

## What you can do to preserve Peter's Creek for future generations:

- 1) Volunteer for Clean Up events.
- 2) If you see litter, pick it up!
- 3) Don't dump any vegetation or scraps as that may lead to the introduction of an invasive species.
- 4) Do not cut or prune any vegetation in the woods as this may damage or kill the plant.
- 5) **Carry out what you carried in!** It **should** be as if you were never there.
- 6) **Do not carry any glass into the woods!** Broken glass will remain sharp and dangerous for many decades. Glass that is broken today could cut your childrens' grandchildren's hands or feet. Pets are especially vulnerable to injuries from broken glass.
- 7) **Use the foot trails and water as often as possible!** Increased usage will lead to fewer instances of littering and loitering.
- 8) Stay on established trails and avoid trampling grasses and vegetation; do not disturb hillsides with foot traffic—this will lead to land erosion and eventual destruction of the creek bank.



Images of the 3 types of leaves found on the ***Sassafras Tree*** we have here!

### **American Sweet Gum**



### **American Beech**

This deciduous tree retains its dry pale yellow leaves through the winter. Beechnuts provide a food source for animals such as Fox,

## **The Office of Sustainability of the Boro of Audubon Park**

20 Road "C" Audubon Park, NJ 08106

E-mail: [TheApGreenProject@gmail.com](mailto:TheApGreenProject@gmail.com)

Send us your wildlife pictures!

Select pictures provided by Kirsten Laning ,  
Stacy Cantu, and Larry Cantu.

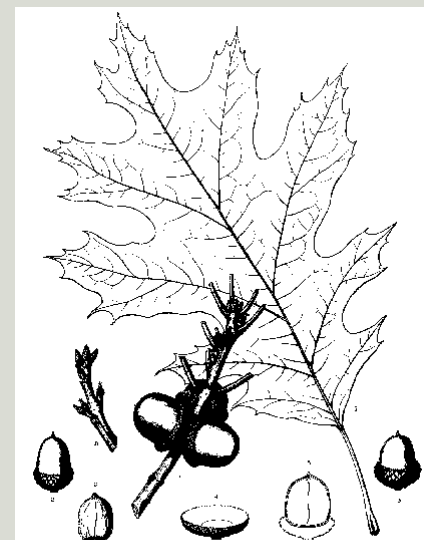
Designed by Kirsten Laning

WELCOME TO AUDUBON PARK NJ



## **Selected Species of the Peter's Creek**

**Your guide to your own backyard**



Northern Red Oak

**Before you start!**  
The surrounding homes are private property. Please do not trespass or disturb the neighboring properties.

**LEAVE NO TRASH BEHIND!**

**Peters Creek and it's banks are home to a diverse collection of plants and animals.** These plants and animals often work together to shape the landscape, most often through seed dispersal through either ingestion or burial.

This ecosystem like many others depends on Apex Predators to prevent overpopulation of a prey species such as mice, rabbits, squirrels, or chipmunks, all insects, and even plants.

A prolific species often benefits from an advantage of some type that makes it more successful than a competitor. This is the case with many **invasive** species. Two such species in our area are: The *Ailanthus altissima* (*Tree of Heaven*) and the *Albizia julibrissin* (*Mimosa Tree*). These two trees thrive in heavily disturbed soils and reproduce prolifically. The Tree of Heaven can produce tens of thousands of seeds each season! Unlike native trees, the seeds are not eaten by native animals so they are more likely to germinate.

Another invasive species is the Northern Snakehead. This fish has a voracious appetite which limits food supply for native fish. The Snakehead also limits the number of future competitors by eating the competition's offspring.

Never release captive species or pets such as fish, turtles, or plants into the wild.

## Birds of Prey

Birds of Prey are an important part of the Peters Creek ecosystem. They play a crucial role in regulating the population of their prey. These large birds feed on rabbits, field mice, juvenile woodchucks, and chipmunks as well as other birds.

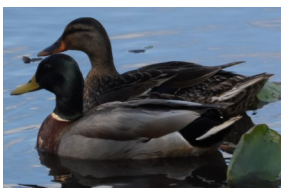


At Left: A Red-tailed Hawk grasps a rabbit in his talons while perched in a tree



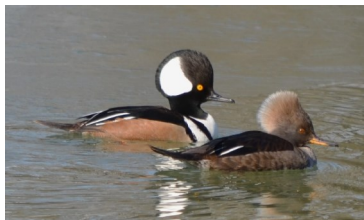
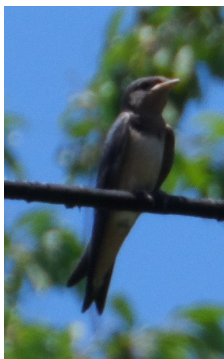
## Birds and Water Fowl

Right: The Great Egret patiently waits for it's next meal to swim by.



Left: Male and female Mallard ducks

Middle Left: Purple Martins  
This seasonal bird is highly skilled in flight which aids their search for insect meals.



Above Right: Male and female Hooded Merganser ducks

Below: Male and female Common Mergansers



## Animals

Top Right: A Raccoon eats fruits, plants, nuts, berries and insects.



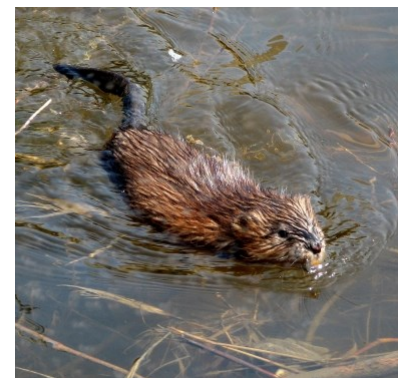
Left: A Woodchuck also known as a Groundhog lives in burrows along the banks and eats the lush green vegetation in the warm season.

Right: The Eastern Grey squirrel buries acorns as a means of winter food storage. Acorns not recovered will grow into trees that will produce more nuts to feed future generations.



The Cottontail rabbit is an herbivore that provides a year round food source for larger predators.

Right: A Muskrat  
In the 1950's and 1960's these rodents were trapped extensively for pelts in Peters Creek. It has been said that as many as 30 muskrats per week were taken from Peters Creek and the Newton lake spillway.



CHANNEL CATFISH—STOCKED



Upper jaw protrudes past lower jaw; tail deeply forked.

► FLATHEAD CATFISH—INVASIVE



Lower jaw protrudes past upper jaw; tail not deeply forked.

Right: The Bowfin is a native species while the Snakehead is a destructive invasive.

BOWFIN—NATIVE



Short anal fin.

► SNAKEHEAD—INVASIVE



Long anal fin.

Images and Information courtesy of NJDEP

Left: The Channel Catfish is a native species while the Flathead is a destructive invasive.

If you catch an invasive fish be sure to report it to US fish and wildlife hotline 1 (877) 786-7267

Rebecca Shaw, Training  
www.fishbase.org