

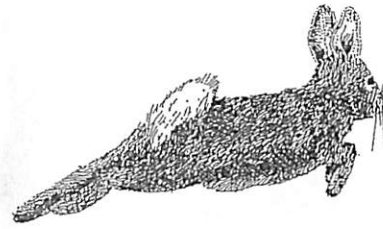
Several species of mammals call Liberty State Park home. Some like squirrels, rabbits, muskrats and harbor seals are seen in the daytime. Others, like the opossum, raccoon and fox are nocturnal and are most often seen at night. No matter when they come out, the open green spaces of Liberty State Park provide an ideal habitat for these animals.

This brochure describes some of the common mammals that can be found in Liberty State Park. For more information or to find out about our schedule of programs, stop by, call or email the Nature Interpretive Center at (201) 915-3409 or [lspic@verizon.net](mailto:lspic@verizon.net).

### 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.



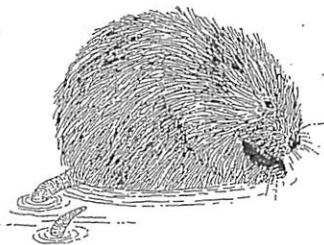
### Eastern Cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*)

The Eastern cottontail is the most common rabbit in North America. They are often seen along the Nature Path in the Richard J. Sullivan Natural Area. 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.



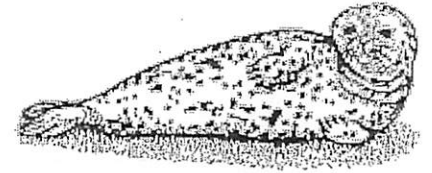
### Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethica*)

Muskrats have thick brown waterproof hair and a long naked tail. They live in or near marshes, lake and ponds. They can sometimes be seen swimming in the freshwater pond behind the Nature Interpretive Center. Their diet consists of fish, clams and plants.



### Harbor Seal (*Phoca vitulina*)

Harbor seals are occasionally seen in the New York Harbor in the winter. They are grayish brown with dark spots or flecks on their bodies. They are most commonly observed on sunny days, basking on the rocks and jetties at the south side of Liberty State Park.



### 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.





**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.

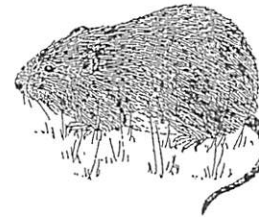
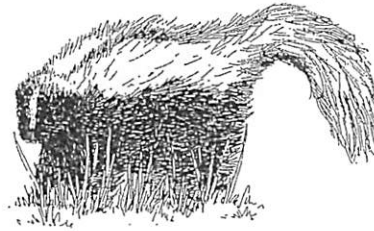


**Red Fox**  
(*Vulpes fulva*)  
The red

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!

**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.



**Meadow vole** (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*)

The meadow voles long, soft fur varies from gray to dark brown. They spend most of their time under cover in tunnels formed in grass or leaves. They are good swimmers and feed on grasses, sedges, seeds, grain, bark and probably some insects.

# LIBERTY STATE PARK

## COMMON MAMMALS

