

TRAILSIDE EYE SPY

See if you can spot each item along Seven Ponds Trail, Liberty Park, Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve, 1230 Old Mill Road, Aurora, OH 44202

BEAVER LODGE

Mud packed between the branches of these homes keeps resident beavers toasty warm in winter. Notice chewed stumps along the water's edge, sure signs that these aquatic mammals are active year-round. *How many beaver lodges can you spot out on the water?*



BUTTRESS ROOTS

Named for the exterior supports made to reinforce buildings of old, these strange projections help stabilize trees in shallow, moist soils. Elm trees most commonly exhibit this interesting feature, making them easy to identify.



SWAMP LOOSESTRIFE

This native plant enjoys shallow, slow-moving waterways. Notice how its stems gracefully bend back into the water, eventually rooting in the ground, making these wetlands nearly impenetrable. Hike this trail again in late summer to admire its pink-purple flowers.



OTTER TRACKS

Once absent from Ohio due to overhunting, the North American river otter was reintroduced to the state in the 1980s and is now flourishing, especially throughout Liberty Park. Look for their webbed, five-toed tracks and belly slides out on the ice.

SEVEN PONDS

Can you count all seven ponds? This area is a wetland by nature, though in the past people altered the landscape to create prime duck hunting opportunities. Nowadays, waterfowl of all kinds, including state-endangered trumpeter swans and sandhill cranes, find sanctuary here.



WINTERBERRY

A relative of holly, though not evergreen, winterberry's abundance of red fruit is striking. This shrub enjoys moist habitats but can withstand a variety of growing conditions, making it a beautiful and beneficial native plant to add to the home landscape.



BALD EAGLE

To spot a bald eagle, look above as they soar smoothly through the air or search the upper portions of trees in the distance for the bright white of their head feathers. *You can extend your adventure by walking Eagle Point Trail to view their giant nest across the wetlands.*



GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET

These tiny, colorful birds are only seen in Ohio during winter while they escape the frigid higher latitudes of their nesting grounds. Kinglets rarely stop moving, bouncing from branch to branch to find food and emitting thin, high-pitched calls.

MEMORIAL BENCHES

Take a moment to sit, mindfully looking and listening – you never know what natural wonders may appear! Thank you to all those who have donated benches for park users to appreciate and deepen their connection with nature.



Summit 
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