

Trailside Eye Spy

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

1



_____ **MAPLE LEAVES:** Maple leaves come in many sizes, shapes and colors. Sugar and silver maples turn shades of yellow in fall while red maples take on a fiery appearance. How many unique maple leaves can you spy?

5



_____ **WOOD HOLLOW:** This park is named for the many “hollows” left behind in aging beech trees. These cavities serve as nature’s apartments, housing everything from insects and spiders to birds and mammals.

2



_____ **CROWDED PARCHMENT:** This fungus sprouts from fallen trees late in the year. Enjoy the boardwalk to keep your feet dry while traversing this wet forest, a perfect habitat for many species of mushrooms to thrive.

6



_____ **ASTER:** Ohio is home to many species of these daisy-like flowers in shades of white, purple and blue. Search their leaves for the beautiful asteroid caterpillar, striped from head to tail with black, yellow, green and sometimes purple!

3



_____ **GOLDENROD:** These flowers are an essential late-season nectar source for insects such as monarch butterflies, bees and more. Contrary to popular belief, goldenrod is not responsible for seasonal allergies, ragweed is the true culprit.

7



_____ **BEECH DROPS:** At first glance, this odd plant looks like dead twigs sprouting from the ground. Without green pigment, it cannot photosynthesize to produce its own food. Instead, it steals nutrients from the roots of beech trees.

4



_____ **SPIDER:** Fall is the best time to spy spooky spiders as they reach their full size. Look for spiders on the ground, in the trees, and anywhere in between. Pictured is a woodland species called a spined micrathena.

8



_____ **WOOLLY BEAR:** Can these fuzzy caterpillars predict the weather? Not really, but their march across the forest floor tells us fall is here. They will find a place to curl up beneath the leaves for winter before transforming into moths next year.

9



_____ **DOWNY WOODPECKER:** Can you spot this trail’s namesake bird? Listen for their tapping on trees as they search for their next meal or signal to other birds that this is their territory.