

WELCOME TO SADDLER’S WOODS

This self-guided tree tour and trail map depict a variety of trees, major trails, and points of interest. Enjoy the tour in any order. Simply match the number on the 4”X4” post to this guide.

1. Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)

This mature Northern red oak has pointed leaves and a dark, deeply fissured bark, like ski tracks. This tree is over 150 years old. The Northern red oak is the state tree of New Jersey.

2. Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)

This small understory tree with warty ridges is a hackberry. Hackberry is a favorite host plant of the spiny elm caterpillar, which later becomes the mourning cloak butterfly. The hackberry has berry-like drupes which are a favorite of birds, who give the seeds wide distribution. The leaves are often dotted with small raised growths called nipple galls.

3. White Oak “See-through Tree” (*Quercus alba*)

Can you find the “see-through tree”? This is a mature white oak and has a cavity you can see through. Cavities in the trunks of older trees and around their roots provide nests and dens for animals. How many other tree cavities do you see in the woods?

4. Willow Oaks (*Quercus phellos*)

Look for two large oaks standing side by side with dark, closely fissured bark. These trees are willow oaks. Willow oaks are in the Black oak family and have a simple elongated leaf.

5. White Oak (*Quercus alba*)

White oaks are named for their bark, which is much lighter and flakier than oaks in the Black oak family. In the fall, white oak leaves can sometimes turn a bright pink or red. Native Americans and early settlers ground White oak acorns to make a type of pancake.

6. Chestnut Oak (*Quercus prinus*)

The bark of chestnut oaks was once used extensively for tanning leather because it has the highest tannin concentrations of any of our native oaks. The chestnut oak has a lobed leaf and very large or “chestnut” sized acorns.

7. Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)

These multi-trunked, shrubs are witch-hazel unique for their small yellow flowers present in late fall. Their seedpods snap open, shooting seeds 20 to 30 feet. Native Americans showed the settlers how to boil the bark to make a medicine to clean wounds and stop bleeding, which is still used today.

8. Pignut Hickory (*Carya glabra*)

Look for a tree with diamond shaped bark; this is a pignut hickory. Its nuts have a small nose-like bump. Pignut hickory wood has been used for tool handles, baseball bats, and to smoke meat.

9. Tulip Poplar “Four trunks”(*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

Facing the post, look for a tree with four trunks. This tulip poplar is an interesting puzzle. How did the four trunks grow so uniformly? The puzzle was solved when an arborist identified that the base was approximately 100 years older than the trunks. The four trunks were shoots that grew after the original trunk was harvested.

Saddler’s Run

Saddler’s Run is a headwater stream of the main branch of the Newton Creek and flows through Saddler’s Woods. Restoration of the stream includes stabilization of the banks with fibrous coir logs to control erosion.

10. American Beech “Emancipation beech” (*Fagus grandifolia*)

This American beech tree with a large cavity is known as the Emancipation Beech because it wore witness to Joshua Saddler and the Underground Railroad era. This tree is over 300 years old. Its dense canopy produces shade so deep that its own seedlings are about the only thing that can grow beneath it.

Doug Hefty Trail

Doug Hefty was a key steward of Saddler’s Woods. In 1973 at the age of 15, Doug wrote an 82 page woods report and gave it to a developer who owned the property. His report ultimately convinced the developer to not build more housing on the wooded site.

11. Old Growth Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

Poet Walt Whitman referred to tulip poplar branches as the “Arms of Apollo”, the branches of this tulip poplar are massive. Antlered branches are just one of the signs of an old growth tree. Other telltale signs of an old growth tree (older than 150 years) are large root swellings that project from the trunk base. As a tree ages the bark tends to bald at the base and sag, often losing its fissured grain. Compare the bark of this large tree over 200 years old with the young tulip poplar at post #13.

12. First Habitat Restoration Zone

This area was infested with non-native, invasive species such as Japanese knotweed, English ivy, and Garlic mustard. It was the first area targeted for restoration. Invasive species were removed and native species were planted. This practice has now expanded to other restoration zones. Maintaining a native ecosystem is critical for wildlife such as the Raccoon, Red fox, Spotted skunk, Red-tailed hawk, and over 15 species of neotropical songbirds that visit Saddler’s Woods during migration.

13. Young Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

This tulip poplar is approximately 30 years old. The tulip poplar grows a flower in the spring which becomes a seed-bearing cone in the fall, a favorite feast for squirrels. Notice the bark and compare it with the old growth Tulip poplar at post #11.

14. Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)

This black cherry tree has dark flaky bark. Black cherry trees are one of the first to grow in fallow fields. Deeper in the woods it is an understory tree that will emerge when a tree falls. Black cherries are a food source for wildlife. The Leni Lenape would also harvest the fruit by training it to grow along the ground so they could easily reach the cherries.

15. Boxelder Maple (*Acer negundo*)

Boxelder is a pioneer species and can be identified by its opposite compound leaves. Like most maples, the boxelder is one of the first trees to bud out in the spring.

Saddler’s Woods Trail Map & Tree Tour



Saddler’s Woods is a small urban forest located in Haddon Township, New Jersey off of MacArthur Boulevard. Saddler’s Woods contains a meadow, young woodlands, wetlands, and a unique stand of old growth trees with many specimens between 100 and 400 years old.

Saddler’s Woods is named in honor of Joshua Saddler, a runaway slave who escaped a Maryland plantation in the early 1800s and settled on the border of these woods. He wrote into his will in 1868 that “in no instance to commit waste, none of my heirs shall cut the timber thereon...” For his preservation ethic, these historic woods were named in his honor in 2004.

Saddler’s Woods Conservation Association is a 501 (c) 3 organization dedicated to preserving the natural and cultural resources of these woods. The

Saddler’s Woods Conservation Area is permanently preserved via a conservation easement and managed by the Haddon Township Environmental Commission. Please comply with all rules as posted at the trail entrances. For more information or to request a guided tour contact info@saddlerswoods.org or **856 869-7372**.

Major Trail Lengths

Hope Trail - 267 linear feet

East - West Trail - 1,350 linear feet

North - South Trail - 1,812 linear feet

Woodpecker Lane - 308 linear feet

Doug Hefty Trail - 320 linear feet

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