

# Nature activities for Metro parks

## *Sketch nature.*

### **Bird sketching**

**Materials: Paper, pencils, colored pencils, crayons, internet or bird identification app (optional)**

1. Sit in a spot of your choice. This can be in a forested area, an open space, or even your backyard!
2. As you sit and listen for birds, notice what sounds you hear and where they are coming from. When you see a bird, sketch what you notice about them, such as its shape, color, or whatever draws your attention!
3. Also pay attention to where you see your bird. Is it on the ground? In a tree? Flying in the sky?
4. When you are finished with this activity, try identifying the types of birds you sketched. Use resources like the internet or an app like The Cornell Lab's Merlin Bird ID app.



### **Mushroom hike & sketch**

**Materials: Pen, pencil or marker, paper, mushroom identification book (optional)**

1. Find a forested trail to hike and keep an eye out for mushrooms. Remember they come in many sizes, shapes, and colors!
2. When you see a mushroom, stop and sketch it on your paper. As you sketch your mushrooms, take notice of where they are growing. On a log? On the ground? On a tree? Repeat this for all the mushrooms you see on the trail.
3. Once you've finished your mushroom hike, use a mushroom identification book or the internet to see if you can identify the type of mushrooms you saw!

#### **Note:**

- It is important to remember that while you can touch any mushroom, it is generally not safe to eat every mushroom.