

What's Happening out in The Grove this WINTER

Early Winter:

- ❄ Muskrats huddle inside their lodges to keep warm
- ❄ Rabbits nibble twigs close to the ground
- ❄ White-tailed deer form winter groups
- ❄ Chickadees and nuthatches flock together and forage for food
- ❄ Coyote scat can be found marking trail crossings
- ❄ Grey squirrels compete for mates
- ❄ Great-horned owls can be heard calling in the night
- ❄ Abandoned bird's nests are easily observed in the bare trees
- ❄ Raccoons begin their mating season
- ❄ The least weasel's brown summer coat turns white
- ❄ Sandhill cranes migrate and may be heard calling above

Mid Winter:

- ❄ White-tailed deer bucks lose their antlers in the woods
- ❄ Great horned owls nest high in the trees
- ❄ Hoarfrost coats leaves and grasses when temperatures drop rapidly
- ❄ Meadow vole trails can be seen through the snow in the prairies
- ❄ Cardinals dine communally at feeding stations
- ❄ Pinkish-red cottontail rabbit urine can be seen staining the snow
- ❄ Insect galls are easily seen on dried wildflower stems
- ❄ Foxes mate and ready their dens for young
- ❄ Lichens flourish on rocks, trees, benches and buildings
- ❄ Tracks of raccoons, deer, squirrel and mink can be seen in snow
- ❄ Maple sap begins to flow and form icicles on the tips of twigs

Late Winter:

- ❄ The first squirrels of the year are born
- ❄ Coyotes begin their mating season
- ❄ Skunk cabbage appears near wetlands and depressions
- ❄ Red-bellied woodpeckers begin courtship activities
- ❄ Woodcocks migrate through the woods and prairies
- ❄ Young great-horned owls hatch and may be heard calling for food
- ❄ Flocks of cedar waxwings dine on dried fruit in the trees
- ❄ Turtles may be seen swimming beneath the ice in the pond
- ❄ Snow drops poke through the snow to bloom
- ❄ Skunks emerge from their dens to find mates
- ❄ Red-winged blackbirds begin arriving to establish territories