



PHOTO BY ANDY WORKS

Red Fox
(*Vulpes vulpes*)

The red fox population is on the rise in New Jersey and can be found readily in small woodlands like Saddler's Woods. The red fox is mostly nocturnal but occasionally ventures out in the daytime in search of food. The red fox is an omnivore as they eat a variety of foods. Their main food sources are small rodents, insects, and berries. The red fox can be hard to spot as they run quietly and quickly, reaching speeds of up to 45 miles per hour!



PHOTO BY ALAIN TURGEON

Raccoon
(*Procyon lotor*)

The average life span of a raccoon is two to four years. Raccoons are nocturnal creatures and are known to eat just about anything, but their main diet consists of fruits, plants, aquatic insects, and fish. Many raccoons construct their dens out of tree holes and fallen logs which is why Saddler's Woods is an ideal habitat for them. Raccoon tracks are often found along Saddler's Run, the stream in Saddlers' Woods.



PHOTO BY RYAN MORGAN

Striped Skunk
(*Mephitis mephitis*)

Striped skunks are a fairly large mammal from the weasel family and can be spotted occasionally in Saddler's Woods. They typically appear from a hollowed out log on the forest floor or from within the cavity of a standing tree. They are nocturnal and are distinctive in their defenses, spraying threatening passersby with a foul smelling musk. These omnivores are never found more than two miles from water where they feed on crustaceans, fish, nuts, and grasses.

Sources:

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/>

<http://www.discovery.com>

<http://kids.sandiegozoo.org/animals/mammals>

<http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/accounts/Mammalia/>

Saddler's Woods Conservation Association (SWCA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization of volunteers dedicated to preserving the natural and cultural resources of Saddler's Woods in Haddon Township, New Jersey. SWCA's core initiatives are restoration, education, and research. SWCA relies entirely upon grants and donations to pursue its mission. **Visit saddlerswoods.org**

MAMMALS OF SADDLER'S WOODS

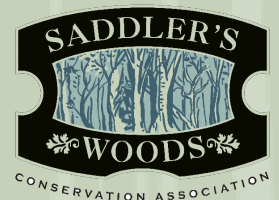


PHOTO BY FOREST CHAPET

Saddler's Woods is within the Newton Creek Watershed in Camden County, New Jersey.

This urban forest contains a meadow, young woodlands, wetlands, and a rare stand of old growth trees.

Saddler's Woods provides critical habitat for numerous mammals in a highly developed region.



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NFWF



PHOTO BY ELYSA DARLING

Eastern Chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*)

The Eastern chipmunk has reddish brown fur, and two distinct black lines bordering the white fur on their back. Their coloration provides camouflage on the forest floor. Their diet consists of a wide variety of foods, especially acorns and nuts. They also eat seeds, fruits, some plants, and insects. They can be heard more than they can be seen with a distinctive squeak sound, somewhat like rusty scissors as they scamper away from view!



PHOTO BY DAMIAN KUZDAK

Gray Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*)

The most common mammal found in Saddle's Woods is the gray squirrel. But did you know that in the early 1900s the gray squirrel was almost extinct? Due to rapid clearing of forests on the East coast for farming and industry, the gray squirrel lost much of its habitat. Now, with most suburban lots containing trees, the gray squirrel has made a mighty comeback!



PHOTO BY I.V.KUZMIN

Big Brown Bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*)

The brown bat uses echolocation for flying and catching prey. Their diet consists of beetles, and flying insects including mosquitoes, moths, flies, and wasps. The big brown bat can fly up to 40 miles per hour. The lifespan of a big brown bat is 18-20 years. The brown bat can be found in almost any habitat and they thrive in Saddle's Woods by resting under the flaky bark and in the hollows of old growth trees.



PHOTO BY KATHY HICKS

Eastern Cottontail Rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*)

There are several different species of cottontail rabbits, but the most common is the Eastern cottontail. It makes its home on the edge areas of Saddle's Woods and in the upland meadow. Rabbits eat a variety of grasses, young leaves, seeds, and berries. Rabbits are crepuscular, which means that they are most active during dawn and dusk.



PHOTO BY KARL UMBRIACO

Muskrats (*Ondatra zibethicus*)

A typical muskrat habitat is any aquatic ecosystem including ponds, lakes, and streams. Muskrats are prevalent along the stream corridor of Saddle's Woods, along the gully, and in nearby Newton lake. They do not hibernate and are present all year round. Their major foods are the roots and stems of aquatic vegetation as well as mollusks, fish, and invertebrates. Clean waterways free of pollution are critical for a muskrat's survival.



PHOTO BY LORNA ROBINSON ROUGH

White Tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)

The white-tailed deer is commonly seen due to its overpopulation. The deer is an herbivore and usually feeds during the early morning or late afternoon. Unfortunately, their overpopulation has caused severe declines in native understory plants. To find out the impact deer are having on Saddle's Woods, SWCA has erected a deer enclosure and is monitoring regrowth of vegetation.