

Summer Scavenger Hunt

To begin, find your way to the Parkwoods Trail and turn right to head toward the first stop on this journey! Follow the clues below to learn about some spectacular sights around The Arboretum in the summer. This scavenger hunt is about 0.5-0.75 miles long.

CLUE 1: Under the bridge is a unique habitat. What is this area called and what are its benefits? Read the sign to the left for help. Next, follow the mulch path on the right to explore the nooks and crannies of this area. Continue down the gravel path toward the sound of running water.

CLUE 2: Ahead is a large sculpture of a bird that is part of our Avian Avatar exhibit by The Myth Makers! This species of bird is one of the oldest still in existence, dating back about 2.5 million years. This is a migratory species that breeds in Ohio during the springtime, and is unfortunately on the endangered species list. Can you guess the name of this bird? Continue down the grass path on the right. Once you reach the paved path, continue to the right.

CLUE 3: On the left there are a bunch of tall, old trees, some with more leaves than others. The dead tree in the middle may not have any leaves, but it is a perfect habitat for many species of birds and squirrels. Do you see or hear any birds or squirrels? Can you identify them? For the rest of your journey, continue down the Parkwoods Trail.

CLUE 4: The common name of this next Avian Avatar is "Indian peafowl." However, they are most often called by the name of the male birds, as males are more known because of their colorful feathers. These birds are native to India, but were a favorite of our co-founder, Bertie Dawes. Do you know this bird?

CLUE 5: Next you will see another set of Avian Avatars, which are of Ohio's state bird. This species does not migrate and is in Ohio all year long. Like many bird species, the male is more brightly colored in order to impress the female. What is the name of this bird?

CLUE 6: As you continue down the path, search for a tree that resembles some of our native maple trees, but has an interesting mix of red and green in their leaves. Can you find the name of this tree species?

CLUE 7: Walking across the bridge will give you a new view of an area from the beginning of our scavenger hunt. Sometimes changing our perspectives can help us to see and learn about new things. What do you see now, that you did not notice before?

***BONUS* CLUE 8:** Continuing past the Visitors Center, there is another Avian Avatar sculpture looking out over the hillside behind the natural play area. You may even see other birds perched on it! What type of bird is this and do you know what it eats?