


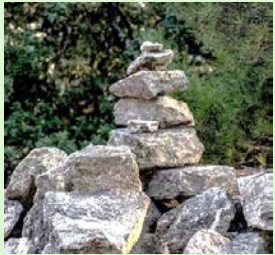
Summer Fun Scavenger Hunt



Ferns



Pileated Woodpecker 



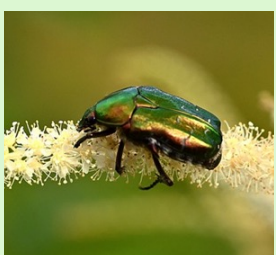
Cairns



Seeds & Nuts



Litter



Beetle



Butterfly




Moss



Birds Nest



Squirrels 



Wildflowers



Trail Markers




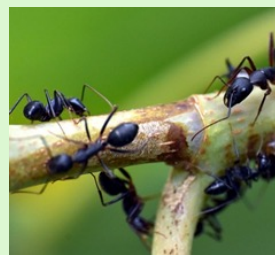
Clouds



Feather




Ducks 



Ants

Instructions:

- Take a walk in one of our preserves.
- Look and Listen  for the pictured items.
- When you complete your hunt, bring to the Essex Library or the Ivoryton Library for your prize.

***Images are representative; Your match may look a bit different.





Things to know about our woodlands:



FERNS are ancient, non-flowering plants that reproduce through spores instead of seeds. They thrive in moist, shady environments like forests and contribute to biodiversity by providing habitat and food for wildlife.

PILEATED WOODPECKERS are large black birds with a red crown. Their beaks are almost as long as their heads. You hear a loud hammering noise when they make holes in wood and tear off bark to find food. They look for tree stumps or trees that have fallen or have rotting branches. They eat ants, termites, and beetles.

CAIRNS are stacked rocks erected as a trail marker or landmark. Look for them on ELT trails, but please do not build them.

SEEDS AND NUTS are essential for plant propagation and provide animal food. Some seeds remain dormant for years until conditions are right for germination.

LITTER is trash that is improperly disposed of in natural environments. It can pollute water sources, harm wildlife, and disrupt ecosystems. Carry out what you carry into trails. If you do see litter and can safely remove it, please do.

BEETLES have hard outer shells and chewing mouthparts. They come in a variety of shapes, sizes, and colors and are important decomposers and pollinators. With over 350,000 species, they are the largest insect group. Some are herbivores, predators, or scavengers.

BUTTERFLIES transform from caterpillar to butterfly. They flutter from flower-to-flower pollinating plants. Butterflies taste with their feet and have a long, coiled tube called a proboscis that they use to suck nectar from flowers. Some migrate thousands of miles each year.

MOSS are small low-growing plants that do not have roots, stems or leaves. They typically form dense green clumps or mats often found in damp or shady locations. They aid in soil erosion control by providing surface cover and by absorbing water.

BIRD NESTS are built by birds to lay and protect their eggs. They may be constructed with twigs, grass, spider silk, and other materials.

SQUIRRELS have an excellent memory and can recall the locations of the thousands of nuts they bury. They also have sharp teeth that never stop growing, so they need to constantly gnaw on things to keep them trimmed.

WILDFLOWERS are plants that grow naturally in the wild. They thrive in various environments and attract pollinators like bees and butterflies with their bright colors and sweet scents. They play a crucial role in supporting biodiversity.

TRAIL MARKERS help you follow a trail. They can be circular colored markers or painted rectangles (blazes) just above eye level on trees. They tell you the trail you are on, the beginning and end of a trail, a change of direction, or an intersection. Double markers or a double blaze with different colors means you are hiking on 2 trails that overlap.

CLOUDS are visible masses of water droplets or ice crystals suspended in the atmosphere. They play a crucial role in our climate by reflecting sunlight and trapping heat.

FEATHERS are made of keratin, the same protein found in human hair and nails. They are essential for flight, insulation, and communication among birds

DUCKS swim in ponds, lakes, and rivers. They have waterproof feathers and regulate their body temperature by adjusting blood flow to the ends of their extremities..

ANTS may be the most numerous animal life on our planet in terms of numbers. They have colonized every part of the world except Antarctica. Ants communicate using pheromones and can carry objects many times their own body weight.

