



# COVID- 19 TRAIL SAFETY

## TRAIL GUIDELINES - SAFETY FIRST!

LOCAL OPEN SPACES CONTINUE TO BE A HAVEN FOR THOSE OF US SEEKING FRESH AIR, EXERCISE, AND NATURE.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO:

- OBSERVE SOCIAL DISTANCING. STAY MORE THAN 6FT AWAY FROM OTHERS
- SEEK LOCAL LESS CROWDED TRAILS AND/OR TRAILS THAT HAVE WIDER PATHS
- IF A PARKING AREA IS CROWDED, SO ARE THE TRAILS! FIND ANOTHER LOCAL CONSERVATION AREA TO EXPLORE 😊
- DOGS MUST BE LEASHED ON ALL TRAILS AT ALL TIMES. THIS IS TO REDUCE ACCIDENTAL CLOSE CONTACT WITH OTHERS- AND DON'T FORGET YOUR POOP BAGS!

MANY THANKS FROM FRAMINGHAM'S CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

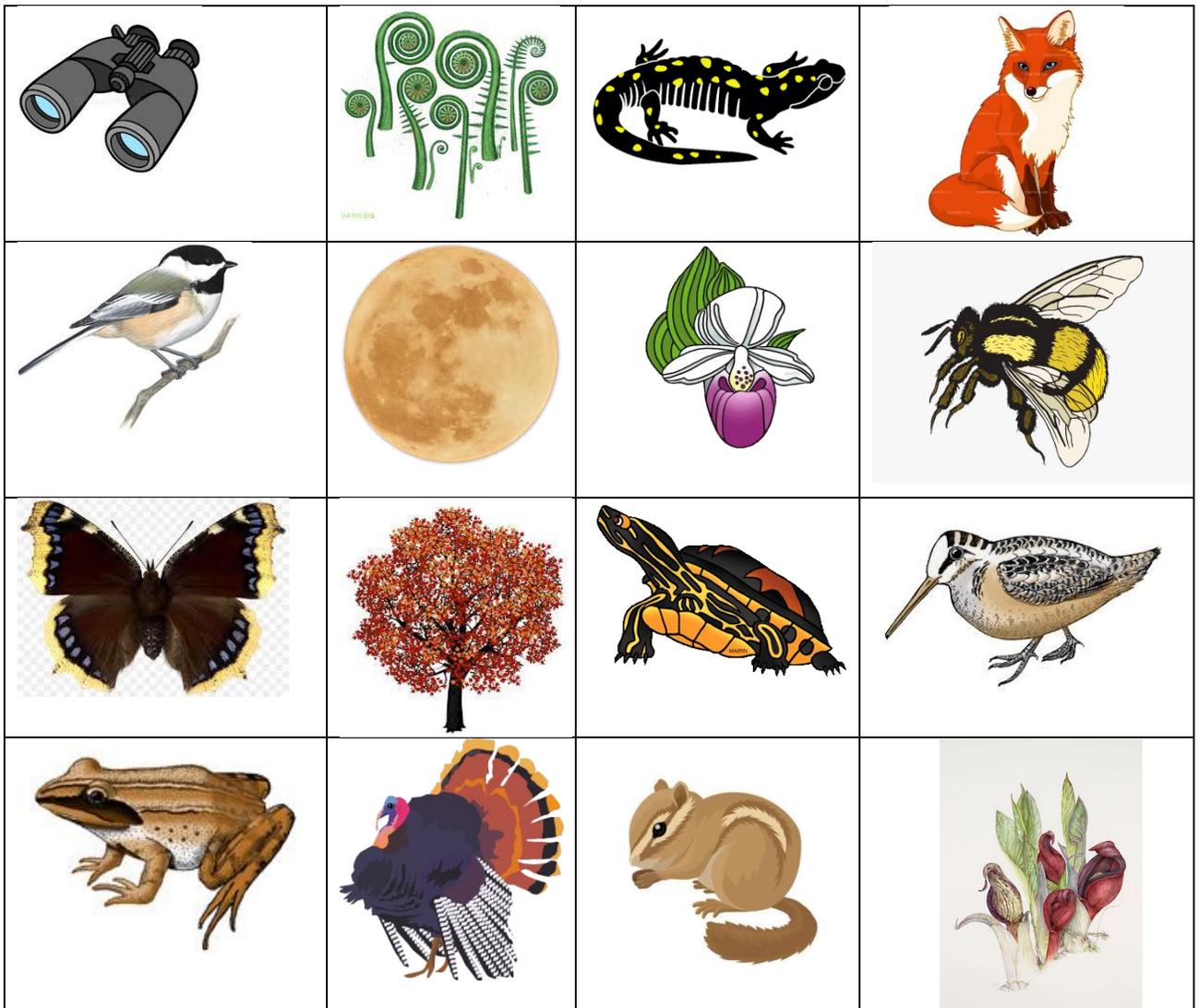
Email photos and questions to [conservationcommission@framinghamma.gov](mailto:conservationcommission@framinghamma.gov)

Connect with other nature enthusiasts through online platforms such as iNaturalist and ebird



# NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT

How are you experiencing nature this spring? We'd love to see photos of you exploring in your backyard or one of Framingham's Trails. How many of the items below can you find with your Quarantine Team?



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# SPRING CHECKLIST

## PLANTS AND INSECTS

- Flowering Red Maples
- Skunk Cabbage emerging in wetlands. Their unpleasant odor will attract pollinators such as flies and beetles
- Shadbush (or Serviceberry) white blossoms in wet woodlands
- Trillium blooming on the forest floor
- Ferns unfurling “fiddleheads”
- Large pink blooms of the lady slipper orchid
- Bumblebee queens flying in a zigzag pattern
- Mourning cloak butterflies

## BIRDS

- Tom turkeys gobbling and displaying. They will fan their tails and drag their wings while they strut back and forth. Hens will be close by and possibly hidden from view
- Tree swallows as they scout for nest boxes and tree cavities
- American Woodcock’s in their nuptial flights. Listen for their distinctive “peee-nt” call and whistle of wing tips around fields and forest edges at dusk.
- Ruby-throated hummingbirds feeding from sap wells made by Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in late April. Put up a hummingbird feeder if you like their company.
- Black-capped Chickadees will sing their sweet fee-bee fee-bee call as they prepare for nesting season.
- Mourning Doves cooing from a perch.
- Listen for Gray Catbird’s feline-like meowing

## MAMMALS

- Red fox kits emerged from their den
- Grey squirrels
- Chipmunks
- Raccoons
- Coyote (or their scat)

## AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

- Wood frogs quacking
- High pitched whistles of spring peepers
- Spotted salamanders
- Egg masses in vernal pools
- Painted turtles basking on logs and rocks

## MOON AND STARS

- Earth Day is April 22<sup>ND</sup>! Send us photos on how you celebrated locally in your yard.
- Full SUPER MOON on April 8<sup>th</sup>
- The Lyrid meteor shower peaks mid-late April
- Venus is often brightest in late April. Look for it in the western sky after sunset

## FELLOW NATURE LOVERS

- Someone using binoculars
- Someone going for a walk
- Someone taking a photo
- Someone picking up litter from their yard
- Someone walking their dog on a leash

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