

Keep an eye out for the following trees as you walk through the Arboretum.

Upland Tree facts

- The sassafras tree is unique because its branches hold three different shaped leaves. Its bark can be distilled and the remaining oil is used to make scent for soap.
- The Black Gum is known as one of the 5 best shade trees in America. Black Gum trees grow very slowly and can live as long as 400 years.

Mid-slope Tree facts

- The Willow Oak is a fast growing tree that tolerates heat and drought very well. This makes it a great tree to plant along streets and in parks.
- The slippery elm has bark that is used to make herbal tea. It has a soothing property that makes it sore throats and upset stomachs.

Lowland Tree facts

- The Eastern White Pine is the largest variety of pine that is native to Maryland. They can live to be 400 years old.
- The quaking Aspen gets its name from the way its leaves shake in a breeze.



South Frederick Arboretum

Self-guided Tour



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The History of The South Frederick Arboretum

The South Frederick Arboretum was established by a reforestation grant from Frederick County, Maryland. The arboretum was planned and organized by the Department of Natural Resources, The Frederick County Forestry Board, and the Earth and Space Science Laboratory. The students and staff of South Frederick (2003-2004), the Community Commons, Master Gardeners of Frederick, the Operations Department of Frederick County Public Schools, students from the Career and Technology School, and the City of Frederick helped to plant the trees. The "big planting" took place on April 20, 2004.

Every tree planted in this two-acre parcel is a "native species" and can be found growing throughout Frederick County. More than 265 trees representing 70 different species are growing in the arboretum. Large samples of rocks and minerals found in Frederick County were later added to the pathways to highlight the geology of the county.

The arboretum was planted in three sections. The trees marked with green signs are considered "lowland" species and are found closer to streams and rivers. The trees marked with red signs are considered "upland trees" and are found on the mountains and at higher elevations of Frederick. The trees marked with black signs are considered to be "mid-slope" trees and are found between the lowland and upland trees of the county.



Enjoy the 265 trees representing 70 different varieties currently growing in the South Frederick Arboretum.

The arboretum has been designed to simulate a walk through Frederick County: through the lowlands, across the piedmont, and to the Catoctin Mountains. As you stroll through the arboretum, we hope you enjoy the variety of trees and rocks, the information presented, and the design of this small parcel of land within Frederick City.

A Lowland Area

As you walk through the Arboretum, imagine that you are hiking across the northern part of Frederick County. Your trip begins at the Monocacy River along the Carroll County border. If you were actually on the river bank, you might notice smelly, black soil sticking to your boots. Here at the arboretum, the lowland area is represented by the trees specific to this zone. There are certain trees in Frederick County that like to grow in wetlands along streamside "riparian" areas. We see sycamore trees, as well as some silver maple trees reaching for the sky. We also see smaller river birch, box elder, black haw, and spicebush. Along with these lowland species of trees you may also see some native wildlife. While robins, and blue jays, and other birds make their home here in the arboretum, in the lowlands along the Monocacy and other wetland areas, you might see a great blue heron.



The sycamore is Frederick County's official tree.

The liquid produced from the resin of Pitch Pine is called turpentine (not to be confused with the petroleum based turpentine) and has many medical uses.

The Red Chokeberry is aptly named, since eating the berries causes your throat to swell up.



B Mid-slope Area

With just a few steps along the arboretum path you will enter the mid-slop region. This area makes up the majority of the land in Frederick County. Here you will find oak, hickory and walnut trees that seem to be alive with squirrels. Some lone cedar trees lounge gracefully out in the fields. In your yard you might find maple, cherry, and locust trees. Trees from the mid-slope area prefer moist to dry conditions, so the arboretum provides the perfect place. The soil here is typically red in color and much drier than the soil along the river. Wildlife common to this area include deer, groundhogs, opossum, and red fox. In these trees you might see nests built by sparrows, robins, finches and some birds of prey. A Peregrine Falcon has recently made the Arboretum its home. Keep your eyes open and it might make an appearance during your walk.

The Kentucky Coffee tree produces large pods with several "beans" or seeds which early pioneers roasted to make coffee.



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The white oak is the Maryland State Tree

C Upland Area

Heading west through Frederick County along the mid-slope area will take you to the Catoctin Mountain range. If you were hiking you would begin to see changes in the types of trees growing here. The upland area can be divided into three sub-regions: the base, mountain-side, and peak. Along the base of the mountains you would find tulip poplar, white ash, birch, and sugar maple. Further up in elevation you would find mostly red oaks and shagbark hickories. At the peak, the tree growth becomes smaller and more sparse due to the dry and rocky ground that makes it difficult for most trees to take root. Some trees that thrive in these conditions are black gum and pitch pine. In the arboretum, all of these upland trees are growing along the west end of the path. In the mountains you might find black bears and bobcats living amongst these trees, but luckily you won't encounter any here in the arboretum.

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The story of our American Elm

west corner of the arboretum you'll find a large American Elm tree that was fortunate to survive the deadly and catastrophic blight of Dutch Elm Disease in the 1930's. This fungal infection wiped out tens of millions of American elm trees. Arborists believe this tree was spared due to its isolation from other trees. This American Elm is estimated to be at least 100 years old and stands approximately 75 feet tall.

