

11.

Wild Things

When we hear the word “wildlife,” we often think of animals such as deer, bears, and wolves. But wildlife includes any animal that is not domesticated. Spiders, insects, worms, snails, and lizards are all forms of wildlife. Wildlife are all around you right now! While completing the remainder of the trail, try to observe some of these unusual forms of wildlife.



Southeastern Five-lined Skink

We hope that you enjoyed these activities and that you now have a new way of viewing your environment. Many of these activities can be completed on other trails in Edwin and Percy Warner Parks. If you have any questions or would like suggestions for additional trail activities, contact the Warner Park Nature Center staff or visit the Nature Center Library.

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Edited May 1995, updated 2012
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Printing of this brochure was funded by:



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HUNGRY HAWK TRAIL



Warner Park Nature Center

Welcome to the Hungry Hawk Trail. This 1/3 mile loop takes you by Vaughn's Creek, through the woods, through a field, by an old home site in the woods, and back to where you started. Although the trail is short, there is a tremendous diversity of wildlife, including wildflowers, trees, insects, and birds. You see mammals such as opossum, raccoon, and white-tailed deer that are attracted to the bird blind and wildlife tracking station. Numbered stops are located along the trail that correspond to interesting activities in this booklet. These activities are designed to increase your awareness of the natural and historical aspects of this trail.

Before beginning this pleasant walk, there are a few things we would like for you to remember...

- Avoid poison ivy (leaves of three leave them be); remember leaves drop in the fall
- Always stay on the trail
- Do not litter
- Do not remove anything (plants, insects, rocks etc.)
- Keep your dog on a leash
- Be observant
- The quieter you are, the more you will see and hear
- HAVE FUN!

By following these simple requests, you and other Park visitors are sure to enjoy this trail today and in the future.



Poison Ivy leaf in summer.



Poison Ivy vine
Very hairy!

9.

Calling Chords

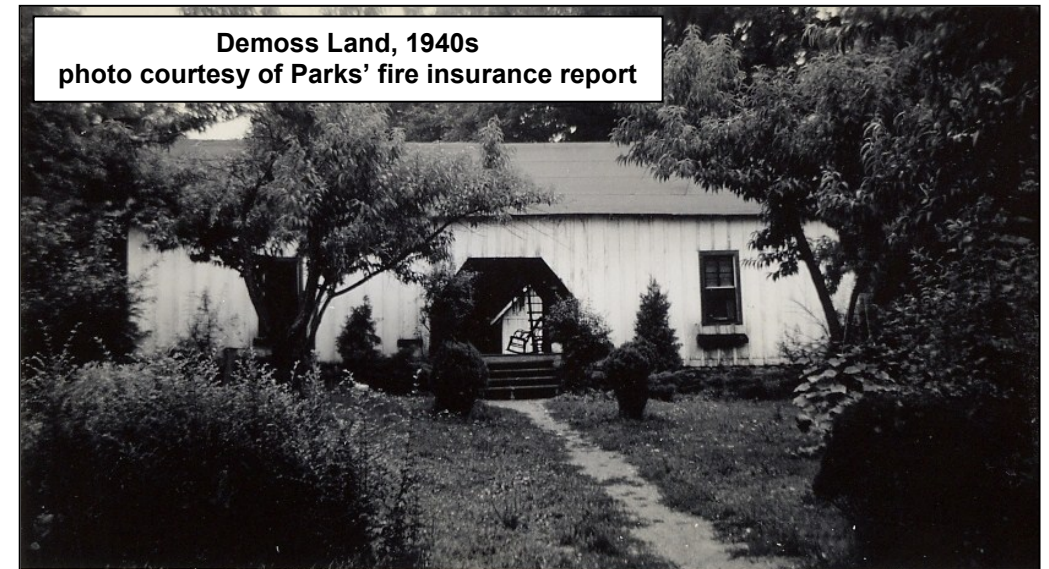
The Nature Theater is an excellent place to call birds. Stand very still and make the following sound: pssh...pssh...pssh.... For best results, begin calling and pause after 3 or 4 rounds to listen for incoming birds. Although it is not really known why birds are attracted this "noise," some naturalists believe this provokes the birds' curiosity.

10.

Just Like Old Times

The surrounding area was once a small farm. This well house provided water for cooking, bathing, cleaning, and drinking. Take a few minutes and imagine a typical day for this family in the 1920s. Before breakfast, the cows had to be milked, coal and wood had to be brought in for the stove and fireplace, and if you were going squirrel hunting you left before 6 a.m. After breakfast, the hogs had to be slopped, the garden had to be tended, the squirrel that you hunted this morning had to be skinned and cleaned, and the mule combed. Following lunch, the corn was shucked, wood was split, the honey bees were robbed, potatoes were dug, and the butter was churned. Dinner came early, however, and included fresh green beans, corn on the cob, and turnip greens with fatback. After dinner, homework had to be finished and then a story was read for entertainment. Days ended early because mornings came early.

As you walk along this section of the trail, look for evidence of past inhabitants such as pieces of coal, pig bones, foundation rocks, and plants such as daffodils or honeysuckle that were planted a long time ago.



Demoss Land, 1940s
photo courtesy of Parks' fire insurance report

7.

Feeding Our Friends

You are about to visit the “bird blind.” A blind helps you observe birds and other animals up close without being noticed. Tip-toe down to the viewing area. You may see several species of seed-eating birds. Stand completely quiet for about 5 minutes. How many different birds did you see? Look at the pictures below to identify some of our friends.



8.

Foot Facts

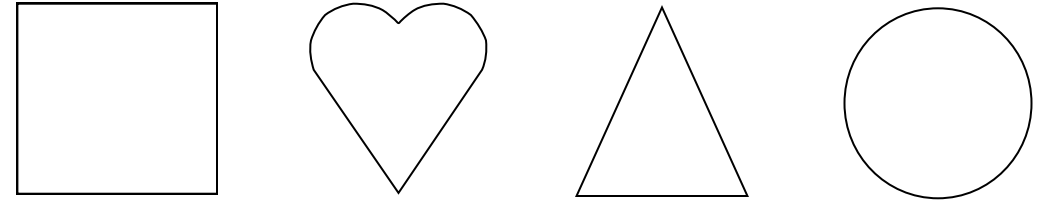
Many animals are active early in the morning and late in the afternoon (crepuscular), or at night (nocturnal) when we may not be here. So we look for evidence of their presence such as foot prints and scat, or animal droppings. This wildlife tracking station allows us to observe animal tracks. A salt block rests in the middle of the station to attract many different species. How many different tracks can you find?



1.

We're in Good Shape

Have you ever noticed the shape of things while walking through the woods? You may find some very common shapes on this trail. From where you are standing name some things that are the shapes you see below. Some examples are tree trunks (rectangles), pebbles in the creek (round), and some leaves (heart shaped).



2.

Trick or Tree

Examine the tree at this stop. Notice the ribbon tied around its branch. If this tree grew one foot each year for the next five years, how high will this branch be?

If you said 5 feet higher than it is right now, you are wrong! That branch will be where it is today. Unless, of course, it falls off like many branches do as the tree matures. Trees grow tall at the tips of their branches by forming a terminal bud. When these buds sprout in the spring a new green shoot starts to grow. These shoots will eventually become new branches. Can you find a terminal bud on the end of this twig?

Now let's pretend that you are a tree. Go ahead! Display your arms like branches. How would you feel if...

- A strong wind was blowing?
- A fire was raging near you?
- A squirrel just ran up your trunk?
- A person was picking your fruit?
- A strong wind was blowing?
- A violent thunderstorm was booming?
- A woodpecker was pecking on your trunk?
- Someone was carving their initials into your trunk?



3.

Vaughn's Creek is so Neat

Match these "creek" words with the right season (spring, summer, fall and winter). You will have to observe the creek to get the right answers.

- deep water
- water striders
- crayfish
- moss
- cold water
- mosquitoes
- salamanders
- minnows
- fast water
- robin



4.

A Batty Idea



Little Brown Bat

Look up! A wooden box is mounted about 20 feet off the ground to a hackberry. This bat house will accommodate as many as 200 Little Brown Bats. Three different species of bats have been identified in the Warner Parks, but nine other species could be spotted here (see our mammal field list). Keep your eyes open for a glimpse of one of these extra special mammals, especially at twilight during the late spring, summer and fall, when they feed on insects over fields and ponds.

5.

Sights and Sounds from "Sharp View"

Walk up this trail and enjoy the observation platform, named "Sharp View", at the top of the path. This is a wonderful place to experience your senses. Close your eyes for about 5 minutes. Try to "listen" to the Park. Name all the man made sounds you hear. Now name all the natural sounds you hear. Now try to block your hearing and scan the landscape for colors. How many different colors do you discover? Last but not least, block your hearing, close your eyes and take a deep breath. Try to determine what you smell. Is it natural or man-made? Don't forget to look up for hungry hawks. Red-tailed Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks & American Kestrels are most frequently seen. Why do these "birds of prey" like this field?

6.

A Lot of Gall

You may see in front of you many tall yellow or dried flowers (they may be lying on the ground). They are called *Goldenrods*. If you look closely you may find a ball shaped swelling on the stem of the plant. See how many you can find.

In the spring, a small female fly lays her eggs on the stem of a plant. These eggs hatch in early summer and the larvae (baby flies) bore into the stem of the plant. It is suspected that these tiny larvae produce a chemical substance in their saliva that initiates the formation of a gall. Other biologists believe that the mother injects a chemical substance into the stem when she lays her eggs. Both situations could be true.



Round Goldenrod Gall in Summer