

I, Spy...ANIMAL SIGNS!

Can you find any of these animal prints, scat, or body features that are often found at Bluff Lake?



Put a checkmark in the box when you spot one!

Coyote Footprint



- Coyote Tracks are typically 2 ½ inches long.
- The hind print of a coyote is smaller than the front print.
- Canine species (coyotes) show claw marks. Cat species don't because their claws can retract.
- If the ground is too hard, coyote tracks do not show claw marks.

Rabbit Scat



- Rabbit scat is usually less than 1cm. It is left in clusters and is ball-shaped.
- The coloring of the scat ranges from light brown to black and sometimes even green.
- Newer scat is a darker color and older scat is lighter in color.

Mallard Duck Feather



- Both male and female mallards have patches of white and blue on their wings.
- The wingspan of a mallard can be up to 98cm!
- Male mallards have a bright green head. Female mallards have a brown-tan head.

Shedded Bull snake Skin



- Bull snakes range between 4-6 feet long. The longest recorded bull snake was 8 feet & 2 inches!
- Bull snakes shed when they outgrow their skin. This happens 3-6 times per year.
- Bull snakes are yellow with patches of tan, black, and red.

Prairie Dog Tracks



- Prairie dog tracks are usually not much larger than a quarter.
- Their tracks have claw marks at the end of each toe. The hind print often shows all 5, but the front usually only shows 4.
- Prairie dogs can run over 35 mph!

Deer Scat



- Deer scat is typically small and round with a brown to black color. It is often bigger, more of an oval shape, and in a larger pile than rabbit scat.
- Hard pellets mean a deer was eating twigs and bushes. Soft pellets show a diet of clover, alfalfa, crops, and grasses.

Spider Web



- Spider silk starts as a liquid protein in their head and turns solid when it leaves the body.
- Spiders use webs to hunt, as shelter, to protect them as they walk, and to create egg sacs.
- The largest spider web recorded was by a Darwin's bark spider and it was 82 feet wide!

Cicada Exoskeleton



- Cicada's lifespan ranges from 4-17 years. They spend most of their lives underground. Only about 2-6 weeks of their lives in adulthood are spent above ground!
- When the cicada emerges from the ground, they begin to shed their exoskeletons. After this, their wings inflate and they are ready for their short adulthood!

Prairie Dog Burrow



- Prairie dogs live in their underground burrows that are connected by tunnels!
- The burrows have specific areas for sleeping, going to the bathroom, and birthing.
- Prairie dogs often build and rebuild their burrows.
- Prairie dog burrows are shared by individual families.

Gnawed Beaver Tree



- The front teeth on a beaver never stop growing! By gnawing on wood, it makes sure the beavers teeth never get too long.
- Beavers use mature trees for building dams and young trees for food.
- Beavers can live up to 24 years old!

Deer Tracks



- Deer tracks look similar to the shape of human lungs.
- Deer tracks help you tell the size of the deer. Fawn tracks average 3 inches, while buck tracks average 6 inches.
- When a deer is running, their tracks appear larger due to the sliding of the hoof.

Squirrel Tracks



- Squirrel tracks average about 0.5 in- 1.5 in.
- Squirrels track marks show up best in snow or mud. On firm surfaces, squirrels often do not weigh enough to make a track.
- Squirrels hind legs are double-jointed which is how they run up and down trees quickly!

