# Eastern Mole

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*Scalopus aquaticus*

Mole footprints are rarely seen. Moles have five toes on the front feet and five toes on the back feet. They have large claws that help them dig. Their tracks are most likely less than 1 inch all around, but their claws may make the track look longer at times.

What you will find more often than a track is a long trail of ground that has been pushed up a bit where moles have dug below it. These trails are a reliable way to track and identify moles.







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# White-tailed Deer

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## *Odocoileus virginianus*

White-tailed deer are probably the only hoofed animal tracks you will see in Wareham. Other places in Massachusetts, however, you may see Moose as well. Moose tracks resemble a deer's but are much larger.

Deer tracks are made up of two crescents side by side, which usually make a sort of heart shape because they are rounded on the back end and more pointed on the front. Each half of the track looks a bit like a tear-drop.

Their front hooves are about 1.8 inches wide and 3 inches long. Their back hooves are about 1.5 inches wide and 2.6 inches long, making them slightly smaller than the front tracks.

Deer actually have 4 toes on both their front and back feet. If they are running fast through soft mud or snow, you will see the two toes forming a heart shape with two more small toes behind that. An interesting fact about deer tracks is that expert trackers can tell if the deer is a male or a female based on how far apart their hind tracks are.



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# Eastern Cottontail Rabbit

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*Sylvilagus floridanus*

The toes of cottontails are hard to distinguish. You might see claw marks in the footprint, but counting the toes would be nearly impossible. Their front feet are about 1 inch wide and just a little bit longer (1 inch). Their back feet are about 1 inch wide, and significantly longer (3 inches).

Usually you will find that the back feet will be in front of the front feet in their tracks. This is because rabbits cross their back feet in front of the front feet when they hop. The back footprints will almost always be spread wider apart than the front feet.



For more field guides, visit [www.warehamlandtrust.org/resources](http://www.warehamlandtrust.org/resources),

Thank you to [www.MassAudubon.com](http://www.MassAudubon.com) for the photographs of these Wareham mammals.

To learn more about other tracks you may find in the woods, we recommend visiting

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/identify-animal-tracks/download>.