



Portland Parks & Recreation has published a new study on Forest Park revealing an inventory of dozens of mammal species and more than 100 bird species.

Forest Park's Wildlife Diversity

Inventory provides tool for managing asset

Portland Parks and Recreation has completed an inventory of wildlife in Forest Park, one of the largest urban parks in America.

Wildlife biologist John Deshler says the study aimed to investigate not only the types of animals present in Forest Park, but if they are abundant, the threats they face, and determine knowledge gaps that may

exist.

The park contains 45 species of mammals ranging from tiny deer mice to towering elk. Many of them are not always obvious, since they are either nocturnal, burrowing, or tend to hide under shrubs.

Mammals living in Forest Park include shrews, chipmunks, skunks, porcupine, elk, bobcats, coyotes, weasels, ten types of bats, and the rare mountain beaver (native only to the Northwest and previously unseen in the park for decades).

More than 100 bird species are

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— Emily Roth, Senior Environmental Planner for Portland Parks and Recreation

evident, including owls, woodpeckers, and bald eagles. Nearly three dozen common bird species are in

decline and others have disappeared from the park, including grouse and quail.

The study also provides the first comprehensive look at invertebrate animal species in the park, with more than 400 different species recorded. Beetles and moths make up at least 340 of the 400 species.

"The study is a strong baseline for park stewards to plan future park research and management efforts," says Emily Roth, senior environmental planner for Portland Parks and Recreation "Some species that are gone today may be good candidates for reintroduction. And there is still much to learn about insects in Forest Park."