Medina County Park District

HIKE & SEEK

Green Things in Winter

Keep track of what you discover by placing a check mark in the yellow boxes.

SHARE

Upload your photos to social media!

Instagram @medinacountyparks

Twitter @medinacoparks

Facebook @MedinaCountyParkDistrict

Christmas Fern

Christmas fern is a common woodland fern with fronds (stems) that grow up to two feet tall. The leaves grow feather-like along the stem. Each leaf has a small toe-like extension at its base that resembles a sock or stocking.

Eastern Hemlock

Eastern hemlock is a slow-growing, long-living evergreen tree. It is easily identified by its short, flat, blunt needles with two white lines on its backside. Needles are attached individually to the twig by very small stems. The cones are small, typically less than one inch long.

Lichens

Lichens, while they appear plant-like, are actually two organisms functioning in a symbiotic relationship -- fungus and algae. They can be found growing on a number of different surfaces, including the barks of trees and on rocks, and can vary in color.

Partridge Berry

Partridge berry is a evergreen woody, creeping ground vine that produces pairs of white flowers in summer that later become bright red berries that can last all winter (if not eaten by wildlife). The vine forms large mats that make this plant a great native groundcover.

Eastern White Pine

Eastern white pines are rapidly-growing evergreens that can reach 80 feet high. They have long soft needles that grow in bundles of five along the stem and tree branches that grow in whorls up the very straight trunk -- about every one to two feet. By counting the whorls from bottom to top, an approximate age of the tree can be determined.

Winter Creeper

Winter creeper is a vigorous vine that invades forest openings and margins. It spreads along the ground displacing herbaceous plants and seedlings, and climbs trees high into the tree canopy by clinging to the bark. Much like English ivy, winter creeper was introduced as an ornamental ground-cover and is now posing a serious ecological threat to our native forest plants.

Norway Spruce

Norway spruce is a non-native tree but is a widely-spread evergreen introduced from Europe. The primary branches are slightly upturned, but secondary branches droop gracefully as the tree matures. The needles are smooth and stiff with a pointed tip and grow singly from the stem. The cones are large and elongated.

Moss

Mosses are small plants that don't produce flowers or seeds but reproduce by spores. Mosses don't have roots, so they absorb water and nutrients through their leaves. Mosses, typically, form dense green clumps or mats and are found in damp or shady locations.