

WHAT ANIMALS EAT IN SPRING

Scavenger Hunt

As spring emerges, so do animals looking for food. This is an outdoor scavenger hunt designed to get kids of all ages looking for food in spring—just like the animals do!

Buds on the end of trees

The deer at Northwest Trek will eat any new tree growth that is within reach. This encourages fruit trees to grow taller than the deer.

Pinecones still in trees

Wild squirrels eat the seeds from conifer cones and act as pollinators, they disperse the seeds when they eat.

Piles of leaf litter

Even insects need to eat! Many bugs will hibernate in the soil until spring, and then get to work decomposing the leaf litter from the previous fall.

Bugs on a tree

Woodpeckers will use their beaks to hammer into the sides of trees looking for bugs. Look for small circles all around a tree; that is a sign of a nearby woodpecker.

Fish in water

Many birds and mammals come to a pond to eat fish. River otters that live at Northwest Trek eat up to a half pound of fish a day each.

Slugs

When the ground thaws out, slugs will wake up from hibernation. The skunks at Northwest Trek like to roll slugs in the dirt to get the slime off before eating them.



Nature at Home

Spiders

*Spiders are great at eating pesky insects.
Many song birds eat spiders at Northwest
Trek.*

Dandelions

*Fresh dandelions are a favorite of many
herbivorous species, including rats, mice, and
rabbits. The porcupines at Northwest Trek
love eating fresh dandelions!*

Insects under a fallen log

*Skunks will use their claws to dig at loose bark
to eat bugs. Skunks can eat 8 lbs of bugs in a
week!*

See what these animals look like: nwtrek.org/animals/



Nature at Home