



TRAILSIDE EYE SPY

Earn Fall Hiking Spree credit while checking off each item as you see it along Cherry Lane & Fernwood Loop at F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm, 1828 Smith Rd., Akron, OH 44313

SUSPENSION BRIDGE

Built in 1978, this 108-foot-long bridge gives visitors a beautiful view of the stream and ravine in all seasons. Look down to see rhododendrons, jewelweed and many, MANY scurrying chipmunks.



1.

POKEWEED

Ripening in fall, the deep purple fruits of pokeweed are a delicacy to birds preparing to migrate south, though it is toxic to many mammals, including humans. Look for the plant's brilliant magenta stems and large bright green leaves.



6.



2.

RUNAWAY ROCK

How did this huge boulder end up in the woods? Glaciers, of course! Thousands of years ago, large granite boulders such as this one were pushed southward all the way from Canada.



7.

BIGTOOTH ASPEN

Pick up a fallen aspen leaf and try to twirl it between your fingers. Difficult? That's because aspen leaves have a flat petiole (stem), causing them to tremble in the wind more than other trees.

FERNS

The aptly named Fernwood Loop is the product of a 1979 Eagle Scout project. After planning the route, ferns and wildflowers were transplanted out of the path of the trail, many of which can still be seen along the way.



3.

GROUNDHOG

Groundhogs, the largest members of the squirrel family, are busy packing on the pounds before winter, munching on flowers, roots, fruits and more. Groundhogs are one of few true hibernators, capable of sleeping for nearly six months!



8.



4.

BEECH BLIGHT APHIDS

Do you notice any white fuzzy branches in the forest? Look closer to see hundreds of tiny "boogie woogie" aphids drinking beech tree sap and "dancing" when disturbed.



9.

MUSHROOM GARDEN

Do you notice a handful of purposefully placed logs along Cherry Lane? Years ago, a mushroom garden was planted here by packing spores into dead logs. What do you see popping up?

DUCKWEED

By fall, the surface of Echo Pond is green with duckweed, tiny aquatic plants which filter water, reduce algal blooms, provide habitat, and are food for ducks and fish. This plant is even being studied for human consumption as it has a much higher protein content than soy!



5.