

# Tree Bud Watch

*"Time spent amongst trees is never wasted time."*

Katrina Mayer



When we take time to look closely at nature we can see unique details that we normally don't notice. Have you noticed that tree buds are already out on the ends of branches? They are ready to open up into brand new leaves or flowers as soon as there is enough sunlight and warmth. Even though it doesn't quite feel like spring, it is here!

1. Find tree with low branches that you can go to everyday. One close to your home is a good idea.
2. Look closely at the tree. See what you notice about the bark, branches, and buds. Does it look exactly like other trees around it or do you notice differences?
3. Find one specific bud that you can get a close look at. This will be the bud you watch until it becomes a leaf!
4. Mark the bud you have chosen by loosely tying a ribbon or hanging a small ornament. Be sure that it is loose so the tree has room to grow. By marking your bud we can be sure to come back to the exact same one each time. Be sure to remove the item after this project.
5. Take a photo and measure your bud each day. It may not seem like it is growing much, but when you compare photos over a number of days you should be able to see a difference. Be patient.



No camera? No problem! Sketch and measure your bud each day and look at the differences. Measuring can be as simple as stretching a small piece of string or paper alongside the bud and marking it with a pen or marker.

How long did it take before your bud grew past your first mark?

6. Watch your bud for as long as you would like, but try to visit it for at least two weeks. Or until a baby leaf appears. What color is it? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the shape. \_\_\_\_\_

7. At the end of your time frame, look back at your photos or drawings. Notice what has changed and what has stayed the same over time. Also, remove the item marking your bud at the end of the project.

*(continued on back)*



**METROPARKS  
TOLEDO**

**ADDITIONS:**

- A. You are watching the bud, but what is the bud watching? Take a bud's eye view of the surrounding area. Stand directly underneath or right next to your bud. Slowly spin around in a circle and write down or draw what you see.
- B. Paint it! Paint a picture of your bud every few days and see how it is growing.
- C. At the end of your bud watching, you can scroll through the photos quickly to make a stop-motion video.

This is an example of what you will see over time.

