Yellow Birch (Betula alleghaniensis):
Yellow Birch occurs in cool, moist slopes and along stream beds, growing 50 - 60 feet tall as a single tree or in a small grouping. They grow slowly and live a long time, well over 100 years. Slight wintergreen scent in the bark and twigs but not nearly as potent as the Black Birch. The wood has been used for furniture, flooring, veneer, and fuel.


Leaves: Simple, alternate, singly or appearing in pairs. About 3 to 4 inches long and doubly serrated. Rounded to heart shaped at the base, and dark green on top with yellowish-green on the bottom.

Fruit: An erect, short-stalked conelet 1 inch long with each scale bearing a single, small, oval-winged nutlet.

Black Birch (Betula lenta):
Also known as Sweet Birch due to its strong wintergreen smell and taste that is evident in the twigs and bark. In New Jersey, it appears in rich woods and slopes. When exposed to air, the unique wood of the tree takes on a darker appearance. This has made it popular in lumber, furniture, woodenware, and as veneer for doors and cabinets.

Bark: Smooth, reddish-black when young, later becoming gray to black and broken by furrows that separate smooth, irregular plates, horizontal lenticels (small, corky pores or horizontal lines) prominent.

Leaves: Simple, alternate, ovate, somewhat heart-shaped leaves that are serrated. On top, they are bright green while underneath is lighter with white hairs at axils of veins.

Fruit: Erect cone-like fruit, a little over 1 inch in length. The black birch bears tiny

Hophornbeam (Ostrya virginiana):
An understory tree that generally grows between 25 and 40 feet, the hophornbeam tree grows in upland, mixed hardwood forests. In these areas, it is found scattered on dry slopes and in rocky, shallow soils.

Bark: Thin, gray brown to light brown. Often appearing shredded with narrow, longitudinal strips that are disconnected at the end.

Leaves: Alternate, simple, 2 - 5 inches long, ovate to oblong, double serrated, thin and rough to touch. Dark green to yellow-green above, paler beneath.

Fruit: 1/3 inch, hard shell nutlet containing one seed. Enclosed in a papery, bladder-like sack covered with stringy hairs. Sacks clustered on hairy, slender stem.
River Birch (Betula nigra): Often found with short, crooked trunks leaning out over rivers and streams. River Birch grows between 40 - 70 feet. The tree thrives in moist conditions with Red Maples, Black Gums, Pin Oaks, and Willow trees. Unlike New Jersey’s other birch trees whose fruit ripens at the end of summer into early fall, the fruit of the River Birch ripens in early summer.

Bark: Grayish-white and reddish-brown, the bark appears to peel off in thin curls or large plates. As it continues to age, it becomes dark, rougher, and fissured.

Leaves: Alternate and simple with a double serrated edge. Growing about 4 inches in length, the leaves are wedge-shaped. The top is a dark green and lighter beneath.

Fruit: Small, hairy, winged nutlets in a slender, cylindrical structure. Ripens in early summer.

Gray Birch (Betula populifolia): Gray Birch trees usually only grow 20 - 30 feet before succumbing to forest succession. The tree is a pioneer species and often the first to colonize open lands. Generally, they are found in lowland areas but also along older roadways and farm fields.

Bark: Grayish-white and chalky, the bark does not peel like that of other birch trees. It has prominent horizontal lenticels (small, corky pores or horizontal lines) with triangular black patches pointing to where limbs meet the trunk.

Leaves: Simple, alternating, triangular leaves with a long tapered apex. The edges are doubly serrated. The bright green leaf grows about 2 - 3 inches long and is lighter on the bottom than the top.

Fruit: Small and winged nutlet. It takes four million seeds to equal one pound.

Paper Birch (Betula papyrifera): Growing 30 - 60 feet, the Paper Birch often is pyramidial in shape. As it ages, the shape becomes irregular oval to rounded. The spread can grow to be 40 feet wide. Sandy and loamy soils along rivers and lakes are the best habitat for the tree. There are several uses for the tree all the way from lumber to medical use and food.

Bark: Smooth bark, marked with horizontal lenticels. It appears to flake off in larger, thin sheets.

Leaves: The leaves are simple and ovate with a coarse double serrated edge. With a leather, dark green top and hairy underside, the leaves grow between 2 to 3 inches long.

Fruit: Heart-shaped, winged nutlets attached to tiny oval seeds. The groupings have been referred to as “dirty gym socks” because of the way they hang and the SUMMARY OF RULES AND REGULATIONS

The rules and regulations governing use of facilities or properties administered by the Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation are promulgated in accordance with provisions of the N.J. Statutes Title 40:57-7.12, which reads as follows:

“The Board of Chosen Freeholders may by resolution make, alter, amend, and repeal rules and regulations for the supervision, regulation and control of all activities carried on, contacted, attended, or provided for by the Board in connection with a public golf course or other county recreational, playground or public entertainment facility, and for the protection of property, and enforce fines and penalties for the violation of any such rule or regulation.”

These rules and regulations have been promulgated for the protection of our patrons and for the facilities and natural resources administered by the Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation.

Permits: A fully executed Facility Use Permit, issued by the County of Hunterdon for any activity shall authorize the activity only insofar as it may be performed in strict accordance with the terms and conditions thereof. The State of NJ, County of Hunterdon, or the local municipality may require additional permits.

Prohibited Acts for the Protection of Natural Resources:

Any person violating any of the Municipal, State, or Federal Law.

No person shall harvest, collect, or remove any natural resource from, or introduce any plant material, bulbs, or seeds to any property without a permit or license.

No person shall disturb wildlife or vegetation in any manner. No person shall pollute waters, litter, dump debris, or release helium balloons in any property. It is illegal to remove any natural resource from, or introduce any plant material, bulbs, or seeds to any property without a proper permit or license. The violation of any Municipal, State, or Federal Law.

Prohibited Acts for the Protection of People:

No person shall make, create, own, dispose, distribute, fill in, cut, remove or tamper with any property, organic or inorganic.

Prohibited Acts for the Protection of Natural Resources:

No person shall harvest, collect, or remove any natural resource from, or introduce any plant material, bulbs, or seeds to any property without a proper permit or license.

Prohibited Acts for the Protection of People:

No person shall obstruct a county employee/official, interfere with a visitor, conduct any unsafe act, or cause a hazardous condition.

Vehicles: All the provisions of the N.J. State Motor Vehicle Act apply. Vehicles are not allowed in unauthorized areas. Parking is allowed in designated areas only. ATV’s, dirt bikes, and snowmobiles are prohibited on County Park lands.

Enforcement: The rules and regulations of the County shall be enforced by duly authorized Rangers or representatives of the County under the provision of N.J.S.A. 40:57-2.3 thru 40:57-7.13. Any person who enters into a County Park for any purpose whatsoever has a duty and is presumed to be aware of the provisions of these rules and regulations governing the use of the facilities and properties administered by the Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation.

Penalties: Any person violating any of the provisions of these regulations shall, upon conviction before a court or other adjudicative body of jurisdiction, be liable for the replacement, repair or restoration of damaged property, if any, and shall pay a penalty of not more than one thousand dollars ($1,000.00) or other amount in the discretion of the court or other adjudicative body or may be sentenced to imprisonment in the County jail for the term not exceeding ninety (90) days, or both, provided that this section shall not supersede any applicable penalty provision for specific offenses, which may be set forth in the New Jersey Code of Criminal Justice, N.J.S.A. 2C:1-1, et seq., or in any other applicable state or federal law.

NOTE: County Park Rangers of the Division of Parks and Recreation have the authority to issue summonses, and make arrests for violations of rules and regulations governing the use of facilities and properties administered by the Division of Parks and Recreation. This is only a summary of the rules and regulations. Rules applying to special conditions, activities, or situations may be supplemented to these rules and regulations. When special rules apply, they will be posted at affected areas. The complete text of regulations is available for inspection at the Park administration office in Clinton Township during regular business hours.