



# TRAILSIDE EYE SPY

Check off each item as you see it along Pheasant Run Trail in Silver Creek Metro Park, 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton, OH 44203

## SPRING BEAUTY

This delicate wildflower has thin leaves that look like blades of grass. Its pale pink flowers are accentuated by magenta lines called nectar guides. Like guiding a plane in for landing, these stripes tell pollinators where to find a meal.



1.

**VIOLETS** Roses are red, violets are blue... and white and yellow, and purple, too! These early spring flowers come in a variety of colors and serve as the host plant for fritillary butterflies. Recognize them along the trail by their dark green heart-shaped leaves.



6.



2.

## EASTERN BLUEBIRD

Summit Metro Parks maintains open meadow areas to benefit bluebirds, woodcocks and other creatures who prefer edge-of-forest habitat. *You can invite bluebirds to your yard by planting native plants that support the caterpillars they rely on for food.*



7.

## DEER TRACKS

April showers bring May flowers... and **MUD**, a perfect substance for making footprints! Look for the two-toed hoofprints of deer, the four-toed tracks of dogs, and the five-fingered prints of racoons. *Who was here taking a walk before you?*

## WHITE PINES

Girl Scouts planted this grove decades ago during their annual Arbor Day Tree Planting Festival. This year, as a part of our Centennial celebrations, SMP plans to reforest 100 acres of parkland. *How do you plan to celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day this April?*



3.

## MIDLAND PAINTED TURTLE

Finally awake from a long winter's nap, turtles are ready to soak up the sun. Basking keeps their shells healthy, delivering vital nutrients and drying up algae and other aquatic hitchhikers. *How many turtles can you spot?*



8.



4.

## RECYCLED TREES

Summit Metro Parks collects used Christmas trees at the end of each holiday season for use in park projects. Say thanks to those who donated their trees for the mulched portions of the trails, keeping you high and dry out of the springtime mud!



9.

## FIDDLEHEADS

Some ferns are evergreen while others, such as the sensitive fern, die back at first frost. In spring, look for fiddleheads, young fern leaves, unfurling from the ground. *What else does this twisting shape remind you of?*

## TOWERING TREES

Notice the tall line of trees as you begin the trail, possible evidence of a long-gone fencerow or field's edge. Search the woods for trees taller and wider than the rest, remnants of shade trees which provided respite for the cows of farms past. *What else can you learn by reading the landscape?*



5.