

# 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