

I Spy Game

Greenbelt

HOW TO:

Take this document with you either printed out or just bring it up on your phone while you walk. When you find any two of the items listed below, snap a photo and post to Instagram with the hashtag: **#ispygreenbelt**

We'll pick three random winners and mail you a prize!

If you don't use Instagram, you can email us your two photos (ecga@ecga.org) or just complete the list on your own for fun! One entry per family, please!

NOTE: We don't want you to actually take anything from the property. Keep in mind the principle: Take only pictures, leave only footprints!

On the next pages, you'll find Beginner and Advanced sections. The beginner items are things you will find at this reservation all year, in abundance. The advanced items are a little harder to find, may move around, or might only be there during certain times of the year. This scavenger hunt was prepared for Ordway Reservation in early spring 2020, but could be used at any reservation in Essex County. Enjoy!



Greenbelt
Essex County's Land Trust

Beginner / Spy

Greenbelt trail marker

Before you start your hike, look for the Greenbelt trail markers on the trees. If you follow these, you will know that you are on the right path!



Cedar Trees

Cedar trees are easy to identify by their peeling, reddish bark. Much like humans who store clothing in cedar chests to keep insects away, squirrels line their nests with curls of cedar bark to keep away pests like fleas! Can you spot any cedar trees at Ordway Reservation?



Shagbark Hickory Tree

Shagbark Hickory is easy to spot with its... shaggy bark! The hickory nuts are very popular with squirrels, but humans like them too! You can recognize them by their dark, shiny shell. Can you spot a shagbark hickory at Ordway?



Pitch Pine Trees

Pitch pines are a type of conifer that has evolved adaptations for when occasional forest fires burn. Its serotinous cones open and disperse seeds after being exposed to high heat. It is easy to spot in the forest. Look for its crackled bark, small cones with flat bottoms, and springy, bendable twigs. Do you see any trees that look like this?



Club Moss/Princess Pine

On the side of the trail, you've probably seen small plants that resemble miniature pine trees. These are called Club Moss or Princess Pines, but are neither a moss nor a pine! (They are seedless plants that reproduce with spores!) This type of plant is among the oldest still in existence on the planet -- their species is over 400 million years old! During the Devonian period, the fossil record tells us that these little plants used to grow up to 150' tall! Can you spot any Club Moss along the trail?



Stone wall

Stone walls were put up as property barriers, livestock fencing, and as divisions between planted farm fields. You can often figure out how a property was used years ago by looking for clues in stone walls. If the wall contains lots small stones along with the larger ones, it was likely surrounding an agricultural field and the stones were pulled up when the ground was plowed. If the stones are all the same size, it is more likely a boundary marker for livestock or simply marking the edge of a property. Find the stone walls in this property. What do you think they were used for?



Advanced / Spy

Scat

Animal droppings, or "scat," can tell you a lot about what an animal eats, what kinds of animals are in your area, and what those animals are doing at this time of year. Sometimes, wild animal scat is hard to find, but many animals deliberately place their scat in prominent places. Coyotes and fox are two of these animals. They will often deposit the scat on a log, a large rock, or right in the middle of the trail to mark their territory. Coyote and fox scat often contain fur from their main foods: rabbits, mice, and other small animals. Both types of scat have tapered ends. Fox scat may have berries, insects, bird feathers, and plant remains in it. Coyote scat may be dark or may be mostly fur, slightly larger than fox scat, around 3". Can you spot any scat on the trail or along nearby logs or rocks?



Forest Pond

On your map, you'll notice a pond on the inside of the loop trail. What do you see around and in the pond? What do you hear? If you hear a kind of quacking sound coming from all over the pond, that is wood frogs! Can you creep near and spot a wood frog? They might stop singing when they hear you coming, but stand still and they may start up again!



Bibliography

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