



# TRAILSIDE EYE SPY

Earn Fall Hiking Spree credit while looking for each item along Willow Trail, at Firestone Metro Park, 2620 Harrington Road, Akron OH 44319

## FALL FLOWERS

Part of the grassy playfield has been converted to a stand of native wildflowers that provide for bees, butterflies, and birds. Maximilian sunflower steals the show late in the season with its seven-foot-tall stalks and bold yellow flowers. *What creatures do you see benefiting from the blooms?*



1.

## BELTED KINGFISHER

Over 125 species of birds have been spotted at Firestone Metro Park! Its location along a well-traveled flyway makes it prime habitat for migrating birds in spring and fall, as well as many year-round residents. Look for kingfishers hovering over the water in search of fish and listen for their rattling calls.



6.



2.

## HICKORY TUSSOCK CATERPILLAR

How many different furry caterpillars can you spy along your walk? The black and white hickory tussock is a common sight in fall. Look but don't touch – many hairy caterpillars are known to irritate the skin.



7.

## OAK DIVERSITY

Firestone Metro Park is home to a great diversity of oak tree species. Make a collection of fallen leaves as you walk and note their similarities and differences. Leaves of the red oak group have pointed tips, whereas white oaks have rounded finger-like edges.

## LITTLE TURTLE POND

This pond was excavated by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the early 1940s, mostly by hand! Heavy machinery was brought in to finish the job. It is a popular youth fishing destination, especially during the annual spring trout derby. *Cast a line and try your luck!*



3.

## FIRESTONE RACE

Dug in the mid-1800s, this man-made waterway diverts flow from the Tuscarawas River to fill East Reservoir in the Portage Lakes. Notice how this channel compares to the faster-flowing Tuscarawas River and imagine how this trail would have looked decades ago before farms gave way to forest.



8.



4.

## MULTI-TRUNKED TREE

Sometimes trees grow in unusual shapes or sprout multiple trunks. As a young tree, injury, nibbling by animals or other factors can cause these interesting forms. Look for some peculiar trees as you walk and be a nature detective. *How do you think they came to be?*



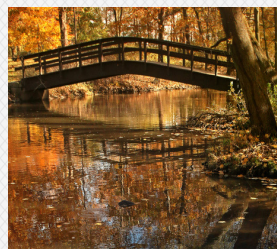
9.

## FALL WEBWORMS

What are those webs high in the trees? Webworm caterpillars spin masses of silk to protect themselves as they munch on tree leaves. Later in fall they will descend to the forest floor to overwinter in cocoons, awaiting spring when they will emerge as white moths.

## BRIDGE OVER WATER

Three bridges keep you high and dry while strolling Willow Trail. These are great spots to stop and view the many birds who call Firestone Metro Park home. Bring some sunflower seeds and rest your hand on the railing; if you're lucky, a chickadee may eat from your hand!



5.