



Trees along the Park-to- Library 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.

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.

Hikers should look for 12 labeled trees along this trail.

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 Park-to-Library 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/>

The Park-to-Library Trail has a focus on nature connections right here in Floyd.

Find the two beautiful “*Tree Stories*” on the trail written by Fred First. (One is at the far back of the Park, and one is in the middle of the trail, across from the bench.)

See if you can find the following 12 labeled trees along the way.

1. **Silver Maple** (*Acer saccharinum*). Its buds and seeds are eaten by squirrels and birds.
2. **Catalpa or Cigar tree** (*Catalpa speciosa*). It is also called Indian Bean Tree for its long bean-like seed pods. The tree is popular habitat for birds.
3. **Tulip Poplar** (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). Its flowers are loved by bees. The inner bark contains salicylic acid, a pain reliever. It may reach almost 200 feet tall with few or no limbs for 100 feet.
4. **Black Cherry** (*Prunus serotina*). Birds love the tiny edible cherries. Its twigs give an almond-like smell when scratched and are used in cough medicine.
5. **Boxelder Maple** (*Acer negundo*). Birds like the seeds. It can be tapped for its sweet sap which is used to make syrup. The inner bark can be used as medicine and food.
6. **Red Cedar or Virginia Juniper** (*Juniperus virginiana*). Cedar waxwings love the berries which have strong medicinal qualities for animals including humans.
7. **Tupelo or Black Gum** (*Nyssa sylvatica*). Its hollow trunks provide areas for nesting. It is an important source of honey for bees and its fruits are important to many bird species.
8. **White Pine** (*Pinus strobus*). Songbirds, small mammals and humans like the tasty pine nuts. The inner bark, resin, needles and roots all have specific health purposes. It provides food and habitat for wildlife. Deer and rabbits browse the foliage.
9. **Yellow Birch** (*Betula alleghaniensis*). The yellow-bellied sapsucker drills the trunk for summer food. The seeds are consumed by chickadees and other songbirds. Ruffed grouse feed on seeds, catkins, and buds. Red squirrels eat the seeds and also feed on the sap. Many animals, including humans chew on the tasty young twigs.
10. **Flowering Dogwood** (*Cornus florida*). Its fruit is readily eaten by many songbirds, wild turkey and many small mammals of the forest.
11. **Pin Oak** (*Quercus palustris*). A fast growing red oak that provides habitat and acorn food for all kinds of wildlife.
12. **Black Locust** (*Robinia pseudoacacia*). This tree species has very dense wood that lasts a long time after the tree dies. It provides nesting sites and acts as “drums” for woodpecker communication. Seeds and flowers are eaten by many animals.