

LIST OF TREES EXISTING WITHIN HARRISON HILLS PARK

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PURPOSE

The following is intended to be an initial list naming all species of trees presently found within the boundaries of the park. Emphasis is on native species, although some prevalent non-native

and/or horticultural species or varieties may also be mentioned as well as some prevalent shrubs and vines. The list may be used for education and to promote awareness of the biodiversity of Harrison Hills Park. This list is intended to remain open and active, therefore additions, observations and revisions or deletions are expected and welcome.

NOMENCLATURE

Local or common names appear in **BOLD PRINT** followed by the generic name(s) in *italics*...**WHITE OAK** *Quercus Alba*. B-8 refers to Friends of Harrison Hills Park downloadable Map Segment(s). Some generic names may contain some abbreviations.

1.0 CONIFEROUS (Cone bearing) TREES

TAMARACK or AMERICAN LARCH *Larix laricina* Map Segment A-5. The only deciduous conifer indigenous to this area which loses its needles after turning a beautiful golden yellow in late fall each year. Found on the hilly delta immediately inside the park where the upper and lower roads diverge. Durable lumber used for framing and railroad ties. Native in swamps north of Interstate 80. Grows to 80 feet.

EASTERN WHITE PINE *Pinus Strobus* B-8. Tallest conifer in eastern U.S. (to over 180 feet in virgin timber areas of Cook Forest and the Poconos). Pine cones recognizable by individual "painted" white tipped seeds on cones.

PITCH PINE *Pinus rigida*. C-8. Recognizable by twin cones with little or no stems; some having needles growing directly from trunks and branches as a means of survival following fires can be found in park. Can grow to over 60 feet to 3 feet diameter.

SCOTCH PINE *Pinus sylvestris* C-6. Non-native; recognizable by orange bark on trunks and branches. Grows to 60 feet tall & 18" diameter.

EASTERN HEMLOCK *Tsuga Canadensis* C-3, C-6. State tree of PA. Specimens well over 100 feet tall in Cook Forest State Park.

2.0 DECIDUOUS HARDWOOD TREES

WHITE ASH *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*. A-8, B-8, D-3, D-5 and throughout on North and East facing slopes. Most ash found in the park are this variety. To 80 feet tall & 36 inches diameter.
(OTHER ASHES) *Fraxinus* ...Likely to be added upon positive identification

BIG TOOTHED ASPEN *Populus grandidentata* D-3 and elsewhere in regenerating forest areas. Recognizable by the large, rounded teeth at leaf margins. Close relatives of cottonwoods and poplars. Grows to 60 feet tall and 36 inches diameter.

HACKBERRY or SUGARBERRY *Celtis occidentalis* To 80 ft and 18" diameter. As name implies, tree produces 3/8" diameter single seed berries with delicious sweet thin leathery cover enjoyed especially by robins, mocking birds as well as human foragers. Recognizable by light gray bark with prominent corky "warts". Found mostly in moist clay soils on river flood plains, usually mixed with other hardwoods. Wood used for furniture, athletic goods and plywood.

NORTHERN HARDY CATALPA or INDIAN TOBY *Catalpa Specios*. A-8, B-9 (in yard below old milk house) and E-6. Recognizable by "toby" shaped seed pods (9 to 20" long) often remaining on trees throughout the year. Large showy white and pale purple flowers bloom

in late spring. Grows to 100 feet tall and 48 inches diameter.

BLACK LOCUST *Robinia pseudo Acacia*. Some large specimens can be found along Green Trail in Map Segment D-6 and scattered elsewhere. Fragrant flowers appear in mid-spring. The wood is often used for fence posts because of its inherent resistance to moisture and ground contact. The deeply furrowed bark of mature trees is sometimes host to climbing poison oak/ivy. The dead trunks are often seen lying prone or in heaps on the floor of regenerating forest areas usually on southwest facing slopes such as C-4, D-4 in the natural process of being displaced by black cherry which grows taller and dominates the forest canopy. The dead trunks and root systems can make interesting, long lasting landscape displays although they are best left in place to provide natural homes and shelter for a variety of small woodland creatures. To 80 feet tall, 2 to 4 feet diameter.

BOX ELDER. ASH LEAVED MAPLE *Acer negundo* A-8, A-9 Medium size native tree to 60 feet tall with short trunk. Usually prefer moist soils in wider stream valleys. The few small specimens within the park inhabit moist areas on higher ground. At first glance, leaves can be confused with poison oak. Old growth trunks can attain 6 feet in diameter and become extremely knotty and resistant to splitting with wedges. Considered by some to be a "junk tree" attracting box elder beetles (more or less harmless orange and black bugs).

SILVER MAPLE *Acer saccharinum* D-5, E-5 etc. Fanciest leaf of the native maples. Comprise some of the largest trees growing in the open in Watts Grove. Can be tapped for maple syrup and sugar. To 80 feet tall, 4 feet diameter.

RED MAPLE *Acer rubrum* Scattered throughout regenerating forest areas. To 80 feet tall, 24 inches diameter.

NORWAY MAPLE *Acer platanoides* Non-native. Sparsely scattered. Leaves closely resemble sugar maple and black maple. Presence of white, milky sap in broken leaf stems.

SUGAR MAPLE *Acer saccharum* A-9, B-9 South facing slope. Also sparsely scattered throughout. Many not of sufficient size for "sugar tapping". Grows to 100 feet tall, 48 inches diameter.

BLACK MAPLE *Acer nigrum* Sparsely scattered. Second highest sugar content of the maple species. Easily confused with sugar maple; most within park are not sufficient size for “sugar tapping”.

WHITE MULBERRY *Morus alba* D-6, D-7 Non-native species introduced from the Orient. Edible, sweet, juicy berries are often overlooked by human foragers mistaking them for unripened red or black mulberries. A mid size tree 50 to 70 feet tall and to 3 feet in diameter.

RED MULBERRY *Morus rubra* More research is needed to confirm whether native Red Mulberry having very similar leaf coexists in the park. The fruits this species is usually not palatable and best left for birds. Size similar to white mulberry.

AMERICAN SYCAMORE *Platanus occidentalis* B-6, D-3, D-4 etc. Prefers moist lowlands and stream valleys. Recognizable by the appearance of “peeling” tan and ivory colored bark normal to this species. Can grow to 3 to a whopping 10 feet in diameter and 100 feet tall. Largest specimen in park found in lower Rachel Carson stream bed.

SHAGBARK HICKORY *Carya ovata* A-6, A-7, B-6, B-7 Found along Green Trail/Red Trail; Sweet edible nuts; husk not easily removed. Recognized by bark which appears loose in curled segments. Can grow to 70 to 90 feet tall, 1 to 2 feet diameter.

SHELLBARK HICKORY *Carya laciniosa* Similar species. Sweet, edible nuts with husks easily removed. Same easily recognizable loose, curled bark. Can grow 3 to 4 feet in diameter and to over 100 feet tall. The likely occurrence of this similar species needs further investigation and positive identification.

MOCKERNUT HICKORY *Carya tomentosa* A-6, A-7, B-6, B-7 Sweet, edible nuts. Plane bark. This species has aromatic leaves and twigs. To 80 feet tall & 24-inches diameter.

PIGNUT HICKORY *Carya glabra* A-6, A-7, B-6, B-7 and sparsely scattered through mature forest areas. To 75 feet tall and 36 inches diameter.

BITTERNUT HICKORY *Carya cordiforma* (same) Nuts generally considered non-edible for human foraging due

to high tannic acid content. To 60 feet tall, 36 inches diameter.

OSAGE ORANGE *Maclura pomifera* B-9 exclusively. Transplanted native of southwestern USA for use as economical rapidly spreading thick hedge rows on farms. Unchecked, can grow to 50 feet tall and to 2 feet diameter. Strange 3 to 5 inch diameter fruit resembles unripened grapefruit. It is still widely believed that the strategic placing of fruits can ward off spiders in households.

SASSAFRAS *Sassafras albidum* E-4, E-5 and elsewhere at forest edges. The bark and roots may be boiled to make sassafras tea. Usually thought of as a bush or shrub, can grow to 50 feet high and over 2 feet diameter. Weather battered, decaying trunks of mature trees lying on the forest floor make artistic “driftwood” indoor or outdoor displays. Every live sassafras tree bares three different leaf configurations: single lobed, double lobed (mitten) and triple lobed leaves. Green leaves twigs, inner bark and roots are aromatic.

BLACK WALNUT *Juglans Nigra*. Along access road in B-7 and along border areas of groves found near C-4; also sparsely scattered within mature forest areas. Unfortunately, the easily accessible, larger quantities of walnuts usually found in B-7 are heavily infested with so-called “acorn weevils” which destroys the nourishing nut meats without harming the tree. Valuable timber grows to 80 feet tall and 2 to 4 feet in diameter

BLACK WILLOW *Salix nigra* C-2, D-2 This common native grows best along slow water courses in open areas and often has several trunks. The only willow having commercially viable lumber used for boxes where strength is not paramount.

HORSE CHESTNUT *Aeculus hippocastanum* A-9 Non native species from Asia planted mostly as ornamental for interesting, large “buckeye” nuts and attractive foliage. Found in park along old Rt 28.

LINDEN or AMERICAN BASSWOOD *Tilia Americana* Sparsely scattered along Rachael Carson trail often just over the edge of cliff overlooking the Allegheny River within D-6, D-7, C-8. The tree provides exceptional flavored honey from the unique flowers. Unusual flowers and seeds grow from leafy bract appearing as though they are part of a leaf. The smooth grained wood is

avored by serious wood carvers. Grows 60 to 80 feet tall, 2 to 3 feet diameter.

AMERICAN BEECH *Fagus grandifolia* Sparsely scattered in the park preferring moist soil. Easily recognizable by the smooth, grey bark. Bares small, edible nuts occurring in threes within spiny husks important to woodland mammals and birds. Unfortunately, the tree of choice for carving initials. Grows to 100 feet and to 3 feet diameter. No large beeches found in park.

BLACK CHERRY *Prunus serotina* Valuable for timber and found throughout the park especially in second and third stage forested areas. Prefers southwest facing slopes. Fast growing saplings reach above and overtake existing beech, birch, maple and locust stands as part of natural reforestation process. Large, “furry” roots of climbing poison oak/ivy often present on this species. Wild cherry flavoring and cough syrups are extracted from the edible black cherry fruits and from the inner bark. Small dark red to black fruits provide important mast for many wild creatures and can be seen in many animal droppings during the fall season. The ripe fruits can be eaten as survival food following the first hard frost which causes the fruits to sweeten and become less astringent. To over 60 feet tall and 36 inches diameter.

CHOKE CHERRY *Prunus virginiana* B-8, C-8 etc. Bushy tree found in thickets along fields and forest edges. Often display profuse white blossoms growing on racemes (shaped like bottle brushes) 3 to 6” long, following the appearance of leaves. Berries can be dense enough to bend branches during some years in summer. Berries astringent, but can be used for jelly after the first hard frosts. Broken twigs and bark have disagreeable, pungent odor. To 25 feet tall and 8 inches diameter.

AMERICAN ELM *Ulmus Americana* D-6, D-7 or C-8 Sparsely scattered along Rachael Carson trail along the tops of the cliffs overlooking the Allegheny River. The wafer shaped seeds provide clues to the locations of these elusive trees. To 120 feet tall and 48 inches diameter.

SLIPPERY ELM *Ulmus Rebra* (same as above) Similar species likely but not conclusively identified.

COMMON APPLE and (VARIOUS) *Pyrus Malus* and others. A-6 and A-7 and scattered elsewhere including the remainders of old orchards such as behind Harrison Hills Fire Department facility and extending north paralleling old Rt 28.

SWEET BIRCH or CHERRY BIRCH or BLACK BIRCH *Betula lenta* or *Betula alleghaniensis* C-8, D-7
Sparsely scattered along the Rachael Carson trail near the edges of cliffs overlooking the Allegheny River. Broken leaves and twigs have strong wintergreen aroma and flavor and may be steeped for tea. Trees can be tapped for syrup, sugar, and wintergreen flavor extract and birch beer. The inner bark may be chewed and eaten raw as sugar-containing survival food, dried and boiled like noodles, or ground into flour. Lumber is used in cabinetry, doors and wood paneling. To 60 feet tall, 24 inches diameter.

YELLOW BIRCH *Betula Lutea* C-3, C-4 and elsewhere. Sparsely scattered in moist stream hollows. Thrives in burned areas. On more mature trees, bark is brownish yellow, curls and peels can be removed for tinder (starting fires) even when wet! Grows to over 70 feet.

GREY BIRCH *Petula populifolia* C-8 Repopulates cut, farmed or burned areas. Grows to 30 feet and 12" diameter.

SWEET GUM *Liquidambar Styraciflua* A-5, B-6 bordering main entry and upper road & bordering the paved parking area near the public telephone and elsewhere. Easily recognized by leathery, star shaped aromatic leaves and 1.5" diameter spherical seed clusters dangling from long, slender threadlike stems and covering the ground from late fall until spring. Wood used for furniture, veneer, interior trim. Grows to 80 to 120 feet tall and 3 to 5 feet in diameter. No mature specimens found within the park.

TULIP TREE or YELLOW POPLAR *Liriodendron Tulipifera* D-4, D-5 and elsewhere. Largest specimens in the park are found in near the Green Trail in D-8. So named because the tulip shaped outline of the 4 lobed deciduous leaves and the largest solitary flower of any native tree in Pennsylvania. The showy tulip-like six-petal flowers 'Tulips' are bright yellow-green on the outside and bright orange-yellow on the inside opening in late spring and early summer. The displays are largely unnoticed because they occur high in the forest canopy

and thus hidden among the foliage. The best place to see this natural spectacle nearer ground level is on the lesser mature "Tulip Trees" along the parking area of the grove across from Watts childrens' playground. Incidentally, tulip trees are not members of the poplar family; instead they are of the magnolia family. Most often prematurely timbered, 'Tulip Trees' that are left standing, continue to grow and become the largest hardwood in Pennsylvania reaching heights up to 150 feet and 4 to 6 feet in diameter. In MATURE trees, the smooth grained wood becomes a light, buttery yellow. Leaves of all tulip trees turn bright yellow in the fall.

RED OAK *Quercus rubra* Most common oak in this park and in contention with the native black cherry as the most common tree in the park, found throughout in second growth and mature forested areas. Large acorns. Most important lumber tree; wood trim and furniture, flooring and pulpwood. Excellent firewood. To over 70 feet tall, and 3 feet diameter, among the tallest trees in the park.

BLACK OAK *Quercus velutina* B-3, B-4. Less common in park. Somewhat more disease and pest resistant than some other oaks. Sparsely scattered in mature forested upland dry hilltops and ridges where soil is dry but fairly rich. Red Oak family. Takes two years for acorns to mature. Acorn unusual "cap" covers about half of the small "nut". To 70 feet tall and 3 feet diameter.

CHESTNUT OAK *Quercus prinus* E-3, E-4, C-8 Largest acorns of the White Oak Group. Lumber marketed as "white oak". Leaves can be mistaken for chestnut. All trees listed as Oaks herein get acorns As member of white oak group, acorns appear every year except under adverse conditions. To 60 over feet tall, 2 feet diameter.

CHINQUAPIN OAK *Quercus Muehlenbergii* E-3, E-4, C-8 Among the taller trees in the park. Less common member of White Oak family. Leaves similar to chestnut oak, but narrower. Found in mixed oak stands usually on east facing slopes and dryer ridge tops. Lumber high grade all-purpose wood marketed as "white oak". Although acorns and leaves have been found scattered among other leaves on the ground, more effort is needed to positively locate individual specimens. Difficulty of identification compounded by tendency to hybridize with similar nearby species when present in mixed stands. To 80 feet tall, 3 feet diameter.

PIN OAK *Quercus palustris* A-5, A-7, A-8, A-9, B-9 Handsome, symmetrical shape. Found mostly in park in old, partially overgrown open fields. Low branches grow downward, mid branches grow horizontally, upper branches may grow more upward. Can grow to 75 feet tall, 3 feet diameter although most specimens in park have not attained full size.

WHITE OAK *Quercus alba* C-7, C-8, D-8 and elsewhere, The "flagship" member of the "white oak group" family of oaks which produce sweeter (more palatable) acorns annually as opposed to every two years in members of the "red oak group". Acorns from most members of the white oak group are said to be preferred by deer and can be used for human survival food although palatability varies among individual trees Lesser common in the park. Most likely to host edible "sheeps' head" or "stump" mushrooms around base of trees and recent stumps. Sparsely scattered on dryer ridge tops in mature mixed oak stands. The largest specimen in the park is found in B-8. Can grow to 100 feet tall and over 4 feet diameter.

3.0 TREES/SHRUBS OF THE FOREST UNDERSTORY

AMERICAN BLADDERNUT *Staphylea trifolia* C -9 exclusively. This interesting native plant is so named for the three-lobed unusual seed pods which resemble "Chinese Lanterns" or "bladders". When dry, the seeds rattle within the papery bladders which remain attached to the shrub until after leaves are shed and served as toys for pioneer children. This shrub grows to 10 feet and can be covered with many dozen (first greenish white flowers) then bladders. The upright woody "trunks" have an attractive striped pattern similar to striped maple. For a fun exercise, see if you can locate them.

FLOWERING DOGWOOD *Cornus florida*. Found throughout the under story of most regenerating forest areas. Among the second group of trees to exhibit white flowers before leaves appear in early spring. To 40 feet tall, and 8 inches diameter.

ALTERNATE LEAF DOGWOOD *Cornus alterniflora* (same except leaves grow alternately on twigs instead of appearing in pairs). To 30 feet tall and 8 inches diameter.

PIN CHERRY, PIONEER CHERRY or FIRE CHERRY *Prunus pennsylvanica* So named for being among the first shrubs to repopulate following fires. Found scattered

throughout at forest edges and thickets. Creamy, white blossoms appear usually after leaves. One of the first shrub/tree species to quickly and often densely repopulate following agriculture. Grows to 20 feet tall, and 8" diameter. Acidic cherries can be used for jelly, generally not palatable for human foraging.

AMERICAN HORNBEAM or also BLUE BECH OR WATER BEECH *Carpinus caroliniana* B-3, B-4 in rich, moist soil along stream banks and swampy areas. So named for the smooth, blue-grey fluted or "muscular" appearance of trunk. Can grow to 40 feet tall and (rarely) to 2 feet in diameter.

EASTERN HOPHORNBEAM or IRONWOOD *Ostrya virginiana* D-6, D-7 on dry ridges. So named for the resemblance of the seed clusters to brewers hops and of the hard, heavy wood which is resistant to hand cutting with all but the sharpest axe. Rarely more than 30 feet, can grow to 50 feet and 18 inches in diameter

HAWTHORNS (THICKET) *Crataegus pruinosa* or B-3, C-3, B-9, C-9 is the only species positively identified among fourteen possible varieties of "Haws' Apples" common to this region. The fruits, tiny "apples" are edible as survival food but dry and containing "nuisance" seeds, although it is claimed that other varieties produce sweet, more palatable "apples". May hybridize with closely related "spotted hawthorn" and "frosted hawthorn".

SHADBERRY or SERVICEBERRY or JUNE BERRY *Amelanchier arborea* Look for these shrubs/small trees as the first to produce conspicuous small, white blossoms at the end of winter before any leaves appear in the under story of local woodlands and hillsides. Produces edible berries around late June. Some sources list over 30 mostly native varieties of this shrub within USA, some producing larger, more succulent berries than our Allegheny Serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*). So named for providing a sugary survival fruit for Revolutionary and Civil War soldiers when nothing else was ripening. For berry lovers, the Swamp Serviceberry growing more commonly in the Allegheny National Forest produces some of the sweetest, largest berries in larger numbers through August and September, best eaten by the fistful right off the trees. To 40 feet tall, 18 inches diameter.

COMMON SPICEBUSH or SPICEWEED or BENJAMIN BUSH *Lindera benzoin*

Comprise a portion of the forest under story in rich, moist soils and along small stream banks. Showy yellow flowers appear in spring before leaves. Young leaves, twigs, bark and sun dried pulp from the mature fruit (only) are aromatic and were used by Native Americans in making tea and by pioneers as substitute for allspice. This useful native shrub provides foraging for woodland birds and creatures. To 12 feet tall.

WITCH-HAZEL *Hamamelis Virginian* C-3, D-3 and many places where this native shrub comprises a sizable portion of the wooded under story in rich, moist stream valleys and adjacent north and east facing slopes. The astringent skin/facial cosmetic by the same name is extracted from the leaves, bark and twigs. Small, brightly chartreuse colored, narrow petal flowers appear in late fall and remain through winter. Produces 1/2 inch diameter seed pods which forcefully (sometimes noisily) eject small black seeds. These spontaneous seed ejections can provide a startling experience during quiet walks in the mid to late fall. Usually smaller but can grow to 30 feet tall and 12 inches diameter.

FRINGETREE, GRANCY GRAYBEARD, OLD MANS' BEARD *Chionanthus virginicus* A-9, B-9 Native of Southeastern USA. Escapee of cultivation, planted as ornamental. This relative if the privet hedge can be easily spotted in overgrown fields when it becomes densely covered with showy white fragrant flowers during May. Produces small dark blue/black fruits attractive to birds during winter.

STAGHORN SUMAC *Rhus typhina* B-3, C-3 Specimens in park are shrub size although can grow to 35 feet. Easily recognized by the upward pointing "staghorns" of densely packed clusters of hairy red berries formed at the ends of higher branches. Stout, hairy twigs exude milky fluid when crushed. A wilderness version of pink "lemonade" can be made by crushing and soaking and straining the liquid (sweetened to taste) from ripened, separated berries collected in late summer (not late fall or winter because berries soon become dry). The same juice can also be used as an ingredient combined with other fruits for making jelly. Caution: white berries are poison sumac, a related variety!

TREE OF HEAVEN *Ailanthus altissima* C-3, C-4 This invasive species from the Far East is often found in sunny areas where soil has been disturbed or bordering paved areas. Leaves resemble staghorn sumac but can also be easily confused with native ash or American black walnut. Crushed green leaves emit strong odor of rancid peanut butter, the easiest summer identifier. The seeds consist of easily seen dense clusters of oblong, twisted samara about 1 ½ inch long and remain on the tree throughout winter. Can grow to 100 feet tall and 36 inches diameter.

SWEET CRAB APPLE *Malus coronaria* B-3, B-4 So named for the sweet fragrance of the pinkish, white blossoms during early to mid-spring (fruit is definitely not sweet). One of the first shrubs to populate old fields in the natural process of forest regeneration, forming dense thickets on tops of certain ridges within the park. Presently these thickets are being overtaken by black locust and black cherry and oaks as the area undergoes second to third stage regeneration. Pioneers and poor farmers used the smallish, sour fruits as an ingredient in jellies and preserves.

AMUR HONEYSUCKLE *Lonicera maackii* B-8. This conspicuous, sweetly fragrant European escapee from ornamental cultivation is easily located near one of the little wooded bridges spanning a small spring fed side stream along the Red Trail when this dense shrub it is completely covered with white blossoms in early summer in defiance of the lack of direct sunshine obscured by the canopy of mature red oaks dominating the area.

WILD HONEYSUCKLE, other. E-3, E-4, E-5 (American Fly Honeysuckle?) Needs positive identification. Can be seen blooming in May and June along top edges of the steep slopes overlooking the Allegheny River and elsewhere in the under story within park.

MOUNTAIN LAUREL *Kalmia latifolia* E-3, E-4, E-5 The well known state flower of Pennsylvania.

REDBUD *Cercis Canadensis*. C-4 Unusual growing wild in this area More common nearer the Mason-Dixon Line. Specimens in the park are assumed to be escapees from ornamental cultivation, blooming at about same time as wild dogwood. Very noticeable purplish pink blossoms are unopened where they remain for a considerable time. Oddly, when blossoms fully open, they become a less noticeable dull pin.

VIBURNUM Positive identification has been reduced to two from the many dozens of possible escaped or perhaps deliberately planted horticultural varieties. In both of our cases, the shrubs will later exhibit numerous showy berries in place of the blossoms. If the berries remain bright red into the early winter, they are **Highbush Cranberries** *Viburnum trilobum* (no relative of bog cranberries). If the berries appear red and later turn dark blue, they are **Hobble Bushes**. It appears as though both varieties exist within the park. Enjoy watching these beautiful shrubs. The list of Harrison Hills sights and delights would not be complete without mention of the annual Spring blossom display which can be seen through car window A-5, A-6 or from certain easy walking trails. Besides the early blooming Juneberry and dogwood blossoms appearing in the natural wooded under story mentioned under individual headings, viburnums are separately noteworthy for their outstanding displays of dense, white, unusual blossoms and later brightly colored berries. By car, arriving from the main park entrance Juneberry blossoms will be the first to appear (before leaves) along the right, up-sloping embankment A-5, A-6 as you descend the left (lower) road called Cottontail Drive. They will be immediately followed by wild dogwood, then pin cherry, wild cherry and wild apple, etc. Once learned, spotting these in other favorite areas of the park becomes easy. When the Viburnums blossom (mid to late May) an obvious example of these showy bushes/small shrubs can be spotted from an automobile looking uphill into Bob White Grove C-5, C-6 as well as along the road leading up to the environmental learning center. By parking near the public phone and taking a leisurely stroll across Chipmunk Drive B-6, some more viburnums can be spotted while walking just a short stroll along the Green / Red trail. By far, the greatest concentration of blooming viburnums can be accessed by walking the Red Trail where it crosses the right upper road, Woodchuck Drive. The nearest parking would be at Buckeye Grove B-5, the first grove on the right, nearest the entrance of the park. Follow the Red Trail walking in a southerly direction about 0.3 miles along the West border while staying on park property behind the residences on York Drive. The viburnums will be quite obvious and the air pleasantly scented when in bloom by looking West (to the right) A-4, B-3, B-4 across a small unnamed spring fed stream as the trail descends through a dense, mature oak stand. That stream eventually joins another to become the main feeder to the larger of the two ponds within the park. Along the way, look for the following wild flowers

which happen to be blooming at the same time: Purple Leaf Hawkweed, Common Cinquefoil, Violets, Bluets, Spring Beauties, Star Grass, Fire Pinks, etc. Remember, the walking trails of Harrison Hills are a joy any time of the year!

4.0 VINES

Mystery Strangling Vine (rare, unusual to this area) to be identified – C-3 & C-6 This tough tree climbing vine twines around trunks of immature trees. As the “host” trees grow larger in diameter, the “strangling” vine sometimes become partially or wholly engulfed by the host until buried inside the trunk. On the species of “host” trees where it occurs along the lane leading to McCurdy soccer fields C-3, some tree trunks become forced (by the vine) into weird helical shapes. Unfortunately, the best examples of helicals were along the right hand side of the lane and have been removed by pillagers probably for making fancy walking sticks. However, some larger examples of this phenomenon can still be observed mostly adjacent the left hand side of the lane when traveling toward the soccer fields. The same vine also occurs in larger form in C-6 where it twists and twines (within itself) into some interesting photogenic patterns and knots as it journeys between “host” trees.

POISON IVY *Rhus radicans* Occurs in three forms: ground cover, low shrub and woody vine that reaches the top of forest canopy by climbing trees. All three forms are found within the park. Perhaps the easiest to get “fooled” by is the hairy wooded vines up to 4-inches in diameter climbing on trees. The “leaves of three” often become intermingled with the tree leaves along the entire height of the tree. The offending ingredient is *urushio*, a resin which occurs in all parts of the plants. According to a recent article in a local newspaper by Brianna Horan, “The amount that fits on to the head of a pin is enough to send as many as 500 people to their medicine cabinets...” No attempt is being made herein to distinguish between poison ivy and **Poison Oak** *Rhus (toxicopendron) diversalobata*. The offending ingredient is identical and in approximately the same concentration in both and is also found (in perhaps less concentration) in this regions other poisonous plant **Poison Sumac** *Rhus vernix*.

VIRGIN'S BOWER, TRAVELER'S JOY, LOVE VINE *Clematis virginiana* C-3 Native to southeastern USA. Escapee from ornamental cultivation. Rare in our area and in park. Twists and climbs among bushes and shrubs. Leaf stems are an attractive “s” shape. Displays profuse creamy white flowers in late summer and fall followed by attractive, photogenic, feathery seed clusters, some lasting through winter.

VIRGINIA CREEPER, WOODBINE, FIVE LEAVED IVY *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*. Perhaps the most common ground cover and tree climbing vine in the park. Mostly on “pole stage” second growth trees and ground cover in diverse areas. Recognizable by the five leaves. Tiny white flowers later replaced by clusters of small, blue/black berries borne on red stalks. Climbs trees to 100 feet. Becomes bright red in early fall usually preceding other foliage coloration. Berries contain oxalic acid, therefore poisonous to humans and mammals. Human poisoning rarely occurs due to bad taste of berries and unheard of in wild mammals which instinctively avoid them. An important winter food source for some species of birds.

WILD GRAPE *Vitis aestivalis* or *Summer Grape* and *Vitis aestivalis argentiflora* or *Silverleaf Grape*, a closely related species having leaves which are white underneath. These are the only two kinds found thus far in the park of the five kinds common to our region. They occur several places in regenerating and mature forest areas and are recognizable from the three other species by having forked (climbing) tendrils. Although these rapidly climbing vines are not directly parasitic to trees they can produce negative affects on the tree's growth rate and health as they reach treetop height, sometimes causing the premature demise of the “host” tree by “choking out” sunlight in the upper forest canopy. The fruits however provide valuable mast for many wild birds including grouse and turkey and mammals. The occurrence of the first frosts serves to somewhat increase sweetness and reduce acidity. Although barely palatable, early pioneers harvested some species of wild grapes for use in jellies and wines

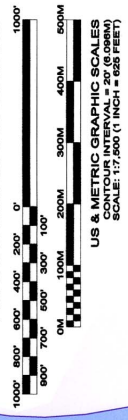
WILD MORNING GLORY Ambiguous term for several invasive non-native varieties bearing white flowers. Usually found twisting and climbing on low bushes and shrubs to 8 feet often on disturbed ground. Difficult to eradicate; fortunately uncommon in park except for a few scattered areas.

HARRISON HILLS PARK

COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY
BIRDVILLE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
21 DECEMBER 2009 EDITION

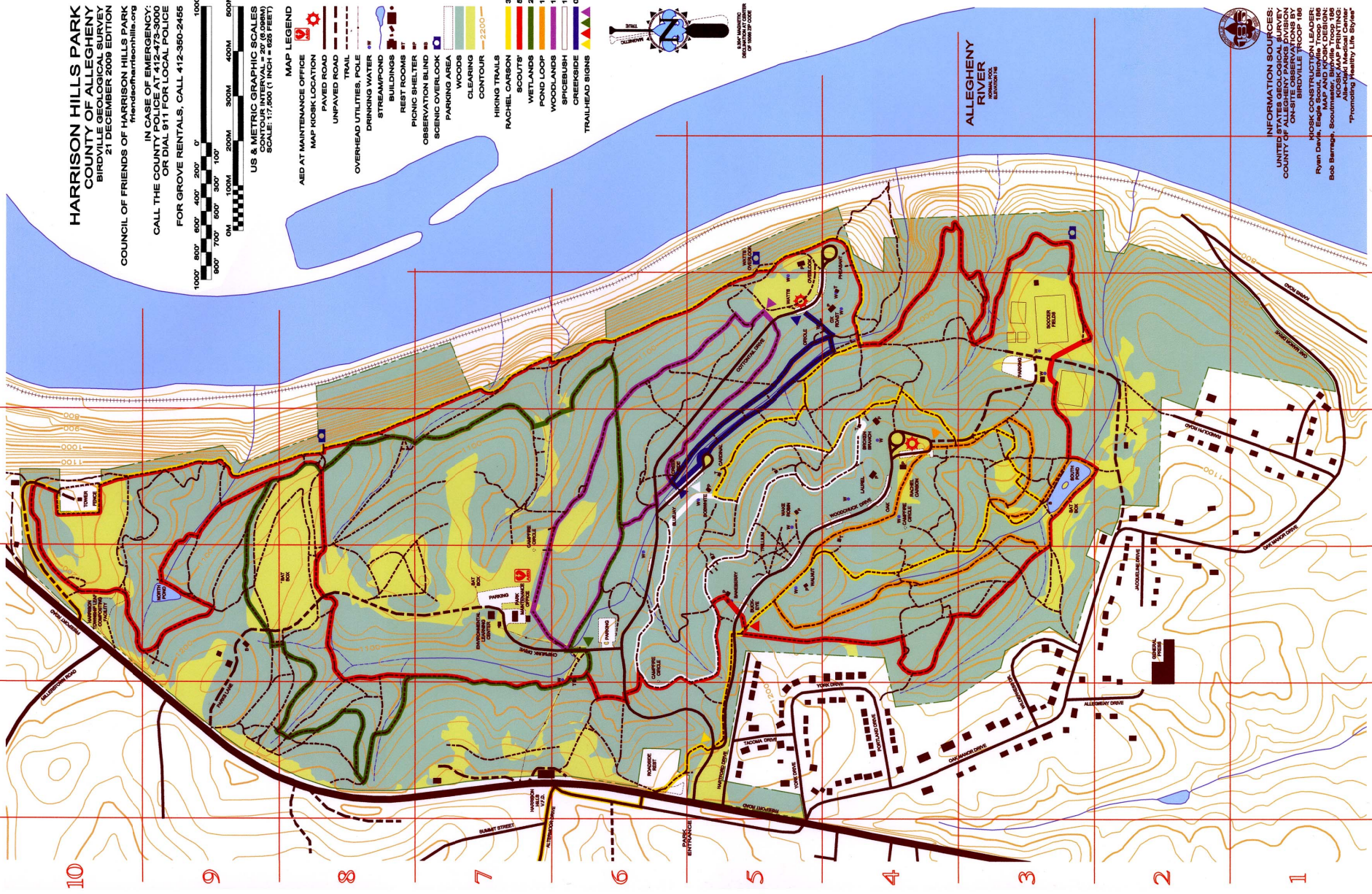
COUNCIL OF FRIENDS OF HARRISON HILLS PARK
friends@harrisonhills.org

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY:
CALL THE COUNTY POLICE AT 412-473-3000
OR DIAL 911 FOR LOCAL POLICE
FOR GROVE RENTALS, CALL 412-350-2455



MAP LEGEND

- AED AT MAINTENANCE OFFICE
- MAP KIOSK LOCATION
- PAVED ROAD
- UNPAVED ROAD
- TRAIL
- OVERHEAD UTILITIES, POLE
- DRINKING WATER
- STREAM/POND
- BUILDINGS
- REST ROOMS
- PICNIC SHELTER
- OBSERVATION BLIND
- SCENIC OVERLOOK
- PARKING AREA
- WOODS
- CLEARING
- CONTOUR
- HIKING TRAILS
- RACHEL CARSON
- SCOUTS
- WETLANDS
- POND LOOP
- WOODLANDS
- SPICEBUSH
- GREENSHIDE
- TRAILHEAD SIGNS



INFORMATION SOURCES:
UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY
ON-SITE OBSERVATIONS BY
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"Promoting Healthy Life Styles"