

Forever Foundation Trail Guide



1: GRAFFITI

Ahead of you is a Beech tree, popular for carving because of its smooth, silvery bark. If you look on the other side of the tree, you will find a carving in the bark. The bark of the beech is thin and will stretch as the tree grows, unlike other tree bark that splits or

flakes off. Carvings in the tree will stretch over the tree's lifetime. The name "beech" came from the tree's thin bark. In some languages, "beech" is very similar to the word for "book." Sheets of beech bark were commonly bonded together to form the first books because it was easy to inscribe.



2: MOSS

Moss is a primitive plant that does not have flowers, seeds, or real roots. It is short and spongy because it lacks structural support. Without real roots, moss absorbs water and nutrients through the air. It typically grows in moist, shady areas like the base of a

tree. It is very resilient and can even grow in the cracks of the sidewalk. Even if moss dries out, some species can grow back when watered.



3: LAKE

Lake Langanore is home to many species of animals, fish, plants, and birds, including the Great Blue Heron. This is the largest of all the heron species with long legs, a long, skinny neck, and thick, dagger-like bill. The Great Blue Heron often stands in

shallow water as it stalks fish, a main food source for the heron. It flies with slow and steady wing beats as it glides over the water. Stop here for a minute and look across the lake. Do you see a heron hiding along the shore or flying over the water? If you do, watch for the lightning-fast thrusts of the beak into the water.

4: COMPOST

Inside the downed tree ahead of you is compost, the product of decomposition. It may just look like plain dirt in that log, but it is full of nutrients from years of decomposition, the biological process of breaking down large organic materials into simpler ones. Composting is a great way to create nutrient-rich soil, and it is easy to get started.

All you need is some "brown" materials like straw or shredded newspaper, "green" materials like grass clippings or vegetable peelings, and a shovel or two of garden soil. Start with a 2- or 3-inch layer of brown material followed by a layer of green material and top that with several inches of green material, a thin layer of soil, and another layer of brown material. Continue layering until your compost pile is three feet tall and moisten the whole pile. Every couple of weeks, turn the pile with a garden shovel, moving the outside to the inside and vice versa. Soon you will have nutrient-rich compost soil!



5: FERNS

There are more than 11,000 species of ferns around the world, and all of them consist of one or more leaves attached to a root system by a stem. The tallest species of fern can grow as tall as 60 feet with leaves 15 feet long. There are also free-flowing aquatic

ferns with leaves as short as 0.2 centimeters in width.



6: TULIP POPLAR

The tulip poplar is one of the tallest deciduous tree species in North America: it can grow over 100 feet tall. The flowers have a beautiful yellow and orange base tinted with green on top. They grow high up on the tree and are most commonly seen after

pollination when they fall to the ground. You can pick up a "tulip" and put it in a bowl of water to float like a small water lily. The flower will live for a few days like this. The tree gets its name from these flowers and from the distinctive pale wood. The tree was hollowed out by the Native Americans and used as a canoe. Some early settlers in the New World called this tree a canoe wood tree. The tulip poplar was exported to Europe to decorate the estates of the rich.

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7: BEAVERS

The beaver is North America's largest rodent. The beaver has rich brown fur, huge gnawing teeth, webbed hind feet, a naked, scaly paddle-shaped tail and can weigh up to 60 pounds. It is well known for gnawing down trees and building stick and mud dams.

These dams create protected ponds for the Beaver to build its lodge. Up ahead, this trail is rerouted because a beaver decided to build its house in the middle of the trail. Look around, and you will see the stumps from where a beaver has gnawed away trees to build its lodge.



8: BARBERRY

Invasive species colonize areas where they have not grown before. They can take over an entire ecosystem and have been called the second greatest extinction threat behind habitat loss. A common local invasive is Barberry, a Japanese shrub that often used for ornamental purposes because of its attractive foliage and bright red berries. This invasive species forms dense stands that compete with native trees and plants.



9: SNAKES

The rocks ahead may not look like a comfortable home to you, but to a snake it does. If you see a snake, move away from it and leave it alone. Here in Maryland, we have two types of venomous snakes: the timber rattlesnake and the copperhead. The timber rattlesnake has a black tail, and its color ranges from all black to mostly yellow with black splotches. It is the most widespread rattlesnake in the Eastern United States. The copperhead has a copper back with bold red-brown crossbands. Like many snakes, they are nocturnal and spend most of their days hidden under rocks or in hollow logs.



10: BEECH

Early settlers in North America knew the beech tree meant food, but not in the way we would think. Beech trees like to grow in fertile limey soil, perfect for planting crops. Whole forests of beech trees would be cut down just to be planted over with corn or barley.

Beech forests still standing provided meat for hunters in a unique way. Passenger pigeons main food source was the beech tree, and when these unsuspecting birds landed in a beech forest, hunters would be waiting on the ground. Over-hunting and clearcutting of beech trees largely caused the passenger pigeon's extinction



11: SYCAMORE

The sycamore tree is known for its buttonball fruits and speckled bark. The sycamore is in the fig family, and its fruits are similar to the fig but less sweet. In ancient times the wood was highly valued as a building material. The wood of the sycamore is light and

therefore preferred for ceilings over the heavy wood of the cedar. The wood of the sycamore also was used to build the coffins for Egyptian mummies. In nature, they typically grow in areas near a stream or lake.



12: FOREVER FOUNDATION

In front of you is the Forever Foundation. These ruins are from before the Lake Linganore property was owned by the Linganore Corporation. The B.B.S. Holding Corporation originally purchased the land around the lake before being

transferred to the Linganore Corporation. In the deed to the property it says "[T]he remains of an old stone house on the North side of Linganor [sic] Creek shall not be dismantled or disfigured, but maintained in its present state." However, legend has it that that property was to be "preserved forever as a monument to the frailty of man's endeavor."