## Tree Species in the Park

**Beech Family (Fagaceae)**
- American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*)
- Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*)
- Blackjack Oak (*Quercus marilandica*)
- Chestnut Oak (*Quercus montana*)
- European Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*)
- Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)
- Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*)
- Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*)
- White Oak (*Quercus alba*)

**Birch Family (Betulaceae)**
- American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*)
- Eastern Hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*)
- River Birch (*Betula nigra*)
- Sweet Birch (*Betula lenta*)
- Yellow Birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*)

**Cashew/Sumac Family (Anacardiaceae)**
- Poison-sumac (*Toxicodendron vernix*)

**Cedar/Cypress Family (Cupressaceae)**
- Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)
- Eastern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*)

**Custard Apple Family (Annonaceae)**
- Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*)

**Dogwood Family (Cornaceae)**
- Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)

**Ebony Family (Ebenaceae)**
- Common Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)

**Elm Family (Ulmaceae)**
- American Elm (*Ulmus americana*)
- Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)
- Slippery Elm (*Ulmus rubra*)

**Figwort Family (Scrophulariaceae)**
- Princess Tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*)

**Ginseng Family (Aralliaceae)**
- Devils-walking-stick (*Aralia spinosa*)

**Holly Family (Aquifoliaceae)**
- American Holly (*Ilex opaca*)

**Honeysuckle Family (Caprifoliaceae)**
- Blackhawk Viburnum (*Viburnum prunifolium*)

**Laurel Family (Lauraceae)**
- Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)

**Linden Family (Tiliaceae)**
- Boxelder (*Acer negundo*)
- Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*)

**Magnolia Family (Magnoliaceae)**
- Cucumbertree (*Magnolia acuminata*)
- Tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

**Maple Family (Aceraceae)**
- American Basswood (*Tilia americana*)
- Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*)
- Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*)
- Linden Family (*Tilia americana*)
- American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*)
- Bitternut Hickory (*Carya cordiformis*)
- Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)

**Olive Family (Oleaceae)**
- Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)
- White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*)

**Pea Family (Fabaceae)**
- Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)
- Honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)
- Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
- Weeping Willow (*Salix babylonica*)

**Pine Family (Pinaceae)**
- Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)
- Eastern White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)

**Pittosporum Family (Pittosporaceae)**
- Southern Shingle (*Koelreuteria paniculata*)

**Quassia Family (Simaroubaceae)**
- Southern Shingle (*Koelreuteria paniculata*)

**Rose Family (Rosaceae)**
- Blackberry (*Rubus alleghaniensis*)
- Dotted Hawthorn (*Crataegus punctata*)
- Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*)
- Smooth Serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*)

**Sycamore Family (Platanaceae)**
- American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)

**Tupelo Family (Nyssaceae)**
- Black Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*)

**Walnut Family (Juglandaceae)**
- Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*)
- Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*)

**Trees of Valley Forge National Historical Park**

Forest condition was first evaluated in 1983, and was described as excellent. Over the past two decades an increasing number of deer has resulted in undesirable changes in the species composition, structure, abundance, and distribution of native plant communities, particularly forests. Browsing of tree and shrub seedlings by deer has eliminated the ability of forests to regenerate, leading to monocultures of invasive plants, such as Japanese stilt grass, above. Future management will focus on the protection, preservation, and restoration of forests and other native plant communities.
Encampment-era trees are those likely to have been growing here in 1777.

1. Lafayette Sycamore
   Estimated to be over 300 years old. Also a “William Penn Tree,” indicating it was growing in 1682.

2. Maxwell Sycamore
   Circumference: 20.9 ft
   Height: 119.9 ft
   Spread: 114 ft

   American sycamores make poor firewood, but were used for chopping or butcher’s blocks

3. Pawling Sycamore
   Circumference: 21.4 ft
   Height: 82.9 ft
   Spread: 142 ft

Prior to European settlement, Pennsylvania was 90-95% forested. In the Valley Forge area, forests were cleared for lumber, agriculture, firewood, and fences, reducing forest cover to approximately 60% by 1777. During the encampment of George Washington and the Continental Army, almost every tree in what is now the park—and for miles beyond—was cut down for firewood, shelter, and defensive structures. Post-encampment, small woodlots and hedgerows were re-established by farmers. Some areas of the park such as Mount Joy and Wayne's Woods were re-planted by the Valley Forge Park Commission in the early 20th century. Today, forest communities cover 34% of the park and contain 110 different kinds of trees.

State Champion Trees
State champion trees are particularly impressive or unusual examples of a tree species due to size, shape, age, or other trait.

4. Knox Black Walnut
   Circumference: 18.1 ft
   Height: 93.9 ft
   Spread: 113 ft

   Black Walnut was used for gun stocks, furniture, dye (nuts) and firewood

5. Potts Blackhaw Viburnum
   Circumference: 2.4 ft
   Height: 19.9 ft
   Spread: 26 ft

6. Tindle Hornbeam
   Circumference: 8.6 ft
   Height: 42.9 ft
   Spread: 53 ft

   Hornbeam was used for bowls or dishes

Did You Know?
Forests create a cleaner, healthier environment. The estimated 1,200 acres of forest at Valley Forge create enough oxygen for 21,600 people each year. At the same time the forest removes 3,120 tons of carbon dioxide and 15,600 tons of dust from the atmosphere.