

Terms to Know

Compound leaves: Multiple leaflets attached to a central stem.

Simple leaves: One continuous leaf blade attached to a central stem.

Lobes: Rounded or pointed portions of a leaf that stick out from the rest, divided by sinuses.

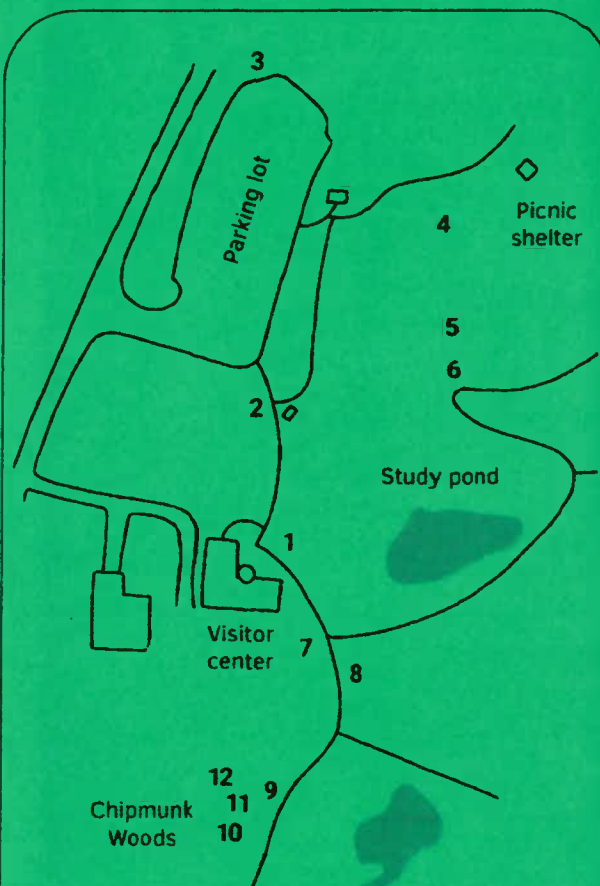
Sinuses: The space between two lobes on a leaf.

Petioles: The stalk that attaches a leaf to its twig, branch, or stem.

Toothed leaves: Leaves with a spiky edge, like teeth.

Buttresses: Large, wide roots that stick out above the dirt around a tree.

Map of Trees



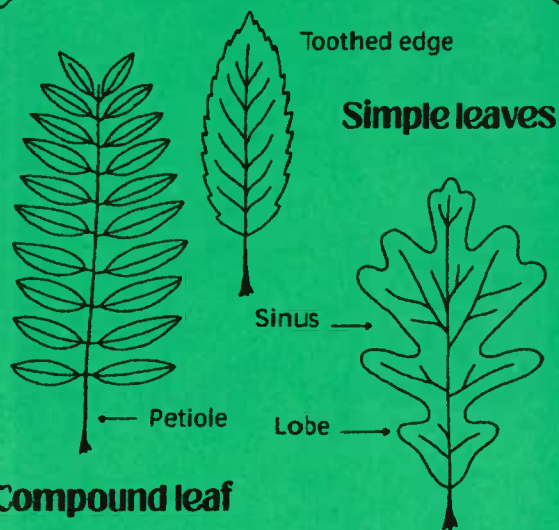
1. Bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)
2. Smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*)
3. Green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica subintegerrima*)
4. Silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*)
5. Eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*)
6. Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*)
7. Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)
8. Shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*)
9. White oak (*Quercus alba*)
10. Red oak (*Quercus rubra*)
11. Box elder (*Acer negundo*)
12. Black cherry (*Prunus serotina*)

Trail of Twelve Trees



Volo Bog State Natural Area

28478 Brandenburg Rd
Ingleside, IL 60041
Park office: (815) 344-1394



Compound leaf

Bur Oak

Quercus macrocarpa

Simple leaves, to 14", with round lobes. Acorn has a fringed cap. Bark becomes deeply furrowed. Bur oak bark is thick and corky, which helps it survive wildfires. Many different animals eat its acorns and humans value its shade.



Smooth Sumac

Rhus glabra

Compound toothed leaves to 4". Light green flower clusters become red-brown seed heads. Smooth sumac grows in groups called "drifts", which provide cover for songbirds and mammals. The berries can be used to make tea.



Green Ash

Fraxinus pennsylvanica subintegerrima

Compound leaves to 6". Winged seeds. Bark gray with diamond-shaped furrows. Green ash is the most widespread native ash, and is planted near homes on the Great Plains to block wind. Its twigs are a favorite food of deer in wintertime.



Silver Maple

Acer saccharinum

Simple leaves, up to 8", with pointed lobes. Bark is gray or silver, smooth when young, becoming loose with age. Animals such as squirrels, raccoons, and opossums find shelter in cavities inside silver maple trunks.



Eastern Cottonwood

Populus deltoides

Simple toothed leaves to 5". Seeds have notable white cotton. Bark is gray, becoming furrowed with age. Many people living on the Great Plains, such as the Lakota Sioux, saw the cottonwood as a spiritual tree. Its wood is used for boxes, furniture, matches, and more.



Sugar Maple

Acer saccharum

Simple leaves, to 5", with pointed lobes. Bark is gray, dark brown, or black, becoming furrowed and scaly. Sugar maple sap is boiled to make syrup; it takes 32 gallons of sap to make 1 gallon of syrup. Many animals eat its leaves, twigs, and bark.



Hackberry

Celtis occidentalis

Simple toothed leaves up to 6". Dark fleshy fruit. Bark is gray, becoming warty. Hackberry wood is used for furniture, plywood, and even baseball bats. Its fruits are eaten by many different bird species.



Shagbark Hickory

Carya ovata

Compound toothed leaves to 10". Nut enclosed in a 4-part husk. Bark is gray, becoming shaggy with age. Hickory nuts are enjoyed by both humans and animals; the word "hickory" comes from the Algonquin word *pawcohiccora*, a nut-based soup.



White Oak

Quercus alba

Simple leaves, to 10", with round lobes. Bark is light gray or patchy whitish-and-gray with shallow furrows. White oak is Illinois' State Tree! Its wood is used for just about everything. Many different animals eat its acorns, such as deer, raccoons, coyotes, and birds.



Red Oak

Quercus rubra

Simple leaves, up to 10", with pointed lobes. Bark is furrowed, dark with lighter stripes. Roots often buttressed. Red oak is a popular landscaping tree in northern Illinois because of how well it tolerates the cold.



Box Elder

Acer negundo

Compound leaves up to 4". Bark is light brown, ridged when young, becoming furrowed with age. Box elder is in the same family as maple trees. Its three-lobed leaves also resemble Poison ivy, but Box elder is perfectly safe. Boxelder bugs lay their eggs in its bark.



Black Cherry

Prunus serotina

Simple leaves up to 6". Fleshy dark purple fruit. Bark is reddish-brown when young, becoming black and flaky with age. Its wood is used for furniture, paneling, and toys. Many different animals eat its fruits.

