

**1 (0.00 mile) Bottomland Post Oak**  
(*Qurecus similis*).

Common in rich,, moist soils of Gulf prairies and marshes, it can reach 100 feet in height. Its leaves have narrow lobes, unlike the similar Post Oak (*Q. stellata*).



**2 (0.02 mile) Eastern Red Cedar** (*Juniperus virginiana*)

Cedar tolerates wet soil, but will also grow on well-drained hilltops. Its attractive reddish aromatic wood is considered to be a good insect repellent, and thus is used to line storage chests and closets.



**3 (0.03 mile) Trumpet Creeper** (*Campsis radicans*)

Notice how this vine uses other plants for support. Its flowers attract hummingbirds and butterflies to its nectar, who pollinate the plant in their process of eating.



**4 (0.07 mile) Palmetto or Dwarf Palm** (*Sabel minor*)

Literally a “small palm”, the palmetto requires occasional wet feet, and is thus an indicator of wetland soil. Its trunk extends underground as part of its subterranean root stock.



**5 (0.11 mile) Oxbow Lake** was once part of Chocolate Bayou.

**6 (0.11 mile) American Hornbeam** (*Carpinus caroliniana*)

is also known as **Ironwood**. Because it is hard, tough and close grained, it is used for golf clubs, handles, and wedges. Its seed is eaten by at least nine species of birds. Note how its trunk is fluted into muscle-like separations.



**7 (0.16 mile) Swamp Chestnut Oak** (*Quercus michauxii*)

Occurs on a variety of moist soils and well-drained alluvial floodplains. The swamp chestnut oak is considered an early succession species with mature trees retarding growth of under-story vegetation. The acorns are food for humans, cattle, deer, hogs, and small mammals; the nuts are sweet enough to eat raw without boiling.



**8 (0.17 mile) Water Oak** (*Quercus nigra*)

Found on wet lowland to moist upland soils. A short to moderately long-lived tree, whose wood is prone to excessive splitting. Its acorns are an important food source for wildlife.



**9 (0.26 mile) Loblolly Pine** (*Pinus taeda*)

[photo on cover] Grows to a height of 170 feet with a six foot diameter trunk, with a distinctive, reddish-brown, large scaled bark. Grows on sandy, well-drained soils atypical for most of Brazoria County. A source of commercial lumber.

**10 (0.30 mile) Chocolate Bayou** meandering toward the Gulf of Mexico.

**11 (0.31 mile) Southern Blackberry** (*Rubus argutus*)

**12 (0.34 mile) Yaupon** (female) (*Ilex vomitoria*) Only the female yaupon plant has berries. Its Latin name reflects the use by Native Americans of its leaves to make a tea to induce vomiting.



**13 (0.35 mile) Western Soapberry** (*Sapindus saponaria L.*) Common in moist soils by streams. The fruit of this tree grows in grape-like clusters and can be used to make soap.



**14 (0.35 mile) American Beautyberry** (*Callicarpa americana*)

A small deciduous understory shrub that has tiny flowers during the summer. In the fall, it makes up for small flowers with large clusters of showy purple berries. Birds are attracted to this plant.



**15 (0.43 mile) Swamp Red Oak** (*Quercus pagoda*)

A variety of southern red oak, occurs on dry upland sites of sandy or clay loam and prized for its lumber. Leaves have a “pagoda” shape.



**16 (0.43 mile) Sycamore** (*Platanus occidentalis*) A distinctive tree with whitish bark, large leaves, and large fruit that looks like Christmas tree ornaments in the winter.



**17 (0.41 mile) Live Oak** (*Quercus Virginiana*) Crowns and shallow root structure often spread longer than their 80 foot height. Dark green leaves drop in the spring. A valuable timber species and food source for wildlife.



**18 (0.42 mile) Swamp Hickory** (*Carya aquatica*) Water-loving tree attaining a height of 100 feet. The wood is inferior to other hickories.



**19 (0.55 mile) Eastern Cottonwood** (*Populus deltoids*) Found in rich, moist soils along streams. The bark on older trunks is grey to almost black and has distinctive flattened broad ridges. Its Spanish name is "Alamo"; the San Antonio mission Alamo was surrounded by cottonwood trees.



**20 (0.53 mile) American Basswood** (*Tilia americana var caroliniana*) Found in rich, moist soils of woods and bottomlands. Its tough, inner bark was used for mat fiber and rope by Native Americans. Its flowers are valuable bee pasture, and its fruits are food for birds and rodents. Its wood has many commercial uses.



**21 (0.55 mile) Cedar Elm** (*Ulmus crassifolia*) Usually found on moist soils along water courses. Its seeds are eaten by several species of birds. It is one of two elms that flower in the fall. Leaves are small with serrated edges and their backside is like sandpaper.



**22 (0.57 mile) Willow Oak** (*Quercus phellos*) distinctive narrow, long leaves. Grows in moist alluvial soils along streams and rivers. Acorns are an important food source for wildlife.



**23 (0.58 mile) Box Elder** (*Acer negundo*) One of the most widespread and best known of the maples, it has "winged" seeds. In young box elders the leaflet is often confused with poison ivy. Most commonly found in association with bottomland hardwoods.



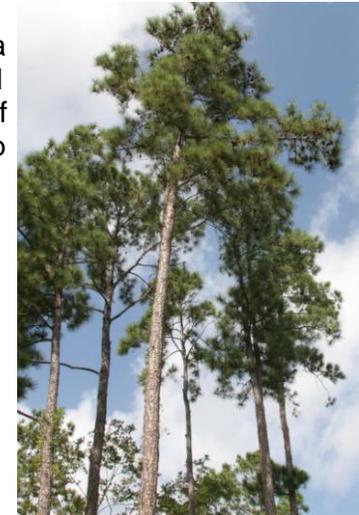
**24 (0.60 mile) Parsley Hawthorn** (*Crataegus marshalii*) A beautiful small tree covered with clusters of dainty white flowers with red stamens in early spring, followed by lacelike, light green parsley-shaped leaves and red fruit (haws) in the fall.

It is found at the edge of woods in well-drained acid sands and sandy loams.



**LOBLOLLY LOOP TRAIL**

The land of Camp Mohawk consists of a combination, unusual in Brazoria County, of alluvial clay and deep sandy loam soil regions. The park is intersected by Chocolate Bayou, which has carved a deep channel as it meanders toward the Gulf of Mexico. Elevation above the bayou and oxbow lakes determines



wetter and dryer regions. The multiple combinations of soil type and moisture content in turn have made Camp Mohawk attractive to an uncommon diversity of trees and other plants. For example, nowhere else in Brazoria County can be found together the six species of oak that thrive here, nor the loblolly forest, a remnant of the great Southern pine forest that shrank eastward during drier and warmer times at the end of the last Ice Age. The park is also surrounded by patches of the Gulf Coastal Prairie; thus prairie grasses grow here in open areas. Note this diversity as you stroll around the Loblolly Loop Trail.

The 0.8 mile trail is marked with identification plaques and interpretive signs, keyed to this trail guide, that highlight this diversity.

Please don't litter, and please pick up any litter found on your walk and deposit in trash cans. If you are through with this brochure, please return it for others to use.

