Medina County Park District

HIKE & SEEK

Animal Homes

Keep track of what you discover by placing a check mark in the yellow boxes.

SHARE

Upload your photos to social media!

Instagram @medinacountyparks

Twitter @medinacoparks

Facebook @MedinaCountyParkDistrict

Ant Mounds

Ant mounds are large hills of sand and dirt created by worker ants as they excavate the colony's tunnels. Workers carry out the tiny bits of dirt using their mandibles (mouth parts). Underneath the mound is an extensive system of tunnels with chambers used for nurseries, storing food, and resting places.

Nest Box

Cavity nesting birds build their nests inside natural cavities such as hollow trees. A man-made nest box is also acceptable. Native song birds that will use a nest box are Eastern bluebirds, tree swallows, house wrens, tufted titmice, white-breasted nuthatches, and prothonotary warblers.

Mole Hill

Mounds of dirt sitting a-top the ground signify mole tunnels underneath. Entrance holes are often hidden by the mound. Moles are insectivores, seeking undesirable lawn grubs and insects as they tunnel underground. In the process, they push the dirt up and out of the tunnels, creating the little hills that we see.

Beaver Lodge

Beavers build dams to halt the flow of water in streams but do not live in dams. Lodges are built near the bank using sticks. The lodges have underwater entrances and provide a warm, dry space for beavers to rest, hide, and raise their young. Inside the lodge are two chambers: one is an eating area and for drying off after coming out of the water; the other sits above the first and is used for sleeping and caring for kits.

Rotten Log

When a tree falls, it creates a home for many organisms: fungus, insects, centipedes, millipedes, isopods (sowbugs), snails, and other invertebrates. It provides energy that decomposers will put back into the ground for future plants and organisms.

Squirrel Nest

Squirrels will make dens in tree cavities, but they also build nests of twigs, dry leaves, and grass in the forks of tree branches. The abundance of leaves used makes the nests easily distinguishable from larger bird nests, which are typically built with just twigs. One squirrel can have multiple nests in an area. These nests are also called dreys.

Muskrat Lodge

A muskrat lodge serves the same function as a beaver lodge. Construction materials differ though, as muskrats use cattails and other aquatic plants instead of sticks. These lodges resemble small haystacks and can be easily seen in shallow waters of marshes and wetlands.

Vernal Pool

Vernal pools are shallow depressions that usually contain water for only part of the year, usually through spring. Vernal pools are often associated with forested wetlands and serve as essential breeding habitat for certain species of wildlife including salamanders and frogs. The large, jelly-like egg masses from wood frogs and Jefferson and Spotted salamanders are easy to spot floating in the water.

Groundhog Burrow

Groundhogs spend several months hibernating in their underground burrows. To keep them safe and dry, the entrance tunnels are dug so that they incline upward for a few feet, then level off horizontally for 15-25 feet. This architectural design will prevent the tunnels from flooding. The burrows are extensive and include a latrine, so you'll never find groundhog scat above ground.

Plant Stem

Not all bees nest in hives. Most of our native bees nest in the ground, and others like Mason bees, utilize holes and crevices such as old beetle tunnels in dead wood and hollow weed stems. They choose flower stalks from the previous growing season, so a great way to provide habitat for these bees is to leave flower stalks standing after the growing season and cut them back to about 12-15" the following spring.