

Things To Do on Your Visit to the Bulkeley Hill Preserve



LOOK FOR SIGNS OF WILDLIFE

Woodpecker Activity



Woodpeckers are adept at making homes for other types of birds and animals as they bore holes into dead trees to get at the insect larva underneath the tree bark. There are many snags (standing dead trees) on the Bulkeley Hill Preserve where woodpeckers have created holes. If you stand very quietly and watch the holes, you may see smaller birds like titmice and chickadees making a nest or feeding their babies inside the holes made by woodpeckers.

Beaver Activity



Beavers have been very busy at the Bulkeley Hill Preserve, cutting down large trees and creating a dam that is raising the water level of the pond on the property. If you walk near the pond, you will see where the beavers have been working. You may not see the beavers, however, as these animals are nocturnal and do most of their work at night while humans are sleeping.

Cavity Trees



Cavity trees are dead or living trees with a large hole or cavity. A tree cavity is a great place for small animals and birds to hide from predators, raise their young, sleep and stay dry. There are many trees with large cavities on the Bulkeley Hill Preserve. Some are on the bottom of the trees and some are higher up. These cavities are used by squirrels, raccoons, opossums, bats, owls, and many species of birds.

Stones and Logs



If you carefully turn over a stone or log, you may find many tiny creatures living underneath. Salamanders, beetles, bugs, spiders, millipedes and centipedes all like to make their homes in the cool damp environment under rocks and logs. After observing these small animals, be sure to carefully place the rock or log back.

LISTEN FOR SOUNDS OF WILDLIFE

Frogs



Wood frogs, peepers, green frogs, gray treefrogs and bullfrogs all make their home at the Bulkeley Hill Preserve. The peeper's peeping and wood frogs quacking sounds begin in late March and early April as the days warm. They are followed in late spring by the green frogs' 'gunk-gunk-gunk' and bullfrogs' deep and low 'jug-o-rum' call which are best heard nearest the pond. The short trill of the gray tree frogs can be heard on warm summer evenings.

Barred Owls



A pair of barred owls live at the Bulkeley Hill Preserve and they can be heard calling to each other across the woods all year long. Owls tend to mate for life and find each other every year during the breeding season. When a pair of barred owls are together, their calls can sound like maniacal laughter. Listen for them when you are on the preserve and you may hear them asking each other 'Who cooks for you, who cooks for you all?'.
(Note: The original text contains a typo 'all?' which has been corrected to 'all?'.)

Pileated Woodpeckers



You will surely see and hear many kinds of birds when you visit the Bulkeley Hill Preserve, but, by far one of the loudest and most interesting is the pileated woodpecker. It is a large bird about the size of a crow with a bright red crest on the top of its head. If you listen carefully, you may hear many kinds of woodpeckers drumming on the trees in the forest, but the pileated woodpecker's will be the deepest and loudest. You may even hear this birds loud, whinnying call which sounds as if it is laughing!

Red Fox



Both red and gray foxes live within the vicinity of the Bulkeley Hill Preserve. Their normal home range is an area from 2 to 4 square miles and they can be quite vocal, making a number of different sounds such as yaps, barks, howls, cries, and whines. But the scariest noise they make is typically heard at night and only in the mating season. It is called the Vixen's Scream, a raspy single syllable 'scream' that can sound like a child crying or screaming.