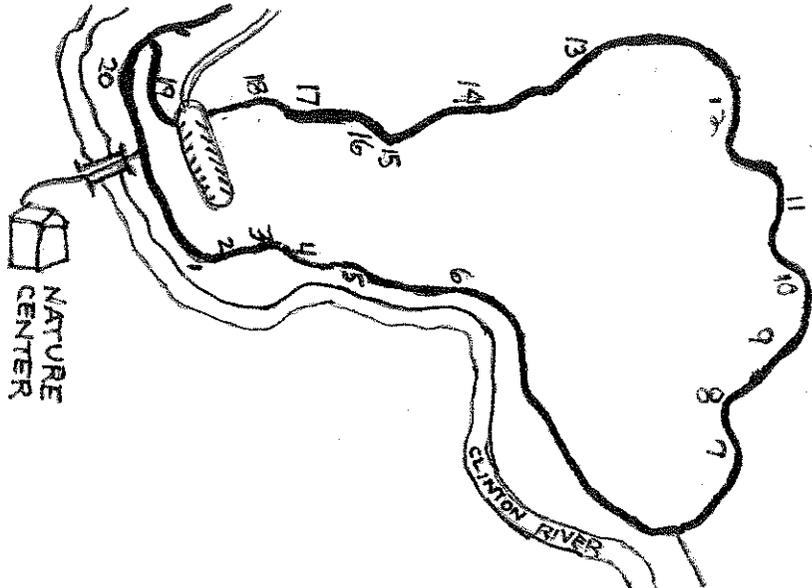


Map and Directions:

To find the first trail sign, follow the trail headed east, away from the Nature Center. Cross over the bridge and immediately turn right. Follow the trail, the sign will appear on your right, at a height of 10 feet. Then from there the signs will appear on the corresponding sides of the trail shown on the map.



Look For This!



Property of the Sterling Heights Nature Center

42700 Utica Road
Sterling Heights, Michigan 48313



Mayor Richard J. Notte

Nature Center Hours

Regular Hours
Monday: CLOSED
Tuesday - Friday: 1 - 5 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Summer Hours (Mid June - August)
Monday-CLOSED
Tuesday - Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

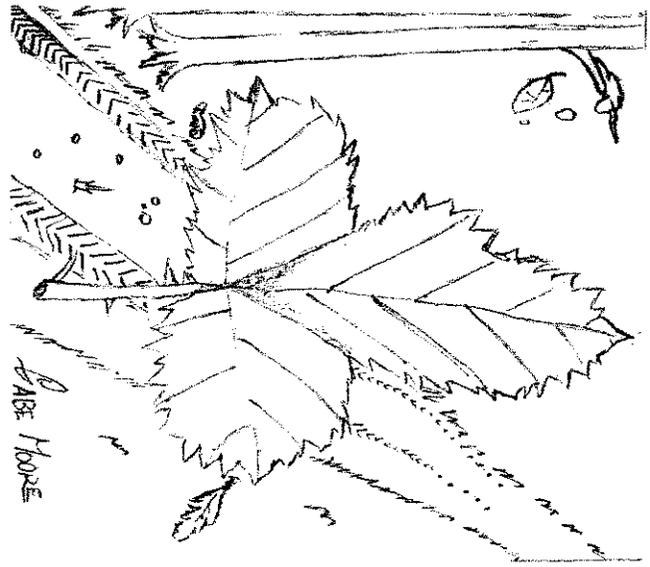
Acknowledgements

The trail signs and this guide have been created by Gerard Connors of BSA Troop 80 for his Eagle Scout Project on March 21, 2009.

Cover art and design by Gabe Moore also of BSA Troop 80.

A special thanks to Gordon Lonie for his approval, understanding, and exciting attitude towards this project, and his many years of service to the Sterling Heights Nature Center.

Sterling Heights Nature Center Trail Guide



A comprehensive trail guide to 20 different species of trees in the North Clinton River Park.

1. AMERICAN ELM (*Ulmus americana*) is found in river floodplains and disturbed sites such as old fields, roadsides, and pastures. An ideal street tree that was widely planted because of its shade and graceful form.
2. RED OAK (*Quercus rubra*) is relatively fast-growing and long-lived (300+ years). Acorns mature in autumn of second season. An important tree for landscaping in large areas.
3. RED MULBERRY (*Morus rubra*) has smooth and variously lobed leaves on the same tree. Fruits ripen in July and are quickly eaten by birds.
4. BLACK MAPLE (*Acer nigrum*) is characteristic of river floodplains and bottomlands. This tree is highly shade-tolerant and slow-growing. It is reported to produce more maple syrup than the sugar maple.
5. HOP-HORNBEAM (*Ostrya virginiana*) has fruit clusters resembling hops. It is also known as ironwood because of its extremely hard wood.
6. BLACK WILLOW (*Salix nigra*) is found along stream and river banks. Trees thrive at or slightly above water level where they tolerate flooding and silting.
7. SILVER MAPLE (*Acer saccharinum*) is typical of stream banks and river flood plains. This species is shade-intolerant and fast-growing.
8. BUTTERNUT (*Juglans cinerea*) is also known as White Walnut. Nuts are oblong and the husks contain an orange-yellow dye once used for coloring homespun clothing.
9. BLACK CHERRY (*Prunus serotina*) does not tolerate high water tables or poorly drained sites. Edible fruits ripen in August and September. Wood is highly valued for furniture and veneer.
10. SASSAFRAS (*Sassafras albidum*) has three distinct leaf forms on the same tree. This southern species grows here at the northern limit of its range. Oil distilled from the bark and roots is used to flavor candy, root beer, and medicine.
11. BASSWOOD (*Tilia Americana*) flowers bloom in June and July and yield an excellent honey. Native Americans made rope from the bark. Wood is highly valued for carving.
12. BITTERNUT HICKORY (*Carya cordiformis*) ranges farther north than any other hickory. Wood is reported to be the best fuel for giving meats the true "hickory smoked" flavor.
13. NORTHERN HACKBERRY (*Celtis occidentalis*) is characteristic of stream banks, river floodplains, and moist fertile bottomlands. Dark purple fruits ripen in September and October and are eaten by birds. "Witches Broom" is a disease which often affects this species.
14. AMERICAN BEECH (*Fagus grandifolia*) is very shade-tolerant, slow-growing and long-lived (300-400 years). Beech is highly susceptible to fire due to its thin bark and shallow roots.
15. EASTERN COTTONWOOD (*Populus deltoides*) is characteristic of warm, humid river floodplains. Great amounts of "cottony" seeds are shed in June.
16. BLACK WALNUT (*Juglans nigra*) leaves appear late in spring and are shed in early autumn. Nuts ripen in early October. Wood is prized for furniture, interior trim, and gun stocks.
17. SYCAMORE (*Platanus occidentalis*) is characteristic of river floodplains and bottomland forests. This species tolerates flooding and silting. Pioneers would smoke meat in hollow logs.
18. PAWPAW (*Asimina triloba*) grows in small groups or from root sprouts. This southern species exists here at its northernmost limit. Edible fruits ripen to a dark brown in late September.
19. BOXELDER (*Acer negundo*) is also known as Ash-leaf Maple. This member of the maple family is an aggressive colonizer of disturbed, open sites.
20. CHINKAPIN OAK (*Quercus muehlenbergii*) thrives in moist bottomlands with neutral or basic soils. Acorns mature in autumn of first season. Wood is heavy, very hard, and durable.