

# Magelessen Bluff

## PLANT SCAVENGER HUNT

QR  
CODE



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## Trees

**ASH:** Typically grows 50-80 feet tall and has grayish-brown bark with a rough, ridged texture. They have compound leaves (5-11 leaflets) and leaves that turn yellow in autumn. Small, greenish flowers appear in early spring before the leaves; the species are usually dioecious (male and female flowers on separate trees). They produce distinctive winged seeds called “samaras”, which are dispersed by wind. They prefer well-drained, moist soils and are often found in forests, along rivers and in urban areas.



**BASSWOOD:** Typically grows 65-100 feet tall with smooth gray bark that becomes furrowed with age. The leaves are heart-shaped, with serrated edges and turn yellow in autumn. The flowers are fragrant, small, yellowish-white, blooming in late spring and attracting pollinators. They prefer rich, moist soils in deciduous forests and often grow in mixed woodlands.



**BIRCH:** Typically grows 50-100 feet tall with distinctive white, silver, or yellowish bark that peels in layers. Their leaves are small, triangular or oval serrated edges that turn yellow in autumn. Its flowers are dioecious; male catkins in early spring, female catkins later. They grow in well-drained, moist soils and are commonly found in temperate regions, often in forests or near water.



**BLACK LOCUST:** A deciduous tree that typically grows 30-50 feet tall, with a trunk that can reach up to 2 feet in diameter. They have a rounded crown and can be distinguished by their fragrant, white-to-pale yellow flowers that bloom in spring. The leaves are compound, consisting of 7-19 green and shiny leaflets. Their bark is dark brown to gray, deeply furrowed, and has a rough texture. They thrive in full sun and prefer well-drained soils but can tolerate a variety of soil types, including sandy and clay soils.



# Trees ...CONTINUED

**ELM:** Typically grow 65-100 feet tall with gray or brown bark, often rough and deeply-furrowed with age. They have alternate, serrated and oval-shaped leaves that turn yellow in autumn. Small, inconspicuous flowers appear in early spring. They produce flat, winged seeds in small samaras, which are dispersed by wind. They prefer well-drained soils and are commonly found in urban areas, parks and along waterways.



**HACKBERRY:** Typically grow 32-65 feet tall with grayish bark that can be warty or corky with a rough texture. Their leaves are typically oval or elliptical, with serrated edges and turn yellow in autumn. Small, inconspicuous greenish flowers appear in spring followed by small, berry-like drupes. They grow in a variety of soils, often in floodplains, along riverbanks and in open woodlands.



**HAWTHORN:** Typically grow 16-32 feet tall with gray-brown bark that fissures with age. Leaves are glossy, lobed and dark green that turn yellow in the fall. Small, white or pink flowers bloom in clusters in late spring, often fragrant and produce small, red or orange berries (haws) that ripen in late summer to fall. They are commonly found in hedgerows, woodland edges and open fields and prefer well-drained soils.



**JAPANESE BARBERRY:** Shrubs typically grow 3-6 feet tall with thin, grayish-brown bark with small thorns. Leaves are small, glossy green and oval and turn reddish in the fall. Small, yellow flowers appear in spring, followed by red berries in late summer. They thrive in a variety of soils and light conditions, often found in disturbed areas, fields and forests.



**SUGAR MAPLE:** Typically grow 50-100 feet tall with smooth gray-brown bark in youth that darkens and furrows with age. They have opposite, palmately lobed leaves with 5 lobes that turn vibrant shades of yellow, orange and red in the autumn. Small, greenish-yellow flowers appear in spring before the leaves and also paired samaras (winged seeds) that mature in late summer. They prefer well-drained, moist soils and are commonly found in mixed hardwood forests. They are predominantly in Southeastern Minnesota.

