Smithsonian Associates Theodore Roosevelt Island Nature Walk
April 2026

With Melanie Choukas-Bradley, author of
***Finding Solace at Theodore Roosevelt Island* and other nature books**

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

Trees unless identified as shrubs or vines. Wildflowers follow.

Plant Species	**Plant Family**
Alder, Smooth *(Alnus serrulata)* shrub	Birch (Betulaceae)
Ash, Green *(Fraxinus pennsylvanica)*	Olive (Oleaceae)
Ash, White *(Fraxinus americana)*	
Bald-Cypress *(Taxodium distichum)*	Cypress (Cupressaceae)
Basswood, American (American Linden)	Linden (Tiliaceae) or Mallow (Malvaceae)
Beech, American *(Fagus grandifolia)*	Beech (Fagaceae)
Birch, River *(Betula nigra)*	Birch (Betulaceae)
Black Locust *(Robinia pseudoacacia)*	Pea or Legume (Fabaceae)
Bladdernut *(Staphylea trifolia)* large shrub/ small tree	Bladdernut (Staphyleaceae)
Boxelder *(Acer negundo)*	Maple (Aceraceae) or Soapberry (Sapindaceae)
Cherry, Black *(Prunus serotina)*	Rose (Rosaceae)
Cottonwood, Eastern *(Populus deltoides)*	Willow (Salicaceae)
Crabapple, Flowering & Apple *(Malus)**	Rose (Rosaceae)
Dogwood, Flowering *(Cornus florida)*	Dogwood (Cornaceae)
Elm, American *(Ulmus americana)*	Elm (Ulmaceae)
Grape, Winter (Chicken Grape) vine *(Vitis vulpina)*	Grape (Vitaceae)
Hackberry, Northern *(Celtis occidentalis)*	Elm Family or Hops (Cannabaceae)
Hickory, Bitternut *(Carya cordiformis)*	Walnut (Juglandaceae)
Hickory, Mockernut *(Carya tomentosa)*	
Hickory, Pignut *(Carya glabra)*	
Holly, American *(Ilex opaca)*	Holly (Aquifoliaceae)
Hornbeam, American (Ironwood or Musclewood) *(Carpinus caroliniana)*	Birch (Betulaceae)
Kentucky Coffee-Tree *(Gymnocladus dioicus)* Planted near the former Mason mansion site	Pea (Fabaceae)
Maple, Norway *(Acer platanoides)**	Maple (Aceraceae) or Soapberry (Sapindaceae)
Maple, Red *(Acer rubrum)*	
Maple, Silver *(Acer saccharinum)*	
Maple, Sugar *(Acer saccharum)*	
Maple, Ash-Leaved (See Boxelder)	
Mulberry, White *(Morus alba)**	Mulberry (Moraceae)
Oak, Bartram's *(Quercus x heterophylla) (Q. rubra x Q. phellos)*	Beech (Fagaceae)

Plant Species	**Plant Family**
Oak, Black *(Quercus velutina)*	Beech (Fagaceae)
Oak, Northern Red or Red *(Quercus rubra)*	
Oak, Pin *(Quercus palustris)*	
Oak, Shumard *(Quercus shumardii)* 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 *(Quercus falcata)*	
Oak, White *(Quercus alba)*	
Oak, Willow *(Quercus phellos)*	
Osage-Orange *(Maclura pomifera)*	Mulberry (Moraceae)
Pawpaw *(Asimina triloba)* small tree or shrub	Custard-Apple (Annonaceae)
Persimmon, Common *(Diospyros virginiana)*	Ebony (Ebenaceae)
Porcelain-Berry *(Ampelopsis brevipedunculata)** vine	Grape (Vitaceae)
Redbud *(Cercis canadensis)*	Pea or Legume (Fabaceae)
Sassafras *(Sassafras albidum)*	Laurel (Lauraceae)
Spicebush *(Lindera benzoin)* shrub	
Sycamore, American *(Platanus occidentalis)*	Plane Tree (Platanaceae)
Trumpet-Creeper *(Campsis radicans)* vine	Bignonia (Bignoniaceae)
Tulip-Tree (Tulip Poplar) *(Liriodendron tulipifera)*	Magnolia (Magnoliaceae)
Viburnum, Arrowwood *(Viburnum dentatum)* shrub	Honeysuckle (Caprifoliaceae) or Moschatel (Adoxaceae)
Viburnum, Blackhaw *(Viburnum prunifolium)* shrub or small tree	
Virginia-Creeper *(Parthenocissus quinquefolia)*	Grape (Vitaceae)
Walnut, Black *(Juglans nigra)*	Walnut (Juglandaceae)
Willow, Black *(Salix nigra)*	Willow (Salicaceae)
Willow, Weeping *(Salix babylonica)**	
Witch-Hazel, Common *(Hamamelis virginiana)* large shrub/ small tree	Witch-Hazel (Hamamelidaceae)

Wildflowers

Cattail, Common *(Typha latifolia)* fruiting heads	Cattail Family (Typhaceae)
Cattail, Narrow-Leaved *(Typha angustifolia)*	
Cress, Smooth Rock *(Arabis laevigata* or *Boechera* sp.)	Mustard (Brassicaceae)
Cress, Spring *(Cardamine bulbosa)*	
Cut-Leaved Toothwort *(Cardamine concatenata; Dentaria laciniata)*	
Dutchman's Breeches *(Dicentra cucullaria)*	Bleeding Heart or Fumitory (Fumariaceae)
Field Pennycress *(Thlaspi arvense)* *	Mustard (Brassicaceae)
Garlic Mustard *(Alliaria petiolata)** invasive	
Gill Over the Ground (Ground Ivy) *Glechoma hederacea**	Mint (Lamiaceae)
Ginger, Wild *(Asarum canadense)*	Birthwort (Aristolochiaceae)
Lesser Celandine (Fig Buttercup) *(Ranunculus ficaria; Ficaria verna)** Very invasive	Buttercup (Ranunculaceae)
Mayapple *(Podophyllum peltatum)*	Barberry (Berberidaceae)

Plant Species	**Plant Family**
Purple Dead-Nettle *(Lamium purpureum)**	Mint (Lamiaceaae)
Ragwort, Golden *(Senecio aureus* or *Packera aurea)*	Aster (Asteraceae)
Squirrel Corn *(Dicentra canadensis)*	Bleeding Heart or Fumitory (Fumariaceae)
Spring Beauty *(Claytonia virginica)*	Purslane (Portulacaceae) or Montia (Montiaceae)
Toad-shade or Sessile Trillium *(Trillium sessile)*	Lily (Liliaceae) or Trillium (Trilliaceae)
Trout-Lily *(Erythronium americanum)*	Lily (Liliaceae)
Violet, Common Blue *(Viola sororia)*	Violet (Violaceae)
Violet, Smooth Yellow *(Viola pensylvanica; V. pubescens)*	
Virginia Bluebells *(Mertensia virginica)*	Borage (Boraginaceae)
Virginia Waterleaf *(Hydrophyllum virginianum)*	
White Avens *(Geum canadense)* Leaves	Rose (Rosaceae)

Invasive Plants*: Lesser Celandine (Fig Buttercup) *(Ranunculus ficaria; Ficaria verna)* Very invasive, blooming now. Yellow Iris *(Iris pseudacorus)*. Blooms later in spring. 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)* & others.

"…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."

--Theodore Roosevelt