


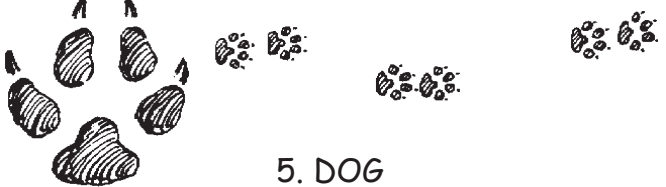


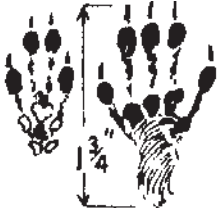






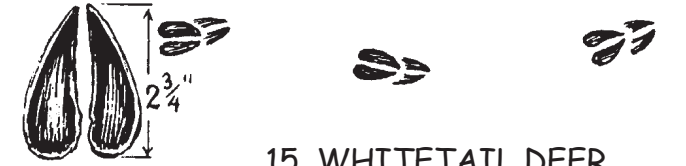

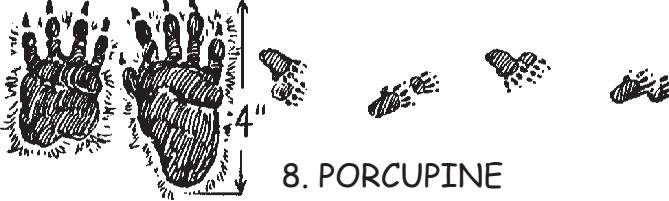
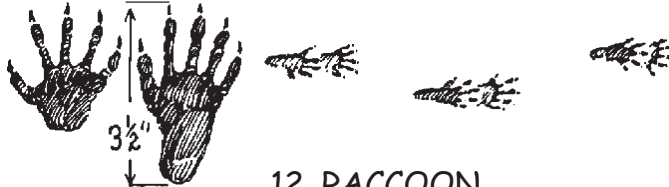
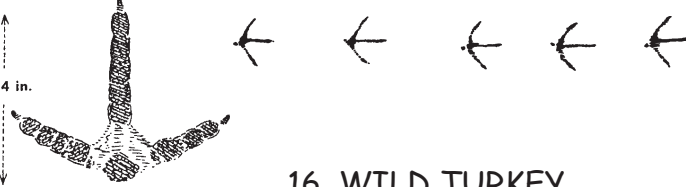


GREATER PORTLAND ANIMAL TRACKS



Presumpscot
Regional
Land Trust

(Direction of travel of all tracks is to the right)

 <p>1. GRAY SQUIRREL</p>	 <p>5. DOG</p>	 <p>9. BEAVER</p>	 <p>13. OTTER</p>
 <p>2. RED SQUIRREL</p>	 <p>6. COYOTE</p>	 <p>10. COTTONTAIL RABBIT</p>	 <p>14. SKUNK</p>
 <p>3. HOUSE CAT</p>	 <p>7. BOBCAT</p>	 <p>11. SNOWSHOE RABBIT</p>	 <p>15. WHITETAIL DEER</p>
 <p>4. RED FOX</p>	 <p>8. PORCUPINE</p>	 <p>12. RACCOON</p>	 <p>16. WILD TURKEY</p>

This does not include all animal tracks you may encounter but is a sampling of common and interesting tracks from animals that live in Greater Portland. Greater Portland Animal Tracks is prepared and compiled by the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust. Thank you to the State of Maine Fish and Wildlife Service for information and graphics. Learn more, get involved, and support the Land Trust at WWW.PRLT.ORG

Tracks can tell a story about where the animal traveled from and where it is now going, and they give us clues about where the animal makes its home. The ability to interpret animal tracks and traces takes practice. Here are some tips to help you hone your powers of observation and instincts as a nature detective.

Hints to identifying a track:

- ✓ Does the track show claws?
- ✓ How many digits?
- ✓ What is the overall shape of the track?
- ✓ Measure the **Stride**: distance from heel of one foot to heel of the other foot.



- ✓ Measure the **Straddle**: the width of the track pattern between left and right heels



- ✓ What is the **Direction** of the track
- ✓ Type of substrate (soil, mud, sand, snow) in which the track was made
- ✓ Identify the **Habitat** in which the track was observed

- ✓ If you **photograph** the track, put an object of a known size or length next to the track (a pocket knife, pen, quarter, pack of gum) to give reference to the track in the photograph.

Then, if you can identify the gait by the appearance of the trail, i.e., trotting, bounding, galloping, etc., you are already on your way to identifying the maker!

- Canines, felines, and members of the deer family generally walk or trot. The trail looks like an almost perfectly straight line of prints, because the animal places its hind foot into the print just made by the front foot. The tracks should look like this:



Members of the weasel family generally bound, a gait in which they place both forefeet together on the ground, then swing their hind feet into nearly the same prints. The trail made by a weasel would look like this:



- The gallop is typical of most rabbits, hares, squirrels, and mice. These animals touch down with their front feet and then follow through with their hind legs landing in front of the forefeet. The action looks like that of "leapfrog", and the trail would look like this:



- Wide-bodied, heavy animals such as bear, raccoon, skunk, muskrat, beaver, opossum, and porcupine tend to lumber or waddle by placing each foot in its own distinctive spot. Their tracks would look like this:

