1. Black Birch Betula lenta; Smooth black bark, not papery like more familiar white birches. Scented twig.


4. American Chestnut Castanea dentata; Large narrow coarse-toothed leaves. Generally found sprouting from old stumps. Mature trees absent since 1940’s when all succumbed to fungus attack known as Chestnut Blight.

5. American Holly Ilex opaca; Heavy, spiny evergreen needles. Smooth gray bark. Females produce red berries, a favorite of songbirds in late winter.


7. Stone Bound; After each lot was acquired by the Reservoir Commission 100 years ago, surveyors set these quarried granite markers at lot corner boundaries.

8. Northern Arrowwood Viburnum recognitum; Shrub with nearly round, coarsely toothed leaves arranged opposite on stem. Flowers white May-July. Fruit black. Shoots once used by Indians for arrow shafts.


12. Coast Pepperbush Clethra alnifolia; Small, white, bell-like flowers clustered at ends of twigs, are fragrant and appear between July-September. Wetland shrub.

13. White Ash Fraxinus americana; Gray bark with interlacing fissures and ridges. Compound leaves and twigs opposite. Tough wood used for baseball bats.


15. Red Oak Quercus rubra; Dark bark, furred, often laced with broad shiny strips. Leaf lobes bristle-tipped. Acorn cup flat and suck vase like.

16. Poison Ivy Rhus radicans; DO NOT TOUCH! All parts contain dangerous skin irritant. Trailing or climbing vine. Leaves 3-parted and long stalked but otherwise variable, may be reddish. Also Virginia Creeper Parthenocissus quinquefolia; Fan-compound leaves. Leaflets 5, toothed, arranged like spokes of wheel. Flowers June-August. Fruits blue berries.

17. Cobble Crossing is the name given to this natural surface drainage depression. Cobbles, or rounded fragments of rock up to 10 inches in diameter, were placed here amidst the mud and larger rocks to improve footing for safe crossing by domestic animals.

18. White Spruce Picea glauca; Blue-green needles 4angled, short, stiff and sharp, arranged in compact spirals around twigs. Branches horizontal. Small cones.

19. Sassafras Sassafras albidum; Leaves, in three patterns (3 “fingers,” a “thumb and mitton” outline, or
smooth egg-shape), usually all present. Twigs green. Leaves and twigs spiny fragrant when crushed.

20. Ironwood Carpinus caroliniana: Small tree with muscular-looking, smooth, dark gray bark. Fruits are tiny nuts attached to leafy bracts. Member birch family.


22. Flowering Dogwood Cornus florida: Flowers small, clustered, each cluster with 4 large white bracts (not true petals), March-June. Known as “brides of the forest”.


25. Eastern Red Cedar Juniperus virginiana: Medium-sized evergreen (actually a juniper) with both scale-like and needle-like leaves. Heartwood reddish and aromatic. Frequently found on dry, exposed sites and abandoned fields. Note its familiar conical silhouette.

THE WATUPPA RESERVATION

In 1895, the Reservoir Commission was established to “protect the purity of the city’s water supply”, the North Watuppa Pond. Its key accomplishment was the acquisition of watershed lands surrounding the pond and its tributaries now known as the Watuppa Reservation.

Today, the City of Fall River Water Department manages and administers over 7,000 acres of forest and water resources including Copicut Reservoir.

The creation of this municipal nature trail is a signal departure from its long-standing policy prohibiting public use. It reflects a viewpoint that limited, planned and ecologically sound use may be compatible with quality water production.

Grant Funding

A portion of the funding for development of the Tattapanum Municipal Nature Trail was provided by the Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Small Grants Program. The Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program encourages non-industrial private forest landowners to manage their forests for sound economic, environmental, and social benefits by sharing the cost of developing and carrying out an approved Forest Stewardship plan.

The trail is intended to provide a setting where forest stewardship values can be introduced to an inner city population as well as private forestland owners throughout the region.

Additional funding was generously provided by Molten Metal Environmental Fund.

Directions - Take Route 24 to Exit 8 in Fall River. Turn right onto Airport Road, proceed just over 1 mile to Riggenbach Road. Turn right, go to end, then take left onto Wilson Road. Tattapanum Trail entrance is 1000' down the hill on left.