

Patapsco Valley State Park

Medicine Tree Trail

Welcome to Patapsco Valley State Park and the Medicine Tree Trail. Trees are one of Patapsco Valley State Park's most important and bountiful natural resources. Within the park's 14,000 acres grows a very diverse population of tree species. Learn how to identify some of these species by walking the Medicine Tree Trail's .3 mile loop. This interpretive hike allows you to identify nine tree species strategically marked along the trail. Match the post numbers along the trail with the images and descriptions provided. Check your answers using the key on the back of this brochure.

To identify trees, examining leaf shapes is especially helpful. Below are some terms to help you better understand the descriptions:

Terminal Bud: at ends of twigs, often with scales like fish

Axial Bud: in the notch between the leaf stem and branch

Simple leaf: a single leaf blade with an axial bud

Compound Leaf: divided into leaflets that have no axial bud

Lobed: irregular wavy contour of leaf shape

Toothed: leaf edges like a saw blade



POST _____

Bitternut Hickory (*Carya Cordiformis*)

Leaves: Alternate, compound seven to eleven leaflets

Twigs: slender, hairless

Bark: gray, tight shallow furrows

Fruit: round nut with sharp-pointed tip

Flower: Male: three yellow hanging catkins; female: small, green



POST _____

Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

Leaves: Alternate, simple, palmate, four-lobed

Twigs: Red-brown, shiny or waxy

Bark: gray-green with white-topped furrows

Fruit: Cone-like

Flower: Large, yellow with orange, tulip-like in shape



POST _____

American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*)

Leaves: alternate, simple, distinctly toothed, waxy

Twigs: light brown, zig-zagged

Bark: smooth, thin, gray

Fruit: nuts, small and triangular

Flower: male: small, hanging; female: grown from shorter spikes



POST _____

Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)

Leaves: Alternate, simple, oblong

Twigs: Stout, brown-red to gray

Bark: Gray-brown, irregularly furrowed

Fruit: Dark, purple-blue

Flower: Not showy, light green clusters appearing with leaves



POST _____

American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*)



Leaves: alternate, simple, doubly serrated, waxy

Twigs: slender, brown to gray

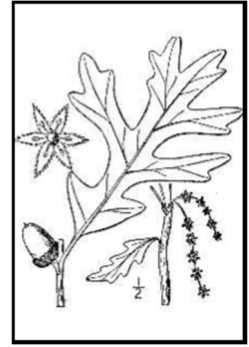
Bark: thin, smooth, bluish gray; heavily fluted trunk

Fruit: small nut hanging from long, leafy stalk

Flower: hanging catkins

POST _____

White Oak (*Quercus alba*)



Leaves: Alternate, simple, seven to ten finger-like lobes

Twig: Hairless, red-brown, multiple round buds

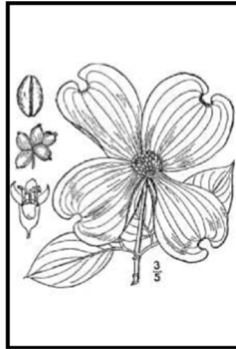
Bark: whitish or ashy-gray, irregular, blocky

Fruit: Acorn

Flower: Male: yellow-green catkins; female: redish, spike-like

POST _____

Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)



Leaves: opposite, simple, slightly wavy, pale below

Twigs: green or purple (purple on sunlit side)

Bark: gray, scaly, blocky

Fruit: shiny, oval, red, clusters of three to five

Flower: four showy, large white bracts

Answer Key:

1. Flowering Dogwood, 2. White Oak, 3. American Hornbeam, 4. American Beech, 5. Black Gum, 6. Tulip Poplar, 7. Hickory



Larry Hogan, Governor | Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary



Maryland Park Service
580 Taylor Avenue, E-3
Annapolis, MD 21401

HEADQUARTERS 800-830-3974
PARK OFFICE 410-461-5005

dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands
patapsco.statepark@maryland.gov