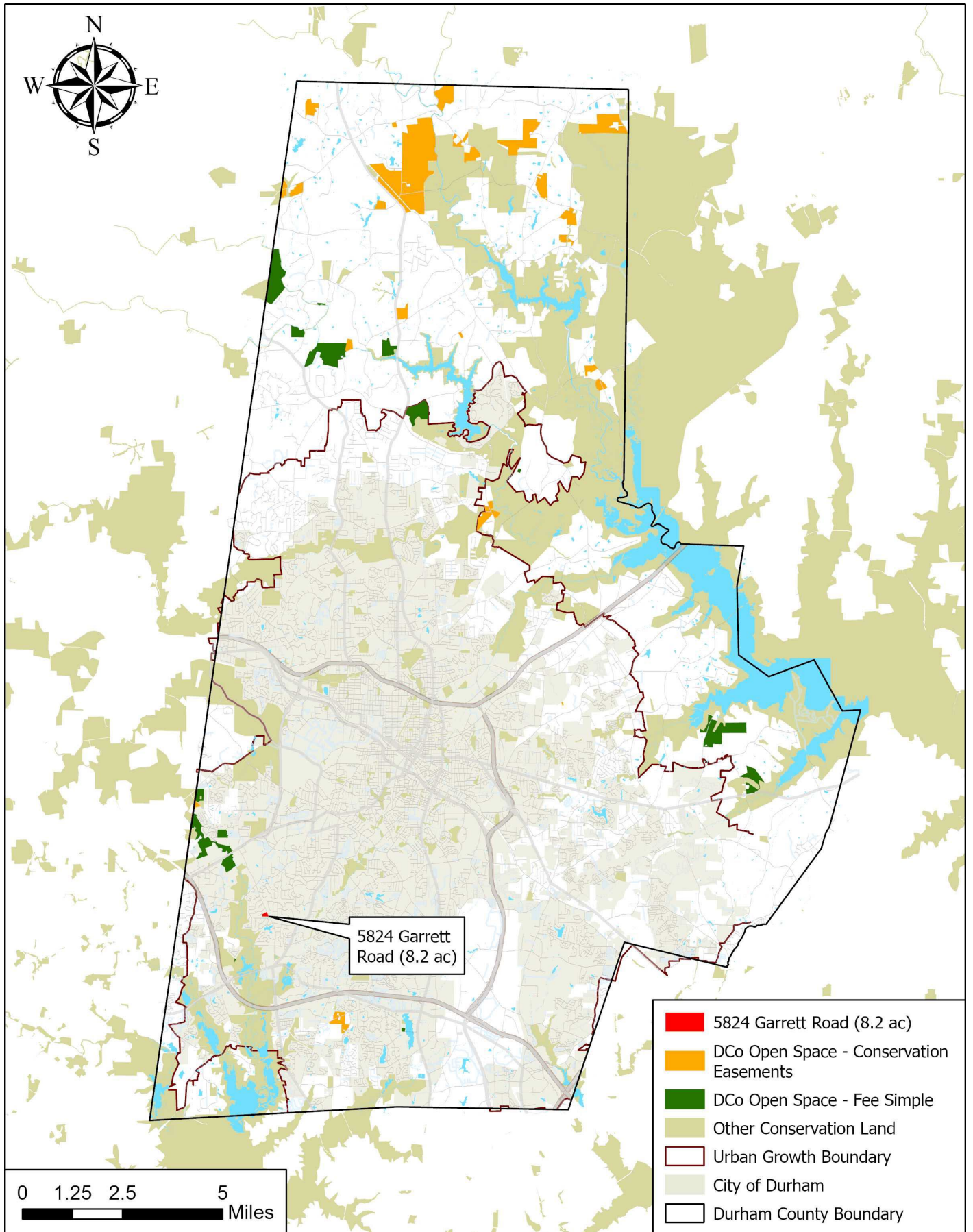
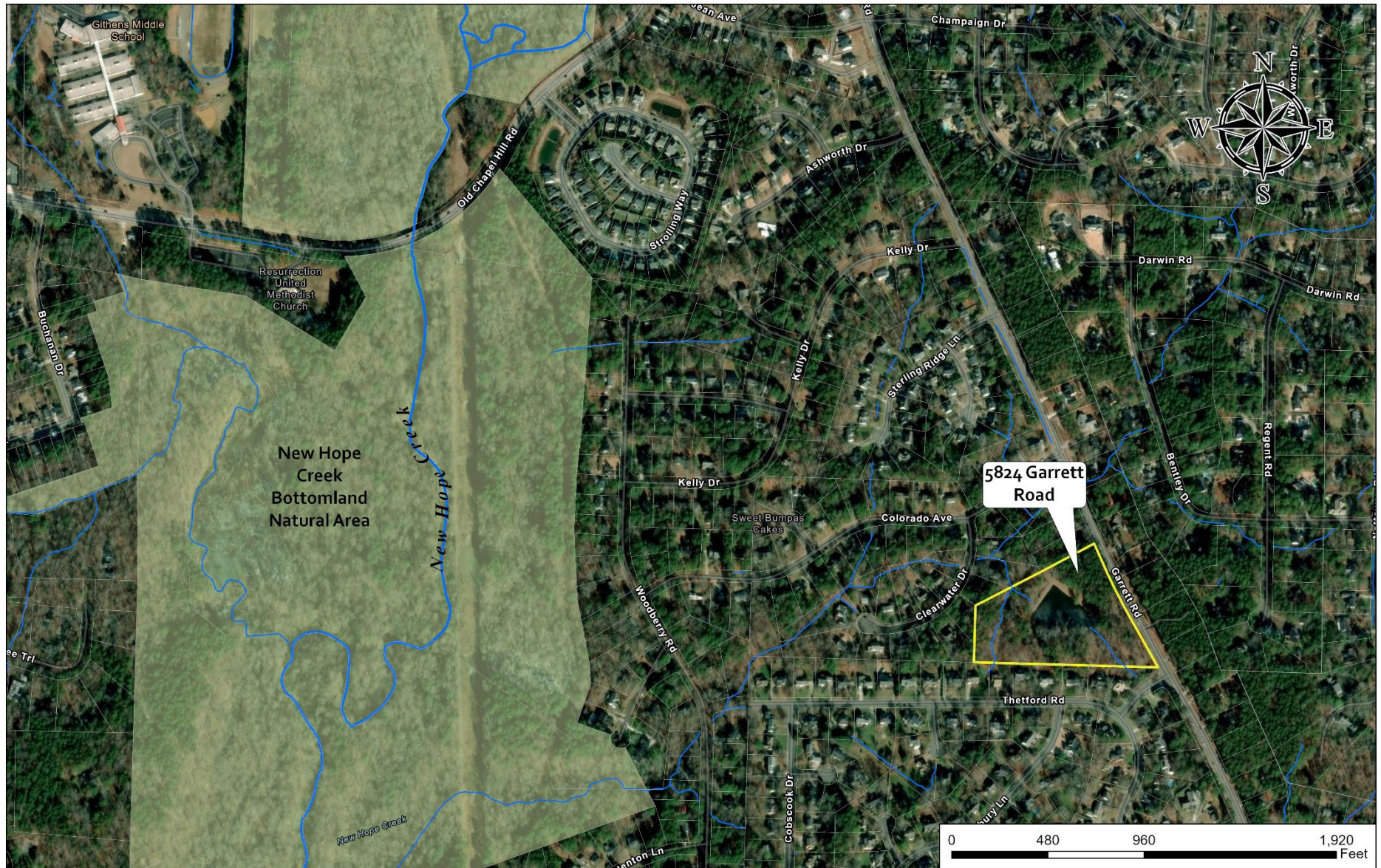


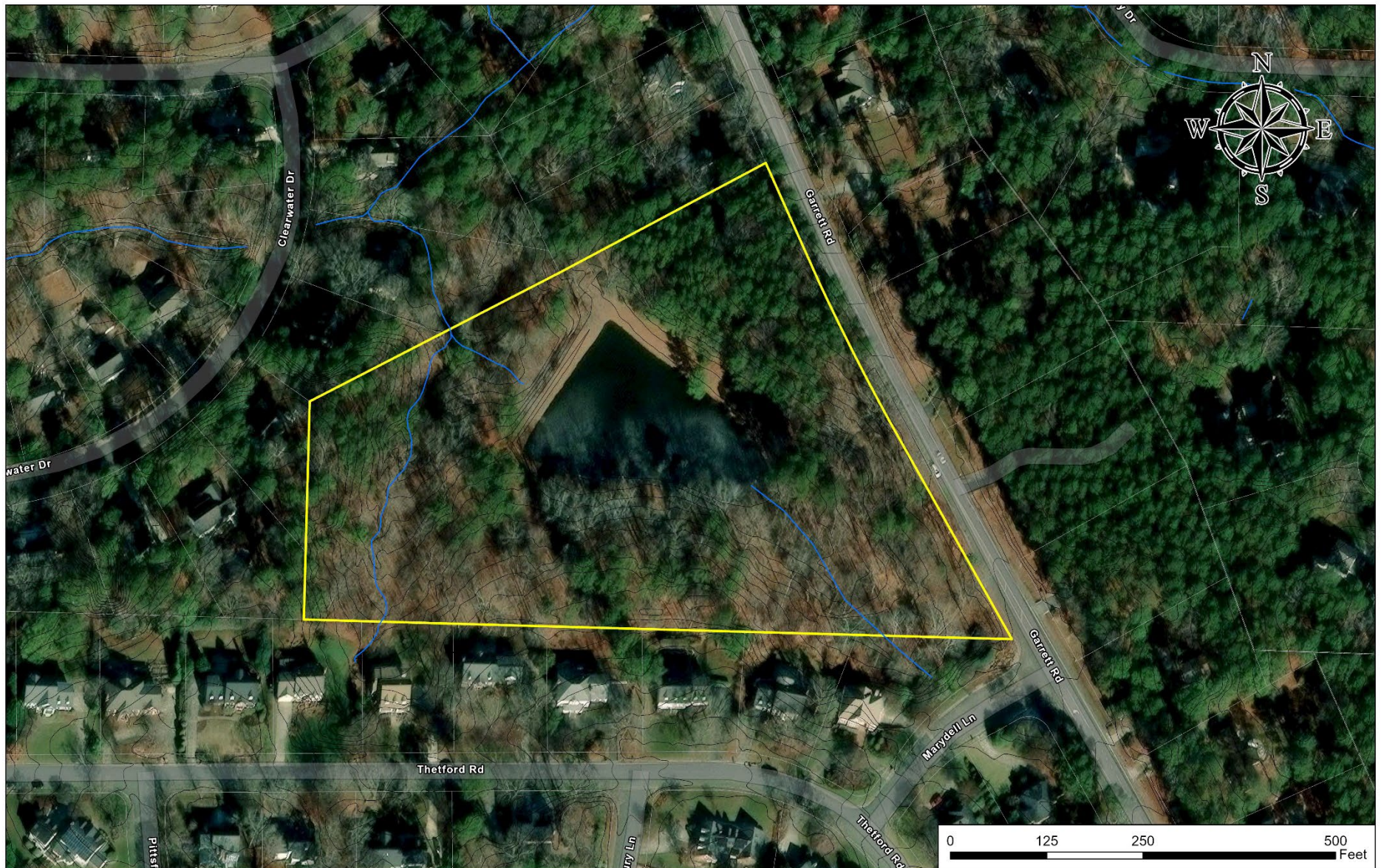
5824 Garrett Road – James Tcheng and Marianne Powers



5824 Garrett Road (8.2 ac) – James Tcheng and Marianne Powers



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5824 Garrett Road – James Tcheng and Marianne Powers

James Tcheng and Marianne Clark have lived on Thetford Rd., off of Garrett Rd., since 1996 and purchased this adjacent undeveloped, 8.2-acre tract in 2003. They would like to permanently preserve the property to safeguard its conservation values by donating a conservation easement to Durham County.

Right: A patch of pawpaws in the forest understory. Bottom: the one-acre pond.



5824 Garrett Road – James Tcheng and Marianne Powers



Open Space (OS) Program and NC Natural Heritage Program (NHP) staff visited the site on June 11. NHP's report notes that *"the diversity of native trees and shrubs is remarkable for the area, and the maturity of some of the trees is exceptional... although the small footprint of the forested area does not qualify as a Natural Heritage natural area or natural community element occurrence, the tract would be suitable for a local nature preserve or open space conservation."* James and Marianne have reported a variety of local wildlife on the site, including owls, various waterfowl, flying squirrels, and foxes.

The primary benefit of preservation will be the protection of wildlife habitat, vegetated riparian zones, and large trees.



Top: Celeste Burns (OS Program) and Misty Franklin (NHP) measure at 42" dbh Cherrybark oak (*Quercus pagoda*). Left: OS Program and NHP staff record species on the property, including a Box Turtle laying eggs by the pond.

Durham – Garrett Road & Marydell Lane Tract

Species list compiled by NC Natural Heritage Program Staff – Laurie Hamon, Misty Franklin, and Charlotte Peele.

Date visited: 11 June 2025

Summary: The 8-acre parcel features mature forest centered around an approximately 1-acre pond. The vicinity of the pond is managed in park-like conditions with tall native canopy trees, a narrow strip of lawn, and bordered by a relatively open shrub and ground layer with cleared paths, giving the overall effect of an arboretum. Other areas, especially along the stream draining the pond and slopes on the southern, western, and northern margins of the tract are in more natural condition with denser shrub and herb layers under native tree canopy and understory. Overall, the vegetation suggests Dry-Mesic Oak-Hickory to Mesic Mixed Hardwood Forest. The diversity of native trees and shrubs is remarkable for the area, and the maturity of some of the trees is exceptional, with many oaks in the range of 18-20” diameter at breast height (DBH) and one Cherrybark Oak (*Quercus pagoda*) measuring 42” diameter. Although the small footprint of the forested area does not qualify as a Natural Heritage natural area or natural community element occurrence, the tract would be suitable for a local nature preserve or open space conservation. The greatest ecological benefits of the tract are 1) providing native habitat for wildlife – especially birds, pollinators, reptiles, and amphibians, 2) providing vegetated riparian zones to protect water quality to the unnamed tributary to New Hope Creek, and 3) protection of large trees.

A partial species list is provided below, based on a 2-hour survey (mid-morning, cloudy, warm).

Plants

Canopy

American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*)

Ash (*Fraxinus sp.*)

Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*)

Cherrybark Oak (*Quercus pagoda*)

Hackberry (*Celtis sp.*) seedling

Loblolly Pine (*Pinus taeda*)

Mockernut Hickory (*Carya tomentosa*)

Red maple (*Acer rubrum*)

Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)

Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*)

Shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*)

Shortleaf Pine (*Pinus echinata*)

Southern Red oak (*Quercus falcata*)

Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)

Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)
Tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)
White Oak (*Quercus alba*)
Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*)

Understory

Black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)
Crepe-myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*)*
Eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)
Flowering dogwood (*Benthamidia floridana*)
Hop-hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*)
Ironwood (*Carpinus caroliniana*)
Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*)
Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)
Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
Southern Sugar maple (*Acer floridanum*)
Tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)
Winged elm (*Ulmus alata*)

Vines

Crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*)
Greenbrier (*Smilax* sp.)
Muscadine (*Muscadinia rotundifolia*)
Poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*)
Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus virginianum*)

Shrubs

Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*)*
Blackberry (*Rubus* sp.)
Button-bush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)
Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*)*
Hearts-a-busting (*Euonymus americanus*)
Possumhaw Holly (*Ilex decidua*)
Silky dogwood (*Swida amomum*)

Herbs

Carolina petunia (*Ruellia caroliniana*)
Cinnamon fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*)
Dogbane (*Apocynum cannabinum*)
Ebony Spleenwort (*Asplenium platyneuron*)
Japanese stilt-grass (*Microstegium vimineum*)*
Manna-grass (*Glyceria striata*)
River oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*)
St. Andrew's-cross (*Hypericum hypericoides*)