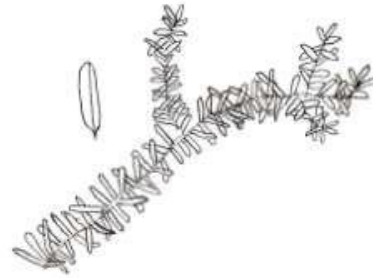




Northern Red Oak

The Red Oak is one of the largest oaks. Some are 150 feet high with trunks five feet across. It grows rapidly and is long lived. The Red Oak family often produces crossbreeds. The leaves have seven to eleven bristle tipped lobes and have alternate leaf placement. The acorns take two growing seasons to mature. They are $\frac{3}{4}$ -1 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches long and their cups look like saucers. The flowers emerge in May. The male flowers grow high up in the tree. They hang by hairy strings four to five inches long. They are yellowish green. The female flowers grow lower in the tree. They are smaller and greener. The bark is greenish brown and smooth on younger trees but gets dark and ridged as the tree gets older. Red Oaks withstand cold better than most oaks but don't withstand drought as well.



Eastern Hemlock

Eastern Hemlock is the state tree. It is also an evergreen. Its needles are dark green above and have two white stripes beneath. They have rounded tips and fall off after three years. The cones are $\frac{3}{4}$ -1 inch long. They have scales with two seeds under each scale. It takes only one season for the cones to mature but the cones often remain on over winter. A hemlock can produce cones for 450 years. A Hemlock tree's bark is greenish or reddish brown. It is rough with vertical ridges. The bark is also used to preserve leather. The flowers emerge in April or May. Male flowers are a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long, yellow, and rounded. Female flowers are $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, oblong, and green. It grows more often on slopes that face north than ones that face south. Hemlock trees like shade. A normal tree will grow for 150-200 years, but some grow for over 900 years. For a reason nobody knows Hemlock is named after a poisonous old-world plant.



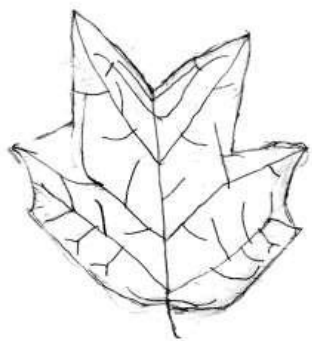
American Hornbeam

The American Hornbeam is a small tree that likes to grow on riverbanks and on low ground. The bark is smooth, gray, and fluted. The leaves are blue green above and paler beneath. It has alternate leaf placement. The leaves are 2-4 inches long. Flowers emerge in April or May. They are catkins. The male flowers are yellow and drooping. The female flowers are green. Hornbeam means "hard tree". The Hornbeam is a slow growing tree and short lived. The Hornbeam can grow in a variety of locations. It tolerates shade well. The wood is hard and heavy. It weighs 45 pounds per cubic foot. The wood rots quickly in contact with the ground. Sometimes the Hornbeam is just a large shrub. The Hornbeam is in the Birch family. It is also known as Blue Beech, Water Beech, and Ironwood. Hop Hornbeams can also be found on the trail. They are distinguishable by their rough bark.



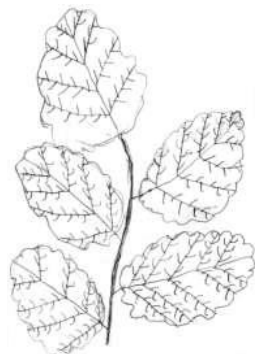
Red Maple

The Red Maple is very red. It has red buds, red flowers, red fruit, and when the leaves first emerge, they are red, and their veins remain red. On young trees the bark is smooth and light gray. When the tree gets older it becomes shaggy and roughened with peeling flakes. Red Maple is one of the first trees to flower in spring. The male flowers are airy clusters of yellow and pink. The female flowers are larger and hang on slender red stems. The Red Maple has opposite leaf placement. The leaves have 3 or 5 toothed lobes. The fruits are samaras, which are seeds with wings. The Red Maple has the lightest seeds of all maples. The Red Maple is sometimes known as the soft maple because of its soft wood. This tree likes wet soil and is a medium sized tree. Often 50-60 feet high but on a good spot it can be 100 feet high. Red maples grow on a wider range of locations than any other tree. Flooding does little harm to Red Maples.



Tulip Tree

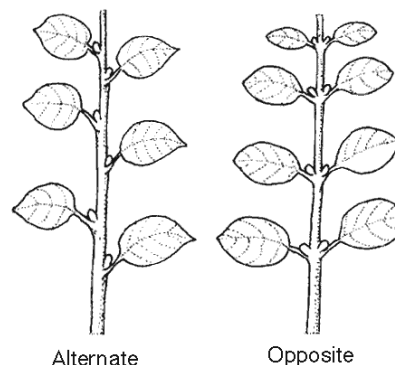
The Tulip Tree is the tallest of the eastern hardwoods. It grows rapidly. The leaves have 4-6 lobes. It has alternate leaf placement. On a young tree the bark is green with white vertical streaks and smooth. On older trees the bark is gray and furrowed. Greenish yellow tulip-like flowers are produced in May or June. The flowers grow high up in the tree so they are hard to see. In September or October the fruits appear. The fruits are cone shaped packets of winged seeds. When all the seeds have come off of the cones they often remain on the tree through winter. The seeds can lay on the ground for seven years before starting to grow. Although some animals eat the seeds not many animals eat the Tulip Tree. The Tulip Tree has wood that is light in color and weight. It is also known as Yellow Poplar, Tulip Poplar, and White Poplar, but it is not related to the Poplars. It is also known as Whitewood.



Witch Hazel

Witch Hazel is the most common shrub native to Pennsylvania. It has alternate leaf placement. The leaves are wavy toothed and uneven based. The bark is light brown in color. Young trees have smooth bark but on older trees the bark is scaly. Witch Hazel is the only Pennsylvania tree or shrub to blossom in fall. The flowers have male and female parts. Its flowers cluster in threes. It has flowers that can self-pollinate. Once the flower has been pollinated the pollen grain does not fertilize the ovaries till next spring. The fruit is a yellowish brown woody pod that contains two shiny black seeds. When it is ripe the pod will burst open throwing the seeds five feet or more. Some pods throw the seeds thirty feet! The empty pods often remain on the tree and are good for identifying it in winter. Witch Hazel often splits into many stems near the ground. It is a small tree and grows slowly. It is tolerant of shade and likes moist soil.

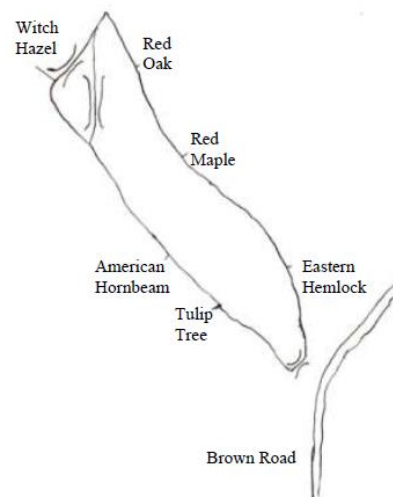
Branching Arrangement:



Alternate

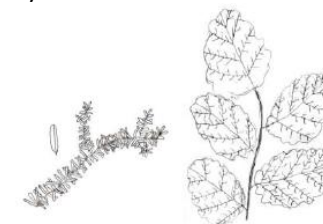
Opposite

Map of Trees Along Trail:



Trees of the Nature Access Trail

The Nature Access Trail is one of the best-known trails in North Park. There are many types of trees on the trail, six of which are in this brochure. See what others you can find! There are pictures of their leaves and brief descriptions of each one. There is a stream that runs through the Nature Access Trail and there are three bridges to cross it. It takes about twenty minutes to walk the Nature Access Trail as it is two thousand one hundred thirty feet long, about 0.5 miles. I hope you enjoy this brochure as you walk the Nature Access Trail!



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