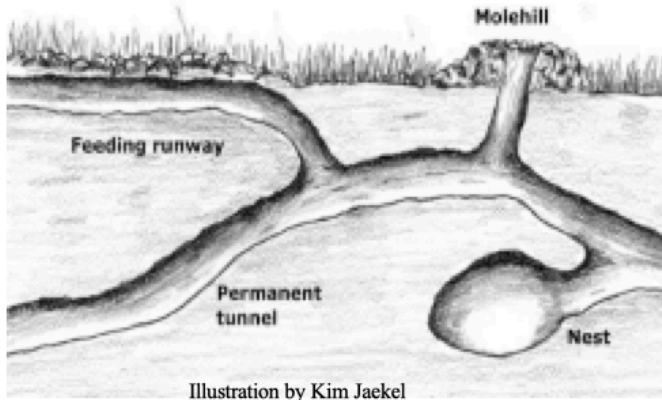


Nature Notes Mystery Hike #1

Station 4



Moles have large front feet/claws for digging. A mole can dig over hundred feet in a day. Moles feed on worms and other creatures living in the soil. They come to the surface. They have excellent hearing although they have no external ears. They are almost blind and rarely are seen. However, they do come to the surface allow more oxygen in their tunnels. Moles do aerate the soil as they dig through it.

Station 5

Why is the snow only on one side of the tree?

The winter storm came from the North and the wind was blowing from Northwest to Southeast, thus all the snow that stuck to the trees were on the Northwest side of the trees.

Station 6

A squirrel made the nut stash. Gray squirrels tend to chew the walnuts only on one side. The nuts in this stash were all chewed on both sides, which indicates that this was a red squirrel stash. Also, since most of the nuts were already eaten this early in the season, I believe this stash is from last year.



Station 7



Illustration by Amelia Ladd

The fungus on the rotting stump are called Turkey-tail fungus. Fungus play an important role in the forest's life/death cycle by breaking down the wood and creating rich humus so that other plants can grow.