

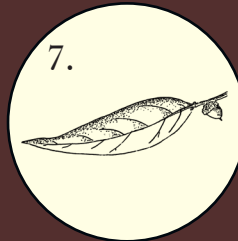
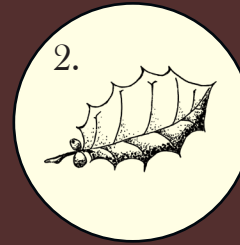
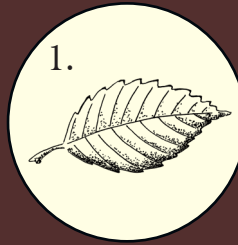
The Trees of Great Bend Park

A Self-Guided Tree ID Tour

Welcome to Great Bend Park! Use this card to enjoy a self-guided tree identification tour on the Highland Trail. Eleven trees along the trail are marked with special blazes (green triangles). Use the pictures and information on this card to help you identify and learn more about each type of tree.



Trees 1-11 are marked with green triangle blazes along the Highland Trail.



1. American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*)

Alternate leaves are coarsely serrated and the thin bark is easily identified by its smooth silver appearance. Even in winter it can be easily spotted by the tan leaves that tend to hang on through most of the cold weather.

2. American Holly (*Ilex opaca*)

Alternate, evergreen leaves with notable spines. Common along the East Coast in wooded areas. It becomes much denser in full sun. Birds cannot resist the berries and serve as the major means of spreading seeds.

3. American Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)

Alternate, star-shaped leaf with 5 to 7 lobes; shows off red, yellow and purples in the fall. Notorious for its spiked fruit. These prickly balls of seeds are the source of much frustration to the home gardener and barefoot hiker.

4. White Oak (*Quercus alba*)

Alternate leaves with unique smooth-edged lobes. This long-lived, majestic oak is seldom seen outside its forested habitat since survival is difficult with compaction and removal of the organic materials found on the forest floor.

5. Russian Olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*)

Alternate leaves with a notable silvery, scaly appearance beneath. Noted as an invasive species in the western states, this highly successful plant is found all over and continues to overtake native species even here in the Southeast.

6. Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)

Opposite and oval leaves. Distinct bark is broken into squares which makes it stand out in winter. Prolific in the Southeast, this common understory tree is anything but common when the colorful bracts begin to show in the spring.

7. Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*)

Alternate, lance-shaped leaves with a fuzzy midrib underneath. This is one of the fastest growing oaks and can reach upwards of 80'. The fine texture of the leaf makes it stand out in the forest. Often identified incorrectly as a Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*) which has a deep, intricately lobed leaf.

8. Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)

Has opposite leaf with 3 and often 5 lobes. Stem has a red tint that grows more pronounced later in the season. One of the most abundant tree species in North America and known for its brilliant fall color.

9. Box Elder (*Acer negundo*)

Pinnately compound leaves are opposite on the stem and usually have 5 leaflets. Often similar in appearance to poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) which has 3 leaflets. It is a member of the Maple genus that likes moist areas and can create impenetrable thickets.

10. American Planetree or Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)

Alternate leaves up to 10' across with 3 to 5 lobes. The tree sports notably attractive bark patterns as it exfoliates, showing olive-green to cream colors. They are adaptable to many soil types but can usually be found around creeks, rivers and other wet spots.

11. Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*)

Alternate, pinnate leaves have 5 leaflets (rarely 3 or 7) and are quite large with the 3 terminal leaflets noticeably larger than the rest. This very long-lived tree can reach well over 100' and can be found all along the eastern U.S. Also the source of the delicious flavor it imparts upon bacon and other meats when smoked.