



# Creeking: Gilmore Ponds Challenge

*Instead of our usual creeking program where we look for life in the creek, we challenge you to look us your senses at Gilmore Ponds to find out how great a habitat these wetlands are.*

## What is Habitat?

Habitat is the entire place an animal lives. It is where the animal finds it basic needs: food, water, shelter, and air. Different kinds of animals are found in different types of habitat. The habitats found at Gilmore Ponds are: wetlands, a pond, a canal, forest, and open grassland/shrub. Each of these areas provide different types of food and shelter.

## The Challenge

Go for a hike on the wetlands trail which is shown as green on the map found at [www.yourmetroparks.net/parks/gilmore-metropark](http://www.yourmetroparks.net/parks/gilmore-metropark). Use your senses of sight and hearing to discover as many of the following items listed on this sheet as possible

## Materials

- This challenge and a pencil
- Good idea to bring: Bug spray, sun protection, and water
- Not necessary, but great tools to have: binoculars and a smartphone for apps/photos

## Share you challenge with us

You can share pictures of your finds with us on facebook and instagram by using

**#ButlerSWCD** and **#ButlerMetroPark**

## Great Apps to help you in your quest

- **iNaturalist**—you can share photos you have identified or share photos to receive help with identification
- **Dragonfly ID**—great photos
- **Audubon** -Bird pictures and sounds



*For more education ideas, please visit*

[www.ButlerSWCD.org](http://www.ButlerSWCD.org)  
[www.yourmetroparks.net](http://www.yourmetroparks.net)



## Food

Look for food for herbivores (plants), carnivores (animals for meat), and for omnivores (meat and plants)

### 3 different shapes of leaves

Smooth



Toothed



Lobed



### 3 different types or colors of flower (pollen and nectar for pollinators)



### 1 type of fungus



**Something dead** (Could be a plant or animal for scavengers and decomposers to eat)



**Shelter** -  Nest

Burrow

**Beaver lodge.** If you are really lucky you will see it across smartweed flats (see map)



**Animals** Not all of the animals can be found each time you visit. The time of day, the weather, and the season will make a big difference.

**Amphibian**  Frog or toad

**Reptile**  Snake  Turtle

**Insect**  Dragonfly  Damselfly  Butterfly  Bee

**Mammal**  You might have to look for evidence like footprints or scat (poop)

**Birds**  A wading bird



Hawks, eagles, and vultures



Duck



Small bird like a cardinal, sparrow, or warbler

