

**Smithsonian Associates
Theodore Roosevelt Island Autumn Tree List
November 2021**

**By Melanie Choukas-Bradley,
Author of *Finding Solace at Theodore Roosevelt Island*,
City of Trees, *The Joy of Forest Bathing* & other nature books**

**Selected Woody Plants of Theodore Roosevelt Island
* Indicates Non-Native Species.**

Trees unless identified as shrubs or vines. Wildflowers & common invasives follow.

Plant Species

Plant Family

Alder, Smooth (<i>Alnus serrulata</i>) shrub	Birch (<u>Betulaceae</u>)
Ash, Green (<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>)	Olive (<u>Oleaceae</u>)
Ash, White (<i>Fraxinus americana</i>)	
Bald-Cypress (<i>Taxodium distichum</i>) planted near boardwalk	Cypress (<u>Cupressaceae</u>)
Basswood, American (American Linden) (<i>Tilia americana</i>)	Linden (<u>Tiliaceae</u>) or Mallow (<u>Malvaceae</u>)
Beech, American (<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>)	Beech (<u>Fagaceae</u>)
Birch, River (<i>Betula nigra</i>)	Birch (<u>Betulaceae</u>)
Black Locust (<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>)	Pea or Legume (<u>Fabaceae</u>)
Bladdernut (<i>Staphylea trifolia</i>) large shrub/ small tree	Bladdernut (<u>Staphyleaceae</u>)
Boxelder (<i>Acer negundo</i>)	Maple (<u>Aceraceae</u>) or Soapberry (<u>Sapindaceae</u>)
Catalpa, Northern (<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>) southern midwestern sp. naturalized here	Bignonia (<u>Bignoniaceae</u>)
Cherry, Black (<i>Prunus serotina</i>)	Rose (<u>Rosaceae</u>)
Coralberry (<i>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</i>) *? shrub; original range unknown	Honeysuckle (<u>Caprifoliaceae</u>)
Cottonwood, Eastern (<i>Populus deltoides</i>)	Willow (<u>Salicaceae</u>)
Crabapple, Flowering & Apple (<i>Malus</i>)*	Rose (<u>Rosaceae</u>)
Dogwood, Flowering (<i>Cornus florida</i>)	Dogwood (<u>Cornaceae</u>)
Elm, American (<i>Ulmus americana</i>)	Elm (<u>Ulmaceae</u>)
Grape, Winter (Chicken Grape) vine (<i>Vitis vulpina</i>)	Grape (<u>Vitaceae</u>)
Hackberry, Northern (<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>)	Elm Family or Hops (<u>Cannabaceae</u>)
Hickory, Bitternut (<i>Carya cordiformis</i>)	Walnut (<u>Juglandaceae</u>)
Hickory, Mockernut (<i>Carya tomentosa</i>)	
Hickory, Pignut (<i>Carya glabra</i>)	
Holly, American (<i>Ilex opaca</i>)	Holly (<u>Aquifoliaceae</u>)
Japanese Pagoda Tree (<i>Styphnolobium japonicum</i>) *	Pea or Legume (<u>Fabaceae</u>)
Kentucky Coffee-Tree (<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>) Planted near the former Mason mansion site	Pea or Legume (<u>Fabaceae</u>)
Maple, Norway (<i>Acer platanoides</i>)*	Maple (<u>Aceraceae</u>) or Soapberry (<u>Sapindaceae</u>)
Maple, Red (<i>Acer rubrum</i>)	
Maple, Silver (<i>Acer saccharinum</i>)	Maple (<u>Aceraceae</u>) or Soapberry (<u>Sapindaceae</u>)

Plant Species**Plant Family**

Maple, Sugar (<i>Acer saccharum</i>)	Maple (<u>Aceraceae</u>) or Soapberry (<u>Sapindaceae</u>)
Maple, Ash-Leaved (See Boxelder)	
Musclewood (Ironwood or American Hornbeam) (<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>)	Birch (<u>Betulaceae</u>)
Mulberry, White (<i>Morus alba</i>)*	Mulberry (<u>Moraceae</u>)
Oak, Bartram's (<i>Quercus x heterophylla</i>) (<i>Q. rubra</i> x <i>Q. phellos</i>)	Beech (<u>Fagaceae</u>)
Oak, Black (<i>Quercus velutina</i>)	
Oak, Northern Red or Red (<i>Quercus rubra</i>)	
Oak, Pin (<i>Quercus palustris</i>)	
Oak, Shumard (<i>Quercus shumardii</i>) southeastern tree, not very common in VA, State rare—S-2—in Maryland; near Lock 7 of the C&O Canal.	
Oak, Southern Red or Spanish (<i>Quercus falcata</i>)	
Oak, White (<i>Quercus alba</i>)	
Oak, Willow (<i>Quercus phellos</i>)	
Osage-Orange (<i>Maclura pomifera</i>)	Mulberry (<u>Moraceae</u>)
Pawpaw (<i>Asimina triloba</i>) small tree or shrub	Custard-Apple (<u>Annonaceae</u>)
Porcelain-Berry (<i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i>)* vine	Grape (<u>Vitaceae</u>)
Redbud (<i>Cercis canadensis</i>)	Pea or Legume (<u>Fabaceae</u>)
Sassafras (<i>Sassafras albidum</i>)	Laurel (<u>Lauraceae</u>)
Spicebush (<i>Lindera benzoin</i>) shrub	
Sycamore, American (<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>)	Plane Tree (<u>Platanaceae</u>)
Trumpet-Creeper (<i>Campsis radicans</i>) vine	Bignonia (<u>Bignoniaceae</u>)
Tulip-Tree (Tulip Poplar) (<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>)	Magnolia (<u>Magnoliaceae</u>)
Viburnum, Arrowwood (<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>) shrub	Honeysuckle (<u>Caprifoliaceae</u>) or Moschatel (<u>Adoxaceae</u>)
Viburnum, Blackhaw (<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>) shrub or small tree	
Virginia-Creeper (<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>)	Grape (<u>Vitaceae</u>)
Walnut, Black (<i>Juglans nigra</i>)	Walnut (<u>Juglandaceae</u>)
Willow, Black (<i>Salix nigra</i>)	Willow (<u>Salicaceae</u>)
Witch-Hazel, Common (<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>) large shrub/ small tree	Witch-Hazel (<u>Hamamelidaceae</u>)

Wildflowers

Arrow-Leaved Tearthumb (<i>Persicaria sagittata</i>)	Smartweed (<u>Polygonaceae</u>)
Cattail, Common (<i>Typha latifolia</i>) fruiting heads	Cattail (<u>Typhaceae</u>)
Cattail, Narrow-Leaved (<i>Typha angustifolia</i>)	
Jumpseed (<i>Persicaria virginiana</i>) Formerly <i>Polygonum</i> & <i>Tovara</i>	Smartweed (<u>Polygonaceae</u>)
Aster or Daisy Family Members (<u>Asteraceae</u>), many past bloom, include: Asters (<i>Symphyotrichum</i> ; <i>Eurybia</i>); Goldenrods (<i>Solidago</i>); Joe Pye-Weed (<i>Eutrochium</i> <i>species</i>); New York Ironweed (<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>); Mistflower (<i>Conoclinium</i> <i>coelestinum</i>); White Snakeroot (<i>Ageratina altissima</i>); Late-Flowered Boneset or Thoroughwort (<i>Eupatorium serotinum</i>); Green-Headed Coneflower (<i>Rudbeckia</i> <i>laciniata</i>); Sneezeweed (<i>Helenium autumnale</i>); Wingstem (<i>Verbesina alternifolia</i>); <i>Bidens</i> spp.; <i>Helianthus</i> spp.	

Invasive Plants*: White Mulberry (*Morus alba*), Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*), Porcelain-Berry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*), English Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), Japanese Clematis (*Clematis terniflora*), Perilla or Beefsteak Plant (*Perilla frutescens*), Asian Honeysuckles (*Lonicera spp.*), Wineberry (*Rubus phoenicolasius*), Japanese Stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*) & others.

Excerpts from *Finding Solace at Theodore Roosevelt Island*:

(Page 8) “In Theodore Roosevelt’s words, which are carved on a large stone tablet near his statue in the interior of his memorial island: ‘There are no words that can tell the hidden spirit of the wilderness, that can reveal its mystery, its melancholy and its charm.’ Those words are true, even when the ‘wilderness’ is a wild island in the midst of a world capital lying under the flight path of a metropolitan airport. Where wild beauty lives, the heart can too.”

(Page 213) “We all benefit when we come closer to nature, for our personal well-being and as inspired and educated stewards. Roosevelt wrote: ‘it is an incalculable added pleasure to any one’s sum of happiness if he or she grows to know, even slightly and imperfectly, how to read and enjoy the wonder-book of nature.’

For this past difficult year, Theodore Roosevelt Island has been my ‘wonder-book.’ I can’t stop fearing for our uncertain future or struggling in my quest to learn what I can do to make things better. Yet this I know: When I’m paddling along the rocky shore, I’m in good company with the chattering kingfisher and the stubborn wildness of her island home.

When Roosevelt reflected on his days as a very young man in the badlands of the Dakota Territory, he declared: ‘Here the romance of my life began.’ May the romance of our lives begin here today as we create deeper connections with the natural world. And may that romance deepen, as young Roosevelt’s did, into an abiding passion for conservation.”