

Other Traces for You to Find

No animal can pass through an area without leaving traces. The more time you spend in nature, the more aware you will become of that evidence. As you walk down the trail, look for other types of tracks and traces animals leave behind.



Bird Nest

Different bird species build unique nests. Some roost in the cavities of trees, some live in bushes and others build intricate nests. If you were a bird, where would you build your nest, in the hollow of a tree trunk like a woodpecker or in the canopy of a tall tree like the red-tailed hawk?

The large oblong holes in this tree were created by pileated woodpeckers in search of carpenter ants and bark beetles. Other types of woodpeckers make different sized and shaped holes. How many trees can you find with traces left on them by woodpeckers?



Woodpecker Holes



Eaten Nut

The contents of scat piles are not the only clues we have of what animals like to eat. Many animals leave traces of their food choices for us to find. Squirrels and chipmunks leave fragmented nuts and pine cones, while bears flatten thickets of berry bushes in search of the best berries. Can you find something an animal has eaten?

Finding a snake track is difficult, but occasionally we find other traces of their presence. A snake's shed is a great find. Snakes shed their old skin as they grow larger. As a snake grows, it forms a new skin under the old one. When the new skin is ready, the snake slithers out of its old skin, leaving the shed behind.



Snake Shed

How many different kinds of tracks and traces did you find on your adventure today?



TRACK and **KIP**
want You to become a
Trail **TRACKER**

Thank you for joining us on the trail today.

We want you to join the Trail **TRACKER** Team. It's fun, healthy and free.

Best of all, by keeping **TRACK** of your trails on our website, you can earn prizes. For more information about the Trail **TRACKER** Team, other **TRACK** Trail adventures near you, or for general information about the Kids in Parks program, please visit our website at:

www.kidsinparks.com

The **TRACK** Trail program is part of the larger **Kids in Parks** initiative sponsored by the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation. Working together with the Town of Wytheville's Parks and Recreation Department and the Wythe-Bland Community Foundation, our mission is to increase physical activity of children and their families, improve their nutritional choices and get kids outdoors.

Kids in Parks...

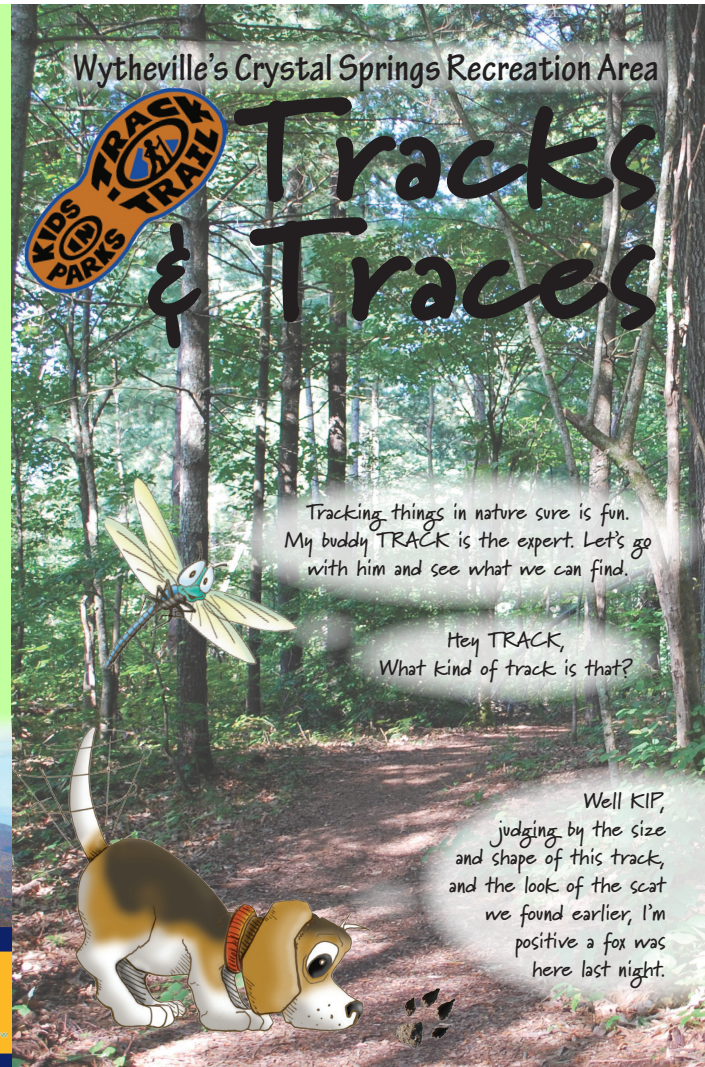
for the Health of our Kids, our Communities and our Mountains.



Town of Wytheville's Crystal Springs Recreation Area **TRACK** Trail Partners



Overall Kids in Parks Program Partners



Wytheville's Crystal Springs Recreation Area



Tracks & Traces

Tracking things in nature sure is fun. My buddy **TRACK** is the expert. Let's go with him and see what we can find.

Hey **TRACK**,
What kind of track is that?

Well **KIP**,
judging by the size
and shape of this track,
and the look of the scat
we found earlier, I'm
positive a fox was
here last night.



WARNING:
Raccoon scat may contain the eggs of raccoon roundworm, which can be fatal to humans.
If you find scat, **DO NOT** handle it.

Raccoon

Raccoon tracks have five toes on their front and rear paws and resemble miniature human-baby hand and foot prints.



Track (Left / Front)



Scat



Tim Williams

STOP

Because raccoons are omnivores (they eat both plants and animals), their scat can vary in size, shape and color. As a rule of thumb, if you can't identify the scat, treat it as raccoon scat and DO NOT disturb it.

White-Tailed Deer

Deer tracks are usually the easiest to find because their hard hooves leave better impressions than the soft paws of other animals.



Doe (Female)



Track



Scat



Bed

With their clustered pellets typically containing a dimple on one end and a point on the opposite end, deer scat is easily identifiable. Look for deer beds as you walk along the trails in the Crystal Springs Recreation Area.

Wild Turkey

Can you count to three? Wild turkey and other birds can. As male turkeys strut around, they often drag their wing tips on the ground leaving scrapes.



Tom (Male)



Track



Scat



Scrape

Wild turkey scats are usually large and tubular with a slight curve on one end. Because their diets vary throughout the year depending on what foods are available, their scats vary in appearance and sometimes look like formless blobs.

Black Bear

Bears tracks have large palm prints with five toes. Their tracks are sometimes capped with claw marks, and their hind-leg tracks leave heel impressions.



Garrett Ward



Track (Left / Hind)



Scat



Shredded Log

Like raccoons, bears are omnivores. Their scat varies in appearance depending on the time of year and what they have eaten - grasses in the spring, berries in the summer and insects from rotten logs in fall.

Bobcat

Cat tracks have four toes on both the front and rear feet. Because cats have retractable claws, claw marks are usually not present in bobcat tracks.



Kim A. Calhoun



Track (Left / Front)



Scat



Marking

Containing the hair and bones from their prey, bobcat scats are segmented and blunt on the ends. Although bobcats have retractable claws which helps keep them sharp, they sometimes sharpen them by scratching the trunk of a tree.

Coyote

Coyote tracks are approximately 2.5 inches long and capped with claw marks. Their toes are closer together and less splayed than the toes of dog tracks.



Tim Williams



Track



Scat



Den and Scat

Coyotes are opportunistic eaters, meaning they'll eat almost anything, and therefore their scat can take many forms. However, in general coyote scat is long, with a rope-like twist and elongated pointed ends.