

#outdoordetective

A Nature Scavenger Hunt



HEPATICA

Also known as liverwort, Hepatica is one of the earliest flowers you'll see blooming in the spring. The flowers are usually shades of purple, blue and white, and can be found in woodland areas. It has been spotted at [Love Creek County Park](#) recently. Note: the flowers may not fully open on a cloudy day.



BIRD'S NEST

This is the time of year that birds are mating and beginning to build nests. See if you can find one!



RED WINGED BLACKBIRD

One of the earlier songbirds to migrate back to our area in the spring, these striking birds prefer marshes and wetland areas. Listen for their distinctive call, [which you can hear in this video](#). We know that birds can be difficult to get a photo of, so if you hear their calls, take a quick video! If we can hear their birdsong, we'll accept it!



CLUB MOSS

Though they resemble a moss, these little tree-like structures are actually evergreen plants (which means they are green right now!). You can find lots of them on the forest floor in [Robinson Woods Preserve](#).



BLACK CHERRY TREE

Although there aren't leaves on the trees just yet, you can easily identify a cherry tree by its distinctive bark, as pictured. They can be found in many of the local hardwood forests, including [Robinson Woods Preserve](#).



CANADA GOOSE

These guys are migrating back here right now, and can be found wherever there is a body of fresh water nearby. The pond at Chikaming Township Park and Preserve is popular goose hangout spot. You might also see (well, you'll probably hear them first) groups flying overhead in the typical V-formation.



SPRING PEEPERS

Considering that these little frogs are only about the size of a paper clip, they have a big, BIG voice. You can hear them singing pretty much anywhere there is standing water- wetlands, ponds, or even puddles on the side of the road. [Here's what they sound like](#). Because they are quite difficult to spot and photograph, a video where we can hear them works just fine!



A CREEK RUNNING THROUGH THE WOODS

This one's pretty self-explanatory! Lots of our local natural areas have creeks running through them.



MUSHROOMS GROWING ON A TREE

You can see these shelf-like mushrooms growing on the trunks of trees anywhere there is a wooded area. Mushrooms like to grow on dead or rotting wood, so fallen trees are a good place to find some of these, though you can see them on dead or dying standing trees like the one pictured too.

Have fun and happy hunting! Don't forget to tag your photos with #outdoordetective!