



# HIDDEN DESERT

Travel through the Garden's trails to explore the beauty of the desert—and learn more about its hidden secrets. Use this guide to help you find signs of desert life.

## ANIMALS

### Nest

- Birds build nests in trees and other plants to keep eggs and young safe.
- Look closely and see how many nests you can find. Common nests include cactus wren, verdin and hummingbird.



### Hole

- Many desert animals live underground to stay cool in the summer and warm in the winter.
- Common holes house round-tailed ground squirrels, desert tarantula and pocket mice.



### Bite Marks

- The Garden is home to rabbits, squirrels and other critters who enjoy munching on cactus.
- Look for small bite marks for signs they have enjoyed a snack.



## INSECTS

### Pollinators

- Look for pollinators, like butterflies, moths and bees, visiting a flower.
- Insects gather nectar and pollen from flowers for food.
- Did you know that the Sonoran Desert is the bee capital of the world? Bees are important pollinators and without bees we would not have most of the food we eat today.



### Gall

- Small balls of leaves and plant material often found on the branches of creosote bushes.
- Galls are the home of small insects, like flies.
- Look close, each gall is about the size of a quarter.



### Palo Verde Beetle:

- These very large beetles are only above ground for 1-2 months every year, around monsoon season.
- The rest of the year, the grubs live underground around the roots of trees or bore into the trunk.
- Look close, they are attracted to lights, so be sure to check out trail lights.



### Crickets:

- Look around the ground in the *Virginia G. Piper* Charitable Trust Desert Terrace Garden to see crickets hopping around.
- These crickets are flightless, instead hopping around to find food and mates.
- They are scavengers, eating dead material they find.

