

Robinson Woods Outer Loop Trail



CAPE ELIZABETH LAND TRUST

Self-Guided Tour



The Cape Elizabeth Land Trust (CELT) is dedicated to preserving Cape Elizabeth's distinctive sense of place by forever protecting open space, scenic views, agricultural lands and encouraging recreational access to a growing network of trails. Since 1985, CELT has preserved over 560 acres of land for public use and enjoyment.

The following people donated their services to this brochure: written by Ogden Williams, edited by Suzanne McGinn, illustrated by Anna Stressenger, map by Rose Kennealy, designed by Sara Lennon.

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Welcome to Robinson Woods!

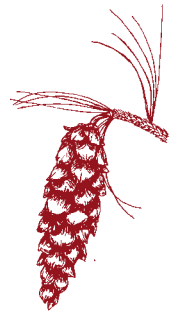
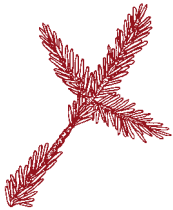
Robinson Woods is an 82-acre preserve along Shore Road, purchased by the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust in 2003. This magnificent property provides a glimpse at what Cape Elizabeth might have looked like when the first settlers arrived in southern Maine. Due to its rocky, uneven terrain, this forest was not suitable for farming, and much of the land has remained in a natural state for hundreds of years. At Robinson Woods you have the opportunity to walk among 200-year old trees! If you visit in springtime, there are several vernal pools where you might see clusters of salamander and wood frog eggs attached to underwater branches and grasses.

We invite you to tour the Outer Loop Trail (1.4 miles) to explore these amazing woods and learn about several of the trees along the trail. The trail begins at the CELT kiosk on Shore Road. At the first fork in the trail, turn right. You will proceed counterclockwise, following signs for the Outer Loop Trail and the low wooden posts lettered A-X. The letters correspond to the narrative within this guide. The marker numbers 1–14 located on some of the posts correspond to an abbreviated tree guide, available at the Robinson Woods trailhead kiosk on Shore Road or from the CELT office. Face the marker number as you read the guide. Since the markers are unevenly spaced along the trail, check the map for locations. Allow yourself an hour to complete the loop and have time to study the trees.

Trail Etiquette: Protected forestland provides critical breeding and nesting sites for native birds, plants and animals. Please respect the wildlife habitat by staying on the trail, picking up after your dog and not littering. Please take only photographs and leave only footprints.

A. White Pine & Red Spruce

On both sides of the trail, notice the long needles of Maine’s state tree, the white pine. The white pine cone with tassel is Maine’s state flower. The needles come in bundles of five. Some people remember white pines by using the five needles to spell the word “W-H-I-T-E.” To the right of this marker is a small, young evergreen tree, the red spruce. Look at the short pointed needles of the spruce. Feel them. Compare them with the look and feel of the longer pine needles. Pines and spruce are both conifers. Conifers are evergreen, needle-leaved trees that produce seeds inside cones. Remember these cute young spruce and pine trees. At future markers, you’ll see older versions of these trees, including young adult and fully mature examples, which look quite different from these younger trees.



B. Red Spruce & Balsam Fir

Here, side by side, we see two conifers that are common to Robinson Woods. On the right is a red spruce. To the left is a balsam fir. You might call these young adult trees. Compare the needles of the spruce with the balsam fir. Look at them and feel them. How can you tell them apart? Notice that the undersides of the fir needles have two little white lines, and the needles are flatter. Fir cones grow upright on the branch and the scales of the cone are compact until mature. Red spruce cones are oblong, with rounded outer end scales, and are red in color. Balsam firs are often harvested as Christmas trees because they hold their needles a long time after they have been cut down.



C. Eastern Hemlock

You’ve met the pine, the red spruce and the balsam fir. Now it’s time to meet the fourth (and last) conifer that commonly grows in Robinson Woods. On the rock ledge beyond the marker is the eastern hemlock. The hemlock bark has a distinctive cinnamon color, and the needles are small, laying flat along the branch. It has the smallest cone, approximately an inch in length, located at the end of the twig. Directly to the left of the hemlock are a balsam fir and then a spruce. Further to the left of the spruce is a white pine. Compare the needles. Look at them. Feel them. How are they the same? How are they different? Look through the branches to see the bark of the spruce, fir, and hemlock. Do they look the same, or can you tell them apart? An older balsam fir’s bark is filled with little horizontal blisters or bulges. As you walk along the trail, see if you can find examples of all four of these conifers.



D. Quiz Time

In this area look on both sides of the trail for balsam firs, an eastern hemlock, and a red spruce tree. Can you identify which is which? (Answers: balsam firs are to the left of the marker, the hemlock is behind the marker, and the spruce is behind you, at the top of the small hill on the other side of the trail.)

E. Balsam Fir

Here are several balsam firs of different sizes. It's easy to identify an older balsam fir by looking at the bark. It is covered with little horizontal bulges or blisters. Feel them if you want, but be warned that you'll probably get some very sticky sap on your hands that is hard to remove. The bark and needles of the balsam fir are highly aromatic. Some people put the needles in cloth bags and use them as air fresheners.

The wood of the balsam fir is not particularly strong. You won't see many really large balsam firs. They tend to get blown down in storms before they achieve great size. The wood is not particularly desirable for lumber or paper making. However, sap from the balsam fir was once used by woodsmen as a sort of natural 'band aid' to cover cuts and wounds. It was also used as a kind of waterproof cement. Children would chew it in the days before chewing gum was invented. It was even used to attach specimens to microscope slides. The sap burns readily, and knots of balsam fir were once used as torches. Native Americans held bits of the root in the mouth for mouth sores, and placed handfuls of the needles on hot coals in sweat baths, inhaling the smoke to clear up the congestion of colds and coughs.

Grouse and other birds eat the seeds of the balsam fir; hare, deer, and moose eat the twigs. Porcupines gnaw the bark. Birds and small mammals take shelter under the branches of young balsam firs. The balsam fir is the provincial tree of New Brunswick, Canada.



F. Red Maple

Here we have a cluster of different-aged red maples. Maples are deciduous trees, meaning they lose their leaves in the fall. The red maple is well named, as there is always something red about the tree in all seasons! The bark of a mature red maple has red fissures (grooves). In the winter, the buds are red. In the spring, the tree produces red flowers. The leaf stalks are red in the summer. And of course, in the fall, the leaves turn bright red.

Red maples grow all the way from Newfoundland, Canada, to southern Florida. The largest red maple in the country grows in Great Smokey Mountains National Park. It is 141 feet tall and over 7 feet in diameter. That's more than 21 feet around!



Red maple wood is used in furniture making. Porcupines eat the inner bark; and maple twigs are a favorite with cottontail rabbits, snowshoe hares, white-tailed deer, and moose. The seeds provide food for many kinds of rodents, such as squirrels. Syrup from red maples is not commonly used for sugar or syrup making. Native Americans collected sap from the sugar maple tree in containers made of birch bark. Later, it was boiled in large hollowed-out log troughs. The Red Maple is the state tree of Rhode Island.

Just ahead, you will intersect with the Wildflower Trail. To continue the tour, walk to your right along the Outer Loop Trail. Note that the old stone walls you pass once marked farmers' property boundaries.

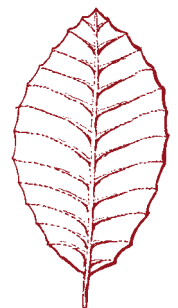
G. Beech

The beech is a common deciduous tree in Robinson Woods. It is easily identifiable by its smooth gray bark, although young maples will sometimes fool you because they also have smooth gray bark. Check the leaves to be sure. Beech trees have sharply toothed leaves.

Some people call the beech 'the lover's tree' because lovers used to carve their initials in the bark. (Don't even think about doing that to a beech tree in Robinson Woods!) Beech lumber is commonly used for furniture, tool handles, flooring, butcher blocks and firewood. An old poem about the uses of different woods says: "Beech wood fires burn bright and clear, if the wood is kept a year."

The beech nut was an important food for Native Americans of the eastern woodlands, as well as a wide variety of birds and mammals, including ruffed grouse, wild turkeys, black bear, raccoons, squirrels, chipmunks, fox, white-tailed deer, rabbits, porcupine, and opossum.

Beech trees can live for hundreds of years. A beech that fell in 1916 in Tennessee was 28.5 feet around the trunk and estimated to be 365 years old. Carved into the bark were the words: "D. Boone Cilled A Bar On Tree In Year 1760." This tree was already 200 years old when Daniel Boone carved this message into its bark.



As you continue to walk, you will pass through a gap in a stone wall. This wall might have been constructed 150 years ago. At one time this area, along with most of Cape Elizabeth, was cleared of trees and used for farming. This old stone wall would have marked property boundaries between fields.

H. Quiz Time

In this little area you should be able to identify:

- a mature beech
- a young beech
- a red maple
- a young balsam fir
- a young red spruce
- several red oaks
- a white pine

Look at the leaves. Look at the bark. Can you identify the trees?

Shortly after this marker, you will cross the first bridge.

I. Mature Eastern Hemlock

This is a handsome specimen of a mature eastern hemlock. Hemlocks usually live about 150-200 years, though they can survive much longer. Hemlocks prefer slightly acidic soil and because of their highly acidic needles, the dirt beneath a hemlock often becomes more acidic and is always very shady, discouraging other plants from living there. Notice that few plants grow beneath this tree compared with nearby areas. Mature hemlocks normally have branches spreading out from the trunk not far from ground level. The branches of a mature white pine, on the other hand, begin much higher up on the trunk. For instance, look at the white pine just slightly further up and on the other side of the trail. It is an extremely straight pine, by the way—one that might eventually make an excellent mast (more on that later!).



The bark of an eastern hemlock is a distinctive cinnamon color. Native Americans brewed medicinal teas from the bark, and made ointments to treat burns and sores. A tea made from hemlock needles contains seven times the amount of vitamin C that a similarly sized serving of orange juice does.

Early settlers valued the hemlock because of the tannin in its bark. Tannin is used in tanning—the process of turning animal skins into leather. Tanners boiled hemlock bark to extract the tannin. In addition, the bark was used to produce dyes for leather and wool, a practice that lives on today in parts of the country.

The knots of hemlock timber are so hard they can chip an ax. Hemlock wood is used today for paper making. It is also useful for making railroad ties, since the wood holds spikes exceptionally well.

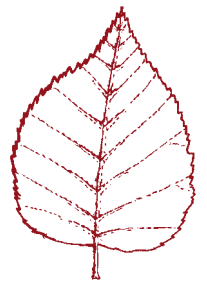
Hemlocks provide excellent shelter for deer, owls, and many other animals, and their tiny cones provide food for many songbirds. Grouse and red squirrels eat the seeds and needles. Deer, snowshoe hare, and cottontail rabbits eat young hemlock twigs. Porcupines love to eat hemlock bark, and will sometimes kill the tree.

The eastern hemlock is the state tree of Pennsylvania.

J. White Birch

This is a white birch, also known as a paper birch. Birch bark is remarkably strong and rot-resistant. When a birch falls in the forest, the inner wood will rot and disappear long before the outer bark. Native Americans of the northeastern forests used the bark of the white birch for canoe construction and wigwam coverings. Birch bark containers were used to collect, store, cook, and consume food or other products. Birch bark was used to make hunting and fishing gear, musical instruments, decorative fans, and even children's sleds and temporary snowshoes. Birch saplings were also used to make the framework of wigwams.

Birch sap is sweet and has been used in Europe and the United States for making wine or beer, and also a form of syrup. Some people make tea from birch leaves. Birch twigs were once used to make brooms. In Europe, the traditional witch's broom was made of birch twigs. Birch lumber is used for bowls, paper, and firewood. Grouse eat birch seeds; moose, deer, and snowshoe hares eat the young twigs. The white birch is the state tree of New Hampshire.



See if you can spot a few more white birch as you continue down the trail. Farther along the trail you will cross the second bridge.

K. Three Mature Conifers

Here are three mature conifers in a row. The marker is next to the white pine, the largest of the three. Just beyond the pine is an eastern hemlock, and behind the marker on the other side of the trail is a red spruce.

Look at the bark of each tree. Close your eyes and feel them. Describe each one. How are they different? Do you think you could tell the difference between the three, by feel alone?

As you continue to walk along the trail, keep your eyes open for an unusually shaped eastern hemlock. Some people call it the ‘mammoth’ tree, not because it is huge but because it reminds them a little of a woolly mammoth! You’ll know you’ve found this tree because there is a large dead birch tree on the other side of the trail, pointing right at it. What does the mammoth tree remind you of?

It’s a fairly long way to the next marker. Don’t give up!

L. Snag

In the middle of this grove of mature pines and hemlocks, you see the remains of a tree that has died and gradually became a ‘restaurant’ and ‘apartment house’ for birds and mammals. Some people call a tree like this a ‘wildlife tree.’ Woodpeckers drill holes in the bark searching for grubs and other insects. Other birds enlarge the holes and build nests inside for shelter. Eventually squirrels and other small mammals take up residence in the holes.

Riddle: What is dead but full of life? Answer: A wildlife tree.

Continue past the third bridge.

M. Decomposition

Just because a tree dies and falls to the forest floor doesn’t mean its job on Earth is done. Here you see the remains of a tree that fell many years ago. The mound was probably the tree stump. To the right of it are the remains of the trunk. The decaying wood has become food for insects, moss, mushrooms and billions and billions of microorganisms. Slowly, the wood has crumbled and returned back to what started it: soil! Look across the trail at the jumble of dead trees that blew down in the past several years. Ten years from now, very little of this dead wood will remain—just some low humps in the ground covered with moss, and young plants and trees growing in the middle of it all.

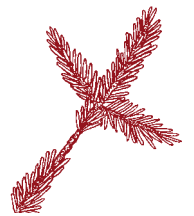
N. Mature Red Spruce

Do you remember the young red spruce you saw at the very beginning of this walk? Well, here is its great, great, great grandfather. This marvelous red spruce is not the largest spruce in Robinson Woods—there are even bigger ones in the interior of the woods—but it’s one of them. It is more than seven feet around at the base of the trunk. This tree has almost managed to grow taller than its largest white pine neighbors, and that’s pretty good for a spruce.

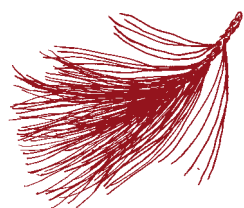
Spruces are often harvested as Christmas trees, but their needles fall off quickly when the tree is dry. Spruce lumber is used in construction, cabinets, and boat building. It is also valuable for paper-making. Some people make spruce beer from spruce needles, after they are boiled with honey. In Europe, in times of food shortage, the inner bark of spruce was sometimes ground up and added to flour. Native Americans harvested black spruce roots to be used as string, rope, and other lashings. They soaked the roots in warm water, then split them and used them for sewing and lacing bark containers, canoes, and other items.

Spruce trees provide food and shelter for many kinds of wildlife. Birds and small mammals eat the seeds. The needles and bark are food for porcupines, small squirrels and other rodents, and white-tailed deer. In the winter, mice and rabbits hide under the branches of young spruce.

The red spruce is the provincial tree of Nova Scotia, Canada.



O. Mature Eastern White Pine



This is just before the next bridge. You might have figured out by now that the real monarch of Robinson Woods—and of the Maine woods in general—is the eastern white pine. The white pine is the state tree of Maine; the white pine cone tassel is the state flower.

When English settlers first arrived in Maine, they found an abundance of enormous white pines. Many of these trees were 250 to 300 years old, up to 250 feet tall, and 18 feet around at the base of the trunk. The lumber from these trees was light yet strong, and resistant to rot. Houses, bridges,

businesses, and other structures were built from the pines. Because of their height and straightness, these trees were prized by the English for use in shipbuilding, especially as masts. In 1691 the English Parliament passed a law that the tallest and largest white pines in Maine and the rest of New England belonged to the king, and they were marked by royal surveyors with ‘The King’s Broad Arrow’—a symbol of three ax cuts. The colonists did not like having their best trees taken by the king, and this law was one of the reasons for their increasing desire for independence from England, which eventually led to the American Revolution. The first flag of the revolutionary forces had a white pine as its emblem.

Today, white pines are widely used as Christmas trees and are still very important as a lumber source.

Black bears, rabbits, red squirrels, and many birds including chickadees eat white pine seeds. Beavers, snowshoe hares, porcupines, rabbits, and mice eat the bark. White pines provide nesting sites for many birds, including woodpeckers, common grackles, mourning doves, chickadees, and nuthatches.

Native Americans made little ‘dancing dolls’ from tufts of white pine needles tied in the middle to resemble a person with a shawl and arms on top and a skirt on the bottom. These small figures were placed on a long thin piece of wood or a tray, which was gently bounced. This motion made the dolls jump and skip, sometimes moving back and forth together in a dance of sorts. Native people also made a tea from pine needles that was rich in vitamins C and A. The inner bark of white pines could be eaten in winter in times of food shortage. Boiled mashed inner bark and pine tar salve were used to heal injuries.

P. Striped Maple

Examine the bark of this tree and you will see where it derived its name—the striped maple. Striped maples are small, slow-growing trees no taller than 30 feet high, despite living up to 100 years. Some people say their leaves resemble a goose’s foot. The striped maple is shade-tolerant, so it can grow beneath larger trees such as oaks or red maples. The wood of striped maple is seldom used commercially, though it is used occasionally by cabinet makers for inlay material.



Early settlers used both dried and green leaves of striped maple trees as cattle feed in the winter, and allowed their horses and cows into the woods to browse on the young shoots and buds in the spring. Scientists have discovered that striped maples contain an anti-tumor chemical and are trying to determine if it would be useful in medicines.

Striped maples are also commonly known as moosewood or moose maples. The leaves and young shoots are a favorite food of moose in winter. Birds feed on the buds, and rodents such as beavers and porcupines eat the bark.

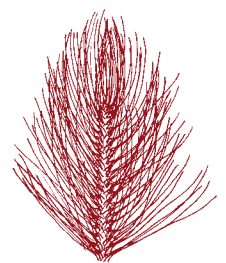
Directly across the trail is a larger red maple. Notice that the leaves of the striped maple are much larger than the red maple. This particular red maple seems to be surviving, if not quite thriving, despite the fact that many of its roots are no longer in contact with the soil. Follow some of the roots as far as you can. Though the journey has taken the roots through air, over rocks, and around obstacles, each has managed to burrow under the soil to provide the tree with support and supply it with water and minerals from the earth.

Q. Sunny Forest Opening

In a forest of mature trees, the floor often looks fairly bare. There is simply not enough sunlight below the canopy of full-grown trees for younger trees and other plants to survive. Here, a number of the older trees have been toppled by wind or other causes. Enough sunlight now penetrates so that this area has become a regular ‘nursery’ for young trees. We see primarily young white pines, but there are also young balsam fir, red oak, red maple, hemlock, and birch trees growing and competing for the available sunlight and nutrients. In this mostly deciduous patch of forest, we find many spring wildflowers that take advantage of the sun reaching the forest floor before the trees have fully developed leaves.

R. Red Pine

Up until now, the pines you have seen in Robinson Woods have all been eastern white pines. Directly behind the marker is one of the few examples of another species of pine that is common in many other parts of the Maine woods—the red pine. Compare this tree with the nearby white pines. The differences are subtle. The bark of the red pine is somewhat smoother and flakier than the white pine and lighter in color. Also, if you look high up at the growth at the top of the trees, the red pine needles seem a little bushier than the white pine needles; they grow a bit thicker



and denser, like living “koosh” balls or fox tails. Red pine needles grow in clusters of two and break when bent; white pine needles always occur in clusters of five, and bend easily.

Red pine lumber is useful for flooring, door and window frames, Christmas trees, bridges, railroad ties, and firewood. Red pines are also planted for dune and snowdrift control. The bark contains tannins and was once used for tanning leather.

White-tailed deer browse saplings and young trees, and snowshoe hares feed on seedlings. Mice, red squirrels, chipmunks, and various songbirds eat pine seeds.



S. A Tree's Age

You have probably heard that you can count the rings of a tree to determine its age, with each ring representing one year of growth. Thicker rings mean the year has been a good one for the tree's growth, with plenty of rain, sunlight, and reasonable weather. Thinner rings signify more difficult years in which the tree simply grew less.

This oak fell several years ago. Can you estimate how old it was?

Deciduous trees, like this oak, are known as 'hardwood' trees. They grow slowly and their wood is tough and hard. Conifers, like the pine and spruce, are called 'softwoods.' They grow more rapidly and their wood is softer. The rings of a softwood tree are thicker than those of a hardwood, because they grow more each year.

As you walk, you will come to a fork in the trail. Turn left. Just before the next marker, see if you can spot another red pine tree. It is on the left. There is a white trail blaze mark on the trunk, and the bark has many large scars running up and down the side.

T. Red Oak

If the white pine is the monarch of the woods, the red oak is at least the queen or the president, thanks to its large, stately, spreading appearance. Red oaks are commonly recognized by the red fissures beneath the outer bark. The leaf has pointed lobes (ends). Oak leaves are high in tannins and, consequently, among the last leaves to decompose in the forest. See how easily you can spot an oak leaf on the ground in the winter.

On either side of this marker are nice examples of mature red oaks (with a sapling red maple and beech, struggling to survive under the shade of the oaks).

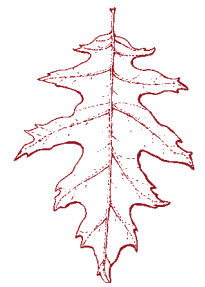
Of the many kinds of oak tree in the United States, the red oak is the fastest growing and one of the longest lived. Half of the hardwood lumber used in this country comes from oaks. Red oak timber is used for beams, railroad ties, furniture, and flooring, among other products.



Red oak acorns taste bitter because they contain large amounts of tannic acid. However, Native Americans learned to grind and then boil the acorns to remove the acid, and then ate them.

Red oak acorns are an important food source for many kinds of wildlife. Blue jays, some songbirds, wild turkeys, squirrels, small rodents, whitetail deer, raccoons, foxes, and black bears all eat red oak acorns. Deer and rabbits eat the buds and twigs and porcupines eat the inner bark of the red oak tree. Cattle will sometimes graze on red oak leaves in the spring, when few other foods are available. If they eat too many, the cows can actually be poisoned by the tannic acid in the leaves.

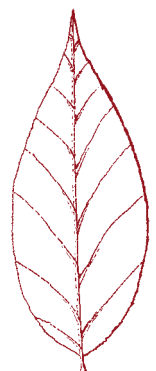
The red oak is the state tree of New Jersey.



U. White Ash

Here is yet another species of deciduous tree that is common to Robinson Woods—the white ash. Look at the distinctive bark. You can usually identify a mature ash just by looking at the bark. It has a regular system of tightly packed ridges running up and down the sides of the tree. Close your eyes and feel the bark. There is a younger ash exactly opposite, on the other side of the trail. Look up at the leaves. The ash has compound leaves, which means each single leaf is comprised of 7 separate leaflets clumped together. The white ash is one of the first trees to change color in the fall, and in brilliant colors—from yellow to orange, to red, to purple.

The white ash tree is most famous for a common use of its wood—the baseball bat, and some other sports equipment—because its wood is strong, light, hard, and tough. Ash wood is also commonly used for tool handles, furniture, hockey sticks, polo mallets, tennis rackets, oars, church pews and other products. It makes excellent firewood. Wood ducks, finches, cardinals and other birds eat white ash seeds.



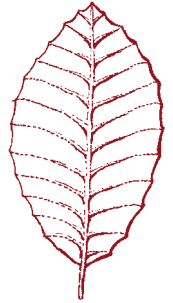
Native Americans pounded strips of the inner ash bark into material for basket weaving. Some people say the juice from ash leaves relieves mosquito bite itching.

V. Beech

You may recall that beech trees can normally be identified by their smooth gray bark. The bark of this beech is obviously not smooth. This tree has been infected by beech bark disease.

Beech bark disease was introduced to North America in 1890 when an infected ornamental beech tree was accidentally brought from Europe to Nova Scotia. The disease has been affecting beech trees in the United States since 1932, spreading as far west as Michigan and as far south as Virginia. Beech bark disease is caused by tiny beech scale insects that drill holes in the bark of beech trees to feed on liquids within the bark cells. These openings are invaded by the fungus *Nectria Fagisuga*, which enters the tree and grows inside the bark. When the fungus infects large areas of the trunk, the tree dies. Usually only three to six years after beech scale insects first arrive in an area, up to ninety-five percent of the beech trees become infected and eventually die.

As you continue down the trail, you will see more beech trees—some infected and some not. Hopefully, the healthy trees will be able to resist the spread of the beech bark fungus.



W. Eastern White Pine



Here is an unusual looking white pine, blown over during a strong storm. Trees like this one (older trees with many spreading trunks) are sometimes called ‘wolf trees.’ Often, wolf trees start out as isolated individual trees, perhaps growing as a single tree standing in a field. Lack of competition for sunlight appears to have allowed the tree to branch out in

an unusual pattern. A hundred and fifty years ago, this tree might have stood alone in a cleared area. You can see other ‘wolf trees’ in Robinson Woods.

Behind this tree is a large vernal pool. Robinson Woods has a series of vernal pools within its boundaries. Vernal pools are bodies of water that are normally filled in the fall and spring, but dry up in the summer. Because the pools dry each year, fish cannot survive there, which makes them ideal breeding grounds for fairy shrimp (which lay eggs that dry up when the water dries, survive through the winter, and then hatch in the spring when the water returns), wood frogs, and salamanders. Vernal pools are full of chirping, mating amphibians in the spring, and are vital to the survival of these creatures.

X. Norway Maple

The trees in this area are mostly a mixture of ash and Norway maple. Can you tell them apart by their bark and leaves? Remember, ash bark has a distinctive pattern of tightly packed, diamond-shaped furrows. Norway maples may be distinguished from red maples because their leaves are slightly larger, with more obvious five traditional lobes or “fingers.”

All of the trees you have seen up to this point are native to Maine: they existed here before the coming of European settlers. The Norway maple is not a native tree. It was common through much of Europe, including—you guessed it!—Norway. It was introduced to this country because it makes a good landscaping tree, and because it can be bred to produce a variety of different-colored leaves. As you continue down the trail, you will notice some of the maple leaves are a very dark green, almost blackish-green color. These are also Norway maple trees. Examples of Norway maples with dark purple or nearly black leaves can be seen in many yards around Cape Elizabeth.

Norway maples have been used in Europe for many kinds of lumber purposes, including flooring, furniture, and musical instruments. The soundboards of Stradivarius violins were supposedly constructed from Norway maple wood.

Norway maples grow easily from seed, and so have escaped from their street and lawn plantings and spread widely across much of New England. In some cases, the wild versions of Norway maples take over areas that were once dominated by native species such as the red maple, a development that seems to be occurring in this area. The Norway maple is considered by some to be an ‘invasive’ tree that is a threat to the native species. As you continue down the trail, most of the maples you see are Norway maples.



Congratulations! You’ve completed the mission! Continue straight down the hill to the dirt road. Follow the road back to the parking area.

Thank you for visiting Robinson Woods!



Yes, I would like to become a member for \$35 and support the work of the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust! Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution. CELT is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Tax deductions for contributions, bequests, easements, land donations and bargain sales are available to the extent provided by law.