



IRONWOOD TRAIL

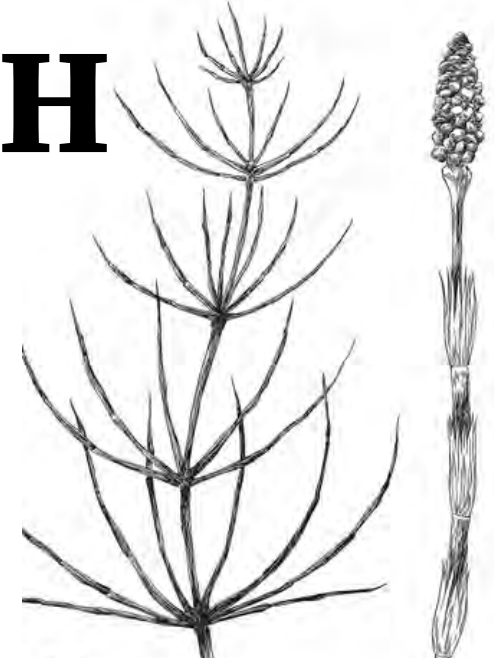
G R A N D I S L E S T A T E P A R K

SENSITIVE FERN ¹



This boardwalk cuts through a semi-forested wetland. Sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*) prefers this moist and shaded forest floor. Sensitive fern gets its name because it is one of the first plants to wither in early frosts.

HORSETAIL OR SCOURING RUSH



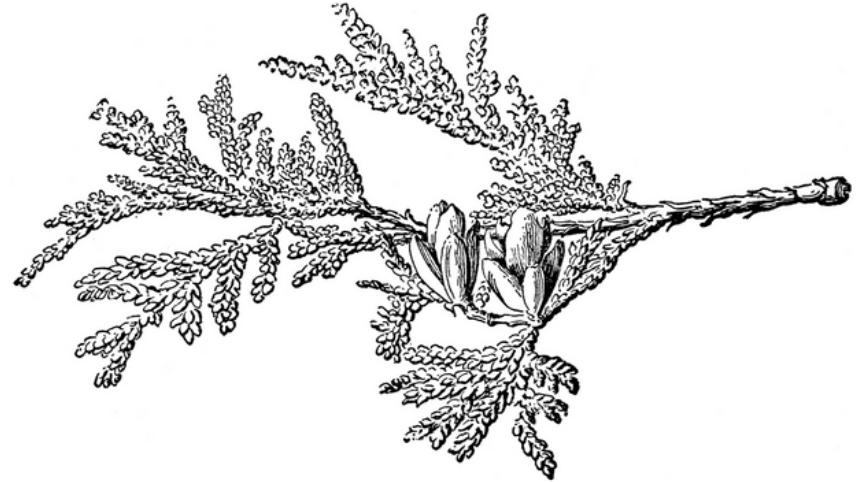
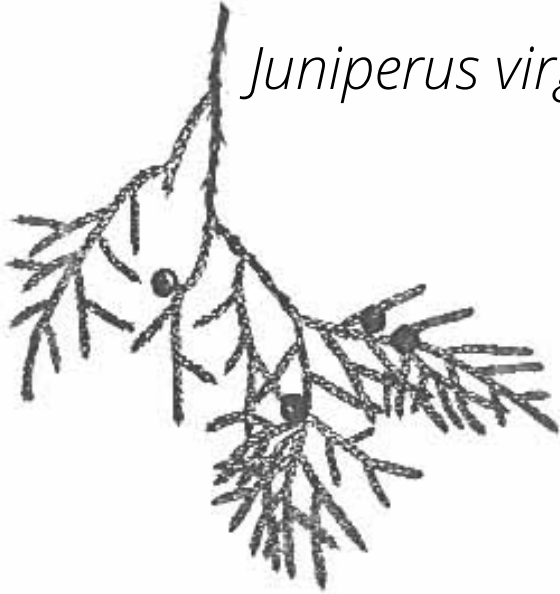
Horsetail species first appear in the fossil record 300 million years ago! Like ferns, these primitive plants reproduce by spores, not seeds. The high silica content makes the jointed stems rough and useful for scouring pots.

RED AND WHITE CEDAR ³

Juniperus virginiana

and

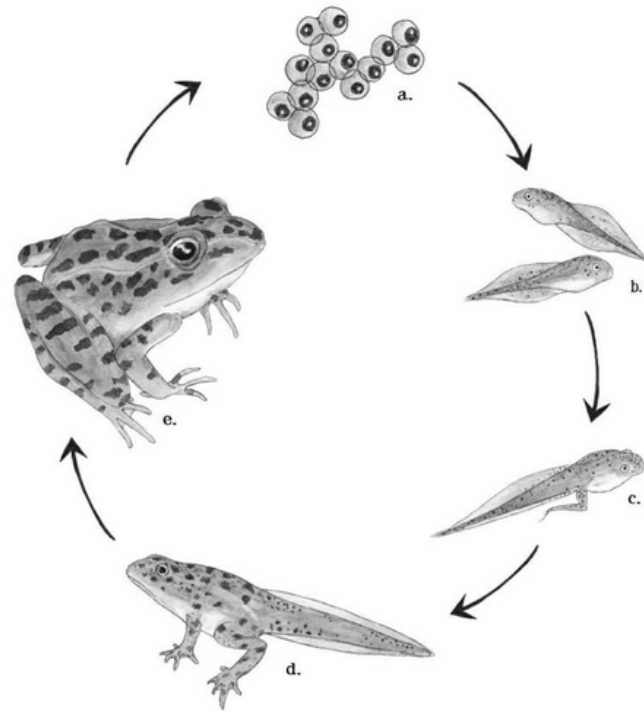
Thuja occidentalis



From here you may see both eastern red cedar and northern white cedar. White cedar produces tiny cones at the end of its branches. Its sometimes called Arborvitae. Red cedar has scaly leaves and produces round blueberry-like cones. Both species prefer soil with underlying limestone or high calcium rocks.

SMALL POND

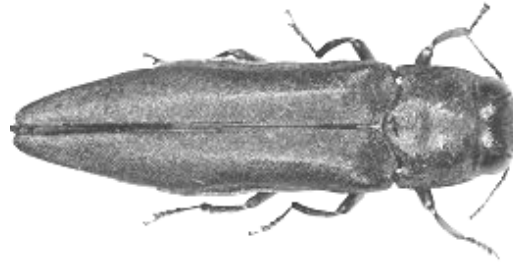
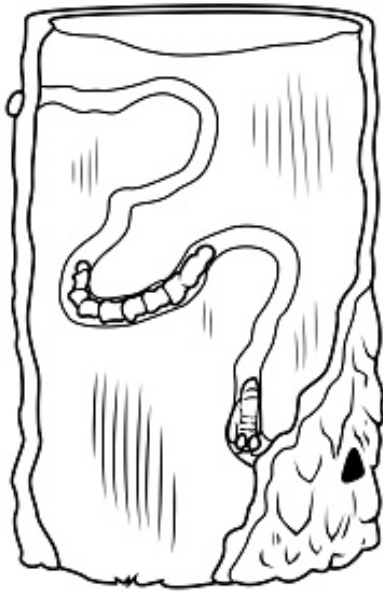
Leopard Frog Life Cycle



a. Leopard Frog Eggs b. Tadpoles c. Tadpole with Legs
d. Froglet e. Adult Leopard Frog

This tiny pond was probably dug as a farm pond to water cattle or crops. The water may come from a naturally fed spring. Leopard frogs and dogwood bushes have moved in as the pond naturalizes.

ASH TREES



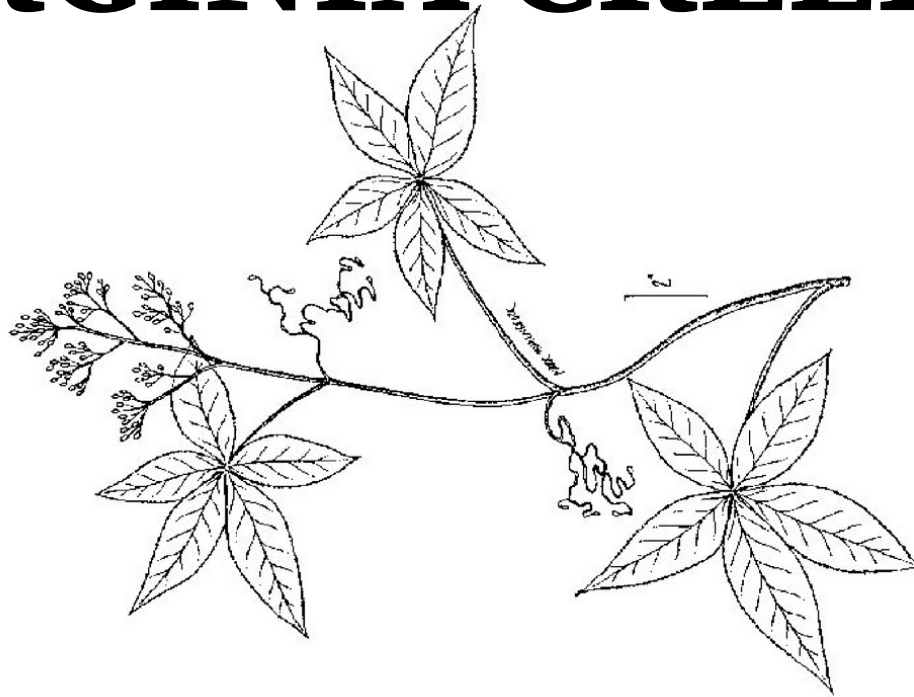
Adult insect smaller than a dime



Three species of ash tree live in Vermont; Green, Black and White Ash. All species have compound leaves with 5-9 leaflets. The invasive Emerald Ash Borer lays eggs in the inner bark layer. The larvae eat tunnels through the bark, eventually killing the tree. Please slow its spread by not moving firewood.

VIRGINIA CREEPER

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Virginia creeper is a climbing vine which can grow up to 50 ft. The leaves grow in groups of 5 and have saw tooth edges. In the fall the leaves turn bright red. It can be mistaken for Poison Ivy, but Poison Ivy leaflets grow in groups of 3 and are not serrated.

FARMLAND TO FOREST ⁷



Notice the fence dividing a private pasture from the park's forest. This trail was once an open field. First it was colonized by shrubs and fast growing trees. The park's trees are now about 50 years old and the forest composition is still changing. Slower grower, larger trees eventually grow to replace the fast growing trees.

AMERICAN HOPHORNBEAM

or IRONWOOD



This mature American hophornbeam likely grew in a farm pasture and is much older than the surrounding forest. The name Ironwood refers to the strength of the wood, tough enough to use in tool handles and wagon axles. Its hop-like fruit clusters are excellent food for wildlife.