



The Dodd Creek Trail

Learning more about Mother Nature along public trails in Floyd, Virginia.

Native Americans called trees “Standing People” as they knew their importance in the community. We depend on Nature with every breath we take. Getting to know and appreciate nature in our own backyard is both a pleasure and a necessity.

Partnership for Floyd has been working for many years to help build and improve parks and trails in Floyd County. The Dodd Creek Trail was completed in September 2018 by Partnership for Floyd, Floyd Parks & Recreation Dept., and the Town and County of Floyd. The Wild Garden Club has helped to identify plants and place signs along the public trails in Floyd.

There are two trails already constructed near downtown Floyd which are open to the public. The Park to Library Trail (beginning at the back of Lineberry Park) is a “Tree Stories” trail which has a focus on trees of our Floyd ecosystem and a sense of place. The Dodd Creek Trail (behind the ballparks at the Rec Fields off Rt. 8) has a focus on the webs of nature here in Floyd. The Pioneer trail is under construction at the Commerce Park. It will focus on Floyd’s pioneers and Native American interactions with nature, how they lived, and how they filled their needs within their local natural habitat.

The plants below are mostly listed in the same order, and next to the trail, as when Jane Cundiff & Fred First originally found and identified them back in October 2018. Some bright colored “surveyor’s tape” has recently been tied to each of the trees, shrubs, vines, and perennials. And some matching surveyor’s tape has also been tied to the metal plant stakes which are stuck in the ground right next to the plants. These labels provide some snippets of info about each specimen in their web of life.

Hikers should look for the bright pink or bright orange plastic surveyor’s tape “ribbons” which are tied to the plants and to the metal plant stakes. The following pages describe each plant’s unique features in the web of life.

We hope other Nature Buffs who hike on Floyd’s trails will help us learn even more about these nature friends of ours and help us identify even more specimens along these trails.

Thank you for spending time in Nature and for hiking our town’s trails!

This Dodd Creek Trail information sheet was provided by Partnership for Floyd - a diverse group of citizens working to preserve and enhance the unique beauty and quality of life in the Town of Floyd and its surroundings. For more information, please visit: <https://partnershipforfloyd.wordpress.com/>.

Trees / Shrubs / Vines / Perennials on The Dodd Creek Trail

1. **Autumn Olive** (*Elaeagnus umbellata*): Invasive shrub loved by pollinators, birds, bears and other wildlife for its fall berries.
2. **Chinese Elm** (*Ulmus parvifolia*): Imported as a tough, beautiful replacement for dying American Elm.
3. **Red Cedar or Red Juniper** (*Juniperus virginiana*): Berry is important winter food for Cedar waxwings and other birds. May live over 900 years.
4. **Virginia Pine** (*Pinus virginiana*): Grows quickly after land has been clear cut. Seeds feed wildlife. Woodpeckers find bugs in the soft wood, birds nest in the evergreen branches. Grows well with Pink Ladies Slipper and Cinnamon Fern.
5. **Brocade Moss** (*Hypnum imponens*): Can form extensive mats in forest shade- holding moisture, filtering toxins, home for microscopic animals such as tardigrades and rotifers.
6. **Silver Maple** (*Acer saccharinum*): Buds and seeds eaten by squirrels and birds.
7. **Bear Oak** (*Quercus ilicifolia*): Small shade tolerant succession species which provides food for wildlife.
8. **Hay Scented Fern** (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*): Is abundant where deer browse.
9. **Christmas Fern** (*Polystichum acrostichoides*): Evergreen habitat for ground nesting birds.
10. **Jewelweed** (*Impatiens capensis*): Orange or yellow fall flowers irresistible to pollinators. Leaves and sap used to stop poison ivy itch.
11. **Wineberry** (*Rubus phoenicolasius*): Tasty fruit native to Asia. Now common in Appalachia.
12. **Oriental Bittersweet** (*Celastrus orbiculatus*): Invasive vine strangles young trees. Considered a medicine in native use. Mostly the bark and root bark are used for bowel complaints coughs and rheumatism. Leaf tea as used as healing astringent and for dysentery. Super invasive and easily hybridizes. Fruits are toxic.
13. **Fox Grape Vine** (*Vitis labrusca*): Tiny flowers and grapes are highly beneficial to pollinators, birds & mammals. Vines hang freely from trees and can live over 100 years. (There are 2 different Fox Grape Vines with a plant marker and the annotations on each are different.)
14. **Poison Ivy** (*Toxicodendron radicans*): Hairy vine clings to tree trunks, birds like the berries. Don't. touch! The vines can cause skin rashes even for many years after the plants are dead.
15. **Tulip Poplar** (*Liriodendron tulipifera*): Flowers loved by bees. Inner bark contains salicylic acid, a pain reliever. May reach almost 200 feet tall with few or no limbs for 100 feet and may live over 400 years. (Plant markers can be found on 2 different Tulip Poplars. The trunk of one Tulip Poplar has a very large diameter.)
16. **Black Walnut** (*Juglans nigra*): Nuts eaten by wildlife. Leaves are food for moths that attract warblers. Delicious strong flavor nuts used for food.
17. **Black Cherry** (*Prunus serotina*): Birds love the edible cherries. Twigs give an almond-like smell when

scratched. Pollinators and people love the sweet fragrance of the blooms. (Plant markers can be found on 2 different Black Cherry trees.)

18. **White Pine** (*Pinus strobus*): Wildlife and humans like the tasty pine nuts.

The inner bark, resin, needles and roots all have specific health purposes. Provides food and habitat for numerous wildlife species. Mammals eat the foliage and bark. (Plant markers can be found on 3 different White Pines. Find the one that has large wood pecker holes in the trunk.)

19. **Yellow Birch** (*Betula alleghaniensis*): The yellow-bellied sapsucker drills the trunk for summer food. Seeds are consumed by common redpoll, pine siskin, chickadees, and other songbirds. Ruffed grouse feed on seeds, catkins, and buds. Red squirrels eat yellow birch seeds and feed on birch sap. Beaver and porcupine chew the bark of yellow birch.

20. **American Beech** (*Fagus grandifolia*): Holds yellow dead leaves all winter. Yields edible beechnuts.

21. **Shagbark Hickory** (*Carya ovata*): Nuts are eaten or cached by squirrels. Squirrels act as planters of future trees.

22. **Rhododendron** (*Rhododendron maximum*): Forms dense thickets in shady acidic soil of Appalachia. Thickets of Rhododendron inhibit the germination of hardwood trees. (Three rhododendrons have been marked with plant stakes.)

23. **Basswood** (*Tilia americana*): Leaves serve as food for caterpillars. Flowers provide abundant nectar for insects. Seeds are eaten by chipmunks and squirrels. Flowers and leaves can be used medicinally.

24. **Wild Ginger** (*Asarum canadense*): Flowers are located close to the ground and are found readily by flies. Ants carry off the seeds and help with germination. Spreads in shady forests by rhizomes. This is not the same as culinary ginger.

25. **American Chestnut** (*Castanea dentate*): is a large deciduous tree in the beech family. Native to eastern North America, it was once a dominant tree in the eastern deciduous forests. Most Chestnut trees died out from the Chestnut blight.

26. **Witch Hazel** (*Hamamelis virginiana*): Arching branches generally growing as a dense, multi-stemmed clump. Tiny yellow flowers feed pollinators in late fall.

27. **Greenbriar** (*Smilax rotundifolia*): Forms thorny thickets which provide cover for rabbits and ground nesting birds. New spring sprouts are tender and edible for wildlife. Fruit are black berries born in clusters.

28. **Spicebush** (*Lindera benzoin*): Leaves with strong, spicy odor when crushed. Found in rich moist soil of forests. Tiny yellow flowers in early spring for pollinators. Berries provide food for birds in the fall. (Two of these plants are marked.)

29. **Flowering Dogwood** (*Cornus florida*): Its fruit is readily eaten by many songbirds, wild turkey & many small mammals of the forest. Native tree to this area.

30. **Black Locust** (*Robinia pseudoacacia*): Old dead trees provide nesting sites and act as “drums” for woodpecker communication. Seeds and flowers eaten by many animals.

31. **Japanese Barberry** (*Berberis thunbergii*): Invasive. Red fruits eaten by wildlife. Roots have antibiotic properties. Tick habitat.
32. **Mockernut Hickory** (*Carya tomentosa*): Nuts eaten by wildlife. Leaves eaten by Luna moth larvae.
33. **Multiflora Rose** (*Rosa multiflora*): Invasive bush filled with thorns. Feeds wildlife but overtakes native plants.
34. **Rhododendron** (*Rhododendron maximum*): Spring flowers. Dense shady thickets exclude other plants. Toxic leaves have been used as medicine. (#2 of 2)
35. **White Asters** (*Symphyotrichum ericoides*): Fall wildflower loved by small native pollinators.
36. **Maple** (*Acer sp.*): Sweet sap and seeds loved by birds and other wildlife.
37. **White Oak** (*Quercus sp.*): Slow growing tree may live over 700 years. Produces tasty acorns for deer, squirrels and turkey.
38. **Pokeweed** (*Phytolacca americana*): Dark purple berries eaten by birds in fall. Poisonous plant for humans unless properly prepared. Fruits used for dye making.
39. **Woolgrass** (*Scirpus cyperinus*): Tall sedge grass likes wet soil. Birds eat seeds. Leaves can be woven to make mats.
40. **Tree of Heaven** (*Ailanthus altissima*): Noxious invasive. Used in Chinese medicine.
41. **Sassafras** (*Sassafras albidum*): Beautiful fall colors. Roots used for a medicinal spring tonic. Bark when scratched has a citrusy smell. Host for the silkworm.
42. **Cucumber Magnolia** (*Magnolia acuminata*): One of the largest magnolias and one of the cold-hardest. Fruit can be used medicinally. The flowers and fruit are often missed because they occur at the top of the tree. Flowers are edible.
43. **Christmas Fern** (*Polystichum acrostichoides*): Stays green all winter. Attracts ground birds like grouse. (#2 of 2)
44. **Autumn Olive** (*Elaeagnus umbellata*): Invasive shrub loved by pollinators. Birds, bears and other wildlife as well as humans love its fall berries. Seeds are extremely viable. (#2 of 2)
45. **Black Oak** (*Quercus velutina*): Its acorns are edible after tannins are leached or boiled out. A yellow dye can be made from the inner bark.