

Station 6: Birch Trees

At this station, you can see the remains of an early successional species, the paper, or white birch (*Betula papyrifera*). This pioneer species thrives in sunlit forest gaps and disturbed areas. Black birch (*Betula lenta*), a mid-successional species, grows throughout Hayes Woods. Black birch provides habitat for various wildlife, including birds, insects, and small mammals. Its leaves are a food source for caterpillars and other insects, which, in turn, support bird populations. The tree's seeds are eaten by birds and small mammals. Birch sap, if collected and boiled down, yields a tasty syrup much like maple syrup but with a unique flavor and spice.



White Birch Snag