

Finding Your Roots: Learn the Native Trees of Virginia on the School Trail

To walk this part of the School Trail, cross the field on the Red Trail south of the parking lot. As you enter the woods, the School Trail is on the right. There are 16 native Virginia trees labeled along the trail.

(leaves and map not to scale)

American Beech -- light grey smooth bark down to the roots;
look for a large Beech by the bridge

Northern Red Oak -- note the flat whitish ridges that run vertically along bark; Leaves turn a rich red color in autumn

Blackgum -- branches grow at a 90 degree angle to trunk –
This is an important bear den tree

Red Maple -- dark grey smooth bark on young wood, furrows as it get older, beautiful fall color

Black Cherry -- bark has square flat plates with horizontal “breathing” holes within; hosts the tent caterpillar in the spring

Yellow poplar -- also called Tulip poplar and Tuliptree; its trunk is very tall and straight; not a true poplar – it’s in the Magnolia family

Scarlet Oak -- This red oak is distinguished by the sinuses that cut deeply into the leaf and for its beautiful fall foliage

American Holly -- this sun lover is not doing well here in the shady forest; known for its beautiful orange berries in winter



Virginia Pine – also called scrub pine for it retains its dead branches along the trunk below the living crown.

American Hornbeam -- also called musclewood for its very smooth sinewy bark and dense wood

Southern Red Oak
Think “Southern Belle” to ID this red oak for its leaf that has a bell-shaped base

Northern White Oak -- rounded lobes distinguish white oak leaves; important wood - used in ships, furniture and fuel

Dogwood
Virginia state tree and flower; bright red clusters of berries are valuable wildlife food

Black Oak -- mature bark is very dark and furrowed; like all red oaks, its acorns take 2 years to mature

Pignut Hickory and Mockernut Hickoy

Hickory wood was used by indigenous people for its strong tough yet flexible quality; compound leaf may have 5-9 leaflets depending on species.

Eastern Redcedar

(on right after you cross bridge) This common Virginia tree thrives in full sun but here is shaded out by large deciduous hardwood trees.

Compare this Redcedar to the one next to the Barn.

BRIDGE