

Trailside Eye Spy

Check off each item as you see it along Overlook Trail. Good Luck!

1



_____ **HOLLY:** These leafy evergreen trees are hidden throughout the woods, more easily seen when deciduous trees have lost their leaves. Their bright red berries are not just festive décor, but crucial food for local birds.

5



_____ **SANDY BANK:** Notice the sandy riverbank, slowly being worn away by the ever-flowing Cuyahoga River. Birds called bank swallows nest here in summer, creating small tunnels into the sand, safely away from any predators above or below.

2



_____ **WHITE PINE :** To identify a white pine, look closely at its clusters of five long, slender, bendable needles. *Can you spot another type of pine tree along the trail? How do its needles compare to the white pine's?*

6



_____ **OXBOW:** Sharp riverbends are named for their resemblance to the U-shaped yoke that connects a pair of oxen pulling a plow. *Can you find the symbol for Oxbow Trail along your walk?*

3



_____ **BITTERSWEET VINES:** These invasive woody vines form twisting patterns as they grow, often causing damage by pulling down trees. *Consider planting a native vine like Virgin's Bower in your yard to benefit resident wildlife.*

7



_____ **HIGH BRIDGE:** *Can you spot the blue bridge in the distance?* Beneath it lies Highbridge Trail, which connects Gorge and Cascade Valley Metro Parks. Check it out the next time you want to stretch your legs on a longer hike.

4



_____ **SPREE FOR ALL SIGN:** Flat, easy-going trails such as this one are part of our springtime hiking event, perfect for hikers of all ages and abilities. *Complete designated hikes to earn a commemorative pin and lanyard!*

8



_____ **BLACK CHERRY BARK:** Often described as "burnt cornflakes," the bark of this tree stands out with its dark color and distinct texture. The tiny fruits it produces are no delicacy to humans, but are a favorite of local birds.

9



_____ **BLUE JAY:** These clever birds thrive on acorns and berries found throughout Cascade Valley. Distinguish them from Eastern bluebirds by their larger size, black and white streaking, and the crest of feathers on their heads.