

Trailside Eye Spy

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

1



A WATCHFUL EYE:
When a beech tree loses a branch, an eye-shaped scar is left behind. As they age, beech trees often become hollow, creating perfect cavities where animals can hide.

5



TURKEY TAIL: This colorful fungi comes in many shades of brown, orange, black and even blue. To confirm its identity, look for a bright white underside speckled with tiny holes called pores.

2



QUARRIED STONE:
Brushwood Lodge was constructed during the Great Depression by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Take a close look at the stone, likely excavated from Deep Lock Quarry. *Can you see evidence of hand-carving?*

6



RED SQUIRREL:
These tiny squirrels love to feast on the seeds of pinecones. Rather than bury their food for winter, they store their cones in a large pile called a cache.

3



SYCAMORE BARK:
These trees may look “sick,” but their naturally shedding bark is no cause for concern. From a distance, their beautiful white branches are a sure sign that water is near.

7



VIOLET TOOTHED POLYPORE: This turkey tail look-alike has lavender colored “teeth” on its underside. As they age, their tops may fade to white or begin to turn green from algae.

4



CONFLUENCE: What’s a confluence? The coming together of two waterways. As you walk, notice Rock Creek running beside you. This tributary flows into the Cuyahoga River. *How many smaller streams join with it?*

8



SCOURING RUSH:
This primitive plant has no leaves, but its tissues are filled with abrasive silica. Pioneers used it to scour and clean their tin pots and pans.

9



WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH:
These small birds have a distinctive habit of perching on tree trunks facing downward. Listen for their nasally call that sounds like laughter in the trees.