

1. Handicap accessible trail:

This trail was built by students of Craftsbury Academy from 2004-2005 and is officially certified by ADA. It is a consistent width and does not exceed a specific grade. The money necessary to build the trail was acquired through a grant from the Vermont Forests and Parks department for trails.

2. Eastern White Pine (*Pinus strobus*):

Found throughout southern Canada and the northeastern US. Its leaves (needles) come in bundles of five. Mature bark is dark and deeply furrowed. Found from moist woodlands to dry uplands. Susceptible to White Pine Weevil and Blister Rust.

3. White Pine plantation:

This is a white pine plantation planted in 1952 by students of Craftsbury Academy. Prior to being planted this area was pasture. Because of the sandy soil composition this is likely the second most productive pine plantation in the state of Vermont. Thinning has been performed three times since 1952 on a schedule of 10-15 years.

4. Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*):

A deciduous tree with dark flakey bark and ovate leaves. Leaves are glossy on top and finely serrated. Wood color ranges from reddish tan to dark purple heartwood. Alternately branching with glossy new twigs and small white lenticels. It is found from Nova Scotia to Florida and West to Minnesota and Texas.

5. Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*):

A large tree reaching 100+ feet in cases. Leaves are palmate with 3-5 lobes and “U” shaped sinuses. Seeds are called samaras and grow in big clusters at branch ends. Bark is dark gray and becomes furrowed with

maturity. Grows from southeast Canada and New England west to Minnesota, Nebraska and Kansas and south to Tennessee. Young trees will tolerate shade but need sun to mature.

6. Balsam Fir (*Abies balsamea*):

A medium sized tree with heights to 80 feet. Needles are flat and arranged flat in shade and bottle brush style in sunlight. Grows mainly across Canada but also New England and the midwest. A hardy tree, Fir enjoys cool woods, swamps and mountain slopes.

7. White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*):

Bark has shallow furrows that extend vertically only a few inches. Has compound leaves with 5-9 leaflets. Seed is called a key and is similar to the maple samara. Found nearly throughout the entire east half of the US and southern Canada. Prefers moist, highly organic soils.

8. Striped Maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*):

Sometimes called Moose Maple or Goose-foot Maple. Small to medium sized tree. Leaves are large and palmate with three distinct lobes. The shape of the leaves earn it the name Goose-foot Maple. The bark is smooth and brown with many greenish stripes hence the name Striped Maple. The bark, which has high sugar content, is eaten by moose, hence Moose Maple. Found along the Appalachian Mountains and the northeastern states.

9. Eastern Hophornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*):

A small tree with double-toothed, egg-shaped leaves. Bark is brownish, grooved and shreddy. Found in New England, from Minnesota to Texas and heading east just shy of the Atlantic coast.

10. Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*):

Varies in size from 30-100 ft. Leaves are broadly ovate with flattened leaf stalks. Bark is greenish to cream colored, often slightly powdery. The texture is smooth and becomes furrowed with age. Found throughout interior Canada, Alaska, the northern Rockies, midwest and New England states.

11. Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*):

A medium sized tree with 3-lobed leaves and V-shaped sinuses. Young bark is smooth and gray yet older bark is darker and flaky. Twigs and buds are reddish. Found all along the east coast and west to Texas and Minnesota.

12. Boardwalk/ Native American relic site:

This boardwalk was built by students of Craftsbury Academy in 2007. Before the project was allowed to commence certain measures were taken to ensure that its environmental impact would not be detrimental to the cedar wetland. There is also the possibility that Native American relics have been found in this area.

13. Black Ash (*Fraxinus nigra*):

Has compound leaves with 7-11 toothed leaflets. Twigs are dull and hairless. Buds nearly black. Bark furrowed to somewhat scaly. Prefers swamps and bottomlands. Found through southeastern Canada, from the midwest states south of the Great Lakes and north through New England.

14. Northern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*):

A medium sized conifer tree with fibrous, cross-thatched bark. Leaves are scalelike in four rows around twig but flattened from the side. Prefers swamps and limestone soils.

Found in southeastern Canada, around the great lakes and New England.

15. Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*):

Medium sized with ovate, doubly serrated leaves. Often grows singular, unlike Gray Birch. Bark is white with easily peeling sheets. Grows from the Atlantic to Pacific in Canada, New England, and around the Great Lakes. Likes a lot of sun, often the first to colonate in disturbed areas.

16. Largest Pine on the Property:

This is the largest white pine on the property. This tree has actually been climbed and measured at over 110 feet. White Pines are a naturally large tree species and when coupled with favorable growing conditions can reach as high as 160 feet.

17. Yellow Birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*):

Fairly large tree, growing 60-90 feet tall. Ovate, sharply serrated leaves. Bark is dirty yellow and peels in small curls. Twigs have a distinct wintergreen flavor when broken. Found in southern Canada, south to Tennessee and west to Minnesota.

18. Beaver ponds:

The series of ponds or empoundments here were created by beavers. Some beaver sign indicates current activity and others indicate past activity. Turkey tail fungus growth on stumps shows old activity. On the other hand, fresh branches gathered and stuck in the pond bottom by the lodge as winter food show current activity. Fresh chews are a easy-to-spot indicator as well.

19. Deer yard:

The area here, extending to both sides of the path, is a large deeryard. The protection from winter cold provided by the many

evergreen trees draws wildlife here. Along with deer; moose, bear and turkey have been seen finding food and shelter in these woods.

20. Lean-to:

This lean-to was built by students of Craftsbury Academy in 2005. All lumber used in the construction was harvested from the woodlot and milled on site with a portable band saw mill.

21. Birch used for the new gym floor:

Some of the Yellow Birches in this area were cut in late August and early September of 2011 to be used for the new Craftsbury Academy gymnasium floor. They were donated by the school, shipped to Lathrop Lumber in Bristol Vermont to be milled into slats, and brought back to be laid. This is a prime example of the woodlot's use as a sustainable forest.

21a. Logs thinned for wood heating pellets:

As blown down and thinned trees are removed from the woodlot they are stored near the road to be taken to North Clarendon, Vermont and processed into pellets. These pellets will be used as a partial heat source for the Academy.

22. Historic stone walls:

As this land was settled in the early 1700's farmers would clear the native forests for pasture (usually sheep) and remove many stones from the rocky soil. The rocks were then used to line property boundaries as walls. Although they generally do not stand as the official boundaries anymore, many of these walls can still be seen across the Vermont countryside.

Craftsbury Academy Woodlot

Nature Trail Guide and Brochure



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