Trees of Kocher Park

Our Project

This brochure is just one component of our Girl Scout Silver Award project. The Silver Award is the highest award available at the Cadette level of scouting. For our project, we wanted to do something that could be used by everyone in the community, from teachers and their students, to hikers, and to the everyday person out for a walk.

Our project had three components. The first one was identifying and labeling the trees at Kocher Park, which you can see as you travel around the park. The second part was this brochure, which you can take along on your walk through the park. Lastly we made a PowerPoint presentation with more detailed information and linked it to the Kocher Park website. Together, or separately, these components can be used in whatever way suits you best.

So enjoy your experience at Kocher Park. We hope that our project has made it even better, and we’re glad we had the chance to improve our community.

The URL of the Kocher Park Website

Thanks to:
Nancy Corbin, Joan McCarty, George Chamuris, and Dave Beagle
Suggested Trail

- Start at the pavilion
- Turn down the path towards the creek
- Follow the path along the creek to the tree-lined area
- Walk through the tree-lined area until it becomes open space again
- Take the next turn onto the grass trail back towards the pavilion
- Follow the grass trail until it intersects with the wetlands trail
- Follow the wetlands trail
- Choose one of the two wetlands paths partway in. The first turn will return to the pavilion and the second will lead to the parking lot

We begin at the pavilion. Here you can see a boxelder with its distinctive clusters of “propellers.” On your way towards the creek you’ll see a few kinds of maple. Some are red maples with their bright red stems and even leaves in the fall. Others are Norway maples, which look just as most people imagine.

Look both ways as you walk along the creek. To your right by the water, you’ll see clusters of thin sandbar willows. Watch for the smooth white trunks of sycamores on your left.

A huge new variety of trees is presented in the tree-lined portion. Hickories and ashes are common just as you enter. Basswood trees are common. Note the smooth, hard trunks of the ironwoods as you go.

Next we move onto the grass trail. A black walnut sits at the end of the turn. Small wild olive trees are also common. You’ll notice a few more ashes as well.

The wetlands trail has an abundance of swamp white oaks lining the path. River birches stand out with their peeling bark. You’ll also notice tulip poplars with large leaves. Soon you’ll wrap back around to the beginning.