WHAT TO SEE ... Animal tracks where once there were railroad tracks.

If you walked along the Prairie Path last summer after a rain, or looked at the mud flats along the river, you might have seen footprints -- tracks of raccoon, or muskrat, or perhaps woodchucks (sometimes called groundhogs). Now it is winter and the best time to see tracks is after a light snowfall. You will not find "coon" tracks; the raccoons are curled up sleeping in hollow trees. Neither will you find muskrat; they are living in ponds, in tunnels, and the houses made from reeds and mud that look like igloos after a snowfall. Nor will you find woodchucks; they are holed up, sleeping in burrows in the ground waiting for February 2 when they come out looking for their shadows.

But you may see tracks of deer, or fox, or pheasant. You surely can find rabbit, sparrow, squirrel, chipmunk (like a diminutive squirrel track) and if you look closely, the tiny footprints of mice. These animals are active all year.

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**Small tracks about natural size**

- English sparrow hops
- Meadow mouse has a short tail. It does not climb but runs along runways under snow.
- White-footed deer mouse drags a long tail.
- It can climb. Nests are often found in our bluebird houses.

**Larger tracks reduced in size -- not drawn to scale**

- The pheasant walks
- The squirrel hops
- The fox runs
- Deer tracks overlap
- Rabbit
WORK ON THE PATH

This Prairie Path project that was started in 1963 by a struggling handful of folks, is snowballing! Previous Newsletters have reported on the great help given us by civic groups, the DuPage County Board, utility companies, and by several communities. Now we add another big community project. Through the efforts of Jeannie Mooring, there is to be a four foot path of limestone sittings laid in Glen Ellyn.

Mr. Galligan, village manager, proposed to the Village Board that $1,750 in the Restoration and Beautification fund be used for this Path improvement. They agreed! We surely thank them for this Christmas gift. They will start laying the path west of the business district and then work east for as long as the funds hold out.

Wayne citizens continue with their Path support. On Dec. 11 the Robert Glen family had their second annual Christmas tree sale to raise funds. It was a festive occasion with cookies, coffee, and hot soup served.

And so we move forward.

THE ANNUAL MEETING - NOVEMBER 7, 1971

Once again this meeting was held in the Thornhill Building, through the courtesy of The Morton Arboretum. In the short business meeting, the members unanimously elected to the Board of Directors the five incumbents whose terms of office ended this year: Gene Lewis, William Nemec, Charles Peterson, Jane Sindt, and May Watts.

John Cherry of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation presented a certificate designating the Wheaton to Elmhurst section as a National Trail. Mrs. Watts accepted the certificate and unveiled the National Trails symbol which we are now entitled to display along 22 miles of the Path -- all of DuPage County except the piece southwest from Warrenville. Mr. Cherry also brought a picture to Mrs. Watts with a personal greeting to her from Rogers Morton, Secretary of the Interior.

The speaker for the program was Henry Barkhausen, director of the Illinois Department of Conservation.

Following the program, home made apple cider and cookies were served by Mrs. Kolze. (At the December board meeting the 1971 officers of the Board of Directors were reelected to serve in 1972.)

WALKS

There were two very successful walks this fall sponsored by the Prairie Path. On the Annual Walk, a beautiful October 16, more than 250 with 8 leaders walked from Weisbrook Rd. to Rathje Park.

On Nov. 14 more than 40 turned out for the L-O-N-G 17 mile hike, lead by Bob Irwin. The Sierra Club is sponsoring four walks on the Path in January and February.

A CLASS TO BE GIVEN

We are offering a 5 week class this winter, meeting once a week, for teachers and/or Scout leaders. The purpose is to armchair explore the plants, animals and rocks that can be seen along the Path. There will be games, songs and other activities of nature study.

Time: 4 to 5 pm
Place: 616 Delles St., Wheaton
Dates: Jan. 18 and 25, Feb. 1, 8, and 15.
Leaders: Betty Nemec and Helen Turner

Since we have limited space, the class will be small, and we are asking for advance registration. If you wish to join, send a card to The Illinois Prairie Path, 616 Delles St., Wheaton, IL 60187.

There is no charge for the course, but places will be assigned first to members of the Path.