### READING THE LANDSCAPE



The forests of York are full of stories to be uncovered. Here are a few ways to read these stories hidden in the woods

Stumps with clean cuts are usually evidence of recent logging, whereas stumps with mossy growth are evidence of logging that happened in the more distant past.

READ THE LAND: Count the rings in a clean-cut stump. Each ring represents one year. This tells you the age the tree was when it was cut down

A very large tree within a group of smaller, younger trees may be a sign of a "wolf tree", a tree intentionally left standing, sometimes to provide shade in a pasture.

READ THE LAND: If you find a wolf tree, can you spot other evidence of agriculture in the surrounding area? Perhaps a stone wall or large areas of young trees?

You can often tell what kind of storm knocked over a tree based on the direction it fell -nor'easters blow from the northeast, whereas tropical storms and hurricanes blow from the southeast.

READ THE LAND: Find a fallen tree, and use a compass to figure out what type of storm may have knocked it down!



# NATURE. JOURNALING JOHNSON



Find a comfortable place to stand or sit outdoors, and take a few minutes to tune into your senses. What do you hear? What do you smell? What do you see? Capture these sensory details below. Take notes like these weekly or daily, and you may begin to notice patterns or shifts in the seasons.

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### YORK LAND TRUST

Nature Exploration Activities (Ages 8+)



Credit: Betty Olivolo

## Visit our public preserves:

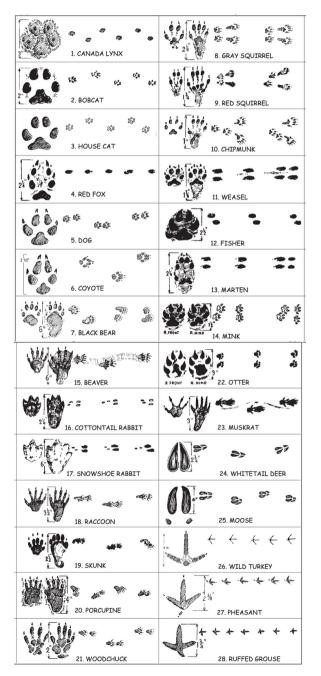


- · Highland Farm Preserve
- · Smelt Brook Preserve
- · Hilton-Winn Preserve
- · McFeely Preserve
- McIntire Highlands Preserve
- Near Point Trail at YLT Headquarters

Learn more at www.yorklandtrust.org/explore

### TRACK ID

See if you can find these Maine animal tracks in the mud or in the snow!



#### BIRD ID

Dozens of bird species can be spotted on York Land Trust properties. Here's a list of some you might find. Check out eBird.org to find pictures of these birds and tips on how to spot them.

how to spot them. Finches, Euphonias, and Allies ☐ House Finch ☐ Purple Finch ☐ American Goldfinch Grouse, Quail, and Allies ☐ Wild Turkey Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers ☐ Herring Gull Cormorants and Anhingas □ Double-crested Cormorant Herons, Ibis, and Allies ☐ Great Blue Heron Vultures, Hawks, and Allies ☐ Turkey Vulture Northern Harrier ☐ Cooper's Hawk Red-tailed Hawk Woodpeckers Red-bellied Woodpecker Downy Woodpecker ☐ Hairy Woodpecker □ Northern Flicker Falcons and Caracaras American Kestrel

### NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT

Animals leave behind traces of themselves and their activities all throughout nature. On your next walk outside, see if you can find examples of each of these animal signs.

□ Stashes of food, like acorns
□ Burrows in the ground
□ Holes in a tree, perhaps from woodpecker
□ Chew marks
□ Scat (animal droppings)
□ A leaf with nibbles in it

A dropped feather

