

TRAILSIDE EYE SPY

Check off each item as you see it along Prairie Trail in Springfield Bog Metro Park, 1400 Portage Line Rd. Springfield Twp., OH 44312

SPARROWS

Often written off as drab, sparrows range from subtle to striking, each species with unique “field marks” that set them apart. Listen for the trailing sound of the field sparrow identified by a plain breast, rusty cap and delicate pink beak.



1.

MILKWEED MUNCHERS

Many know the relationship between monarch butterflies and milkweed, but there are numerous insects, such as the milkweed beetle, that also dine on these important plants. Bright coloration lets would-be predators know that these insects are toxic thanks to their diet.



6.

LITTLE BLUESTEM

This attractive, native grass is a great landscaping alternative that plays host to the caterpillars of several tiny skipper butterfly species.



2.

PINEAPPLE WEED

These unassuming plants grow just a few inches high and can withstand foot traffic along the trail. Their name refers to both their appearance and smell. *Give a flower a pinch to see for yourself!*



7.

RATTLESNAKE MASTER

This sun-loving plant is a pollinator favorite. Its common name stems from the inaccurate belief that it could be used as a rattlesnake antidote, its scientific name, *Yuccafolium*, refers to its resemblance to yucca.



3.

BOG MAT

Park biologists installed this feature in the summer of 2021. The hope is that the rare wetland fauna planted within it will, over many years, extend beyond the confines of the mat and form a new bog.



8.

GOLDENROD GALLS

When insects lay their eggs in the tissue of a growing plant, the plant mounts a protective response, forming a gall around the intruder. In doing this, the developing insect receives a safe home and the plant can continue growing, unharmed.



4.

CLOUDED SULFUR BUTTERFLY

The prairie plants here provide nectar for adult butterflies as well as the foliage needed by their very hungry caterpillars. *How many colorful butterflies can you spy?*



9.

SEED PODS

Seeds of early season flowers are already forming, ready to grow the next generation of prairie plants. These seeds provide food for many birds and small mammals. Blue false indigo forms pods that look like oversized peas which sound like rattles when shaken after the seeds inside dry out.



5.