

Gambrill State Park

Park Quest 2018

“Barking up the Right Tree”



Introduction to the Quest

Welcome to Gambrill State Park. We're glad that you've chosen to participate in the 2018 Park Quest. Through the use of interpretive panels you will discover the park's forest species. This self-guided activity will lead you along Gambrill State Park's Red Maple Trail.

Make sure before you begin your quest that you have:

Pen/Pencil

Park Quest Worksheet

Water/snacks

Walking shoes/Hiking boots

Quest Information

Now that you're ready to go, it's time to begin your quest. This quest takes place on the Red Maple Trail, which is one mile in length. Your quest begins at the Trailhead bulletin board. To the left of the bulletin board is where the Red Maple Trail begins. Take a look at the bulletin board for more information about the park. Follow the **RED** blaze when you're ready to start and throughout your quest.

Basic Quest

Stop 1: Witch Hazel

Witch Hazel is a useful shrub found in Gambrill State Park. The bark and leaves are used for $\frac{\quad}{7}$ — — — — — cuts, bruises, and insect bites.

Stop 2: Mountain Laurel

This shrub is one of the most beautiful flowering plants found in Gambrill. The stamens of the flowers have an mechanism to spread pollen when tripped by a $\frac{\quad}{3}$ — — .

Stop 3: Pitch Pine

This medium size conifer likes dry rocky sites or sandy soils. That is why Pitch Pine is frequently planted on reclaimed strip $\frac{\quad}{4}$ — — — .

Downy Serviceberry

Keep a look out for this tree in Gambrill State Park. It is one of the first trees to flower in the spring. If you're at Gambrill in the winter you can identify it by its smooth, pale gray bark and its — — — — — $\frac{\quad}{2}$ — — leaves.

Stop 4: Black Gum

Many visitors come to Gambrill State Park during the colorful fall season. This medium sized tree is one of the first to change color. Before the fall season its leaves have a bright green, waxy surface and a 1 underside.

Stop 5: Virginia Pine

The next evergreen on your quest has soft wood. This makes it a favorite tree of various woodpecker species. It's also used by humans for lumber and 6 .

Stop 6: Table Mountain Pine

This evergreen is a fire dependent species. This means that it will reseed areas quickly following a forest fire. Remember to always extinguish campfires and barbeque grills when you are finished. Smokey will thank you.

Stop 7: Beech

This tree is popular for use in furniture, wood flooring, and as firewood. Many animals search out beech nuts in the fall for food. You can identify beech by looking for the long and 5 buds.

Now use the letters from above to answer this question:
What makes all of these species of trees important to the forest?

They provide 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 for forest animals.

You have now completed the Basic Quest for Gambrill State Park. You can now return to the trailhead parking lot by retracing your steps or you can continue on the trail to complete the Bonus Quest. The Red Maple Trail is a loop and, after completing the Bonus Quest, will take you back to the trailhead parking lot where you began.

Bonus Quest

Stop 1: Black Oak

This tree does not like shady areas. It grows best on moist, rich, and well drained soils. However, it is often found on $\frac{\quad}{3}$ dry and poor soils.

Stop 2: Chestnut Oak

The range of this tree spans from southern Maine to central Mississippi. The bark is dark and fissured which resembles the back of an $\frac{\quad}{7}$.

Stop 3: Red Maple

If you love pancakes then this is your tree. The sap from this tree is used to make maple $\frac{\quad}{18}$. Make sure to come back and visit Cunningham Falls State Park for our Maple Syrup Festival next March.

Stop 4: Sassafras

Spices, teas, and root beer are all products that come from this tree. It's easily identified by its distinct leaves shaped like a glove or $\frac{\quad}{1}$.

Stop 5: American Chestnut

At one time this tree was the most dominant species in many eastern forests where it was used for timber due to its resistance to rot. Unfortunately, it was decimated by the Chestnut $\frac{\quad}{19}$ and now rarely lives for more than 20 years.

Stop 6: White Oak

Acorns from this tree are valuable food for many animals. Native Americans used it to treat gingivitis. It is also the State tree of $\frac{\quad}{16}$.

Stop 7: Northern Red Oak

If you are looking for a place to take a rest, this is an excellent shade tree species. Another quality of this tree is its tolerance to $\frac{\quad}{11}$ and soil compaction.

Stop 8: Bigtooth Aspen

Aspen regenerates quickly after a forest fire and can form pure stands because of this. It also is a favorite tree of Ruffed $\frac{\quad}{15}$, which feed on its leaves in the summer.

Stop 9: Black Walnut

This tree has gray-black bark that is deeply furrowed, but under the bark is where the prize is found. The dark colored true $\frac{\quad}{6}$ is used for gunstocks, furniture and flooring.

Stop 10: Red Mulberry

As a pioneer species, this tree often invades fields and develops in early successional forests. Like some other trees on the quest, it also colonizes area after $\frac{\quad}{14}$.

Stop 11: Common Hackberry

When this tree produces fruit you will find edible berries. You can tell when the fruit is ripe when it turns orange-red to $\frac{\quad}{8}$ in the fall.

Stop 12: Black Cherry

This tree is easily identified by its very broken dark-gray to black bark. The bark has the appearance of burnt $\frac{\quad}{12}$ chips.

Stop 13: Yellow Poplar

After your quest you can enjoy another trail in Gambrill State Park named after this tree. American Indians used this wood to make $\frac{\quad}{4}$.

Stop 14: Tree of Heaven

Originally native to China, this tree came to the United States in the 1890's. It has taken off here and is one of our most common $\frac{\quad}{2}$ species.

Stop 15: Spicebush

Pollinators are very important species in our ecosystem. This shrub is a favorite food the Spicebush Swallowtail $\frac{\quad}{17}$.

Stop 16: Green Ash

This tree is favored for use in making guitar bodies. Unfortunately, it has been seriously threatened by the $\frac{\quad}{13}$ Ash Borer.

Stop 17: Bitternut Hickory

You may see this tree frequently, as it is, the most widely distributed and most common of the hickories. It has 7-9 leaflets that are finely $\frac{\quad}{5}$.

Stop 18: White Ash

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Congratulations!!! You have now completed the Bonus Quest for Gambrill State Park. Continue to follow the Red Maple Trail and you will arrive back at the Trailhead Parking Area. You have traveled a mile through the forest of Gambrill State Park.