

inSTALLations

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Creature Feature Michigan Hibernators

There are only four types of mammals in Michigan that truly hibernate.



The **Meadow Jumping Mouse** is one of the longest hibernators. They head into their underground tunnels in October and do not emerge until late April or early May.

When **Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrels** enter hibernation, their heart rate drops from 200 beats per minute to less than 20 beats per minute.

Despite the holiday in its honor, the **Ground Hog**, or **Woodchuck**, is still hibernating on February 2nd and will not emerge until March or April. Woodchucks will lose about 30% of their body weight over the course of their hibernation.



Finally, there are three species of bats that may be found hibernating in Michigan. The **Little Brown**, **Big Brown**, and **Northern Bats** will hibernate in hollow trees, caverns or buildings.

Visit the Information Desk or
www.chippewanaturecenter.org for
program information.

Nature Tidbits

Who doesn't hibernate?

Black bears fall into a deep sleep, but their metabolism and temperature do not drop as much as in true hibernators.



Turtles and Snakes experience **brumation** during the colder months. Their body temperatures drop, they cease feeding, and they find some place safe to spend the time.

The body temperatures of some **frogs** drop below freezing in the winter. They develop a natural antifreeze that prevents ice crystals from forming in their tissues.

Many **birds** and **mammals** remain active throughout the winter. They have many unique adaptations that help them cope with the challenges of winter.



Find this inSTALLation at
www.chippewanaturecenter.org
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