

How can you observe a farmer's native friend? Wildlife can be difficult to view and tend to be leery of humans. A simple way to view wildlife in their natural habitat is to hide behind a tree or a large rock. If those objects aren't available, then do what the professional wildlife photographers do – build a camouflaged blind. A fun and simple way to make a viewing blind is to reuse a large cardboard box. Don't have one laying around – ask your neighbor if they have a refrigerator or large appliance box available.

The first step is to carefully cut out a large door entrance on one side. See illustrations below.

Second step is to carefully cut out a little window on the other side for viewing the wildlife.

Third step is to decorate or should we say camouflage your blind. Camouflage means to blend in with the environment. Should we paint our blinds bright red or neon colors? No. They should be decorated in similar colors of the environment that you are going to be hiding in...such as brown trees, green bushes, gray rocks, etc. Glue some leaves and sticks to the sides and top for a 3-dimensional look, too.

Depending on which season you use your blind, put some plastic under the box to keep it from absorbing moisture from the ground. Take a photo of your blind outdoors and send it to us at programs@YourMetroParks.net. Don't forget to let us know what wildlife you have been viewing. Have fun!

