

1 (0.00 mile) Bottomland Post Oak

(*Quercus similis*)

Common in rich, moist soils of Gulf prairies and marshes, it can reach 100 feet in height. Its leaves have narrow lobes, unlike the similar Post Oak (*Q. stellata*).



2 (0.02 mile) Eastern Red Cedar

(*Juniperus virginiana*) Cedar tolerates wet soil but will also grow on well-drained hilltops. Its attractive, reddish, aromatic wood is considered a good insect repellent and thus is used to line storage chests and closets.



3 (0.09 mile) Palmetto or Dwarf Palm

(*Sabal minor*) Literally a “small palm,” the palmetto requires occasional wet feet and is thus an indicator of wetland soil. Its trunk extends underground as part of its subterranean root stock.



4 (0.14 mile) Oxbow Lake was once part of Chocolate Bayou.

5 (0.14 mile) American Hornbean

(*Carpinus caroliniana*) is also known as **Ironwood**. Because it is hard, tough and close grained, it is used for golf clubs, handles, and wedges. Its seed is eaten by at least nine species of birds. Note how its trunk is fluted into muscle-like separations.



6 (0.21 mile) Swamp Chestnut Oak

(*Quercus michauxii*) Occurs on a variety of moist soils and well-drained alluvial floodplains. The swamp chestnut oak is considered an early succession species with mature trees retarding growth of understory vegetation. The acorns are food for humans, cattle, deer, hogs, and small mammals: the nuts are sweet enough to eat raw without boiling.



7 (0.24 mile) Water Oak

(*Quercus nigra*) Found on wet lowland to moist upland soils, it is a short to moderately long-lived tree, whose wood is prone to excessive splitting. Its acorns are an important food source for wildlife.



8 (0.27 mile) Poison Ivy

(*Toxicodendron radicans*) Number one on the list of plants to avoid because it contains a resin that produces a very unpleasant skin rash.



9 (0.39 mile) Loblolly Pine (*Pinus taeda*) [photo on cover] Grows to a height of 170 feet with a six-foot diameter trunk and distinctive, reddish-brown, large-scaled bark. Grows on sandy, well-drained soils atypical for most of Brazoria County.

10 (0.40 mile) Chocolate Bayou meandering toward the Gulf of Mexico.

11 (0.45 mile) American Beautyberry

(*Callicarpa americana*) A small, deciduous understory shrub that has tiny flowers during the summer. In the fall, it makes up for small flowers with large clusters of showy purple berries. Birds are attracted to this plant.



12 (0.47 mile) Yaupon

(female) (*Ilex vomitoria*) Only the female yaupon plant has berries. Its Latin name reflects Native Americans' use of its leaves to make a tea to induce vomiting.



13 (0.48 mile) Trumpet Creeper

(*Campsis radicans*) Notice how this vine uses other plants for support. The flowers' nectar attracts hummingbirds and butterflies that pollinate the plant in their process of eating.



14 (0.49 mile) Southern Dewberry

(*Rubus argutus*) This trailing, low-arching, prickly-laden plant will shred anyone bold or foolish enough to walk through it.



15 (0.51 mile) Swamp Red Oak

(*Quercus pagoda*) A variety of southern red oak that occurs on dry, upland sites of sandy or clay loam and is prized for its lumber. Leaves have a “pagoda” shape.



16 (0.52 mile) **Sycamore** (*Platanus occidentalis*) A distinctive tree with whitish bark, large leaves, and large fruit that look like Christmas tree ornaments in the winter.



17 (0.53 mile) **Live Oak** (*Quercus virginiana*) Crowns and shallow root structure often spread longer than their 80-foot height. Dark green leaves drop in the spring. A valuable timber species and food source for wildlife.



18 (0.59 mile) **Swamp Hickory** (*Carya aquatica*) Water-loving tree attaining a height of 100 feet. The wood is inferior to that of other hickories. The tree is on the bank of the Bayou.



19 (0.70 mile) **Riparian Zones** are areas bordering rivers and other bodies of surface water. They include the floodplain as well as the riparian buffers adjacent to it.



20 (0.76 mile) **Decaying Trees** replenish the land and provide habitat for cavity-nesting birds and a food source for birds such as the Pileated Woodpecker, which is common in the park.



21 (0.77 mile) **Cedar Elm** (*Ulmus crassifolia*) Usually found on moist soils along water courses. Its seeds are eaten by several species of birds. It is one of two elms that flower in the fall. Leaves are small with serrated edges and their backsides are like sandpaper.



22 (0.78 mile) **Willow Oak** (*Quercus phellos*) This tree has distinctive, narrow, long leaves. Grows in moist alluvial soils along streams and rivers. Acorns are an important food source for wildlife.



23 (0.79 mile) **Chinese Privet** (*Ligustrum sinense*) Very invasive in the southern U.S. The greatest threat posed by this species is large-scale ecosystem modification due to its ability to successfully compete with and displace native vegetation.



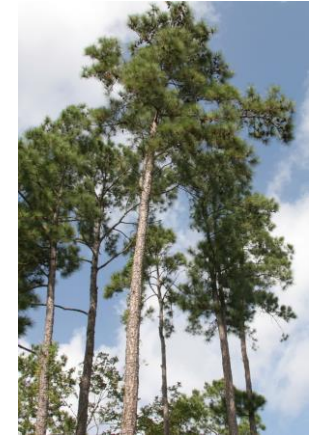
24 (0.79 mile) **Parsley Hawthorn** (*Crataegus marshallii*) A beautiful small tree covered with clusters of dainty white flowers with red stamens in early spring, followed by lacelike, light green parsley shaped leaves and red fruit (haws) in the fall.



Camp Mohawk

Loblolly Loop Trail

The land at Camp Mohawk consists of a combination, unusual in Brazoria County, of alluvial clay and deep sandy loam soil regions. The park is intersected by Chocolate Bayou, which has carved a deep channel as it meanders toward the Gulf of Mexico. Elevation above the bayou and oxbow lakes determines wetter and drier regions. The multiple combinations of soil type and moisture content in turn have made Camp Mohawk attractive to an uncommon diversity of trees and other plants. For example, nowhere else in Brazoria County can be found together the six species of oak that thrive here, nor the loblolly forest, a remnant of the great Southern pine forest that shrank eastward during drier and warmer times at the end of the last Ice Age. The park is also surrounded by patches of the Gulf Coastal Prairie; thus prairie grasses grow here in open areas. Note this diversity as you stroll around the Loblolly Loop Trail.



The 1.0 mile trail is marked with identification plaques and interpretive signs, keyed to this trail guide, that highlight this diversity.

Please don't litter, and please pick up any litter found on your walk and deposit in trash cans. If you are through with this brochure, kindly return it for others to use. *Updated July 2017*