

Welcome to the Central Park Trail of Trees!
 This 1.2 mile trail takes approximately 30 minutes. Fourteen numbered sites along the trail correspond to the numbered notations in this brochure. We hope you have fun exploring this educational trail.

Leaf Margins



Smooth



Toothed



Double Toothed



Lobed

Tree Trivia:

- About 30 to 40 gallons of sugar maple sap must be boiled down to make one gallon of maple syrup. **True False**
- A well positioned shade tree can keep a house 10 percent cooler in the summer. **True False**
- The slippery elm was "responsible" for the spitball - a tricky pitch thrown by baseball pitchers in the days of Babe Ruth. Pitchers would chew slippery elm seeds, then rub the liquid onto the baseball. **True False**
- Every year in the United States, each person uses enough tree products to make a tree about 100 feet tall and 24 inches in diameter. **True False**
- A large leafy tree may take up as much as 1,000 pounds of water from the soil every day. **True False**
- Enough firewood is used each year in the United States to build a 100 foot wall of wood that would stretch from New York City to San Francisco. **True False**
- An acre of trees can remove about 13 tons of dust and gases every year from the surrounding environment. **True False**
- The tallest redwood tree ever measured was about 305 feet tall. **True False**
- Nearly half of the world's population depends on wood as its major source of fuel for heating and cooking. In fact, two thirds of all wood cut in the world is used for fuel. **True False**
- By products of trees may one day take over the job now performed by oil, gas, and coal. **True False**

Answers: 1.True 2.false (20%) 3.True 4.false (16 inches in diameter) 5.false (one ton) 6.True 7.True 8.false (367 feet - 62 feet taller than the Statue of Liberty) 9.True 10.True.

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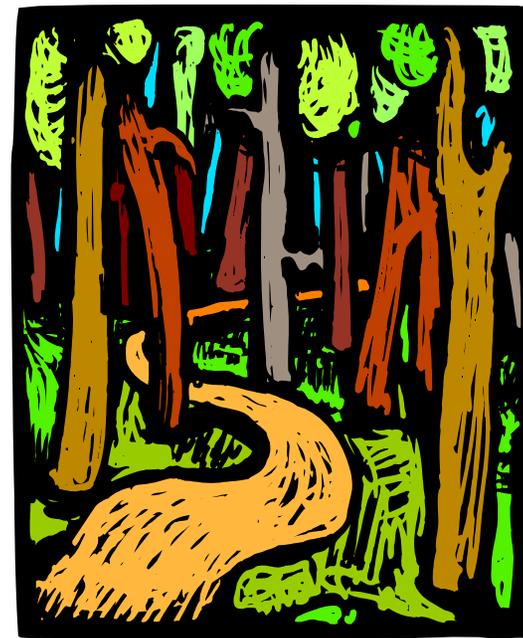
If you do not intend to keep this brochure please return it to the campground host or Nature Center.

Thank You.

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Central Park Trail Of Trees

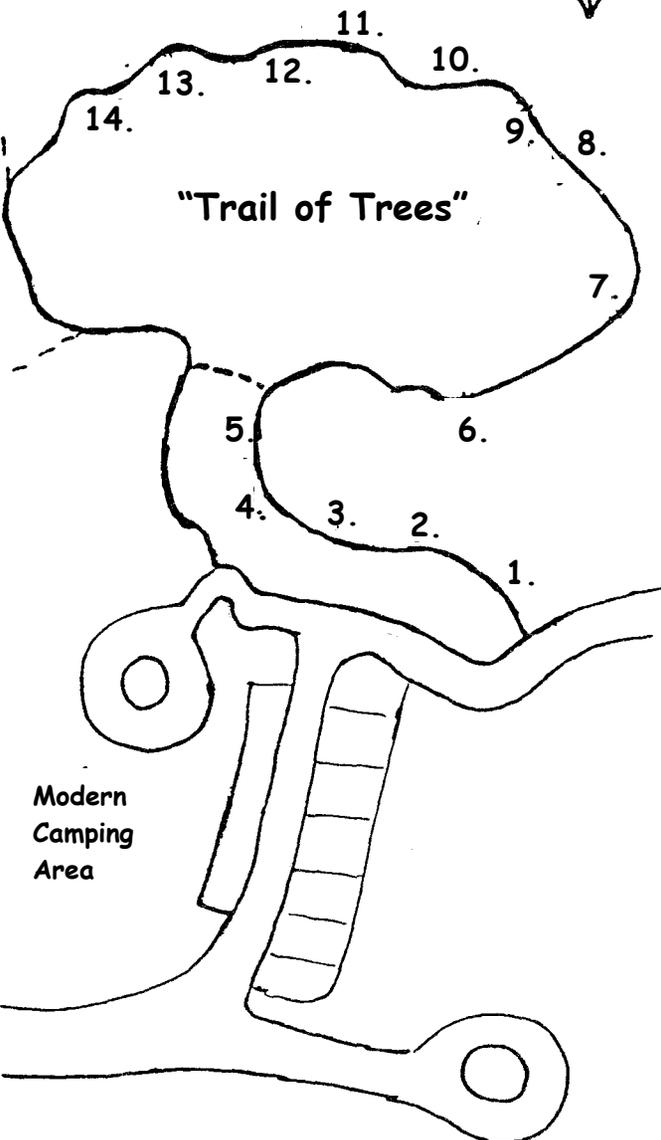
Established in 1997



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North



1. Shagbark Hickory Tree

Take a close look at the bark of this tree. Why do you think they call it a shagbark hickory? Can you find a hickory nut on the ground? Did you know that many pioneer wagon wheels were made of hickory? It is still used today for tool handles, ladder rungs & gymnastic equipment.



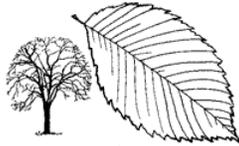
2. Boxelder Tree

This is our only maple tree with compound leaves. Each leaf has three leaflets that are often mistaken for poison ivy. Boxelders are rapid growing short lived trees. The tips of the young twigs are often a bluish green color.



3. American Elm Tree

Large elm trees are uncommon due to Dutch Elm disease. Elm trees have simple leaves with toothed edges. During the spring, morel mushrooms are often found near dead elms.



4. Bitternut Hickory Tree

Easily identified by their bright yellow buds. Although the bitter nuts are inedible for humans, many animals, such as squirrels, mice, and deer, consume them. Squirrels also nibble on the buds.



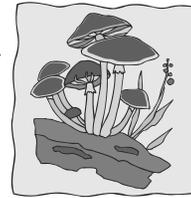
5. Black Oak Tree

Can you see the pointed edges of this trees leaves? Did you know that flooring, furniture, boats, and even railroad cars are made from black oak? Acorns from the forests oak trees are an important food source for animals.



6. Fungi!

Fungi are one of the most important groups of organisms on the planet. This is easy to overlook, given their largely hidden, unseen actions and growth. They are important in an enormous variety of ways including recycling, medicine, biocontrol, and medicine.



7. Decomposition

What happens after a tree dies? Take a close look at this log. Can you see any fungi, insects, or plants on it? Can you find the soil that this tree is becoming?



Nature recycles! Look around do you see any standing dead trees? Why are they important?

8. Vines

A variety of vines can be found in an Iowa woodland. Can you identify poison ivy with leaves of three?



Leaves of three - Leave them be! Virginia Creeper has five leaflets radiating out from one central point. Wild grape has simple leaves like the one pictured to the right.



9. Hackberry Tree

The bark of a hackberry is quite unique, sometimes even resembling a 3-D contour map. What does it remind you of? Hackberry fruits are an important food source for woodland birds and mammals.



10. Burls

Scientists have many guesses on why burls form including trauma from bacteria, fungus, and insects. Burls do not hurt the trees and are can actually sprout new trees. Wood artists value them. How many burls can you spot?

11. Sounds of the Forest

Take a few minutes to pause, in silence. What do you hear? Maybe you hear birds singing, insects buzzing, animals scurrying across the forest floor, or the wind gently blowing through the leaves.



12. Ferns!

As you walk this trail you will pass through an area of ferns.



Lady ferns, maidenhair ferns, and sensitive



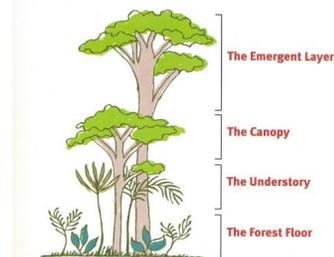
maidenhair fern

13. Tracks!

As you walk don't forget to look down. Maybe you'll see a track on the ground? Deer are common in these woods and their tracks look like hearts. when found.



14. Layers of a Forest



As you are walked this trail did you notice the layers of the forest? From the forest floor and understory to the canopy and emergent layer—Iowa's forests are teeming with life.

As You Walk See How Many You Can Spy With Your Eyes:

- *a walnut
- *a squirrel
- *a deer
- *a woodpecker
- *a purple flower
- *a mushroom
- *an ant
- *a hickory nut
- *a white flower
- *a hole in a tree



- *a raspberry vine
- *stinging nettles
- *a deer trail
- *a gooseberry bush
- *a birds nest
- *a butterfly