



Mammals at Windy Acres



~Overview~

Windy Acres is home to many different species of mammals. Some, such as the White-tailed deer are well know to us, others are not. The five different biomes, woodlands, fields, wetlands , boundary and settlement areas offer an exceptional mix of habitats to support a wide variety of wildlife.

There are many common mammals; bats , rats, mice, moles and voles, that the visitor to Windy Acres will probably never see. They live in the underbrush at the edges of the fields, in fallen logs in the forested areas, in shrub trees in the overgrown fields and high in the tree tops of the tallest trees. All of the different species living together at Windy Acres creates an ecosystem, that supports them all. Some are predators, some are prey, each filling an ecological niche that has existed and changed over thousands of years. Windy Acres is place for nature, where humans are only guests.

The following descriptions and pictures show some common mammals that you may see as you walk the trails. A complete list along with links to more extensive information is also included.



White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) White-tailed deer have highly developed senses of smell, sight and hearing. When alarmed they try to sneak away quietly. If that does not work they will quickly run away raising their tail up providing a large warning signal to other deer. They are herbivores and feed on a wide variety of plant material such as leaves, stems, shoots and sometimes acorns. It is common for a mother to leave her fawn in the underbrush during the day while she goes out to feed. Don't worry though, she will return to care for her young. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White-tailed_Deer



Opossum (*Didelphis marsupialis*) Opossums are nocturnal and usually spend their time in trees. They have whitish gray fur, a white long pointed face and a naked pink tail. Their young will sometimes “ride” on the backs of the adults. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opossum>



Eastern Gray Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) Eastern gray squirrels spend most of their time in the upper branches of trees, using their bushy tails for balance and steering. They feed on nuts, tree buds, fruit, seeds and sometimes on insects, mushrooms, small birds and bird eggs. Gray squirrels stay active all winter, living in tree dens and searching for stored nuts. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_gray_squirrel



Eastern Chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*) The Eastern chipmunk is reddish-brown with five black stripes and one white stripe on its back. It can often be seen gathering seeds and nuts and storing them in its cheek pouches. Chipmunks live in underground dens which have many rooms connected by tunnels. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_chipmunk



Groundhog (Marmota monax) Groundhogs, or woodchucks are large rodents known for their burrowing. They are brown with a round body, short bushy tail and short strong legs with curved claws used for digging. They consume approximately 1/3 of their body weight in vegetation each day. They typically emerge from their burrows to gather food in the early morning and early evening. In winter they hibernate in complex underground burrows.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groundhog>



Eastern Cottontail (Sylvilagus floridanus) The Eastern cottontail is the most common rabbit in North America. Look for their gray-brown coloring and fluffy white tail. They are usually most active between dusk and dawn and may hide in burrows and brush piles during the day. They eat a variety of plant material, including bark, grass, herbs and twigs. To avoid danger, a rabbit will stay perfectly still, hiding its white tail but if chased, the white tail becomes a warning signal to other rabbits.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Cottontail



Red Fox (*Vulpes fulva*) The red fox is known for its beautiful fur that can range in color from red to silver, brown and even black. It lives in open forests, fields and even areas where there are people. Foxes eat a wide variety of food including fruit, berries, worms, insects, eggs and small animals. In the cold weather they can wrap themselves in their fluffy tail to help stay warm. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Fox



Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) The raccoon is easily recognized by its black mask and ringed tail. It will eat almost anything it can find including fish, crayfish, insects, rodents, fruit, nuts, corn, garbage and carrion. Raccoons are nocturnal, which means they sleep during the day and come out at night in search of food. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raccoon>



Striped Skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*) When the striped skunk feels threatened they give a warning before spraying their smelly liquid. Their warnings may include hissing, stamping their feet, arching their back or raising their tail. They can shoot their smelly liquid as far as 16 feet. It takes them about a week to replace the liquid. Young skunks can spray when they are seven weeks old. If left alone, skunks are harmless and help humans by eating many insect and rodent pests.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Striped_Skunk



American Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*) Black bears are native to New Jersey and are the largest land mammal in the state. They can be found in mixed hardwood forests, dense swamps and forested Wetlands. They can run up to 35 miles per hour and have short non-retractable claws that make them excellent tree climbers. Black bears eat a wide variety including plants, berries, wild cherries, acorns and beech nuts. They will also eat food and garbage left by people.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Bear



Coyote (*Canis latrans*) Coyotes are members of the dog family and can resemble a small German shepherd, but will have a long snout and bushy black-tipped tail. Keep an eye on the tail as coyotes run with their tail down, dogs run with their tail up and wolves run with their tail straight out. Coyotes do most of their hunting at night and eat rodents, rabbits and birds but will also take advantage of food and garbage left behind. Adults can weigh anywhere from 20—50 pounds.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_coyote



The following is complete list of mammals found in Hunterdon County. Many, if not all, of these species are also found at Windy Acres.



COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	STATUS	Link for additional information
Masked Shrew	<i>Sorex cinereus</i>	S	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cinereus_shrew
Smoky Shrew	<i>Sorex fumeus</i>	U	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/smoky_shrew
Short-tailed Shrew	<i>Blarina brevicauda</i>	S	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/short-tailed_shrew
Least Shrew	<i>Cryptotis parva</i>	U	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_American_least_shrew
Pygmy Shrew	<i>Sorex hoyii</i>	U	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_pygmy_shrew
Hairy-tailed Mole	<i>Parascalops breweri</i>	U	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hairy_tailed_mole
Eastern Mole	<i>Scalopus aquaticus</i>	S	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_mole
Star-nosed Mole	<i>Condylura cristata</i>	U	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star-nosed_mole
Little Brown Bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	S	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_brown_bat
Indiana Bat	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	E	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indiana_bat
Northern Long Eared Bat	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	U/T	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Myotis_septentrionalis
Silver-haired Bat	<i>Lasiorycteris noctivagans</i>	U	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silver-haired_bat
Big Brown Bat	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	S	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_brown_bat
Red Bat	<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>	S	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_bat
Northern yellow bat	<i>Lasiurus intermedius</i>	P	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_yellow_bat
Hoary Bat	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	U	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hoary_bat
Eastern Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	S	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Cottontail
Eastern Chipmunk	<i>Tamias striatus</i>	S	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_chipmunk
Woodchuck	<i>Marmota monax</i>	S	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groundhog
Red Squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>	S	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_red_squirrel
Southern Flying Squirrel	<i>Glaucomys volans</i>	U	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_flying_squirrel
Northern Flying Squirrel	<i>Glaucomys sabrinus</i>	U	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_flying_squirrel
Marsh Rice Rat	<i>Oryzomys palustris</i>	S	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marsh_rice_rat
White-footed Mouse	<i>Peromyscus leucopus</i>	S	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White-footed_mouse
Eastern Wood Rat	<i>Neotoma floridana</i>	E	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_woodrat
Red-backed Mouse	<i>Clethrionomys gapperi</i>	S	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red-backed_mouse





Meadow Vole	<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>	S	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meadow_vole
Pine Vole	<i>Microtus pinetorum</i>	S	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pine_vole
Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	S	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muskrat
Southern Bog Lemming	<i>Synaptomys cooperi</i>	U	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_bog_lemming
Black Rat	<i>Rattus rattus</i>	I	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_rat
Brown Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	I	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brown_rat
Woodland Jumping Mouse	<i>Napaeozapus insignis</i>	U	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woodland_jumping_mouse
Meadow Jumping Mouse	<i>Zapus hudsonius</i>	U	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meadow_jumping_mouse
Porcupine	<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>	INC	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Porcupine
Gray Fox	<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>	S	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gray_Fox
Ermine	<i>Mustela erminea</i>	U	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ermine
Long-tailed Weasel	<i>Mustela frenata</i>	S	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long-tailed_Weasel
Mink	<i>Mustela vison</i>	S	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mink
River Otter	<i>Lutra canadensis</i>	S	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_American_River_Otter
Bobcat	<i>Felis rufus</i>	E	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bobcat
E - Endangered	S - Stable		
T - Threatened	U - Undertermined		
D - Decreasing	I - Introduced		
INC - Increasing	P - Peripheral		



Source: New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection