

Basic Tree Identification Tips

There are lots of features that give you clues to what species it is.

- **Look at the shape and type of leaves.** One of the easiest ways to narrow down possible tree type is to identify if the tree is coniferous or broadleaf. Coniferous trees will have pointed needles, such as the type you may find on a Christmas tree. The needles and scales of conifers are considered types of leaves. Broadleaf trees include everything else and have wider flatter leaves. They are the most obvious feature, particularly in spring and summer.
- **Check for any fruit, berries, nuts or flowers on the tree.** While observing the leaves, look around the branches for any fruits, flowers or other features that may help separate the tree from other types.
- **Examine the color and shape of the bark.** Both the formation of the bark on the tree and its color can be useful identifiers when determining a type of tree from other type.
- **Twigs grow in a variety of shapes, colors and sizes.** Some twigs are stout while others are thin, some may be hairy while others are not, and some have large buds while others have small buds. Twigs offer valuable clues about the identity of a tree, especially in the winter.
- **Form of the tree.** Form refers to the overall growth pattern of a tree. To examine the form of a tree, it is best to stand a short distance away. The same tree species can have different forms depending on whether or not it is growing in the open or in a crowded forest.
- **Different features will be visible through the seasons.** In winter, for broadleaf trees, you'll have to use twigs, leaf buds and bark.

Piece the clues together, including the overall shape and size of the tree, bark, leaves or needles, flowers, fruits, leaf buds and twigs. The more features you can see, the more accurate your identification will be.

The Tree Identification Project started as a discussion at the Friends of Carver-Roehl meeting in November of 2016. Through the efforts of many people giving of their time and talents, the dream of creating an awesome Tree Identification Course become a reality.

Thank you to Kohls Department Store, Friends of Carver-Roehl Park, and Rock County Parks Staff for help in completing this Tree Identification Course.

Take only memories and pictures and leave only footprints.

Rock County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in accommodations provided to persons using our parks.

For additional information or if special accommodations are required, please contact:

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www.co.rock.wi.us/parks



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Carver-Roehl Park

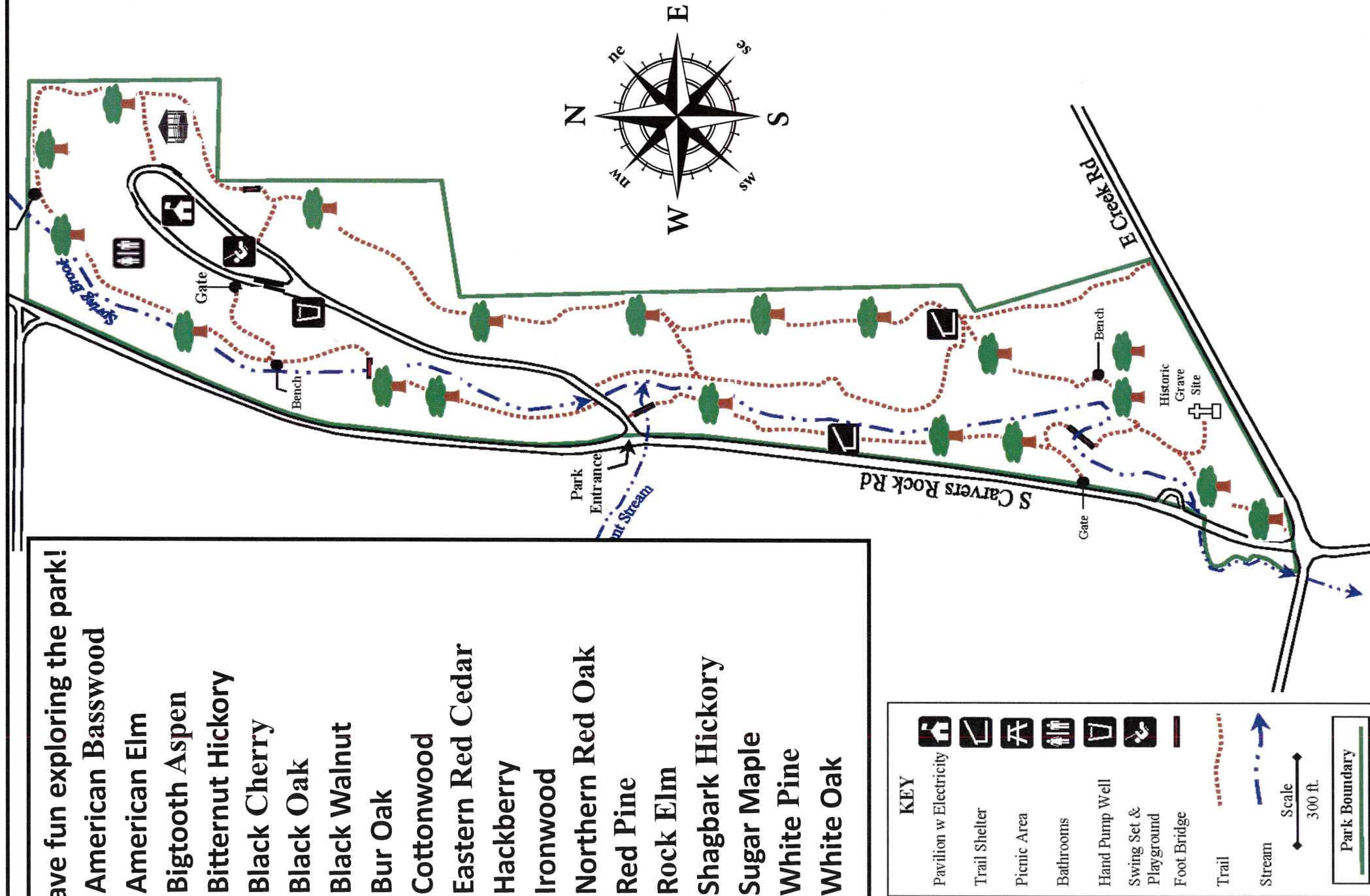
Tree Identification Course



Carver-Roehl Park—Tree Identification Course

At each tree location, you will find a tree identification marker with information about that species.

- Have fun exploring the park!
- American Basswood
 - American Elm
 - Bigtooth Aspen
 - Bitternut Hickory
 - Black Cherry
 - Black Oak
 - Black Walnut
 - Bur Oak
 - Cottonwood
 - Eastern Red Cedar
 - Hackberry
 - Ironwood
 - Northern Red Oak
 - Red Pine
 - Rock Elm
 - Shagbark Hickory
 - Sugar Maple
 - White Pine
 - White Oak



Time spent amongst trees is never wasted time—Katrina Mayer