



Northern red oak



Sycamore



Swamp white oak



American elm

BASSETT TRACE NATURE TRAIL

Nature Trail Map and Key Reference
to Shrubs, Trees, and Flowers



FLOWERS

Cup plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*). Tall plant with yellow flowers blooming July–September. Called cup plant because the leaves envelop the square stem, forming a “cup” around it.

Golden ragwort (*Senecio aureus*). Golden-yellow, daisylike flowers grow 12–30 inches tall. Blooms April–July, mainly in bottomlands.

Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*). Solitary white flower with a golden orange center blooms from March to early April. The red juice from the roots was used as a dye and in insect repellent. The Latin sanguinarius means “bleeding.”

Hepatica (*Hepatica Americana*). White flowers (sometimes pinkish or lavender) are produced on hairy stalks. Blooms in February or early March in somewhat dry areas.

Bittercress (*Cardamine*). Found alongside streams, bittercress has small white flowers with four petals in a cluster atop the stem. Blooms in March to early June. Rare in Tidewater Virginia.

Lizard’s tail (*Saururus cernuus*). Showy white flowers on a tall spike. Their drooping tip resembles a lizard’s tail. Inhabits swampy areas and shallow water. Blooms June–September.

Bluets (*Houstonia caerulea*). Delicate pale blue flowers are borne on a low-growing plant. Often found in patches on grassy slopes and fields and sometimes lawns. Blooms April-June.

Pussytoes (*Antennaria neodioica*). Mat-forming, spoon-shaped leaves. Fuzzy white to pale pink flowers. Blooms in May. Flower heads are clustered together resembling a cat’s paw.

Wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*). Purple-brown flower is borne at ground level underneath heart-shaped leaves. Usually evergreen. Blooms April–May. Grows in rich woodland soil.

Cardinal (*Lobelia cardinalis*). Brilliant red flowers on spikes are loved by hummingbirds and gardeners. One of the brightest red wildflowers. Grows in damp sites near streams and ponds. Blooms July–September.

Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*). White flowers are reminiscent of snapdragon flowers to some, of turtles’ heads to others. Blooms July–September on low ground or stream banks.

Partridge berry (*Mitchellia repens*). Evergreen creeper with white-veined, oval, shiny green leaves. White fragrant flowers in pairs in June–July. Red berries in the fall make this a standout plant in dry woods.

Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*). Known for its distinctive greenish-yellowish hooded leaf that encloses the pulpit, or flower, which is green, white, or purple. It grows on the base of the stalk, Blooms in April–June. Distinctive shiny red berries appear in the late summer and fall.

Goldenrod (*Solidago flexicaulis*). Familiar golden yellow fall bloomer, this variety is sometimes called “zigzag goldenrod” because its stem zigzags. Normally found in clearings in dry to slightly moist soil.

Pink lady’s slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*). A distinctive terrestrial orchid. One distinctive pink, slipperlike flower is borne on a leafless stalk in April–May. Leaves of dark green appear in pairs. Grows in moist to dry woods and swamps.

15. American hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*). Small tree with distinctive muscular-appearing dark gray bark. Flower

in April. Charcoal made from this tree was formerly used in the manufacture of gunpowder.

16. Swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*). Bottomland tree. Leaves have four to six pairs of large rounded teeth. Unlike other

oak species, acorns have long stalks. Dull yellow fall color.

17. American elm (*Ulmus americana*). Very large tree, once common but becoming increasingly rare owing to disease.

Dark green leaves are slightly egg-shaped and lightly toothed on the edges. Bright yellow fall color. Seeds eaten by most mammals and birds.

18. White oak (*Quercus alba*). Deeply lobed leaves; fall color varies from russet to rich wine red. Majestic, long-lived tree

valuable to the lumber industry.

19. Northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*). Leaf vein usually

reddish, undersides of leaves are whitish. Bark has light vertical stripes giving the appearance of having been ironed. Wood is

more porous than that of other oak species.

20. Umbrella magnolia (*Magnolia tripetala*). Large, glossy green leaves radiate from the ends of the branches. Usually

found in low-lying areas. Unpleasantly scented flowers bloom from late May to early June.

21. Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*). Twigs sticky and hairy

when young, later becoming smooth. Beautiful clusters of white-to-deep-pink flowers in early June. The wood is used to

make briar tobacco pipes and in other crafts. The leaves are eaten in small amounts by deer, but they are poisonous in

large quantities.

22. Tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). One of the first

deciduous trees to germinate in a pine forest. This long-lived tree is often the largest in the forest. Distinctive tulip-shaped

yellow-to-orange flowers in May. Golden yellow foliage in fall.

23. Stewartia (*Stewartia ovaia*). Small tree rarely found in this area. White camellia-like flowers bloom in late June.

The bark is grayish and resembles sycamore or crape myrtle.

24. Sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*). Dark green summer foliage, fragrant white flowers resembling lily of the valley in June

or July. Brilliant scarlet fall foliage. Branches often drooping.

Wood is occasionally used in paneling, tool handles, and crafts.

25. Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*). Heart-shaped leaves seem

to dance in the summer breeze. Pink clusters of flowers appear

before the leaves in May, followed by seedpods that sometimes

persist until late winter. Yellow fall color.

8. American holly (*Ilex opaca*). Prickly, glossy green leaves, bright red fruits. Also known as the Christmas holly. Fruits are loved by numerous songbirds, particularly finches.

9. Bayberry (*Myrica cerifera*). Small multistemmed tree or

evergreen shrub with small, medium green, aromatic foliage.

Blue-gray berries in clusters along the stems are used in

candles and soap. Fruits are eaten by many species of birds.

10. Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*). Impressive tree growing in low areas is easily identified by its exfoliating

bark. The wood is used for furniture, cabinets, and barrels.

Native Americans used this tree for their dugouts, including

one reported to be 65 feet long and to have weighed 900

pounds. Cavities often shelterwood ducks, raccoons,

and opossums.

11. Pinxter-flower azalea (*Rhododendron nudiflorum*).

A deciduous azalea found throughout the Tidewater in dry or moist woods or swamps. Flowers bloom in June and July

and may be reddish or white to purple.

12. Raspberry (*Rubus odoratus*). Bristly canes are similar

to wild roses or blackberry. Leaves medium green, white

underside. Bright red fruits are of little value to humans

but are loved by wildlife.

13. American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*). Tall tree with

smooth gray bark. Egg-shaped, coarsely toothed leaves

turn dull yellow in fall. Triangular-shaped seeds, eaten by

many species of birds, are held in a bristly outer case.

14. Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*). Sticky pear-shaped fruits

drop in October–November. Leaves in groups of 7–17,

Colonists used the half-ripe fruits to prepare yellow-brown

stain. A dark brown stain obtained from the husks and

inner bark was used to dye uniforms. In spring, the sap was

boiled down to make syrup. Crushed fruits were used as a

poison to aid in the harvest of fish; the bark is still used in

pharmaceuticals.

7. Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*). Dark, thick bark typically

are best eaten after a frost. Nearly all woodland inhabitants

eat persimmons.

6. Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*). Bright green,

startlike leaves smell like turpentine when crushed. Fall color

ranges from dull red to rich burgundy. Round, bristly fruit is

useful in crafts and as tinder. Lumber used in furniture, toys,

and boats. Hardened clumps of sap are chewed by some

people. Birds (including wild turkeys), chipmunks, and squirrels

eat the seeds.

5. Black cherry (*Prunus serotina*). Shiny, dark green foliage,

turning to yellow in fall. White flowers in May are followed by

small fruits starting red, turning to black; much loved by birds.

Used in jams and jellies. Unlike the smooth bark of the sour

cherry and other ornamental species, the bark of this tree is

scaly when mature.

4. Beautyberry (*Callicarpa Americana*). Arching 4– to 6-foot-

tall shrub. Medium green leaves with white, wooly underside.

Yellow fall color, beautiful purple berries are borne in clusters

along stems in fall and early winter.

3. Eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*). Bluish-green,

needle-like leaves; bluish-gray fruits are eaten by opossums

and more than 50 species of birds. Wood is aromatic, durable,

used in perfumes and flavorings.

2. Loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*). Fairly long needles, three per

cluster (fascicle). Cones 3–6 inches long and conic-oblong.

Very important to the timber industry as well as providing turpentine.

1. Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*). Purple flowers in May before

leaves appear. Bright yellow fall color; fruits described as

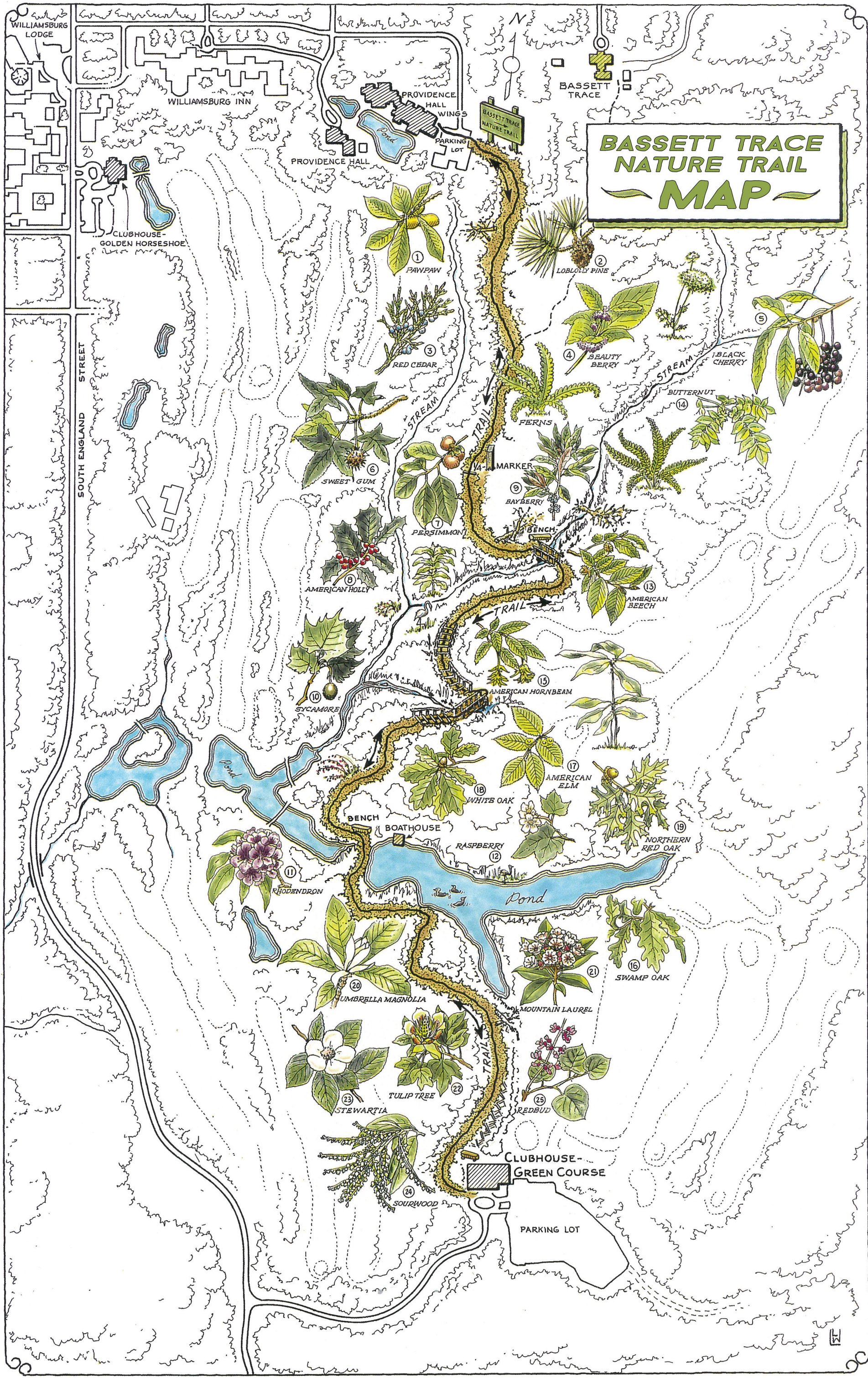
banana-cantaloupe tasting ripe in the fall. Loved by many

forest denizens.

(In order as tagged on trail starting at Providence Hall Guesthouses)

For those wishing to learn more about wildflowers, excellent sources are The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Wildflowers and Wildflowers of Tidewater Virginia by Oscar W. Gupton and Fred C. Swope.

Because of the ephemeral nature of wildflowers, many species may not be listed here, and some listed may not be seen.



**BASSETT TRACE
NATURE TRAIL
MAP**

SOUTH ENGLAND STREET

BASSETT TRACE

BASSETT TRACE NATURE TRAIL

PROVIDENCE HALL

PROVIDENCE HALL WINGS

PARKING LOT

CLUBHOUSE-GOLDEN HORSESHOE

1 PAWPAW

3 RED CEDAR

6 SWEET GUM

7 PERSIMMON

8 AMERICAN HOLLY

10 SYCAMORE

11 RHODENDRON

20 UMBRELLA MAGNOLIA

22 TULIP TREE

23 STEWARTIA

24 SOURWOOD

2 LOBLOLLY PINE

4 BEAUTY BERRY

5 BLACK CHERRY

14 BUTTERNUT

9 BAYBERRY

13 AMERICAN BEECH

15 AMERICAN HORNBEAM

17 AMERICAN ELM

18 WHITE OAK

19 NORTHERN RED OAK

16 SWAMP OAK

21 MOUNTAIN LAUREL

25 REDBUD

CLUBHOUSE-GREEN COURSE

PARKING LOT

BENCH

BOATHOUSE

RASPBERRY

Pond

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