

Questions & Answers

Q: Where is the best place to find footprints?

A: Footprints are easiest to see in the mud, soft trail surfaces, wet sand or snow.

Hint: You can almost always find footprints on the banks of the river.

Q: Will I find any tiger footprints?

A: The footprints listed are animals that can be found in or around the park so you will not see any tiger footprints here.

Q: Is there an app for helping identify footprints?

A: Of course! iTrack, iNaturalist and NatureLynx can help you identify tracks and are all available iOS and Android.

Q: Are the paw prints in this brochure the correct size?

A: No, the paw prints listed are not to scale.



Activity:

What does your “pawprint” look like? Find a good place to see your prints, like the mud beside the river. Press your hand down in the mud. Slip your shoe off and take a step beside your hand print. How many toes do you have? Can you see them all in the mud? Does your front and back “paw” look the same like a raccoon or do they look different like the opossum?



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Seven Bends State Park
2111 S. Hollingsworth Road
Woodstock, VA 22664
Phone (800) 933-7275

Virginia State Parks

Seven Bends State Park

Paw Prints In the Park

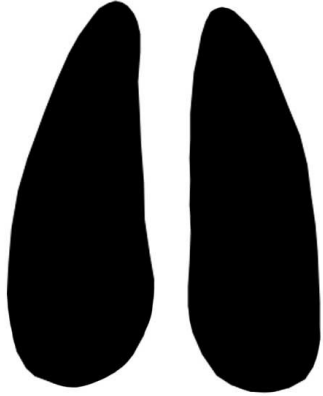


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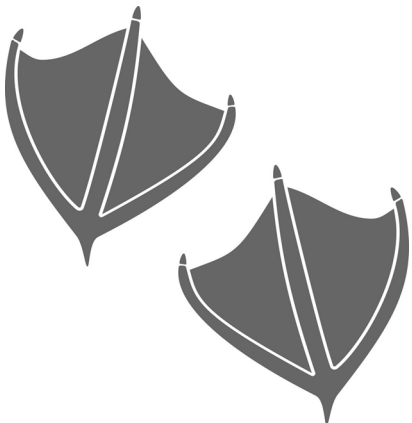
Two toes

The only animal with two toes that lives around the park is the white tailed deer.



Three toes

An animal that has three toes is usually a water bird, like a duck or goose. Sometimes if you look close enough, you can see the line for the webbing between the toes.



Four toes

We have many animals in the park that have four toes. These animals would be canines and felines. Canines in the park would include coyotes, foxes and even domesticated dogs. Felines would be either a bobcat or a house cat.



Coyote

Fox

Dog

The biggest difference between the prints of a house cat and a bobcat is their size. A house cat's paw is about an inch across, while the bobcat paw can be 2.5 inches across!



Cats

Five toes

Like us, many animals have five toes. These animals tend to be dexterous, meaning good with their hands. They know that paws aren't just something you use for travel.



Raccoon



Mink



Opossum



Striped Skunk



River Otter



Beaver



Bear