

# TRAILSIDE EYE SPY

See if you can spot each item at Cascade Valley – Oxbow Area,  
1061 Cuyahoga Street, Akron, OH 44313

## GOLDEN RAGWORT

This plant is colorful even when not in bloom. Notice its brilliant purple buds, the scalloped edges and bright purple undersides of its leaves, and its brilliant yellow flowers. Golden ragwort is a great addition to a shady home garden.



## COMMON MERGANSER

Look for these striking waterfowl swimming in or flying above the river. At first glance, males may look like a mallard duck, but look closer and notice a long, thin serrated bill, perfect for catching their favorite food – fish!

## BIGTOOTH ASPEN

The aspen is a fast-growing successional species of tree, quickly colonizing new areas. Recognize it by its unique diamond-shaped bark pattern. The river plain has fantastic tree diversity; how many different types of trees can you spy?



## RACCOON TRACKS

Raccoons leave hand-like footprints behind after searching the edges of the river for food. This behavior heightens the senses in their paws, allowing them to identify food items by touch alone, keeping their eyes on alert for danger.



## BLADDERNUT

Search the ground for the fallen seed pods of bladdernut trees. Gently open one to reveal the popcorn-like seeds inside. Look up at the branches and search for the tree's drooping flowers beginning to open in spring.



## CUYAHOGA RIVER WATER TRAIL

Did you know the river itself is a designated trail? Experienced paddlers may put in here at the Oxbow Area to explore the river through the new Valley View Area, Sand Run Metro Park, and beyond. Visit [cuyahogariverwatertrail.org](http://cuyahogariverwatertrail.org) to learn more.



## BROADLEAF ARROWHEAD

Also known as duck potato, arrowheads will soon emerge from the small ponds along the trail. Their tubers and seeds are enjoyed by ducks and muskrats. In summer, return to see their white flowers, visited by many beneficial pollinators.

## TRILLIUM

Ohio's state wildflower, trilliums come in several shapes and sizes, but all have just three leaves and three petals. Look for white trilliums and other spring flowers here on the forest floor taking advantage of spring sunlight before trees shade them with their leaves.



## TREE ROOTS

Walk to the river's edge to see how tree roots prevent erosion by holding onto soil. Thank a tree for helping keep our waterways clean and healthy, and consider planting a tree of your own in honor of Earth Day and Arbor Day!

**Summit**   
**Metro Parks**™