

# ELT Explorer's Winter Fun Scavenger Hunt



Seeds & Nuts



Blue Jay 



Clubmoss



Shadow



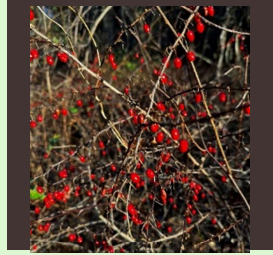
Boulder



Tree Stump



Hole in a tree



Barberry



Holly



Lichen



Squirrel Drey



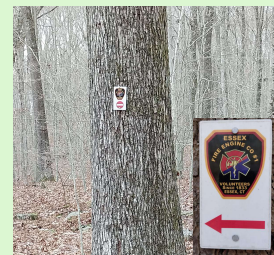
Evergreen



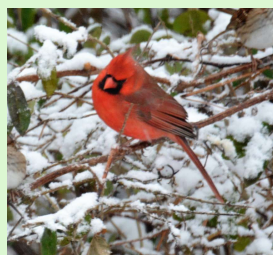
Bridge




Mountain Laurel




EMCY Marker

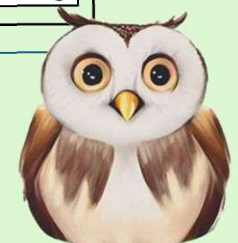


Cardinal 

## 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.



**Essex Land Trust**

*Caring for our world here at home*



## Things to know about our woodlands:



**Seeds & Nuts** are essential for plant propagation and provide animal food. Some seeds remain dormant for years until conditions are right for germination.

**Blue Jays** have a face with a bold black and white pattern, including a black "necklace" around their throat and a black crest on their head. Their sharp, pointed beaks are perfect for cracking open seeds and nuts. They are known for their loud, melodic calls.

**Clubmoss** is like a tiny, green forest that grows low to the ground. It's covered in soft, needle-like leaves and looks like a little evergreen tree, but it's actually very old and has been around since the time of dinosaurs!

**Shadows** are the longest in winter. This is because the Earth is tilted away from the Sun in winter, so the Sun appears lower in the sky. This means the Sun hits everything lower casting longer shadows.

**Boulders** are big round heavy rocks. They are often formed from glacier movement. Many of the ones in our preserves were formed by glaciers hundreds of years ago.

**Tree Stumps** are the old, leftover part of a tree that's been chopped or fallen down. Even though the tree is gone, the stump still stands tall and can sometimes grow mushrooms, flowers, or new shoots, showing that nature never really gives up!

**Holes in Trees** can be created from insects creating tunnels to eat or lay eggs, woodpeckers looking for insects to eat, decay, or a storm. Once made, they are secret little homes for birds, squirrels, and insects to keep them safe from the wind and rain.

**Barberry Plants** have sharp, spiky leaves that look like little red arrows. In the spring, they grow pretty yellow flowers and when it gets cold, they are covered in bright red berries that birds love to nibble on.

**Holly** is a special plant that's full of shiny, green leaves with prickly edges. In the winter, it gets red berries that look like little dots of color in the snow. It's the perfect plant to make festive wreaths and brighten up the cold days.

**Lichen** is like a tiny, colorful blanket that covers rocks and tree trunks. It can be green, yellow, or even red. It's made up of both fungus and algae working together to stay strong and grow in the wild.

**Squirrel Nests**, or 'drey,' are made from twigs, leaves, and soft moss. They are high up in the trees where squirrels sleep, keep warm, and store their food. It's a snug little hideaway where the squirrels can rest after a busy day collecting acorns.

**Evergreens** are trees that stay green all year round, even when it's cold and snowy. Their long, needle-like leaves help them keep their energy through winter, and they look so beautiful, like a green crown in the middle of a snowy world.

**Bridges** help us cross over streams, rivers, or even roads! In the preserves, they may be made of wood and metal or stone to let people and animals walk safely from one side to the other. Some bridges are small, and others stretch high above the ground.

**Mountain Laurel** is a beautiful shrub with pink and white flowers that bloom in spring. It grows in the mountains and forests. In the winter, leaves help to keep their roots warm and nearby evergreens help to prevent the sun from burning their leaves.

**EMCY-Emergency Markers** are Essex Fire Engine Company emergency signs that show the path emergency vehicles can use to drive into the woods for rescues. The Essex Land Trust works closely with Essex firefighters to find paths vehicles can use through trees and around obstacles in case hikers need assistance or for other emergencies.

**Cardinals** are bright red birds with a fancy crest on their head. They love to perch in trees and sing a cheerful song. Their red feathers shine brightly in the sunlight, and it's a wonderful sight against the snow or green leaves.



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