

cover for wildlife. The large acorns take two years to mature and are bitter tasting compared to the white oak.

11. **Serviceberry.** This small tree is most conspicuous in April when it is one of the first to bloom with white flowers. It has purplish-red berries which are a favorite food of over 60 species of wildlife, including many songbirds, deer, raccoon, opossums and foxes.
12. **Maple Understory.** The sugar maple is more tolerant of shade than the oak. It is a common understory tree as you can see here. Years from now, the maple will grow to be the dominant tree in this part of the park. This is the process of succession.

From here, the trail goes to the left, although you may wish to walk to the right for a few minutes and view the Iowa River and the cabins built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The cabins are temporarily closed during dam repair. We hope to open them for public enjoyment.

13. **Sugar Maple and Linden.** The beautiful sugar maple can grow to be 80 feet tall. Its winged seeds are known as "helicopters" for the way they twirl in circles as they fall. The tree is best known for the maple syrup made from its sap. It takes 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup. This is a hard maple and good for heating.

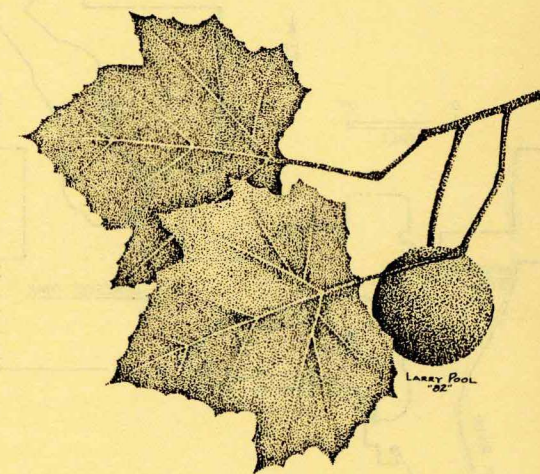
The Linden is also known as basswood. In the spring, it will have numerous small and fragrant yellow flowers that are very attractive to bees. Honey made from the flowers is considered some of the finest. Notice the smooth bark plus the distinctive large heart-shaped leaves. Linden is widely used for carving since it is a soft wood.

14. **Black Cherry.** This is a very versatile tree. The young bark is aromatic and has a bitter taste. Along with the roots, it is used for flavoring and cough medicine. The small purplish-red to black berries are edible and relished by songbirds as well as by many mammals. Its clusters of white flowers appear in April and May. The wood is prized for furniture and provides medium heating quality.
15. **Poison Ivy.** Do not touch any part of this plant! All parts of the plant are poisonous: wood, twigs, leaves, even the smoke and ashes from burning.

Even if you're not allergic to it now, you can develop an allergy later after repeated contact. Indians used to eat the small leaves of a newly-sprouted plant to give their body a natural immunity.

16. **Shagbark Hickory.** Look at the bark to see how this hickory received its name. This bottomland tree can grow to be 100 feet tall. The sweet-tasting nuts it produces are relished by squirrels, chipmunks and other wildlife as well as by people. The hard wood is used for tool handles, tennis racquets and skis. The wood is also excellent for heating and can be burned when green.
17. **Black Locust.** Also known as the common or yellow locust, this tree has compound leaves which grow to one foot and have 13 to 15 small oval leaflets. Small creamy-white, fragrant flowers are produced in June. The inner bark contains a poisonous substance, however, it is eaten by rabbits during the winter. Small thorns are found on the branches and trunk.
18. **Mullien.** Go ahead and feel the flannel-textured leaves. A dense circular cluster or rosette of leaves appears the first year. The flower stalk, reaching two to six feet, appears the second year with yellow flowers blooming from July through September. The mullien primarily grows along roadsides, poor fields and waste places.
19. **Gooseberry and Honeysuckle.** The gooseberry shrub is recognized by its sharp thorns and "goose-foot" shaped leaves. Its round purplish berries are some of the first to ripen and are quickly eaten by birds. The Indians used the berries as an ingredient in pemmican, a concentrated dried fruit. Gooseberries are still relished by many for their tart flavor.
The Honeysuckle has fragrant flowers produced in pairs which provide food for butterflies and hummingbirds. The berries are also eaten by songbirds and the dense foliage provide food and nesting sites for birds and small mammals. The shrub is also used as a hedge in landscaping.
20. **Box Elder.** This is a bottomland tree which grows best in a very moist soil. Box elder is a short-lived maple with nonmaple-like compound leaves with three leaflets. Commonly seen on the tree is the red and black striped box elder bug. When the leaves are crushed, a very distinctive odor results.

HOGSBACK NATURE TRAIL Pine Lake State Park



The Hogsback Nature Trail is a leisurely 3/4-mile walk. Named after the conspicuous appearance of the ridge through which it travels, the trail will acquaint you with some of the plants found in this area. Enjoy your walk but always remember to keep nature at its best by not picking or destroying anything along the trail.

HOGSBACK NATURE TRAIL

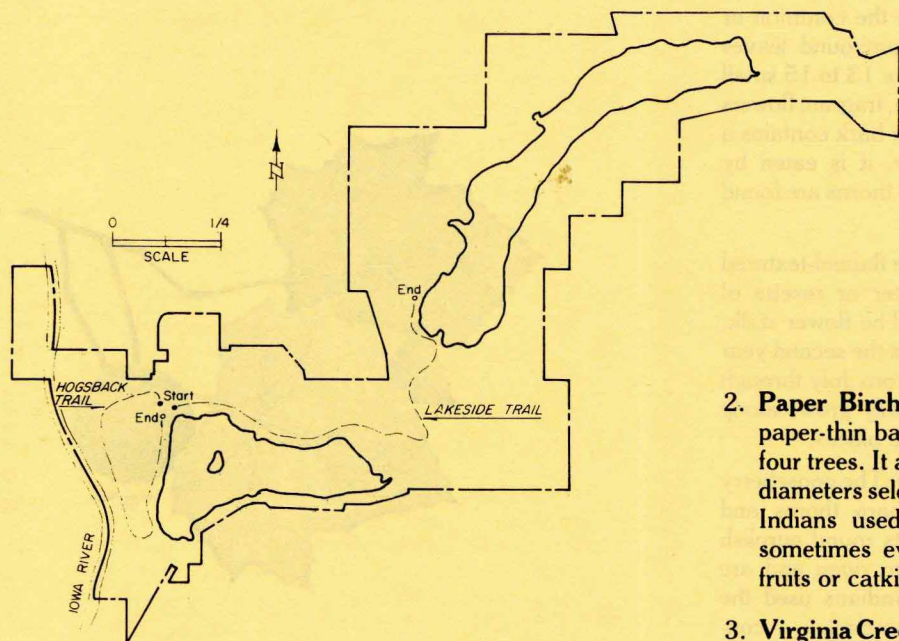
Pine Lake State Park

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858-2556 (home)



1. **Ironwood.** This is a common understory tree, but its small size of 20 to 30 feet makes it inconspicuous among the taller tree species. Notice the reddish brown color of the bark and how it spirals up the tree. The flower is a catkin that droops from the branches and is present year round. This tree is also called hophornbeam because of its distinctive hop-like fruit which hangs in compact clusters. Ironwood has a tremendous taproot and is a very hard wood with high heating ability.

2. **Paper Birch.** This slender, graceful tree with paper-thin bark often grows in clumps of two to four trees. It attains heights of 60 feet with trunk diameters seldom more than two feet. Woodland Indians used the sap as a sweet drink and sometimes evaporated it to make sugar. The fruits or catkins stay on the tree year-round.

3. **Virginia Creeper.** Also known as woodvine, this plant can climb up to 40 feet. Virginia creeper produces suction cup-like "feet" or discs at the ends of tendrils that hold onto the tree. The leaves have five leaflets and a hand-like shape. They turn a brilliant red in the fall. Virginia creeper vines can eventually choke out and kill a tree.

4. **Dead Elms.** The two trees without bark are what remains of elms. Few of these trees are left because of the Dutch elm disease. To tell if a living elm has the disease, take a branch the diameter of your finger and peel off the bark. If you notice a brown streak, the tree has Dutch elm disease.

5. **Hackberry.** This member of the elm family isn't bothered by Dutch elm disease. However, almost

all hackberries develop leaf galls; bumps on the leaves which are the results of white mites. This doesn't hurt the trees but gives them a poor appearance. Feel the rough, warty bark — a unique feature of the hackberry.

6. **Mosses and Lichens.** Mosses are very soft and delicate plants. They grow mostly on the north sides of trees because of the shade and moisture they require to survive. Mosses are perennial, growing back every year from spores produced in capsules.

Lichens are the aqua-green, flat plants on rocks. They are actually a combination of two plants: a fungus and an algae that live together for mutual benefit. The fungus supplies the algae with water and minerals and the algae makes the food used by the fungus. Both mosses and lichens are important in the decaying process by returning needed nutrients to the soil.

7. **Hawthorn.** Look up the hill at the uniquely-shaped hawthorn tree. This is a small tree with sharp thorns on its branches. It will have leaves with different shapes and edges on one tree, which turn scarlet in the fall. Clusters of white flowers appear in the spring. The yellow, orange or red berries appear from mid summer to January. Many birds find this tree a good nesting site and also eat its berries for food.

8. **White Pine.** This delicate-looking tree has needles in clusters of five which range from 2½ to 5½ inches long. This is one of the fastest growing pines, averaging 1½ to 2 feet of growth a year and reaching heights of 80 to 100 feet. The white pine is very sensitive to pollution. It thrives in a clean environment such as here, where the larger pines are up to 250 years old.

9. **White Oak.** This is one of the most distinctive oaks, with its short, stocky trunk and massive limbs. Its leaves have rounded lobes and turn red in the fall. The acorns are small, only ¾ inches long, and are a favorite wildlife food. White oak provides excellent lumber for furniture, boats and barrels. It splits and burns easily and has a high heating quality.

10. **Red Oak.** This is a common oak of the open woods. The leaves have pointed lobes which turn bright red in the fall. The dried leaves which remain on the tree during the winter provide good