

COOL HOLLOW

INTERPRETIVE TRAIL

PALISADES - KEPLER STATE PARK



1.

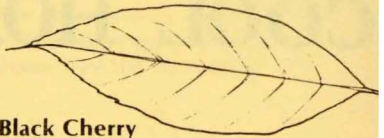
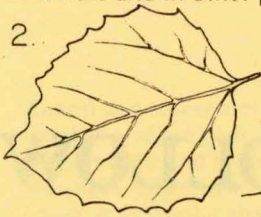
White Ash

This common white ash grows to 80 feet tall with a trunk diameter of three feet. Leaves are pinnately compound and usually have seven leaflets that are dark green on top and lighter underneath. In the fall the leaves turn yellow or maroon. Wood from this tree is hard and strong and is used in making tool handles, furniture, and athletic equipment.

Bigtooth Aspen

Bigtooth aspen is a medium sized tree that grows up to 60 feet tall. Bark on the younger tree is greenish-white and smooth. The bark becomes brown, ridged and furrowed on older trees. The leaves are nearly round and have coarse rounded teeth on the edges. Bigtooth aspen is normally found in groups (stands) as it is here and in other parts of the Palisades.

2.



3.

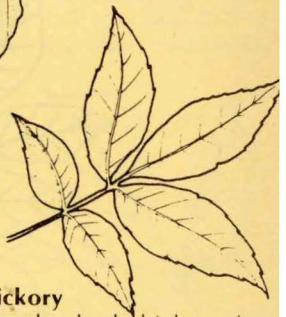
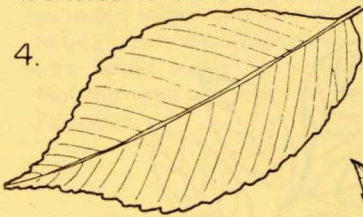
Black Cherry

This interesting black cherry has several uses for man and wildlife. Its dark-colored wood is valued for making fine furniture, and its sap is used in making cough syrup. Its fruit has a bittersweet taste and is used for making wine and jelly, and is cherished by wildlife. Unripe fruit and the leaves are poisonous and can be fatal if consumed.

American Elm

This graceful elm was once a common sight in Iowa forests as well as along streets and in the yards of homes across the Eastern United States. Its vase shape and towering height, up to 120 feet, made it a popular and ornamental shade tree. Today, however, the elm has been virtually wiped out by an introduced fungus carried by bark beetles. Young elms still persist but it is unusual to find a tree of this size still living.

4.

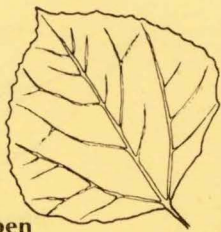


5.

Shagbark Hickory

The bark on this distinctive shagbark hickory is smooth and gray on young trees, but separates into thick plates that curl outward as the tree matures. Consequently, the bark has a shaggy appearance. The tree has a feathered leaf, usually having five leaflets, and bears a sweet nut that is enjoyed by man and wildlife. Shagbarks reach heights of 70 to 90 feet and usually have a narrow crown when growing in a forest situation.

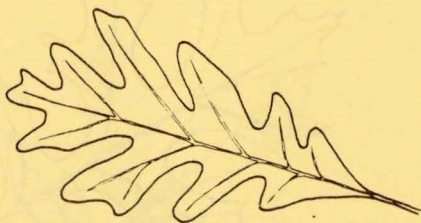
6.



Quaking Aspen

If the slightest breeze is blowing, you'll understand where this quaking aspen get its name. The leaves are connected to the branches by a flat sender stem that allows them to rustle in light breezes. In the fall the foliage takes on a brilliant yellow gold. The bark is greenish-white to cream in color. An aspen can grow to 60 feet tall.

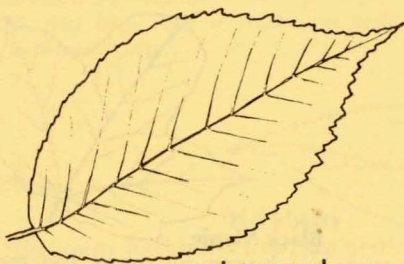
7.



White Oak

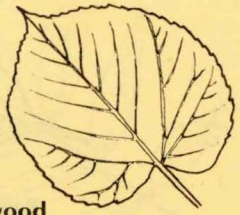
This magnificent oak grows abundant in the Palisades and other Iowa forests. It's a large hardwood tree reaching heights over 100 feet and having a broad spreading crown. Fall foliage color varies from a brown to a deep reddish-purple which hangs on late into the fall. The fruit is an acorn, a valuable source of food for wildlife. White oak is a long-lived tree and may reach ages up to 500 years.

8.



Ironwood

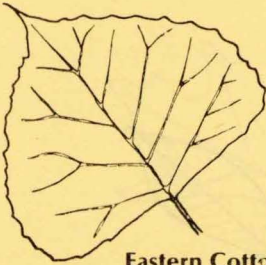
Ironwood, also known as American hophornbean, is a small tree that is commonly found growing beneath the canopy of Iowa's forestlands. It attains heights of 30 to 40 feet and has a rounded crown formed by graceful, horizontal branches. Wood from this tree is very hard and heavy giving rise to its common name, ironwood.



9.

American Baswood

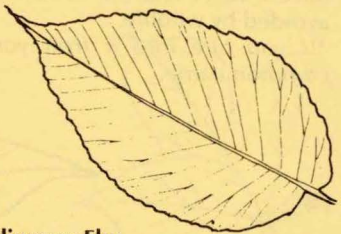
American basswood has large heart-shaped leaves, 5 to 6 inches long and 3 to 4 inches wide, with a roughly toothed edge. It bears a small cluster of nutlike fruits which is attached to a thin leaf-like bract. American basswood, also called American linden, is a large tree reaching heights of 70 to 100 feet.



10.

Eastern Cottonwood

These two gentle giants standing just in front of you are a common sight along Iowa river bottoms. Eastern cottonwood commonly reaches heights of 75 to 100 feet and has a broad spreading crown with trunk diameters ranging from 3 to 6 feet. However, this species of tree can get much larger. One of these exceptional specimens can be found here in Iowa on a farm near Tama. The tree measures 78 feet in height, has a spread covering 126 feet and an impressive circumference of 34 feet, 1 inch. This is the largest known Eastern cottonwood in the world!

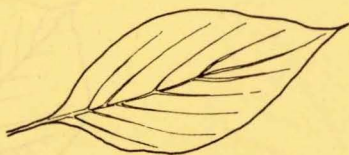


11.

Slippery Elm

This slippery elm can be distinguished from other elms by its larger, rough-textured leaves. The tree reaches heights of 70 to 80 feet and bears a small wafer like fruit called a samara. The common name of this species is derived from its fragrant inner bark which is slippery to the touch. Like the American elm, slippery elm is affected by Dutch elm disease. Just to the right is a large American elm that was probably killed by the disease.

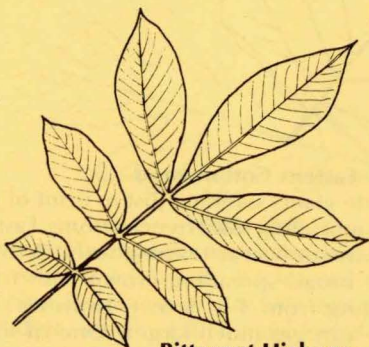
12.



Pagoda Dogwood

Pagoda dogwood gets its common name from its distinct horizontal branching, making it identifiable at a glance. In the spring, it displays clusters of white flowers which give rise to a bluish-black fruit called a drupe. Pagoda dogwood, also known as alternate-leaf dogwood, is a small tree that grows to a height of approximately 30 feet. It may also be found in a large shrub form.

13.

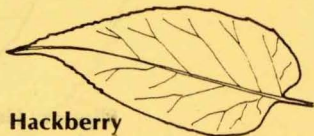


Bitternut Hickory

This bitternut hickory is common to Iowa forests, and grows to around 80 feet in height. Younger trees have a smooth gray bark that breaks off into scales as it matures. Bitternut leaves are feathered and usually have 7 to 11 leaflets. *The bitter tasting nut is also avoided by wildlife.

**If you bite into it fruit you will understand its common name.*

14.



Hackberry

This young hackberry tree, just getting its start in the forest, has a long way to go before it reaches maturity. As it matures, the fairly smooth bark will take on a warty appearance. The tree bears a small, dark purple fruit which is enjoyed by wildlife. Hackberry commonly grows to 30 or 40 feet, but exceptional specimens reach heights over 100 feet. Only time will tell how big this tree will get as it starts its climb for the sky.

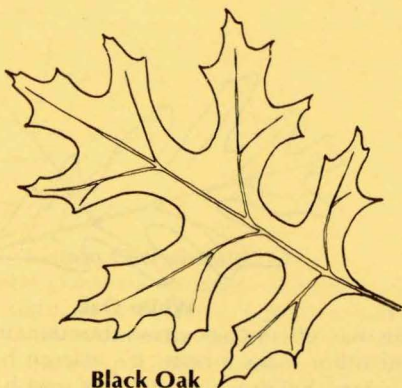
15.



Green Ash

Green ash resembles white ash, but the leaflets are smaller and are dark, glossy green. The tree grows to 60 feet high and is the most widely distributed of all the ashes. Green ash has a rapid growth rate which has made it a popular shade tree for landscaping.

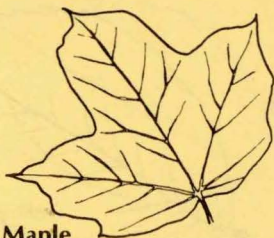
16.



Black Oak

Oaks are divided into two groups, the red oak group which has leaves with pointed lobes and a bitter acorn, and the white oak group which has leaves with rounded lobes, and a sweet acorn. This tree appears to be a black oak, a member of the red oak group. This tree could easily be a black oak crossed with a Northern red oak, a similar tree that also grows in the Palisades.

17.



Black Maple

Black maple trees are becoming more and more abundant in the Palisades, a forest that has been dominated by oaks and hickories. They are large trees reaching 75 to 100 feet in height. In the spring black maple can be tapped to obtain sap used in producing syrup. In the fall its leaves turn a brilliant orange to yellow color adding to an already beautiful parade of autumn colors in the Palisades.