







Valentine's Day Nature Treasure Hunt

Take a Winter walk on the trails and use your senses of sight and sound to hunt for these Valentine-themed items. Check off each item as you find it – be creative and challenge yourself to find them all!

Be careful walking on the trails and look out for Poison Ivy – even in Winter!

- HEART-SHAPED LEAF** Birches and Redbuds have leaves that often look like hearts, but look closely on the ground or in the branches of other trees and shrubs, and you may find a different heart-shaped surprise! 
- SINGING BIRD** Some birds migrate, or move to warmer climates, for Winter, but not all. Be on the lookout for Cardinals, Blue Jays, Sparrows, and Seagulls braving the Winter at the Preserve.
- RED BERRIES** Birds that don't migrate rely on berries and seeds to survive the Winter but look closely on low trees and shrubs and you'll find some that are left behind.
- ROCK WITH A PINK HUE** The preserve has rocks of all shapes, sizes and even colors! Rocks are made up of different minerals, and the color of those minerals determines the color of the rock. Some are solid, and some are made up of many different colors!
- HEART-SHAPED NUT ON THE GROUND** Look for acorns, hazelnuts and walnuts on the ground, many of them are shaped like hearts! But please don't touch – the squirrels need them to get through Winter! 
- TWIG OR BRANCH SHAPED LIKE AN ARROW** Use your imagination as you look for these special branches and twigs. If you can't find one, build your own arrow out of fallen sticks and leave it for other guests to find!
- MOSS THAT FEELS SOFT AND VELVETY** Moss is a plant that can grow on rocks, soil, trees and other surfaces. It prefers damp, shady spaces, so keep that in mind as you search.
- ANIMAL HOLE IN THE GROUND** Families of animals like squirrels, chipmunks, moles and others spend the winter huddling together to keep warm in these burrows.
- HEART-SHAPED CLOUD IN THE SKY** Most clouds that form an outlined shape are Cumulus clouds, which are low, puffy, and are usually out when it's a beautiful day! 
- LEAF THAT IS PARTIALLY RED** Leaves lose their green color during the Fall, and expose beautiful shades of red, yellow and orange. Many of these will turn brown in the Winter but look closely on the ground to find a Red Oak or Maple leaf that still has its color.
- TWO NATURAL ITEMS THAT LOOK LIKE THEY ARE "HUGGING"** Many plants in the forest have a symbiotic relationship with another organism, which means they grow closely together and can benefit from each other. Think of vines or fungi growing on a tree! 
- FLOCK OF BIRDS FLYING TOGETHER** Look up in the sky for a group of birds traveling together. They do this when they migrate, when looking for food, or to protect themselves and their friends from predators.



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