

OTTAWA-CARLETON  
WILDLIFE CENTRE

# WILDLIFE GUIDE

Highlighting a few of the amazing  
wildlife species and interesting habitats  
that you might encounter while  
exploring the surrounding area.



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We are fortunate to share our local areas with an abundance of wildlife. Below are just some of the species that you might encounter while exploring the surrounding areas.



## **GROUNDHOG**

Groundhogs, also called woodchucks, can be found foraging for clover and dandelion. While the brownish coat is quite common, many colour variations exist. In fact, groundhogs with black fur have been seen on campus. When alarmed groundhogs emit a warning whistle



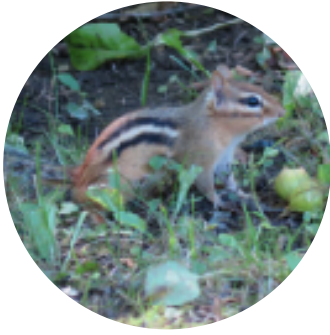
## **EASTERN GREY SQUIRREL**

Eastern Grey Squirrels aren't all grey. In fact, they can be black, brownish, or grey in colour. The black squirrels you see in parks are just a different colour morph of the Grey Squirrel. They have large, bushy tails, and build nests, called dreys, in tree branches.



## **RED SQUIRREL**

While small, Red Squirrels have big personalities. They can be heard chattering loudly or found chasing larger animals away from food. Their diet includes tree bark, buds, nuts, seeds, and occasionally even birds' eggs.



## EASTERN CHIPMUNK

Eastern Chipmunks have five distinct black stripes down their backs. They spend much time collecting and storing food. During the winter, they remain dormant in their underground burrows, waking occasionally to eat.

## SKUNK

Skunks have a spectacular defense mechanism, which is actually a chemical they produce to defend themselves and mark their territory. When threatened, they will raise and fluff their tails, stamp their front feet and show their backside to deter predators. They spray only as a last resort. They are sometimes referred to as a gardener's best friend for the important work that they do in controlling grub, insect, and mice populations. As omnivores they also eat berries, nuts, worms, and garbage.



*To prevent your dog from getting sprayed, warn skunks by making noise and turning on the light before letting your dog outside.*



## RACCOON

Raccoons have adapted marvellously to urban environments. They are opportunistic omnivores, meaning that they will eat anything accessible to them, including: berries, nuts, insects, bird eggs, reptiles, small mammals, and garbage. They have incredible manual dexterity and have thousands of nerve endings in their fingers.



## RED FOX

Red Fox are very clever animals that have adapted to a variety of habitats from forests to grasslands and even human environments. They feast on small rodents, and birds, but also eat fruits and frogs. Red Foxes mate in the winter and give birth between late March and May to an average of five pups.



## WHITE-TAILED DEER

White-tailed Deer are most active at dawn and dusk. Their stomach has four compartments that allow them to digest a range of foods including, leaves, twigs, grasses, fruits, and fungi. Do not be alarmed if you find a fawn all by itself; the mother will stash the babies in tall grass for hours at a time.



## BEAVER

Beavers are nature's engineers and are the largest rodent in North America. They are a keystone species because so many other animals depend on the habitats that they create. Look closely at a beaver pond, and you will see that it is also home to turtles, frogs, and birds. These ponds also play an important role in filtering water, recharging ground water, and serving as a reservoir to slow down flooding.

When beavers feel threatened, they slap their tails loudly on the surface of the water. They often leave chiseled teeth marks in the stumps of poplar and birch trees

## **PILEATED WOODPECKER**

Pileated Woodpeckers are large birds, close to the size of a crow. They can be seen in forests where there are large standing dead trees. They drill big holes in the trees in search of carpenter ants and other insects. These holes then become good habitat for animals such as owls and bats.



## **BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE**

Black-capped Chickadees are resilient little birds. They are named after their distinctive call. Chickadees can be spotted year-round. To survive in freezing temperatures, they drop their body temperature about eight degrees each night to save energy. During the winter, they fluff up their feathers in order to trap air and better insulate themselves.

For more information about the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre and their educational programs, please visit:

[www.wildlifeinfo.ca](http://www.wildlifeinfo.ca)

# Trail Map



Photo Credits:  
Beaver: Worth A Dam  
Grey Squirrel: Brett Foster  
Red Fox: Sally Hansen  
Striped Skunk: Greg theBusker