



Fall Equinox Swale Walk

Plants:

how are the plants changing? What will they provide?

pay attention to seeds that will grow new plants next year

Compare and admire the various colours of each plant of the same and different variety

Sounds:

what sounds are being made by species that live here year round and which sounds are being made by those migrating through?

What sounds might not be heard in colder seasons like winter?

Landscape:

Look for the tallest hill and the lowest valley; notice the driest and wettest areas, and pay attention to what kind of animals are occupying these spaces

Movement:

watch as wildlife flutters, hops, flutters, swoops, and crawls around you. What can you see moving quickly and what can you see being very still?

Tracks and pathways:

do you see any signs that an animal has been somewhere recently? Can you tell by imprints what the animal may have been doing?

Climate:

does the air feel different in one spot than in another? Where has the most wind?

Touch :

can you see anything that looks inviting to touch? How about something that looks best to avoid? What advantages would these textures offer the species, and how would they influence other species to interact with it?

Patterns:

can you find something growing or gathering in a group and something else that seems to want to occupy its space independently?

Homes :

look up and down for homes that might be for one or more occupants, and guess as to how they came to be here. Were they created by the species that are using them, or by another such as by humans or other wild creatures Will any be used by a species to hibernate?

Sounds:

Listen to the sounds your footsteps are making, and concentrate on the how each might be affecting other sounds being made nearby and far away. Do they inspire you to be still or do you feel inclined to move closer to their source? Consider why a creature might become quieter or louder as you get closer.