

# Balmoral-Indian Caves Nature Trail

Lake Linganore, New Market, Maryland.

This trail goes from Balmoral Ridge, and then follows a creek, which feeds into Lake Linganore from Lake Merle. This trail is notable for having the largest tree in Lake Linganore, and leading to the Indian Caves. It additionally provides a perfect path to see a variety of native plants and animals.



## 1: White Oak

(*Quercus Albus*)



Throughout these woods, you can see White Oak trees. The White Oak tree is a type of oak native to the eastern part of the continental United States, and some parts of Canada. It is a deciduous tree, which means that it drops its leaves mid autumn, and regrows them in the spring. Oak trees also produce strong wood, and normally reach heights of 70-80 feet. Oaks are prone to parasites such as the gypsy moth, which eat holes in the leaves. Also, the White Oak is the state tree of Maryland.

## 2: Cherry Plant

(*Prunus serotina*)



The cherry tree is a deciduous tree, and this specific species is native to the Eastern United States, although it is related to fruit bearing trees from Europe and South America. They bloom in April and May, and have flowers which are small and clustered in column shape.

## 3: Woodpecker

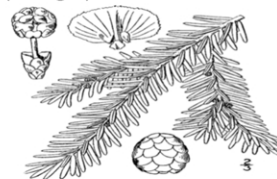
(*Picidae spp*)



Woodpecker holes are visible on a tree to the left of this sign. They bore holes in trees to nest and to find food for themselves and their young. Woodpeckers can communicate by hammering their bills on the trees, so to cope, their brain has evolved to be smaller and more durable.

## 4: Hemlock

(*Tsuga*)



The Hemlock (sharing its name with a poisonous plant), looks like a Fir tree, is an evergreen, but in fact is a completely different species. It is in the conifer genus, and does not shed its leaves during the winter. They have large root systems, and if an older one falls, it may bring other trees with it. The two eastern North American species are threatened by an invasive Asian bug, (Aldeges Tsuga), which sucks the sap and kills it over time.

## 5: Maple Tree

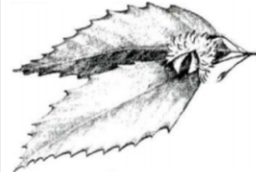
(*Acer Nigrum*)



The Maple tree, or in this case, a Black Maple, is another deciduous tree, which loses its leaves in the winter. The leaves have the widely recognized three-or-five lobed shape, and maple trees are also responsible for the "helicopter" seeds, which appear in the fall. The Maple is the most popular tree to tap while making syrup, and a Maple leaf is even featured on the Canadian flag.

## 6: American Beech

(*Fagus Grandfolia*)



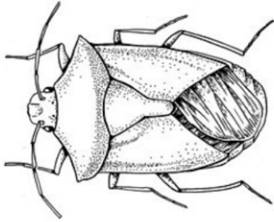
The American Beech tree is the tree you can most observe on this trail, especially by the water. This is yet another deciduous tree, losing leaves in the fall and re-growing them in the spring. The nuts from Beech trees provide food for many animals; some examples being wild turkeys or bears.

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## 7: Invasive species



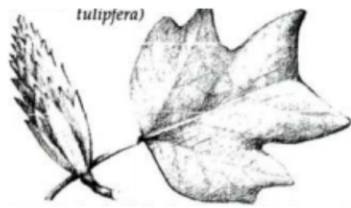
Frederick is home to a few invasive species- stink bugs and emerald ash borer to name a few. These species come from other places, and have no natural predators, so they only spread more and more. One species which you may see here is the Stink Bug, which aren't as common as a few years ago, but are still a nuisance.

## 8: Creek



This creek, which runs from Lake Merle into Lake Linganore, originally merged with Linganore Creek before it was filled with water. It provides a shelter for small insects and creatures that live in the water, as well as giving water to the surrounding plants. It now is a guide for a path, which runs parallel to it from the Balmoral mailboxes to Boyers Mill road.

## 9: Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)



These trees are yet another deciduous tree, with seeds coming from the flowers they produce in the spring. Tulip Poplars are known to grow to enormous sizes- one called the "Liberty Tree" even reached a diameter of 21 feet in Annapolis, Maryland. This Tulip Poplar is estimated to be about 145 years old, although it may be older due to other conditions during its growing. It is thought to be the largest tree in Lake Linganore, with a circumference of 152 inches.

## 10: Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)



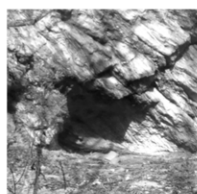
Across the creek, you can see a Sycamore tree. Sycamore trees are deciduous, and can be identified easily by their bark, which flakes off and leaves the surface a mottled gray, brown, or green/white color. The reason for this loss is the bark being more rigid than most other tree barks, and it cannot stretch while the tree grows. The leaves are similar to Maple, but the three lobes are a bit more connected, and are larger. Additionally, the seeds are large balls, which disintegrate into smaller dandelion-like seeds, dispersed during the spring.

## 11: Native Geology



The native rocks in the area provide shelter for animals, facilitate growing of mosses, and provide structure to the surrounding area. In addition, they created the shape of the Indian caves. Most of the rocks in this area are Limestone, which extends about 480 feet below the ground

## 12: Indian Caves



The Indian Caves were used as a temporary camp for members of the Susquehanna tribe during hunts, storms, and other happenings. Many artifacts have been found near the site, including arrowheads, spears, and pottery. The caves now house many animals, such as turtles, squirrels and rabbits, and even snakes.