

WHEELER NATURE PARK



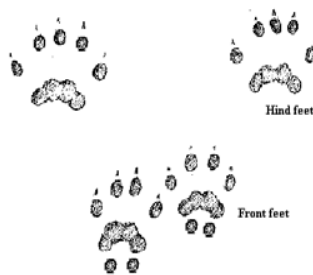
South Burlington, VT

WHEELER NATURE PARK Children's Educational Guide



A) F a l l e n trees might seem dead but really they are alive with activity. Dead logs are crawling with in-

sects inside them and underneath them. Occasionally, if the log is hollow, it can even be home to a chipmunk. Not only do animals live in fallen trees but so do plants, like mushrooms and moss. Once the tree is decomposed, it is a great spot for another tree to grow.



B) This is the track of a squirrel. Squirrels like to hide in trees and chatter a people as they walk by.

If you come by in the fall you will be able to see one gathering nuts for the long winter. See if you can find one of these tracks and there just might be a squirrel in the next one.



C) You will find quite a few of these trees in the park. It also happens to the state tree it is the maple tree.

Many people tap these trees for their sap. Then they boil it to make the maple syrup Vermont is famous for. For each gallon of maple syrup that is produced, you need to boil forty gallons of sap. That is a lot of trees to tap.



D) Buckthorn is the most common invasive species in the park. An invasive species is a type of plant not

native to the area, that grows so much that it crowds out other plants that are native. This is bad because those native plants may be necessary to the environment around it.



E) Cattail marshes are home to many different types of animals. Such as the great blue heron, ducks, and the snowy egret.

They are also important breeding areas for frogs and salamanders.