

**Native Trees and Shrubs
In the Latham-Whitehurst Nature Park**

This pamphlet presents a small sampling of native trees and shrubs found along the main trail to Broad Creek. Feel free to call Cooperative Extension at 633-1477 if you have additional questions about any of these plants, or about plants not on the list. (The letters in bold match up with letters on posts along the trail.)

A Waxmyrtle (*Morella cerifera*, formerly *Myrica cerifera*) – Large evergreen shrub with aromatic, glossy leaves. Adaptable to almost any site; shade, sun, wet, dry, etc.

B American Holly (*Ilex opaca*) – Dioecious, meaning male and female flowers are on separate trees. So only the female trees have berries (males outnumber the females in the forest).

C Loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) - Tallest pine in Eastern NC, losing most of its lower branches as it matures.

D Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) – The beginning portion of the trail has a very healthy population of this lovely evergreen fern.

E Blue Palmetto (*Sabal minor*) – This shrubby palm doesn't develop the tall trunk of its southern cousin, *Sabal palmetto*, the state tree of South Carolina. Common along streams and in wetlands across Craven County.

F Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) – Also known as swamp maple. Our most common Craven County native maple, happiest in the wetlands and bottoms, and along streams.

G Cross Vine (*Bignonia capreolata*, syn. *Anisostichus capreolata*) – Produces beautiful orange to reddish trumpet-shaped flowers in spring. Note the dark, smooth wood of the mature vine. The foliage is somewhere up in the tree canopy.

H Ironwood (*Carpinus caroliniana*) – Very common mid-sized tree in wetlands and along streams. Note the smooth bark and the muscled or fluted appearance of the wood along the larger stems. Known for extremely hard wood.

I Cane or Canebrake (*Arundinaria* sp.) – Yes, this is a true bamboo. Botanists generally recognize two species – *Arundinaria tecta* and *Arundinaria gigantea* - although arguments persist over whether these are separate species or just different varieties. Periodic mass diebacks occur with this and other bamboo species, associated with seed production.

J Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) – Here we have a small grove of sweetgum trees filling in a site that may have been cut or otherwise disturbed a few years ago. Sweetgum are amazingly adaptable and are among the first local tree species to colonize disturbed or abandoned sites (along with loblolly pine).

K American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) – The Nature Park is blessed with a wonderful grove of mature beech trees. Note the smooth, light colored bark and upward sweeping branches. Certainly one of Craven County's most beautiful native tree species,

L Dog-Hobble (*Leucothoe axillaris*) – Interesting low growing evergreen shrub, forming thickets in well-drained forest understories across Craven County. Attractive white flowers in April.

M Swamp Chestnut Oak (*Quercus michauxii*) – One of the largest and most widespread oaks found in our area, especially in the wetlands. Larger trees develop a distinctive light gray, rough and flaky bark.

N American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*) – Deciduous shrub with attractive foliage and beautiful purplish-lavender berries borne along the stems in late summer/early fall.

O Horse-sugar (*Symplocos tinctoria*) – Distinctive broadleaf evergreen found in the understory across Craven County. Unique yellow bottlebrush flowers borne directly on the stems in the spring. Usually growing in groups or colonies.

P Swamp Bay (*Persea palustris*; red bay or *P. borbonia* may also be encountered) – Another broadleaf evergreen, although can get quite a bit larger than Horse-sugar. Note the galls on the leaves, which are formed by a harmless psyllid insect that is very specific to *Persea*. Laurel wilt disease, spread by an invasive introduced insect, is a current disease problem of great concern and has been found in North Carolina (as of 2011). *Persea*, sassafras, and other members of the Lauraceae family are at great risk of being eradicated from our forests and landscapes.

Q Dogwood (*Cornus florida*) – Highly valued as a landscape tree. Showy white bracts in the spring, great fall color, and attractive bright red fruit from fall into early December. Be careful where you plant these. Look for partial shade or afternoon shade; good drainage; and decent, organic soil – not brick-hard, compacted subsoil.

R White Oak (*Quercus alba*) – Widely distributed Eastern U.S. native oak. The familiar white oak leaf outline symbolizes oaks in general for many of us. Note the whitish or ashy gray color of the bark.

S Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) – One of the largest hardwood species east of the Mississippi River. The leaves present a distinctive tulip outline. The large, striking flowers also somewhat resemble tulips. Related to magnolias.

T Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) – Well known as a tea substitute in earlier times, and for the interesting mitten-shaped leaves. Foliage is quite variable; some leaves may be right handed or left handed, or have no mitten appearance at all.

U Sourwood (*Oxydendron arboreum*) – Often takes on a very irregular, shrub like appearance rather than a tree form. Brilliant fall color and attractive white flowers in summer. Highly valued by bees and beekeepers. Oftentimes you'll spot sourwood by looking for the webbing spun by caterpillars.

Prepared for Craven County Recreation & Parks by:
Nandor Kozma, Intern UNCW
Tom Glasgow, NC Cooperative Extension
August 8, 2011

Craven County
Recreation & Parks
Department
North Carolina
406 Craven Street
New Bern, NC 28560-4911
(252) 636-6606



Latham-Whitehurst Nature Park



Latham-Whitehurst Nature Park
1095 Broad Creek Road
New Bern, NC 28561
Located 2.4 miles from NC 55 off Broad Creek Road
(5.8 miles from New Bern)

Things to Enjoy at Latham-Whitehurst Nature Park:



Explore the scenic trails and take advantage of picnic areas!



Cardinal

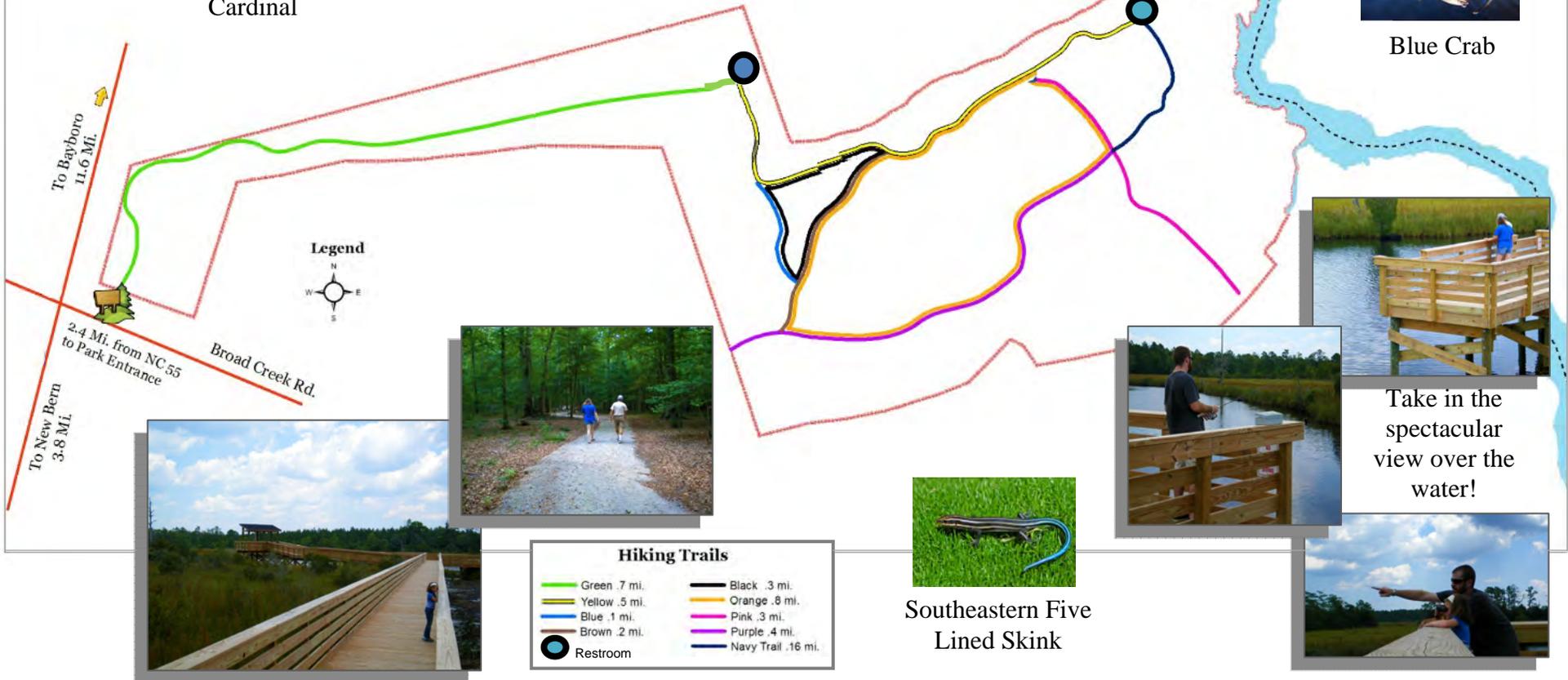


White-Tailed Deer

Bring out your canoe or kayak and explore the park on the water!



Blue Crab



Take in the spectacular view over the water!



Southeastern Five Lined Skink

