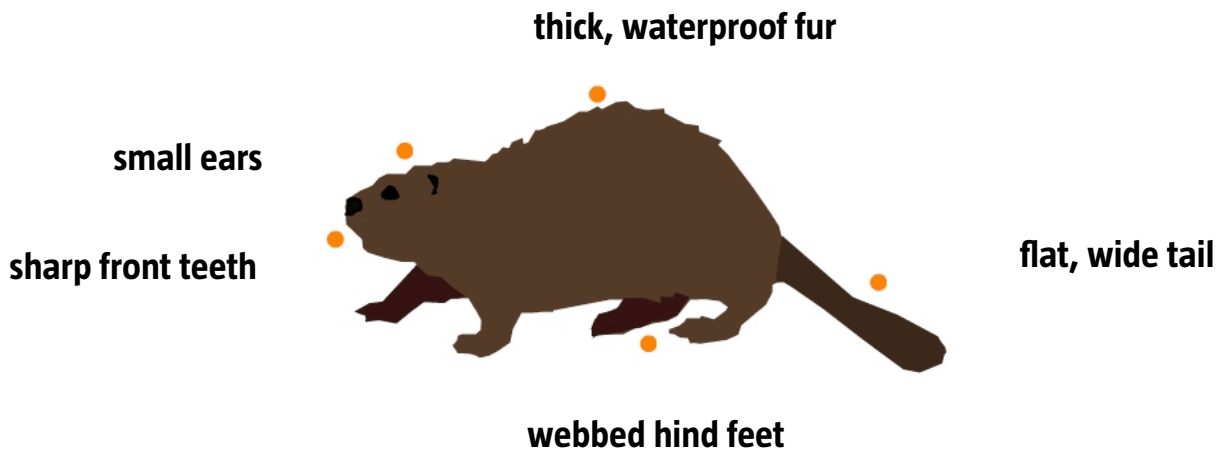


BE BUSY!

A GUIDE TO BEAVERS IN

100 ACRES

100 THE VIRGINIA B. FAIRBANKS
ART & NATURE PARK
ACRES
IMA

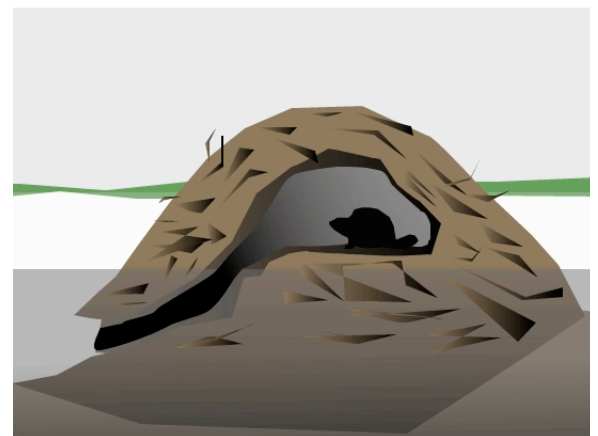


Built Like a Beaver

All animals have adaptations (physical features or behaviors that help them survive), and beavers are extremely well-adapted for life in and around the water. Look at some of the beaver's adaptations on the drawing above, and see if you can determine what purpose they serve and how they help the beaver survive.

Aquatic Architects

Beavers use branches and trees to build lodges, which serve as shelter, and dams, which stop the flow of running water and surround the lodges. The entrance is usually underwater, preventing predators from coming in. There are several other separate chambers within the lodge for eating, sleeping and other activities. Beavers are constantly at work, making repairs and adding new branches to the lodge.



Your Lodge

Think about how your own house is designed. Which features of your house make you feel safe? What makes you feel comfortable?

Where to Watch

There is an active beaver population on the west side of the Park, along the banks of the river southwest of the Meadow. Look for **tree stumps** that have been chewed off, **drag marks** from where they have been carried to the water, and the **lodge** along the banks. If you're quiet and the time is right, you might even catch a glimpse of the beavers themselves! However, if they see you first, you might hear a wide, flat **tail slapping** the water's surface as an alarm call.

Urban Interactions

Animals have found ways to live in urban (city) environments all across the world. Beavers can be especially tricky, however, since they can cause significant changes in the local ecosystem (like flooding) once they dam rivers and streams.

However, their preference for eating fast-growing trees such as willow, cottonwood and aspen help promote rapid re-growth of these tree species.

In what other ways do we interact with urban wildlife? What challenges and benefits are there to sharing urban space with animals? What are some of the challenges to having wildlife in the Park, a natural area that is surrounded by developed land?

Use the space below to draw a picture or make a list that describes some of the effects that people and animals have on each other when they share the same space.

