

Penn's Woods

Treed forests currently cover nearly 60% of Pennsylvania's land surface. This domination of our landscape over the past three centuries can best be seen in the word derivation of the Commonwealth's name.

On April 2, 1681, King Charles II of England officially proclaimed the Charter of Pennsylvania, making William Penn the first land-grant 'owner' of these New World lands. In honor of William's father, Admiral Sir William Penn, the king combined the Penn family name with 'silva', the Latin word for *woods* or *forest*, naming the land "Penn's Woods"...or as we know it – Pennsylvania.

The forest of Nescopeck State Park consists primarily of deciduous (trees that lose their leaves each year) trees with small, widely scattered stands of conifers (cone-bearing evergreens).

The drier upland areas of the park are inhabited mostly by deciduous trees of the oak family. Squirrels, white-tailed deer, bear, and woodpeckers are among the wildlife species that frequent this habitat.

Pennsylvania's state tree, the eastern hemlock, is the primary conifer found along the stream banks of the Nescopeck Creek, its tributaries, and in association with low-lying wetlands scattered throughout the park. Warblers, red squirrels, and white-tailed deer find refuge in the cool shady cover of this habitat.

Easily accessible hemlock stands can be found near the trailhead for Wood Frog Way and slightly southeast of the eastern trailhead for Farmstead Loop. Other evergreen species can be found in small, man-made plantations within the park consisting of red pine and white spruce. The transition areas between uplands and wetlands hold dense populations of a wide variety of other deciduous trees including maple, aspen, black cherry, and hickory, as well as evergreens like pitch pine and eastern white pine.

Tree Identification

With the aid of a modern field guide, tree identification can be a year round activity.

In spring, the flowering trees, such as shadbush and apple, are most easily located and identified.

During the summer months, the presence of leaves and fruit make deciduous tree identification easier for most individuals.

In the fall, the presence of fruits and nuts along with characteristic changes in leaf color provide additional clues to aid in identification.

Winter is usually the most challenging season for correctly identifying trees. By using observations of buds and color on growth shoots, bark characteristics, tree shape, and location; winter tree identification can be mastered.

In addition, it is during winter that the distinction between evergreen and deciduous trees becomes most obvious. Needle configuration and presence of cones on most evergreens make identification easier.

Found something unique?

It is estimated that Pennsylvania currently has between 220-230 known tree species. Based on this estimation, it is safe to assume that not all tree species within Nescopeck State Park have been identified, reported, and documented.

During your visit to the park, if you positively identify a tree species which is uncommon, let us know. Provide the following information regarding your find to the staff at the park office.

Common Name

include Latin/Scientific Name if known

Location

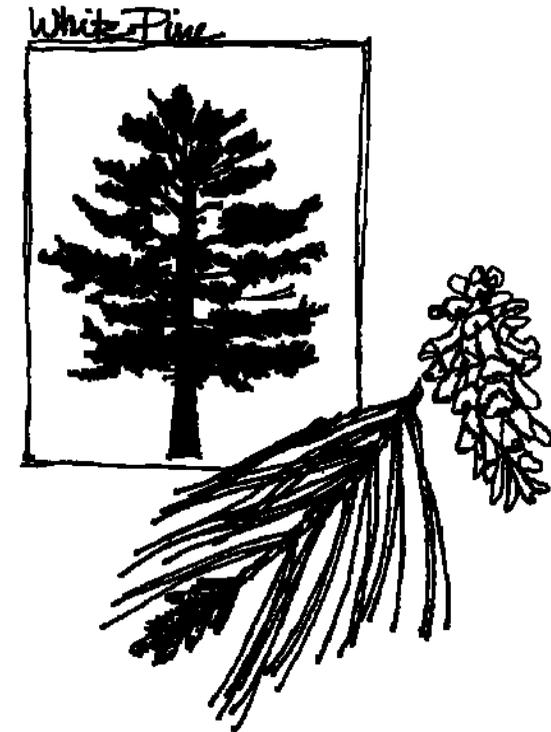
describe the location and/or give detailed directions for locating the tree using trail names, GPS coordinates, compass bearings, or proximity to prominent landmarks

Special thanks to numerous park volunteers for their knowledge and expertise used in the completion of this checklist.

Rev. 04/2018

Nescopeck State Park

Guide to Common Trees



At one time, the large coniferous white pine, *Pinus strobus*, was the most valued tree in the northeast.

During the colonial period, the tall straight trunks were sought after for use as ship masts. Pine lumber is still used today for construction, millwork, trim, and pulpwood.

For more information

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DECIDUOUS	ORIGIN
Tulip Tree, Yellow Poplar (<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>)	N
Common Sassafras (<i>Sassafras albidum</i>)	N
American Sycamore (<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>)	N
American Elm (<i>Ulmus americana</i>)	N
Red Elm, Slippery Elm (<i>Ulmus rubra</i>)	N
Bitternut Hickory (<i>Carya cordiformis</i>)	N
Pignut Hickory, Smoothbark Hickory (<i>Carya glabra</i>)	N
Shagbark Hickory (<i>Carya ovata</i>)	N
American Chestnut (<i>Castanea dentata</i>)	N
American Beech (<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>)	N
White Oak, Stave Oak (<i>Quercus alba</i>)	N
Swamp White Oak (<i>Quercus bicolor</i>)	N
Scarlet Oak (<i>Quercus coccinea</i>)	N
Chestnut Oak (<i>Quercus montana</i>)	N
Pin Oak, Swamp Oak (<i>Quercus palustris</i>)	N
Northern Red Oak (<i>Quercus rubra</i>)	N
Black Oak (<i>Quercus velutina</i>)	N
Yellow Birch (<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>)	N
Black Birch, Sweet Birch (<i>Betula lenta</i>)	N
River Birch, Red Birch (<i>Betula nigra</i>)	N
Gray Birch (<i>Betula populifolia</i>)	N
American Hornbeam, Hornbeam (<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>)	N
Hop-hornbeam, Eastern Hornbeam (<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>)	N

DECIDUOUS	ORIGIN
American Basswood, Linden (<i>Tilia Americana var. americana</i>)	N
Bigtooth Aspen, Poplar (<i>Populus grandidentata</i>)	N
Quaking Aspen (<i>Populus tremuloides</i>)	N
Black Willow, Swamp Willow (<i>Salix nigra</i>)	N
Cockspur Hawthorn, Hog Apple (<i>Crataegus crusgalli</i>)	N
Fanleaf Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus flabellata</i>)	N
Frosted Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus pruinosa</i>)	N
Dotted Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus punctata</i>)	N
Sweet Crabapple (<i>Malus coronaria</i>)	N
Apple (<i>Malus pumila</i>)	I
Pin Cherry, Fire Cherry, Bird Cherry (<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>)	N
Wild Black Cherry, Black Cherry (<i>Prunus serotina</i>)	N
Common Chokecherry (<i>Prunus virginiana</i>)	N
Black Locust (<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>)	N
Black Gum, Sour Gum, Tupelo (<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>)	N
Flowering Dogwood (<i>Cornus florida</i>)	N
Striped Maple, Moosewood (<i>Acer pensylvanicum</i>)	N
Norway Maple (<i>Acer platanoides</i>)	I
Red Maple (<i>Acer rubrum var. rubrum</i>)	N
Sugar Maple, Hard Maple (<i>Acer saccharum var. saccharum</i>)	N
Mountain Maple (<i>Acer spicatum</i>)	N
White Ash (<i>Fraxinus americana var. americana</i>)	N
Black Ash, Basket Ash, Hoop Ash (<i>Fraxinus nigra</i>)	N

DECIDUOUS	ORIGIN
Northern Catalpa, Hardy Catalpa (<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>)	I
Downy Serviceberry, Shadbush (<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>)	N
Smooth Serviceberry (<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>)	N
Witch Hazel (<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>)	N
DECIDUOUS CONIFERS	
European Larch (<i>Larix decidua</i>)	I
CONIFEROUS/EVERGREEN	
Norway Spruce (<i>Picea abies</i>)	I
White Spruce, Canadian Spruce (<i>Picea glauca</i>)	I
Colorado Blue Spruce (<i>Picea pungens</i>)	I
Red Pine, Norway Pine (<i>Pinus resinosa</i>)	N
Pitch Pine (<i>Pinus rigida</i>)	N
Eastern White Pine, White Pine (<i>Pinus strobus</i>)	N
Scotch Pine, Scots Pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>)	I
Eastern Hemlock, Canada Hemlock (<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>)	N

LEGEND

ORIGIN
N – native to Pennsylvania; present in the state prior to the arrival of European settlers, or having arrived since through natural forces or natural means
I – introduced to Pennsylvania; introduced to the state by the act of man or by other unnatural forces or unnatural means

Gentle Green Giants...

Pennsylvania State Parks house many green giants, some of which are found online in the Big Tree listing. The Big Tree Program is a record of the largest trees found in Pennsylvania's State Parks. Each species is recognized, allowing for a wide variety of big tree champions, from the 125-foot tall Red Oak at Cook Forest State Park to the 15-foot tall Witch Hazel at Clear Creek State Park.

To find out more about these super-sized trees, check out the website at:

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/natural/bigtree.aspx>

Be on the Lookout!

Forest pests such as the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Gypsy Moth, and Emerald Ash Borer are only a few of the insects that are damaging Pennsylvania forests. These non-native pests are skilled hitchhikers and infestations are easily spread.

You can help by doing simple things like buying local firewood and checking vehicles while traveling for clinging caterpillars.