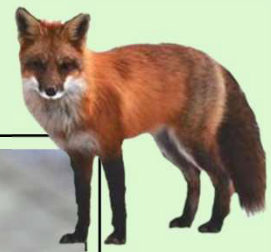




Fall Fun Scavenger Hunt



☐ Golden rod



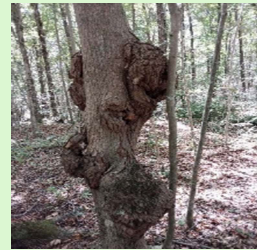
☐ Red Leaf



☐ Pine cone



☐ Hawk 



☐ Burl



☐ Bittersweet



☐ Boundary



☐ Moss



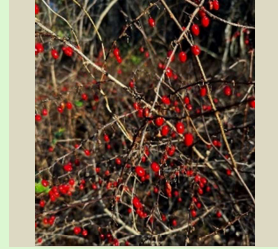
☐ Squirrel 



☐ Yellow Leaf



☐ Spiderweb



☐ Barberry



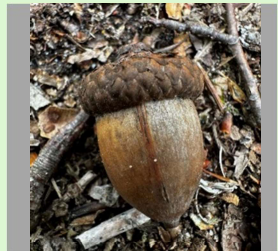
☐ Mushroom



☐ Cricket



☐ Crow 



☐ Acorn

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:



Goldenrod is a perennial wildflower native to North America. During the fall, goldenrod blooms with yellow flowers that attract pollinators

Red leaves in fall from red maple trees, dogwood, red oak, and scarlet oak trees. As the air chills, green chlorophyll fades from leaves, revealing brilliant red. Darker red leaves are the result of a chemical change when sugars get trapped in the leaves.

Pine cones may remain on pine trees for years before they fall to the ground. When the tree is ready to reproduce, the cones dry out, their scales open, and they release their seeds to grow new pine trees.

Hawks are known for their sharp eyes and powerful wings. In the fall, many species, such as the Red-tailed Hawk, migrate to warmer regions for food and a suitable habitat.

Burls are big, round bumps that can grow on the trunk or branches of a tree as a result of a hurt or stress. Inside, the wood has swirly patterns. No two burls are the same.

Bittersweet is a colorful vine that can grow up to 20 feet high. In the fall, berries appear, popping open to reveal bright red seeds, providing food for birds but not safe for people to eat.

Boundary markers mark where one piece of land ends and another begins. Sometimes, there are signs or stones placed on the ground to show the boundary.

Moss is a tiny, soft plant that grows as a green carpet in damp places like forests and near streams. During fall, loses almost all its water content and growth stops, but it remains green and alive. When spring arrives, moss re-hydrates and grows.

Squirrels are busy in the fall gathering nuts for the winter. In the fall, squirrels prepare cozy nests for the chilly winter days.

Yellow leaves fall from white oak and hickory trees. In the fall, trees get less direct sunlight, and the chlorophyll in the leaves breaks down revealing yellow pigments that were already in the leaves but hidden during the warmer months.

Spiderwebs are traps for the spider's next meal. In the fall, some spiders lay eggs in a safe place, wrapped in a silky sac, to ensure their babies hatch in the spring. Others find a warm spot to hide until the cold passes.

Barberry plants' leaves turn into bright shades of orange, red, and yellow in the fall. Berries hang among the leaves as food for birds.

Mushrooms are not plants, but a special kind of living thing called fungi. They come in all sorts of colors and shapes, and they love the cool, damp weather of fall.

Crickets have long, thin legs for jumping high and far. They chirp by rubbing their wings together. They help break down plant material. In the fall, crickets enter a state like hibernation. This slows their metabolism and allows them to survive the winter. Most crickets overwinter as eggs, but some as nymphs or adults, depending on the species.

Crows are smart birds with shiny black feathers. In the fall, crows often gather in large flocks, sometimes in the thousands. These flocks provide safety in numbers and help crows find food more efficiently. Crows roost in communal sleeping groups, known as "roosts," and may travel up to 50 miles to join these gatherings.

Acorns mature and drop from oak trees in the fall. They are food for wildlife and, if not eaten, grow to become new oak trees.

