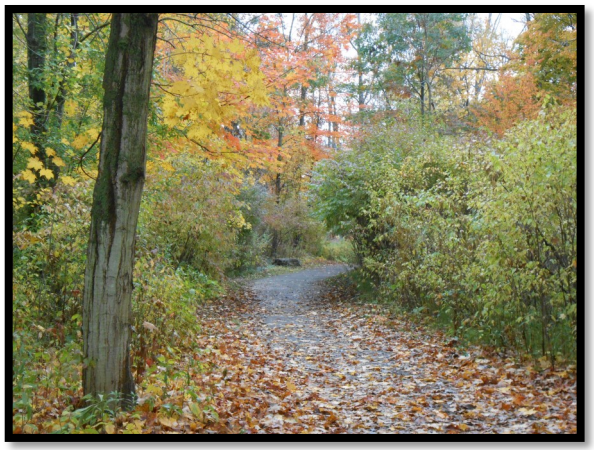
The Importance of Urban Forestry

While manmade drainage systems such as sewers and storm drains accelerate the flow of polluted water through developed areas, trees slow and filter the water. As they grow, trees remove carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. They also give off oxygen, which is what we all need to breathe. The trees provide wildlife with food, liquids, and shelter. Tree canopies provide shade and cover for animals. The roots protect the soil from erosion by absorbing excess water in the soil.

Threats to the Forest

One of the major threats to BNAC Woodlands is the emerald ash borer, or EAB. It is a threat to ash trees specifically. The larvae imbeds itself into the tree, and absorbs the trees nutrients to survive, eventually killing the tree. Invasive grapevines also pose a threat to the forest. They absorb the nutrients that trees need, and will kill the trees in time. Humans also pose a significant threat to the forest by breaking branches, littering, playing with fire, and carving in the trees.



"One of the supremely happy moments of my whole life was when I stood in the woods and listened to the wind roaring in the tree tops."

Charles E. Burchfield

Charles E. Burchfield Nature & Art Center

Tree Identification Guide

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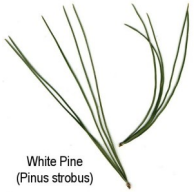
Tree Species in the BNAC Parklands

Cottonwood
Can reach up to 130 feet tall with spreading canopy. The leaves are triangular, about 2-4 inches long.

White Pine
Can reach up to 100 feet tall with a symmetrical crown. Groups of five needles protrude from stem.



Locust
Can reach up to 80 feet tall with a loose canopy. The leaf stems are 4-10 inches long with 9-19 smaller 1 inch leaflets.

Hickory
Can reach up to 80 feet tall with a wide spreading canopy. Leaf stems are 8-14 inches long with 5-7 leaflets.

Ash
Can reach up to 70 feet tall with a spreading canopy. The leaf stems are 8-12 inches, with 5-9 leaflets.

Willow
Can reach up to 120 feet tall with a broad, irregular crown. The leaves are 6-10 inches long with 5-10 leaflets.

Sumac
Can reach up to 16 feet tall with a wide canopy. The leaf stem is 10-22 inches long with smaller leaflets that are 2-4 inches long.

Chestnut
Can reach up to 140 feet tall with a large canopy. The leaves are 5-8 inches long and 3-4 inches wide with sharply pointed teeth.

Hemlock
Can reach up to 75 feet tall with a cone-like crown. The trees have small, evergreen needles (less than 1 inch long) that are narrow, flat, and soft.

Basswood
Can reach up to 100 feet tall with a compact crown. The leaves are heart shaped, coarsely toothed, 3-10 inches long.

Black Cherry
Can reach up to 90 feet tall with a spreading canopy. The leaf stem is 4-8 inches long and narrow, dark green on top and light green on the bottom.

This pamphlet was an Eagle Scout Project by Jayson Koscielniak in November 2015

Red Oak
Can reach up to 80 feet tall with a wide canopy. Leaves are 5-10 inches long, leathery, and have 7-11 toothed lobes.

White Oak
Can reach up to 100 feet tall with a spreading canopy. Leaves are 5-9 inches long and have 4-9 lobes.

Silver Maple
Can reach up to 120 feet tall with a spreading canopy. The leaves are 3-6 inches, with deep fissures between lobes.

Red Maple
Can reach up to 90 feet tall with a spreading canopy. The leaves are 2-4 inches, and are three lobed, with small teeth.

Walnut
Can reach up to 80 feet tall with a broad canopy. The leaf stems are 1 to 2 feet in length with 1 to 23 leaflets.

Boxelder
Can reach up to 60 feet with a rounded canopy. The leaf stem has 3-5 leaflets that are 2-4 inches In length. Leaf pattern resembles that of poison ivy.