

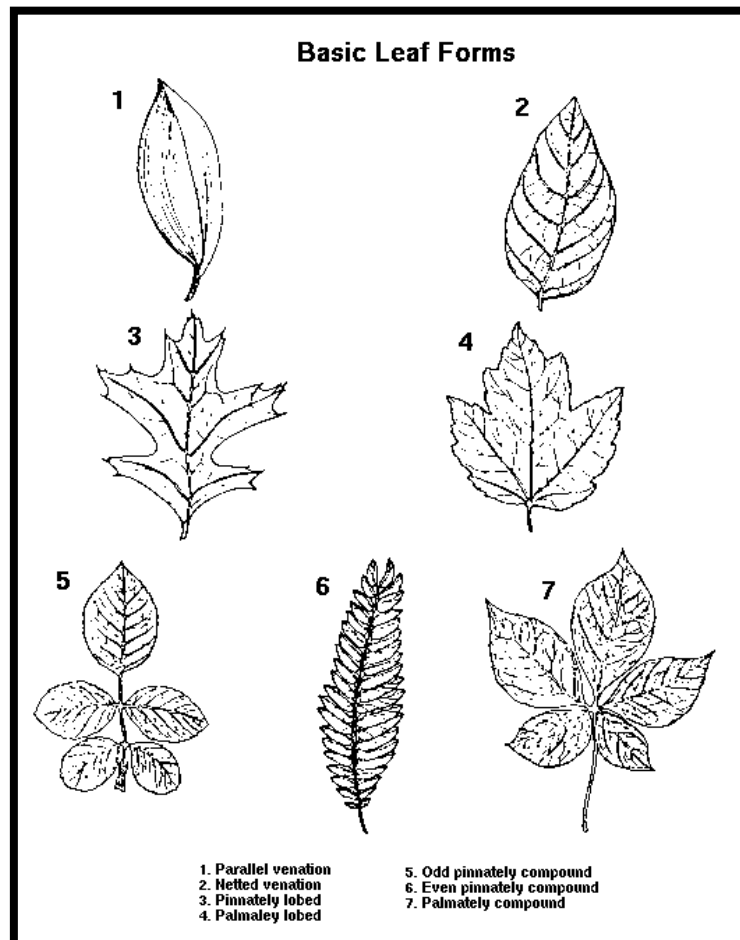
Part 12: Flora and Fauna of the National Mall and Memorial Parks

General. Visitors from all over the world associate the National Mall and Memorial Parks as home of the National Mall and the National Park sites within its boundary which includes the Jefferson Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the World War II Memorial, and of course, the Washington Monument. They often understand that these places are important cultural and historic sites, but visitors frequently overlook the natural ecosystem that resides within our park.

Nature is an intricate, defining or enhancing feature at many of these sites. National Mall and Memorial Parks is a dynamic park where the natural resources of the Potomac River harmonize with the manmade landscapes of our Nation's capital.

Common Plants in National Mall and Memorial Parks. There are many different varieties of trees and shrubs that appear throughout the park. However, there are one or two dozen species that are the most common.

The following is a list of the most common trees you will find in the park and a few tips to help you identify them:



The Maples – Acer:

- ♦ **Sugar Maple** – *Acer saccharum*. The Sugar Maple leaf is dark green and is shaped just like the one on the Canadian Flag. There are several in Constitution Gardens.



- ♦ **Red Maple** – *Acer rubrum*. The Red Maple Leaf is dark green with a reddish petiole (the stem of the Leaf) and bright red seed casings in the spring. The bark is gray and smooth. Most of the Maples around the VVM walkways and the Vietnam Women's Memorial are Red Maples.



The Oaks – Quercus:

- ♦ **Willow Oak** – *Quercus phellos*. The leaves of the Willow Oak are very narrow, willow like, with no lobes and very dark green. There is a large ring of them between the VVM kiosk and the Vietnam Women's Memorial.



- ♦ **White Oak** – *Quercus alba*. A White Oaks leaves are long with 5-9 smooth lobes. The bark is pale gray. There are many White Oaks in Ash Woods near the DC WWI Memorial.



- ♦ **Sawtooth Oak** – *Quercus acutissima*. The leaf edges of the Sawtooth Oak are heavily serrated like a saw. The leaves are smooth, dark glossy green above; paler below. Bark is dark gray and very rough. There are Sawtooth Oaks in Constitution Gardens and one behind Survey Lodge.



Sweetgum – Liquidambar:

- ♦ **Sweetgum** – *Liquidambar styraciflua*. Its leaves look like that of the maple, its bark is dark. It is easy to identify in the summer by its gumballs. Many in Constitution Gardens.



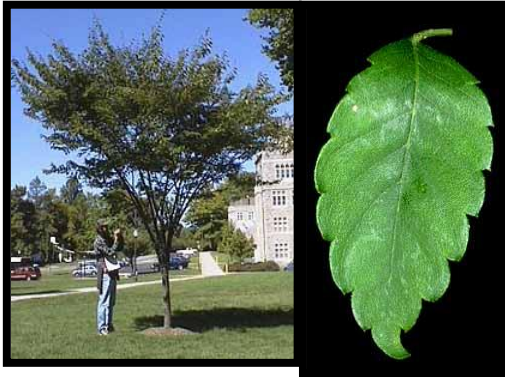
The Elms – Ulmus:

- ♦ **American Elm**– *Ulmus americana*. Most of the Elms in the Park are American Elms. These are typified by their large lopsided medium green leaves and their open vase like shape. There are many along Constitution Avenue and Henry Bacon Drive.



- ♦ **Dutch Elm** – *Ulmus hollandica*. Resembles the American Elm in leaf shape and size but is darker green. The overall shape is more compact, less open than the American Elm. These trees line the Lincoln Reflecting Pool.

Japanese Zelkova – *Zelkova serrata* (Family Ulmaceae). The leaves are deeply serrated. The statues at Korea are marching out of a grove of Zelkovas. The north entrance to FDR Memorial is filled with these trees.



Hackberry – *Celtis occidentalis* (Family Ulmaceae). Its shape and foliage resemble an Elm but the bark as well as the leaves tend to have galls or wart like bumps. The bark is a light gray and the leaves are light green. There are several behind the KWVM.



The Beeches – *Fagus*:

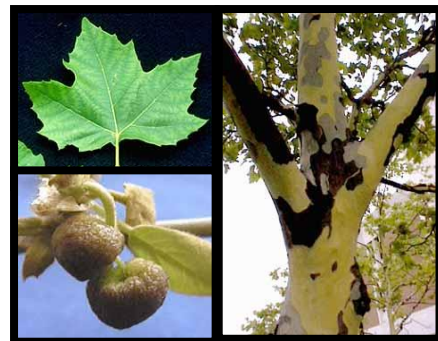
- ♦ **American Beech – *Fagus grandifolia***. The leaves of the American Beech are dark green and bark is whitish gray. There are many in Ash Woods and Constitution Gardens.

Plane Trees – *Platanus*:

- ♦ **American Sycamore – *Platanus occidentalis***. The American Sycamore is one of the biggest trees in the park. The leaves are usually as big as your hand, with 3-5 main veins and a rough serrated edge. The leaf tops are a medium green and the underside light green and fuzzy. The bark is very flaky showing many layers of color from brown to white. There are several between VVM and the Vietnam Women's Memorial.



- ♦ **London Plane Tree – *Platanus acerifolia***. The leaves look more like a Maple. The fruit of the London Plane has two seed balls, the American only has one.



Chestnuts – Aesculus:

- ♦ **Common Horse Chestnut** – *Aesculus Hippocastanum*. In mid to late spring, the tree gets tall flower spikes or cones all over the tree. Its leaves are compound with 5-7 leaflets per leaf. Many located just west of Survey.



Horse Chestnut leaf and fruit

Ohio Buckeye – *Aesculus glabra*. This is smaller than its cousin the Horse Chestnut. The leaves of the Ohio Buckeye are smaller, with only 5 leaflets per leaf. Many located in Ash Woods.



Willows – Salix:

- ♦ **Weeping Willow** – *Salix babylonica*. The leaves are long, slender and green. It is known for its weeping habits. There are several in Constitution gardens.

Magnolias – Magnolia:

- ♦ **Southern Magnolia** – *Magnolia grandiflora*. There are several in Ash Woods and around the Lincoln Memorial.



- ♦ **Saucer Magnolia** – *Magnolia soulangeana*. This tree has beautiful pink blossoms in the spring. Leaves are as long as your hand. There is a grove at the KWVM.



- ♦ **Star Magnolia** – *Magnolia Stellata*. Beautiful white star shaped blossoms in very early spring. A very small tree or shrub with gray bark. The leaves point to the sky. There are a few in Constitution Gardens.

Hollies – *Ilex*:

- ♦ **American Holly** – *Ilex opaca*. Green glossy leaves and pyramidal shapes mark this holly. It is also a prolific berry producer. There are many in Ash Woods.

Yellowwood – *Cladrastis*

- ♦ **American Yellowwood** – *Cladrastis kentukea*. Yellowwood has a delicate branching form; the leaves are light green in summer and a subtle yellow in fall. Eight have been planted around the Vietnam Women's Memorial to honor the eight women that died in the war.



Pines – *Pinus*:

- ♦ **White Pine** – *Pinus strobus*. Needles in bundles of five, usually bluish-green in color. Bark is dark purple-gray. Most of the Pines in the park are White Pines. There are many in Ash Woods.



Common Wildlife in National Mall and Memorial Parks. Small mammals like squirrels and birds such as waterfowl are the predominant animals we see throughout our park. Here is a short list of some of the more common animals you might see:

Bats – Family Chiroptera. Bats are often seen around the Washington Monument. They come there regularly to feed on insects which are drawn by the Monument's lighting. Bats are found throughout the park. Bat species are thought to be living and or feeding in NMMP:

- ♦ Little Brown Myotis – *Myotis lucifugus*



- ♦ Eastern Pipistrelle – *Pipistrellus subflavus*



- ♦ Big Brown Bat – *Eptesicus Fuscus*



Beaver – *Castor canadensis*. Beaver frequent East Potomac Park and the Tidal Basin. They are quite fond of willows in the park. Newly planted willows have to have their trunks wrapped or fenced in wire mesh to protect them until they are several years old. Young cherry trees are also often eaten. In the spring of 1997, an entire grove of about 30-35 Burning Bush next to the inlet bridge were cut and hauled away by beavers in a matter of days. In the spring of 1999, half a dozen prized Japanese cherry trees fell prey to the beavers before they were trapped and located.



Cats – Family Felidae. There are often wild, lost, or abandoned cats in the park. There is plenty of food for them and as long as they are healthy and are not in danger or posing a danger they should be left alone. They control the rat population and are therefore mostly beneficial.



Whitetail Deer – *Odocoileus virginianus*.

The Virginia and Maryland countryside are full of Deer. Rock Creek Park, GWMP, and BWMP are overpopulated so it is common to see a deer who has been struck by traffic. There are normally no deer in NMMP but often there is a flood and deer may be washed down river into the park.



Red Fox – *Vulpes fulva*. Fox need about 1 ½ miles to roam. Fox can be found in east Potomac Park, and the Golf Course. Fox have also been seen in the area around the FDR Memorial.



House Mouse – *Mus musculus*. Mice are everywhere.



Moles – Family Talpidae, Eastern

Mole - *Scalopus aquaticus*. Moles are found in East Potomac Park and the Golf Course.



Opossum – *Didelphis marsupialis*.

Opossum (s) have been found around the USPP Horse Stables in Ash Woods, around the Lincoln Memorial, and at the FDR Memorial.



Raccoon – *Procyone lotor*.

Raccoons have been seen around the Lincoln Memorial.



Norway Rat – *Rattus norvegicus*.

Rats are everywhere.



Eastern Gray Squirrel – *Sciurus carolinensis*. Squirrels are everywhere.



Red Eared Sliders – *Trachemys scripta elegans*. Also known as basking turtles. They are in Bolivar Pond and near the Region office building.



Snapping Turtles – *Chelydra serpentina*. Snapping turtles have been seen along the Potomac River and in the Tidal Basin. One was removed from the Rainbow Pool in 1996 (WWII Memorial).



Wildlife Management Goals. National Mall and Memorial Parks has two goals for wildlife management in the park:

1. To respect the natural life cycles of all wildlife in the park.
2. To protect the wildlife from human interference and hazards created by humans.

Regulations. To ensure the safety of wildlife in our national parks, the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Sec. 2.2 (Wildlife Protection) prohibits:

the feeding, touching, teasing, frightening or intentional disturbing of wildlife nesting, breeding or other activities

Amphibians Common To The National Mall and Memorial Parks Area

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Latin Name</u>
frog, bull	RANA CATESBEIANA
frog, chorus, upland	PSEUDACRIS TRISERIATA
frog, cricket, northern	ACRIS CREPITANS
frog, green	RANA CLAMITANS MELANOTA
frog, leopard, southern	RANA UTRICULARIA
frog, peeper, spring	PSEUDACRIS CRUCIFER
frog, pickerel	RANA PALUSTRIS
frog, tree, gray, eastern	HYLA CHRYSOCELIS
frog, wood	RANA SYLVATICA
salamander, dusky, northern	DESMOGNATHUS FUSCUS
salamander, four-toed	HEMIDACTYLIUM SCUTATUM
salamander, marbled	AMBYSTOMA OPACUM
salamander, newt, red-spotted	NOTOPHTHALMUS VIRIDESCENS
salamander, red, northern	PSEUDOTRITON RUBER
salamander, redback	PLETHODON CINEREUS
salamander, spotted	AMBYSTOMA MACLATUM
salamander, two-lined, northern	EURYCEA BISLINEATA BISLINEATA
toad, American	BUFO AMERICANUS
toad, fowler's	BUFO WOODHOUSII FOWLERI

Mammals Of National Mall and Memorial Parks Area

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Latin Name</u>
bat, big brown	EPTESICUS FUSCUS
bat, red	LASSIURUS BOREALIS
beaver	CASTOR CANADENSIS
chipmunk, eastern	TAMIAS STRIATUS
cottontail, eastern	SYLVILAGUS FLORIDANUS
deer, white-tailed	ODOCOILEUS VIRGINIANUS
fox, grey	UROCYON CINEREOARGENTEUS
fox, red	VULPES VULPES
mink	MUSTELA VISON
mole, eastern	SCALOPUS AQATICUS
mouse, white-footed	PEROMYSCUS LEUCOPUS
Muskrat	ONDATRA ZIBETHICA
Opossum	DIADELPHIS MARSUPIALIS
otter, river	LUTRA CANADENSIS LATAXINA
Raccoon	PROCYON LOTOR
squirrel, gray, eastern	SCIURUS CAROLINENSIS
woodchuck	MARMOTA MONAX

Birds of the National Mall and Memorial Parks Area

Common Name

Bittern, American	Egret, Snowy
Bittern, Least	Falcon, Peregrine
Blackbird, Red-Winged	Finch, House
Blackbird, Rusty	Flicker, Northern
Bluebird, Eastern	Flycatcher, Acadian
Bobolink	Flycatcher, Great Crested
Bunting, Indigo	Flycatcher, Least
Cardinal, Northern	Flycatcher, Willow
Catbird, Gray	Flycatcher, Yellow-Bellied
Chat, Yellow-Breasted	Gallinule, Common
Chickadee, Carolina	Gnatcatcher, Blue-Gray
Coot, American	Goldfinch, American
Cormorant, Double-Crested	Goose, Canada
Cowbird, Brown-Headed	Goose, Snow
Creeper, Brown	Grackle, Common
Crow, American	Grebe, Eared
Crow, Fish	Grebe, Horned
Cuckoo, Yellow-Billed	Grebe, Pied-Billed
Dove, Mourning	Grebe, Red-Necked
Dove, Rock	Grosbeak, Blue
Dowitcher, Long-Billed	Grosbeak, Rose-Breasted
Dowitcher, Short-Billed	Gull, Black-Backed, Greater
Duck, Black	Gull, Herring
Duck, Bufflehead	Gull, Laughing
Duck, Canvasback	Gull, Ring-Billed
Duck, Gadwall	Harrier, Northern
Duck, Goldeneye, Common	Hawk, Cooper's
Duck, Mallard	Hawk, Red-Shouldered
Duck, Oldsquaw	Hawk, Red-Tailed
Duck, Peking, Hybrid	Hawk, Sharp-Shinned
Duck, Pintail, Northern	Heron, Black-Crowned Night
Duck, Ring-Necked	Heron, Great Blue
Duck, Ruddy	Heron, Green
Duck, Shoveler, Northern	Heron, Little Blue
Duck, Teal, Blue-Winged	Heron, Yellow-Crowned Night
Duck, Teal, Green-Winged	Hummingbird, Ruby-Throated
Duck, Wigeon, American	Ibis, Glossy
Duck, Wood	Jay, Blue
Dunlin	Junco, Dark-Eyed
Eagle, Bald, American	Kestrel, American
Egret, Cattle	Killdeer
Egret, Great	Kingbird, Eastern

Kingfisher, Belted
Kinglet, Golden-Crowned
Kinglet, Ruby-Crowned
Loon, Common
Loon, Red-Throated
Martin, Purple
Meadowlark, Eastern
Merganser, Common
Merganser, Hooded
Merganser, Red-Breasted
Merlin
Mockingbird, Northern
Nighthawk, Common
Nuthatch, Red-Breasted
Nuthatch, White-Breasted
Oriole, Northern
Oriole, Orchard
Osprey
Owl, Barred
Owl, Great Horned
Phalarope, Northern
Phoebe, Eastern
Pipit, Water
Plover, Semipalmated
Quail, Bobwhite, Common
Rail, Sora
Rail, Virginia
Robin, American
Sanderling
Sandpiper, Least
Sandpiper, Pectoral
Sandpiper, Semipalmated
Sandpiper, Solitary
Sandpiper, Spotted
Sandpiper, Stilt
Sapsucker, Yellow-Bellied
Snipe, Common
Sparrow, American Tree
Sparrow, Chipping
Sparrow, Field
Sparrow, Fox
Sparrow, Grasshopper
Sparrow, House
Sparrow, Savannah
Sparrow, Song
Sparrow, Swamp

Sparrow, Vesper
Sparrow, White-Throated
Starling, European
Stilt, Black-Necked
Swallow, Bank
Swallow, Barn
Swallow, Rough-Winged
Swallow, Tree
Swan, Tundra
Swift, Chimney
Tanager, Scarlet
Tern, Caspian
Tern, Forster's
Tern, Least
Thrasher, Brown
Thrush, Hermit
Thrush, Swainson's
Thrush, Veery
Thrush, Wood
Titmouse, Tufted
Towhee, Rufous-Sided
Vireo, Red-Eyed
Vireo, Solitary
Vireo, Warbling
Vireo, White-Eyed
Vireo, Yellow-Throated
Vulture, Black
Vulture, Turkey
Warbler, Bay-Breasted
Warbler, Black-Throated Blue
Warbler, Blackburnian
Warbler, Blackpoll
Warbler, Cape May
Warbler, Chestnut-Sided
Warbler, Magnolia
Warbler, Nashville
Warbler, Ovenbird
Warbler, Palm
Warbler, Parula, Northern
Warbler, Prothonotary
Warbler, Redstart, American
Warbler, Yellow
Warbler, Yellow-Rumped
Warbler, Yellowthroat, Common
Waterthrush, Louisiana
Waterthrush, Northern

Waxwing, Cedar
Woodcock, American
Woodpecker, Downy
Woodpecker, Hairy
Woodpecker, Pileated
Woodpecker, Red-Bellied

Wren, Carolina
Wren, House
Wren, Marsh
Wren, Winter
Yellowlegs, Greater
Yellowlegs, Lesser