

What Does this Species Look Like?

Size: Head and body- 16-24 inches;
Tail- 7-9 inches

Weight: 4.5-14 pounds

Color: Grizzled brown/gray

General: Dark feet, bushy tail, and small ears

Usually Found: Wooded areas, parks, backyards, gardens, roadsides



Did You Know?

- The groundhog (*Marmota monax*) is also known as the woodchuck, marmot, and whistle pig.
- Groundhogs are the largest members of the squirrel family.
- Groundhogs can climb trees, swim, and run as fast as a human.
- Groundhogs dig dens up to 5 feet deep and 30 feet long.
- While “Groundhog Day” is observed on February 2nd, groundhogs do not typically emerge from hibernation until the spring.

What am I Observing?

- First appearance of the groundhog in spring
- Any time young are seen with a parent

Why Collect this Data?

This species is being monitored as a part of the Eastern PA Phenology Program to determine if this animal is impacted by environmental changes.

Want to Find Out More?

Contact Diane Husic,
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How Do I Report this Data?

Observations can be reported as comments to the Eastern PA Phenology Blog:
<http://watchingtheseasons.blogspot.com/>
or sent to phenology@lgnc.org.

What is Phenology? According to the National Phenology Network, phenology refers to the study of “recurring plant and animal life cycle stages, or phenophases, such as leafing and flowering, maturation of agricultural plants, emergence of insects, and migration of birds.”
(www.usanpn.org)