

Look for these Trees!

White Spruce: Half inch sharp needles, may smell like cat urine, wood used for pulp, paddles, oars, and lumber

White Ash: Threatened by Emerald Ash Borer beetle that burrows into the tree, wood used for baseball bats, purple leaves in fall

Red Maple: Bright red leaves in Autumn, red buds, branches, and leaf stems when young, seeds spin like helicopters, wood used for furniture

White Pine: Maine State Tree, needles 3-5 inches and in bundles of 5, wood used for construction lumber, pulp, paint, and soap

Eastern Hemlock: One-third inch long needles with white line on underside, end of branches very slender, wood used for pulp, framing, and bark mulch

White Birch: Also called Paper Birch and Canoe Birch, white barks peels easily, wood used for clothes pins, dowels, furniture, and plywood

Gray Birch: Bark does not peel easily, tree has short lifespan, often in clumps, leans, not valuable

American Beech: Brown leaves in Fall that stay on through Winter, sharp, pointed winter buds, wood used for furniture, plywood, and dowels

Quaking Aspen: Slender twigs, leaves "quake" in breeze, pale green bark with wart-like outgrowths, flowers are in caterpillar-like catkins

Yellow Birch: Bark is shiny, yellowish brown, and in loose thin ribbon-like layers, valuable timber tree

Northern Red Oak: Leaves 5-8 inches long, sharp tips, wood used for furniture, flooring, shipbuilding, reddish color in bark fissures



ANDROSCOGGIN LAND TRUST



Rules and Regulations:

The preserve is open to the public
during daylight hours

Carry in - Carry out

No camping or fires are permitted

No motorized vehicles are permitted

Please respect private property
boundaries and remain on marked trails

Dogs must be kept on leashes

Please pick up after your dog

Do not pick or remove any plants

Hiking, nature walking, and
snowshoeing are all encouraged!

Sherwood Forest Conservation Area Trails

Self-Guided Natural History Tour



Androscoggin Land Trust: (207) 782-2302

Maine State Police: (207) 657-3030

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY: 911

1.

Erosion is caused by water moving from one location to another, moving soil and particles with it. Water moves from the playground to the muddy area next to the trail. Tree roots help prevent erosion. Not all erosion is bad! Soil is formed from the slow erosion of small rocks and decomposing particles. Therefore, without erosion, plants would not be able to grow!

2.

These **Apple trees** are what remain from an old apple orchard that existed when all of this land was part of a farm. The big houses on the corner of Cook Street and Bolster Drive were the only residences in 1948. Considerable acreage of pasture and cropland have gone back to woodland in Maine. Many apple trees throughout New England grow in the wild. However, they have been declining in populations as a result of too much shading, overcrowding and isolation.

3.

Tree lifespan is how long a tree lives. Every kind of tree has a lifespan. White pine, for example, has a lifespan of over 100 years. Red oak can live for about 75 years, whereas white birch can live for about 30 years. You can tell how old a tree is by counting the number of rings in its trunk. Each ring represents one year of tree life. The wider the spaces between the rings, the more the tree grew that year. Many old rotting trees are still standing but will likely fall eventually.

4.

Rotting logs are important in a healthy ecosystem. These rotting trees provide habitats for many insects, plants, animals, and bacteria. They also return nutrients back into the soil that is crucial for fungi, tree seedlings, wildflowers, mosses, and ferns. Notice the holes that birds and insects have made in the sides of trees.

5.

Snags are dead trees that have not fallen down yet. They provide valuable habitat & resources to hundreds of wildlife species. Animals (like birds, bats, squirrels, & raccoons) may choose to make nests in the dead tree. There is a difference between snag trees & logs even though they are both deadwood. Snag trees are upright, while logs have fallen down. Look for snag trees and logs along the trail as you continue your walk!



6.

White pines are the Maine state tree. You can identify the white pine tree by its characteristic bundles of five pine needles. Try picking up pine needles and counting the number of needles in each bunch. If there are five needles, chances are there's a white pine nearby. You can tell the age of a white pine by counting the number of whorls. The whorls are where the branches leave the trunk.

7.

Lichens are very simple plants that do not need soil to grow. They help break down rocks into soil. Some of the lichens look like they are painted onto the rocks. Look for red, white, gray, and green lichens on rocks. A lichen is composed of 2 different organisms (fungus and plant) that benefit off of each other in order to survive. This is called a symbiotic relationship. Look for lichen on rocks along the trail.

8.

Variety in the woods: Look in the direction of the school. Notice the age & kinds of trees. Now turn around & face the other direction. See the difference? On one side, the trees appear older, bigger, & have needle-like leaves. On the other side, trees are mostly broad leaf & deciduous, meaning that the leaves fall off in the fall & return in the spring. This is an example of how soil type (dark=hardwood and light=softwood) impacts the vegetation.

9.

Stonewalls served two purposes when this land was a farm. Rocks that were found when the fields were plowed for crops had to be moved to the edge of the field. When enough rocks were piled up, they served as a boundary line between neighbors or as a wall to keep animals in. This wall is the boundary between the city-owned land and the Androscoggin Land Trust property. To further mark the boundary, the Androscoggin Land Trust has also marked the trees along the property border with red paint.