

TRAILSIDE EYE SPY

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

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH

In summer, male goldfinches are sunflower yellow. Many people think they fly away for winter, when in fact they put on a “winter coat” of drab yellow feathers and stay here year-round.



1.

VERNAL POOL

Icy patches throughout the woods mark vernal pools, *small ponds that fill with water when the snow melts and dry up by summertime*. These temporary ponds make excellent safe havens for salamanders and frogs to lay their eggs.



6.

SEED HEADS

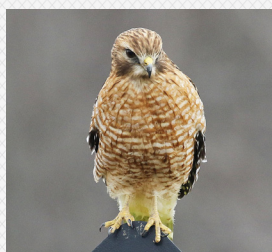
Like the ghosts of flowers past, seed heads from last year’s blooms remind us that summer will come again. By leaving spent flowers in *your yard*, you provide natural bird food and encourage new flower growth.



2.

RED SHOULDERED HAWK

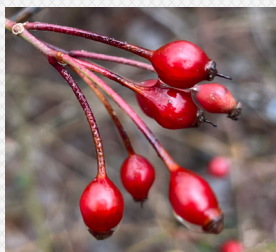
Hawks are a common sight soaring above the meadow in search of food. If you spot one perched on a cold day, notice how they alternate standing on one foot while the other stays warm, tucked beneath their cozy feathers.



7.

ROSE HIPS

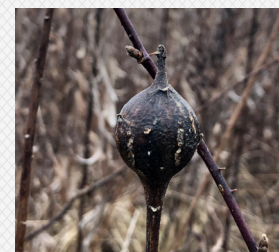
These are the fruits of a rose bush, touted for their vitamin C content. Multiflora rose is an invasive species that can run rampant if left unchecked. If planting roses, opt for a native variety such as swamp rose.



3.

GOLDENROD GALLS

Some flies lay their eggs inside goldenrod stems. Sensing an intruder, the plant forms a gall, *a growth that protects the plant*. Galls also provide shelter for the growing fly larva. In spring, holes in these galls signify the hatching of the fly.



8.

ANIMAL TRACKS

Wintertime is a great opportunity for finding tracks in the snow and mud. Count the number of toes, notice the shape and pattern and observe the habitat around you. *Can you guess who walked here?*



4.

TULIP TREE

These trees have smoothly furrowed bark and triangular marks where branches have fallen. Tulip trees have been valued for hundreds of years due to their straight growth habit, making them perfect for building and creating dugout canoes.



9.

CENTENNIAL GROVE

Summit Metro Parks has a goal to reforest 100 acres during our centennial year. Take a moment to imagine what this trail might look like in another 100 years. To learn more, visit summitmetroparks100.org.



5.