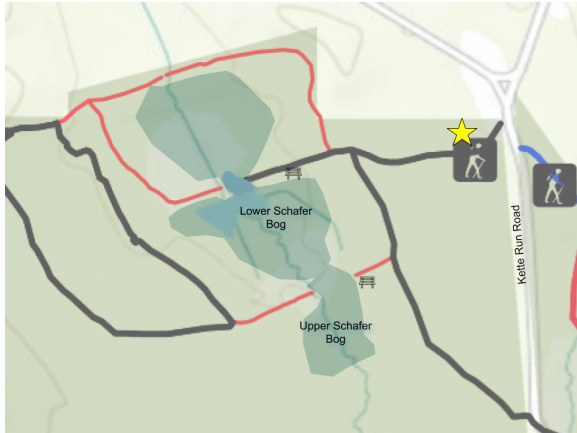


Explore with your senses



Before you start

Estimated time: 35 minutes

Estimated distance: **1 miles**

Age range: **4 and up**

Material: **This document, a pencil**

Optional: binoculars, magnifying glass, snack

Starting point: **Kettle Run Rd entrance, west side**

The Leave No Trace pledge

I, _____, promise to leave no trace, no trash, no damage, to stay on marked trails and to be courteous with other trail users.

Mission

We're going to use our five senses - **sight, touch, hearing, smell and taste** - to get familiar with the west side of the Black Run Preserve. Complete the bingo sheet as you go. You can post pictures on Instagram and tag #blackrunpreserve. Follow the suggested itinerary or create your own adventure.

Sight

Keep your eyes wide open, we're going to follow the Black Run Trail. Make sure you spot the black trail markers. What else do you see?

You'll see a bird feeding station on your left. This is utilized during the winter time when birds need extra food.

Continue straight on the Black Run Trail until you reach Lower Schafer Bog. You'll find a bench there. The trail ends at a beaver dam. Beavers need deep water to build their lodges. You can see three lodges on the opposite side. Each lodge has a secret underwater entrance. Pretty cool!

Most exciting thing I saw today:

Fun fact: Nocturnal animals have special reflective cells in the back of their eyes to help them see at night. Maybe you've seen a deer or a cat's eyes shine.



Touch

Go back the way you came on the Black Run Trail. Turn right and follow the black markers south. You'll see a Nature Trail on the right, Take this short trail to Upper Schafer Bog, you'll find another bench.

Touch or use your imagination to guess what different things feel like. Are the tree trunks smooth or rough? Are some smoother than others? Touch a tree stump cut down by the beaver. Imagine their teeth doing the work. How about the leaves, are they soft or crunchy today? See the birds, can you imagine what their feathers feel like? Can you find something cold? Sticky? Spiky?

Most surprising thing I touched today:

Fun fact: Pine Barren Treefrogs have sticky pads under their feet. It helps them climb.

Hearing

Sit on the bench. Close your eyes. Can you hear birds? How many? Are they in front or behind you? What else can you hear? The wind? Other people? Rustling in the leaves? Frogs?

Most interesting thing I heard today:

Fun fact: Snakes don't have ears. They can't hear you yell! They do feel vibrations.

Smell

Walk back the way you came. Now that you're familiar with the textures, sights and sounds of the trail, **let's see what you can smell.**

If it's the winter you may smell the crisp air. On a sunny spring afternoon you can smell the pine. During the summer, along the bogs you'll smell Sweet Pepperbush. In the fall the crushed leaves of Teaberry are intoxicating.

Most memorable thing I smelled today:

Fun fact: Most animals have a much better sense of smell than humans. Dogs are the champion sniffers. That's why they're used as service dogs. The Black Bear also has an excellent sense of smell.

Did you know?

Some animals have more than five senses: bats can use echolocation to find their insects prey in the dark and snakes can detect the heat of their prey.

Taste

Wait a minute, don't put anything in your mouth! Things you find on the trail should not be eaten.

We hope you packed a drink or a delicious snack to explore your sense of taste.



Black Run Preserve Sensory Bingo

Share your pictures on Instagram with the hashtags [#blackrunpreserve](#) and [#seebrp](#), [#touchbrp](#), [#smellbrp](#) or [#hearbrp](#)

How many can you see 👁️, touch 🤏, hear 👂, smell 🤧?

🤏 rough	👂 footsteps	🌱 plants	👁️👁️ nest box
👁️👁️ dead tree	🤏 crunchy	👁️👁️ animal	💡 wind
💡 frogs	👁️👁️ green	🤏 sharp	🌱 mud
👁️👁️ footprint or pawprint	🤏 hard	🌧️ rain	👁️👁️ mushroom
🌱 animal	🤏 warm	👁️👁️ red	🤏 wet