

Chapter 4: Plant Species in the Geopark

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5. Creeping Juniper
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8. Lynwood Gold Forsythia
9. Japanese Spiraea

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Section 1: Tree Species

1. Norway Maple
2. European Plum
3. Sugar Maple
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6. Chokecherry

Tree #1: Norway Maple



Scientific name: *Acer platanoides*

Plant type: Tree

Description: A hardy and vigorous growing tree that can withstand all the indignities of being planted next to a road, as well as extreme heat and cold, droughts, car exhaust fumes, and road salt near their roots. Norway maples have invasive traits that enable them to spread aggressively. Norway maple is known for its tolerance of urban conditions, but it often becomes a weedy plant through self-seeding.

Reference: <https://www.mortonarb.org/trees-plants/tree-plant-descriptions/norway-maple-not-recommended>

Location: GeoPark

Tree #2: European Plum



Scientific name: *Prunus domestica*

Plant type: Fruiting Tree

Description: The European Plum is an ancient, domesticated tree that produces plums which can range in taste from very sweet to acidic. The tree contains both male and female organs, and is therefore self-fertile. It will flower in early spring, and fruit will ripen in late summer to early fall.

Location: GeoPark

Tree #3: Sugar Maple



Scientific name: *Acer saccharum*

Plant type: Tree

Anishinaabe Name: (an)inaatig

Anishinaabe use: zii(zii)bakodaaboo sap drank as a beverage/tonic and/or boiled into z(h)iiwagamide syrup in the spring. The z(h)iiwagamide syrup is further processed to make ziizibakod maple sugar and stored in wiigwaas birchbark makakoon boxes. The ziizibakod sugar is used as a seasoning for waawaashkeshi wiiyaas venison, adikameg whitefish, okanakosimaan squash, kos(i)maan pumpkin, mandaamin corn, miinan blueberries, ashkibwan sunchoke, bagaanag pecans, mzise wiiyaas turkey.

Description: Large tree with rounded, dense crown and striking, multicolored foliage in autumn. Bark (Tough outer covering of trunks or stems of trees, shrubs, and vines.) is smooth in youth, becoming quite shaggy with age. Its straight, central trunk; wide-spreading branches; and pointed crown are all attractive landscape characteristics but are less noted than the species' brilliant red, yellow and orange fall foliage. Each tree yields between 5 and 60 gallons of sap per year; about 32 gallons of sap make 1 gallon of syrup or 4 1/2 pounds of sugar. One of the best of the larger shade trees. It is susceptible to salt.

Reference: <https://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/tree/acesac/all.html>

Location: GeoPark

Tree #4: White Oak



Scientific name: *Quercus alba*

Anishinaabe name: mitigomizh; acorn mitigomin (mitig tree -min berry)

Anishinaabe use: While many mitigomin acorns need to be soaked repeatedly in hot lye (bingwi wood ash and n(i)bi/(ni)biish water) and strained to remove the tannins, mitigomizh white oak mitigomin acorns do not. These are shelled, roasted or dried and stored. When needed they are pounded into a coarse naapaane flour and used to thicken soups or make a mush. Miinan blueberries and ziizibakod maple sugar are added to the mush for flavor. (H.Huron Smith, 1932, 402) The wood is used to make red dye, black dye and tools such as migoosag awls. (Densmore, 1928, 370, 372, 378)

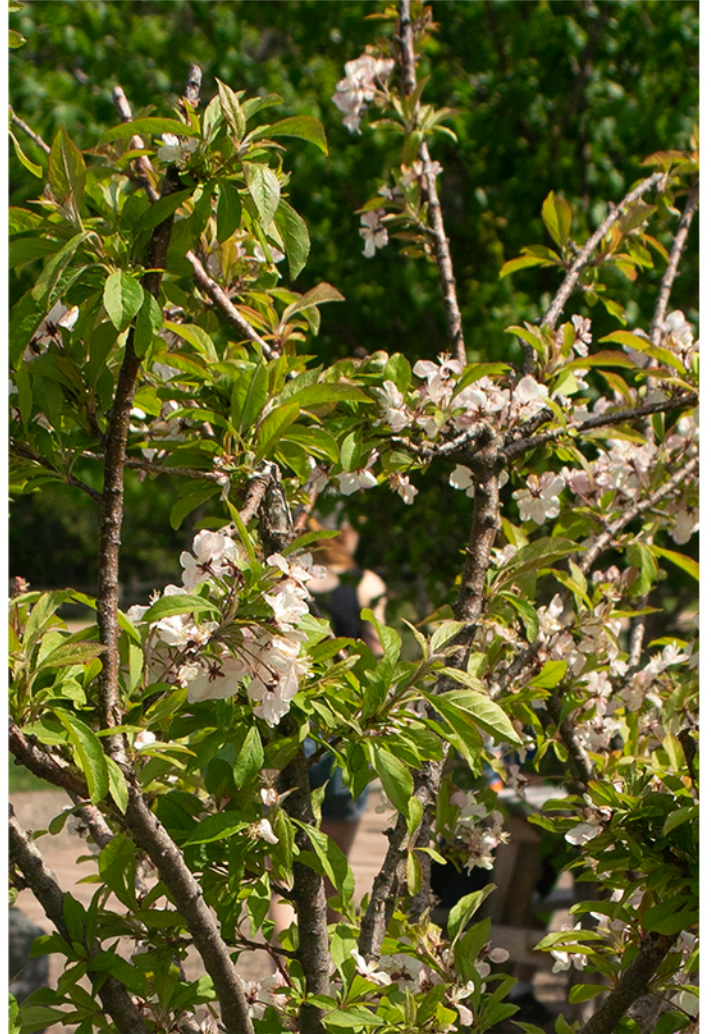
Plant type: Tree

Description: The classic eastern oak, with wide spreading branches and a rounded crown, the trunk irregularly divided into spreading, often horizontal, stout branches. Northern white oak is an imposing, deciduous tree, 80-100 ft. tall, with a straight trunk and a wide (when open-grown) crown. Large, coarse, horizontal limbs are picturesque. Catkins appear just before or with the appearance of new leaves. The round-lobed leaves turn burgundy in fall. Dried leaves remain into winter.

Reference: <https://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/tree/quealb/all.html>

Location: GeoPark

Tree #5: Flowering Crabapple



Anishinaabe name: mishi- giant -min berry

Anishinaabe use: food

Scientific name: *Malus rosaceae*

Plant type: Tree

Description: Crabapples are versatile, small, ornamental trees used in the urban landscape. Crabapples bloom in spring, usually in May, bearing flowers that vary a great deal in color, size, fragrance, and visual appeal. Flowering is followed by production of small fruit in summer. Flowering crabapple is native to North America, Europe, and Asia, it can grow to 20 feet tall once mature.

Link: <https://www.mortonarb.org/trees-plants/tree-plant-descriptions/crabapple-cultivars>

Location: GeoPark

Tree #6: Chokecherry



Anishinaabe name: ososowe cough -min berry -aatig tree (Densmore 1928 , 287; Corbiere-Valentine Software)

Anishinaabe use: Prepared by squeezing them in the hands, after which they were made into little cakes without cooking, dried on birchbark and stored to be cooked in winter. (Densmore 1928, 321)

Scientific name: Prunus Virginiana

Plant type: Fruiting Tree

Description: Chokecherry is native to most of North America. A deciduous shrub, it produces white flowers followed by small cherry-like berries. The seeds inside the berries are toxic, though the flesh itself is not. This shrub, when mature, can be 10-20ft in diameter and up to 30ft tall.

Reference: https://plants.usda.gov/factsheet/pdf/fs_prvi.pdf

Location: GeoPark

Section 2: Shrub Species

1. American Elderberry
2. Round-leaf Dogwood
3. Atlantic Ninebark
4. Josee Reblooming Lilac
5. Creeping Juniper
6. Japanese Yew
7. Butterfly Bush
8. Lynwood Gold Forsythia
9. Japanese Spiraea

Shrub #1: American Elderberry



Anishinaabe name: bibigwemin: bibigwe 's/he plays a flute' -min 'berry'

Anishinaabe use: The wood is used in crafting bibigwanan lover's flutes, while small amounts of the inner nagek bark shavings were used by Pillager Ojibwe only in desperate cases to make a potent emetic and purgative tea. (H. Huron Smith, 1932) To be used with great caution if at all, causes severe nausea. *Works in partnership with local original butterfly and bird species.

Scientific name: *Sambucus canadensis*

Plant type: Flowering Shrub

Description: This native North American plant is a deciduous suckering shrub that bears large white flowers in the summer and small black berries in drooping clusters in the fall. Also known as the Common Elder, American Elderberry is native to the central and eastern U.S. and southeastern Canada.

Reference: https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=sanic4

Location: GeoPark beds 5 and 7

Shrub #2: Round-Leaf Dogwood



Scientific name: *Cornus rugosa*

Plant type: Flowering Shrub

Description: Dogwoods are distinguished from other flowering shrubs by the clusters of small, 4-petaled white flowers and opposite leaves that are toothless and have prominent, arching, lateral veins. It is often found in the wild growing at the base of rocky slopes and in upland deciduous and mixed forests. Our dogwoods are very susceptible to nibbling by deer.

Reference: <https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/shrub/round-leaved-dogwood>

Location: GeoPark bed 9 and in the path adjacent to bed 9

Shrub #3: Atlantic Ninebark



Anishinaabe name: miskwaziwashk; miskwa- red, -izi action/motion, w connecting sound -ashk grass/reed. (Indinawemaaganidog, 52) **Scientific name:** Physocarpus opulifolius

Plant type: Shrub

Description: Atlantic ninebark offers spiraea-like flowers, attractive and persistent fruit pods, arching branches, yellow fall color, and exfoliating bark. Atlantic Ninebark is fast-growing, insect and disease resistant, and drought-tolerant. It is native to the New England region. As seen in the photo, it is susceptible to nibbling by deer

Reference: <https://www.mortonarb.org/trees-plants/tree-plant-descriptions/common-ninebark>

Location: GeoPark bed 12

Shrub #4: Josee Reblooming Lilac



Scientific name: *Syringa* 'Josee'

Plant type: Flowering Shrub

Description: The Josee Lilac is a compact lilac, reaching 4-6 feet tall which blooms continuously throughout the summer. It prefers full sun and has blooming stems 4-5" long of small, trumpet-shaped pink flowers. Be sure to prune only after flowering so as to not prune off flower buds.

Reference: <https://www.michiganbulb.com/product/josee-reblooming-lilac-62353>

Location: GeoPark bed 11

Shrub #5: Creeping Juniper



Anishinaabe name: gagawandagisiid

Scientific name: *Juniperus Horizontalis*

Plant type: Trailing Shrub

Description: *Juniperus horizontalis* is a trailing evergreen shrub, part of the Cypress family, native to northern North America. They can be recognized by their needle shaped leaves, which turn scaly as the plant matures. Juniper trees have characteristic blue-colored berries at the ends of their branches. All juniper types produce cones.

Reference: <https://www.coniferousforest.com/creeping-juniper.htm>

Location: GeoPark 9, 10, 11, 13, 17, 18

Shrub #6: Japanese Yew



Scientific name: *Taxus cuspidata*

Plant type: Fruiting Shrub

Description: Japanese Yew is a nonnative evergreen shrub. The oil derived from yew bushes, taxol, is used for treating breast and ovarian cancer, but all parts of yew bushes are poisonous to animals and humans. The fleshy red berry is edible, but not the black seed inside.

Reference: <https://www.thespruce.com/japanese-yews-and-english-yew-bushes-2132068>

Location: GeoPark beds 10, 11,17, 18

Shrub #7: Butterfly Bush



Scientific name: Buddleia 'Magenta Munchkin'

Plant type: Flowering Shrub

Description: Standing between 2 and 4 feet tall, this compact butterfly bush blooms in late summer/early fall with cone-shaped compositions of small purple flowers. It is hardy to zone 5; NMU is basically on the border of zones 4 and 5, so this may be a reason for the late-season development of this shrub.

Care: Cut back to about 1 foot in early spring.

Reference: <http://www.perennialresource.com/variety.php?ID=BUDMM>

Location: GeoPark bed 16

Shrub #8: Lynwood Gold Forsythia



Scientific name: *Forsythia* × *intermedia* 'Lynwood Variety'

Plant type: Deciduous Flowering Shrub

Description: Forsythia is known for its bright yellow flowers which bloom in mid-spring. However, those flowers may not bloom on our forsythia because the flowerbuds die at -5°F in the winter, and our winters are often colder than that. For this reason and possible others, the two forsythia in the geopark will most likely not bloom and will just be green bushes. They like full sun, loose, well-drained, slightly moist soils, and are usually not bothered by deer. This cultivar is a hybrid between 2 different types of forsythia and is an intermediate between them, hence "intermedia" in the scientific name.

Care: Prune into a nice shape after spring bloom (if it blooms).

Reference: <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=269583>

Location: GeoPark beds 2 and 17

Shrub #9: Japanese Spiraea



Scientific name: *Spiraea Japonica*

Plant type: Flowering Shrub

Description: A member of the rose family, this non-native shrub is known for its bright pink flower clusters which bloom in the summer. It is dense and compact, and prefers full sun and well-drained soil. It will grow back from the roots if cut to the ground.

Care: Pruning will keep the plant in a desirable shape and promote new growth; prune after flowering, otherwise you will chop off the buds.

Reference: <https://www.mortonarb.org/trees-plants/tree-plant-descriptions/japanese-spiraea>

Location: GeoPark bed 14