

# CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES SNOWFLAKE SEARCH

Winter is a great time to look for **animal tracks** in either the snow or mud. For many animals, it's possible to identify the species based on the shape and/or pattern of their tracks.

For example, squirrels and rabbits run in a gallop, with their back feet landing first. Opossums have a recognizable thumb on their hind feet, foxes walk in a trot with their hind foot landing inside the front footprint, and deer tracks point like an arrow in the direction it was walking.

While you may not see these animals when you're visiting the preserves, you can always look for their tracks!

**White-tailed Deer  
Footprints**

**Opossum Footprints**

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