

# Parker Scout Reservation

## Nature Trail



This Nature Trail is designed for Scouts of all ages to take a quick walk and find out something about their surroundings. The trail itself is about a mile walk from start to finish. The trailhead or start is located near the craft lodge. You will find this brochure on the post. Each of the items listed in this handout will be marked on the trail with a post. Each post is located near the items and should include a corresponding number for quick reference. Enjoy the trail and walk.

### 1 Northern Red Oak *Quercus Rubra*



Alternately branched tree with rough, deeply fissured bark. Foliage is dark green in summer with the fall foliage red to brown. The foliage tends to hang on the tree throughout the winter. The fruit is an acorn with large crops on 2 to 5 year cycles. Look for smooth, reddish twigs. This species does best on well watered, yet well drained, fine soils in mixes with other hardwoods. As far as timber and landscape value Red oak is one of the more important, if not the most important species in the genus.

### 2 White Oak *Quercus Alba*



This is a native tree, a member of the white oak family which in Minnesota includes bur oak and swamp white oak as well. This group of oaks can survive oak wilt. Foliage is dark green in summer and becomes crimson to brown in the fall. White oak almost stands alone in the cask making business for fine wines, whiskeys and other fine spirits. These trees grow to about 60' to 80' with a diameter of 24" to 36".

### 3 New Forestation

Once and old growth forest is cut down or devastated by a fire new growth is possible. Trees that flourish are Aspens or Popplar. They are able to survive forest fires, because the roots are below the heat of the fire, with new sprouts growing after the fire burns out. Aspens do not thrive in the shade, and it is difficult for seedlings to grow in an already mature aspen stand. Fire indirectly benefits aspen trees, since it allows the saplings to flourish in open sunlight in the burned landscape. Lately, aspens have an increased popularity in forestry, mostly because of their fast growth rate and ability to regenerate from sprouts, making the reforestation after harvesting much cheaper, since no planting or sowing is required.

### 4 Pine Forest

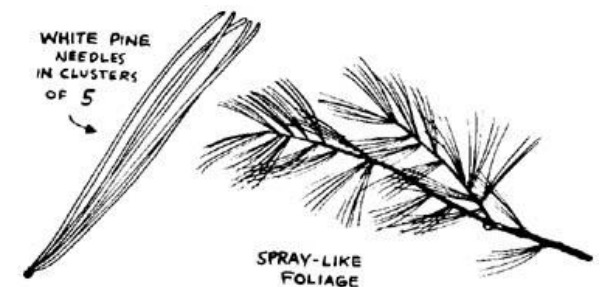


Pine commonly is used for pulpwood to produce high-grade printing and wrapping papers. It also is used for lumber, veneer, pilings, poles, cabin logs, and posts. Red

pine stands generally are considered poor habitat for game birds and animals, but old-growth trees are used as nesting sites by bald eagles and many songbirds. A common spacing is 7 x 7 feet. Trees can be planted at wider spacings (up to 10 x 10 feet) if high survival is expected. Closer spacing reduces tree taper and branch size, promotes early crown closure, and suppresses competition, but also requires more frequent thinnings in order to maintain stand vigor and health. This Forest you see before you was planted in 1990 by the Order of the Arrow Lodge.

### 5 White Pine *Pinus Strobus*

Beyond their size and beauty, white pines also fill important ecological roles. They grow across the range of forest conditions, finding the northeastern half of Minnesota much to their liking. It was the white pine that brought loggers to this area in the late 1880s and provided the lumber that built the homes of our great-grandparents. Over the next 100 years, the number of white pines decreased by 75 percent. A 31 year study in the border country showed that 81% of bald eagles nest in large white pines and 77% of Osprey nest in large white pines even though white pines make up less than 1% of the trees in the forest!



## 6 Red Pine (Norway)

*Pinus resinosa*

Red pine is a coniferous evergreen tree characterized by tall, straight growth in a variety of habitats. It usually ranges from 20–35 m (66–115 ft) in height and 1 m (3 ft 3 in) in trunk diameter, exceptionally reaching 43 m (141 ft) tall. The crown is conical, becoming a narrow rounded dome with age. The bark is thick and gray-brown at the base of the tree, but thin, flaky and bright orange-red in the upper crown; the tree's name derives from this distinctive character. Some red color may be seen in the fissures of the bark. The species is self pruning; there tend not to be dead branches on the trees, and older trees may have very long lengths of branchless trunk below the canopy.



## 7 Silver Birch (clump)

*Betula pendula*

The silver birch is a medium-sized deciduous tree that owes its common name to the white peeling bark on the trunk. The twigs are slender and often pendulous and the leaves are roughly triangular with doubly serrate margins and turn yellow in autumn before they fall. The flowers are catkins and the light, winged seed get widely scattered by the wind. The silver birch is a hardy tree, a pioneer species, and one of the first trees to appear on bare or fire-swept land. Many species of birds and animals are found in birch woodland, the tree supports a wide range of insects and the light shade it casts allows shrubby and other plants to grow beneath its canopy. It is planted decoratively in parks and gardens and is used

for forest products such as joinery timber, firewood, tanning, racecourse jumps and brooms. Various parts of the tree are used in traditional medicine and the bark contains triterpenes which have been shown to have medicinal properties.

## 8 Red Maple

*Acer rubrum*



The U.S. Forest service recognizes it as the most common species of tree in America. The red maple ranges from southeastern Manitoba around the Lake of the Woods on the border with Ontario and Minnesota, east to Newfoundland, south to Florida, and southwest to eastern Texas. Many of its features, especially its leaves, are quite variable in form. At maturity it often attains a height of around 15 m (49 ft). It is aptly named as its flowers, petioles, twigs and seeds are all red to varying degrees. Among these features, however, it is best known for its brilliant deep scarlet foliage in autumn. *A. rubrum* does very well in a wide range of soil types, with varying textures, moisture, pH, and elevation, probably more so than any other forest tree in North America. It grows on glaciated as well as nonglaciated soils.

## 9 White Spruce

*Picea glauca*

The white spruce, is a species of spruce native to the northern temperate and boreal forests in North America. *Picea glauca* was originally native from central Alaska all the east across southern/central Canada to the Avalon Peninsula in Newfoundland. It now has become naturalized southward into the far northern USA border states like Montana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine; there is also an isolated population in the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming. White spruce is extremely hardy to low temperatures, provided the plant is in a state of winter dormancy. Throughout the greater part of its range,

white spruce routinely survives and is undamaged by winter temperatures of -60°F, and even lower temperatures occur in parts of the range. White spruce is of major economic importance in Canada for its wood, harvested for paper-making and construction. It is also used to a small extent as a Christmas tree.



White Pine Needles



Dead Snag

## 10 Tree Blown down.

Dead snag

Hard to believe, but trees can actually provide more habitats for wildlife dead than when they are alive. Standing dead and dying trees, called “snags” or “wildlife trees,” are important for wildlife in both natural and landscaped settings, occurring as a result of disease, lightning, fire, animal damage, too much shade, drought, root competition, as well as old age. Birds, small mammals, and other wildlife use snags for nests, nurseries, storage areas, foraging, roosting, and perching. Live trees with snag-like features, such as hollow trunks, excavated cavities, and dead branches can provide similar wildlife value. Snags occurring along streams and shorelines eventually may fall into the water, adding important woody debris to aquatic habitat. Dead branches are often used as perches; snags that lack limbs are often more decayed and, may have more and larger cavities for shelter and nesting. Snags enhance local natural areas by attracting wildlife species that may not otherwise be found there.

# 11

## Elm ?? Beech? Mystery Tree...

Do you know what type of tree this is?

Use the leaves, bark, or any other recognizable part of the tree to help you find out what it might be? Where would you look? Who might you ask? Take a few minute now with your smart phones or when you get back to camp to look at a few possibilities.



### Raspberry Grove

# 12

Raspberries are grown for the fresh fruit market and for commercial

processing into individually quick frozen fruit, purée, juice, or as dried fruit used in a variety of grocery products. Traditionally, raspberries were a midsummer crop, but with new technology, cultivars, and transportation, they can now be obtained year-round. Raspberries need ample sun and water for optimal development. Raspberries thrive in well-drained soil with a pH between 6 and 7 with ample organic matter to assist in retaining water.<sup>[5]</sup> While moisture is essential, wet and heavy soils or excess irrigation can bring on *Phytophthora* root rot, which is one of the most serious pest problems facing the red raspberry. As a cultivated plant in moist, temperate regions, it is easy to grow and has a tendency to spread unless pruned. Escaped raspberries frequently appear as garden weeds, spread by seeds found in bird droppings. Raspberry

plants should not be planted where potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, or bulbs have previously been grown, without prior fumigation of the soil. These crops are hosts for the disease *Verticillium* wilt, a fungus that can stay in the soil for many years and can infest the raspberry crop.



# 13

## Popple Tree *Populus tremuloides*

*Populus tremuloides* is a deciduous tree native to cooler areas of North America, one of several species referred to by the common name Aspen. It is commonly called **quaking aspen**. A tall, fast growing tree, usually 20–25 m (66–82 ft) at maturity, with a trunk 20–80 cm (0.66–2.62 ft) in diameter; records are 36.5 m (120 ft) in height and 1.37 m (4.5 ft) in diameter. The bark is relatively smooth, colored greenish-white to gray, and is marked by thick black horizontal scars and prominent black knots. It propagates itself primarily through root sprouts, and extensive clonal colonies are common. Each colony is its own clone, and all trees in the clone have identical characteristics and share a single root structure.

Popple Bark

VS

Birch Bark



# 14

## Paper Birch *Betula papyrifera*

It is a medium-sized deciduous tree reaching 60 feet tall (18m), and exceptionally to 130 feet (40m) with a trunk up to 32 inches diameter (0.8m). They live to about 140 years. The bark is white, commonly brightly so, flaking in fine horizontal strips, and often with small black marks and scars. In individuals younger than five years, the bark appears brown with white lenticels, making the tree much harder to distinguish from other trees. *B. papyrifera* requires high nutrients and sun exposure. The bark is highly weather-resistant. Often, the wood of a downed paper birch will rot away leaving the hollow bark intact. Birch bark is a winter staple food for moose. The nutritional quality is poor, but is important to wintering moose because of its sheer abundance. *Betula papyrifera* has a soft, yet moderately heavy, white wood. It makes excellent high-yielding firewood if seasoned properly.

# 15

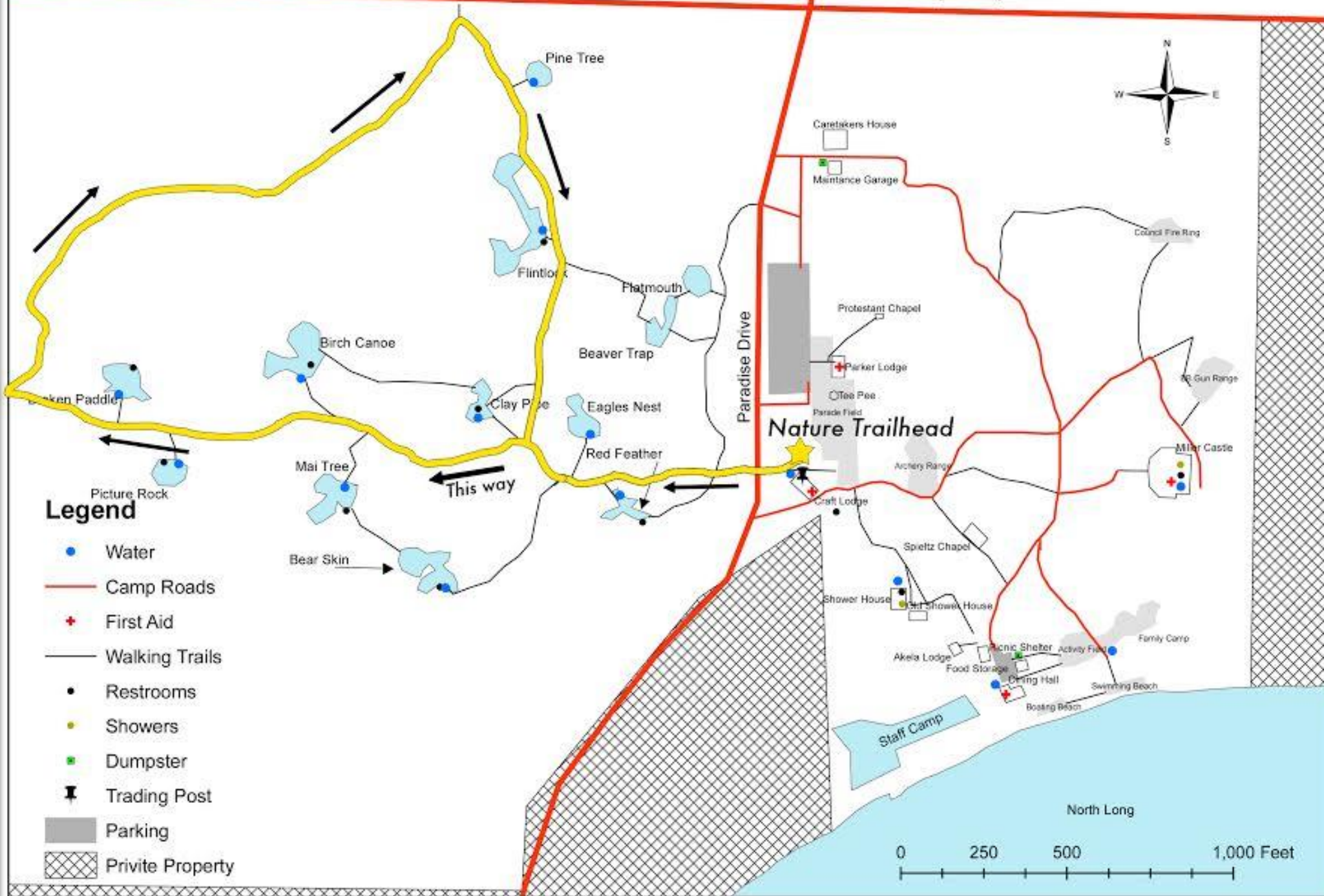
## Jackpine *Pinus banksiana*

*Pinus banksiana* ranges from 9–22 m (30–72 ft) in height. Some jack pines are shrub-sized, due to poor growing conditions. They do not usually grow perfectly straight, resulting in an irregular shape similar to pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*). This pine often forms pure stands on sandy or rocky soil. It is fire-adapted to stand-replacing fires, with the cones remaining closed for many years, until a forest fire kills the mature trees and opens the cones, reseeding the burnt ground. The leaves are in fascicles of two, needle-like, twisted, slightly yellowish-green, and 2–4 centimetres (0.79–1.57 in) long. Jack pine cones are usually 5 centimetres (2.0 in) and curved at the tip.<sup>[6]</sup> The cones are 3–5 cm (1.2–2.0 in) long, the scales with a small, fragile prickle that usually wears off before maturity, leaving the cones smooth.

# Parker Scout Reservation Central Minnesota Council BSA

2/9/2010

Crow Wing County Road 127



## Legend

- Water
- Camp Roads
- + First Aid
- Walking Trails
- Restrooms
- Showers
- Dumpster
- ⚡ Trading Post
- Parking
- ▨ Private Property

0 250 500 1,000 Feet

# Parker Scout Reservation

## Nature Trail

### Quick Reference Guide



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**“Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.”**

Albert Einstein

**“Just living is not enough... one must have sunshine, freedom, and a little flower.”** Hans Christian Andersen

1. Northern Red Oak  
(*Quercus Rubra*)
2. White Oak  
(*Quercus Alba*)
3. New Forestation
4. Pine Forest
5. White Pine  
(*Pinus Strobus*)
6. Red Pine (Norway)  
(*Pinus resinosa*)
7. Silver Birch (clump)  
(*Betula pendula*)
8. Red Maple  
(*Acer rubrum*)
9. White Spruce  
(*Picea glauca*)
10. Dead Snag
11. Mystery Tree  

Do you know what tree this is? How could you find out? Who would you ask?
12. Raspberries
13. Popple Tree  
(*Populus tremuloides*)

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14. Paper Birch  
(*Betula papyrifera*)
15. Jackpine  
(*Pinus banksiana*)