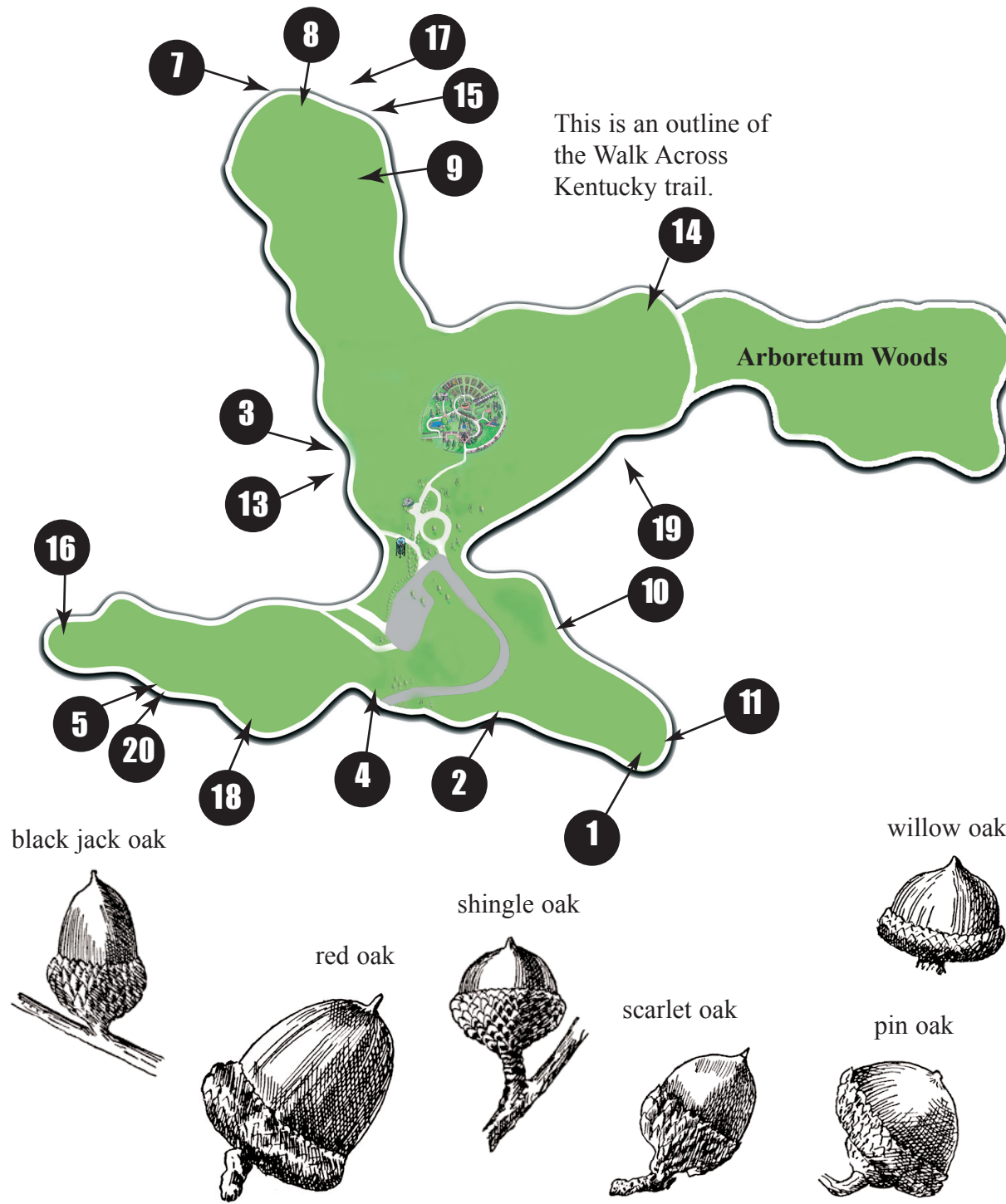


Red Oaks

1. scarlet oak (coccinea)
2. southern red oak (falcata)
3. shingle oak (imbricaria)
4. overcap oak (lyrata)
5. blackjack oak (marilandica)
6. water oak (nigra) *
7. cherry-bark oak (pagoda)
8. pin oak (palustris)
9. willow oak (phellos)
10. red oak (rubra)
11. shumard oak (shumardii)
12. Nuttall's oak (texana) *
13. black oak (velutina)



Acorns emerging into small sapplings.



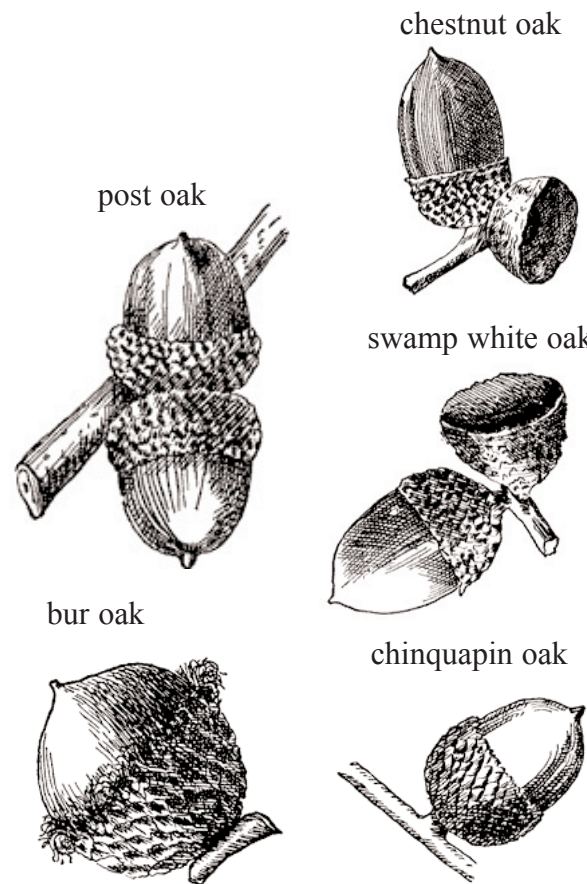
This is an outline of the Walk Across Kentucky trail.

Arboretum Woods

White Oaks

14. white oak (alba)
15. swamp white oak (bicolor)
16. bur oak (macrocarpa)
17. basket oak (michauxii)
18. chestnut oak (montana)
19. chinquapin oak (muhlenbergii)
20. post oak (stellata)

* Species not yet in collection.



black jack oak



red oak



shingle oak



scarlet oak



willow oak



pin oak



About Oaks

- ▶ Oaks are of great interest because of their essential diversity and function.
- ▶ The sturdy qualities of oaks and their longevity have made them the object of admiration by humans.
- ▶ Oaks furnish more native timber than any other group, except conifers.
- ▶ Several species, that have sweet acorns, were used for food by Native Americans.
- ▶ Acorns, of some species, are still an important food source for some wildlife.
- ▶ All native Kentucky oaks belong to the genus **Quercus**.

For More Information

A Natural History of Trees. Donald Culross Peattie. New York: Bonanza Books, 1956.

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Guide to the Trees, Shrubs, and Vines of Tennessee. B. Eugene Wofford and Edward W. Chester. The University of Tennessee Press, 2002.

Trees and Shrubs of Kentucky. Mary E. Wharton and Roger Barbour. The University of Kentucky Press, 1973.

Contact Us

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The Arboretum is open 365 days a year from dawn to dusk. Admission is free. The Dorothea Smith Oatts Visitors Center is open M-F from 8:30 to 4:00.

Funding for brochures provided by Kentucky Division of Forestry.



Kentucky Oaks



"I have seen oaks of many species in many kinds of exposure and soil, but those of Kentucky excel in grandeur, all I had ever before beheld. They are broad and dense and bright green. In the leafy bowers and caves of their long branches dwell magnificent avenues of shade, and every tree seems to be blessed with a double portion of strong exulting life..."

— John Muir (1867)

Interesting Facts

- ▶ There are over four hundred species of oaks in the Northern Hemisphere. Most are trees, but some are small enough to be classified as shrubs.
- ▶ About seventy species are found in North America.
- ▶ Twenty species are thought to be native to Kentucky.
- ▶ Eighty percent of Kentucky forests are dominated by oaks.
- ▶ The oak genus, *Quercus*, with its many species, is the most important aggregation of hardwoods found in North America. The central and southern hardwood forests of the United States may be thought of as oak forests, with the other broad-leaved species playing a secondary role.

- ▶ Oaks are divided into two groups:
 - White oaks, have leaves with rounded lobes, acorns that mature in the autumn of their first season, and their kernels are usually sweet.
 - Red oaks, have leaves with bristle-tipped lobes, their acorns mature in the autumn of their second season, and their kernels are usually bitter.