

Fish Creek Provincial Park

Simplified Key to Native Trees & Shrubs

1. A. Leaves needle-like, coniferous. Go to #2
B. Leaves not needle-like, broad, deciduous. Go to #3
2. A. Tree, 4 sided needles borne singly. **White Spruce** (*Picea glauca*)
B. Shrub, flat scaly needles. **Juniper** (*Juniperus sp.*)
3. A. Tree, single stem or trunk. Go to #4
B. Shrub, multiple stems or trunks. Go to #6
4. A. White, peeling bark, like a roll of toilet paper, black scars. **Paper Birch** (*Betula papyrifera*)
B. Bark not papery or peeling. Go to #5
5. A. Bark mostly smooth with a layer of whitish powder, green underneath (black, roughened patches and grooves when older). Leaf buds small, ½ cm long. **Trembling Aspen** (*Populus tremuloides*)
B. Bark gray, thick and deeply grooved when mature (may be green/beige/brown when young). Leaf buds large, 1 cm long, and sticky. **Balsam Poplar** (*Populus balsamifera*)
6. A. Branches and leaves grow opposite. Go to #7
B. Branches and leaves grow alternate. Go to #9
7. A. Branches have deep red colour, no thorns/prickles. **Red-osier Dogwood** (*Cornus stolonifera*)
B. Branches not red coloured. Go to #8
8. A. Small, highly branched, bark shredded (split/peeling), may have greenish or white berries. **Western Snowberry** (*Symphoricarpos sp.*)
B. Stem has a sand-like texture, may have clusters of small globe shaped buds near main stem. **Canada Buffaloberry** (*Shepherdia canadensis*)
9. A. Plant stem prickly/thorny. Go to #10
B. Plant stem without thorns/prickles. Go to #11
10. A. Stem beige or brown, stiff sharp thorns, large thorns present mostly just below buds. **Wild Gooseberry** (*Ribes oxycanthoides*)
B. Stem is reddish coloured with many small prickles and larger thorns. **Wild Rose** (*Rosa sp.*)
11. A. Stem shiny brown covered with white dots or slashes (lenticles). **Water Birch** (*Betula occidentalis*)
B. Plant stem with no whitish marks (lenticles). Go to #12
12. A. Plant is an upright/erect shrub. Go to #13
B. Plant forms a ground hugging mat, may have shiny green leaves and/or pinkish red berries. **Common Bearberry** (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)
13. A. Older branches rough grey/brown often with black, globular masses. **Chokecherry** (*Prunus virginiana*)
B. No visible black globular masses on branches. Go to #14
14. A. Branches often with clusters of blackened leaves. May also see small, dried purple berries. **Saskatoon** (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
B. No blackened leaves present. Go to #15
15. A. Young branches covered in rusty brown scales, may have silver/grey coloured leathery berries. **Wolf Willow** (*Elaeagnus commutata*)
B. Branches have many small leaf buds and can have small pineapple-shaped growth (gall) at the tip. **Willow** (*Salix sp.*)

White Spruce - *Picea glauca*

An evergreen tree with short stiff needle-like leaves. Needles may exhibit a pale white stripe along their length.



Juniper - *Juniperus sp.*

An evergreen shrub with more scale-like leaves that are not shed and remain green all year. Two species can be found in the park. One, Common Juniper, is more upright with needle-like leaves (pictured below) and the other, Creeping Juniper, is more of a ground hugger with smaller overlapping scale-like needles.



Paper Birch - *Betula papyrifera*

A tree with white paper-like, often peeling, bark with black scars.



Water Birch - *Betula occidentalis*

A tall shrub with many stem/trunks and brown bark with white lenticels.



Trembling Aspen

- *Populus tremuloides*

A tree with bark covered in white powder with black marks and small leaf buds.



Balsam Poplar - *Populus balsamifera*

A tree with large leaf buds often sticky with aromatic sap. Mature trees have deeply grooved bark.



Red-osier Dogwood

- *Cornus stolonifera*

A shrub with an opposite growth pattern and red bark without thorns or prickles.



Common Bearberry

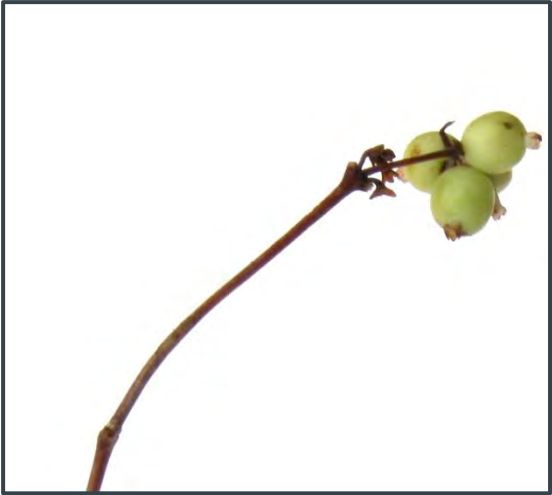
- *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*

Branches grow along the ground often forming a mat. Leaves are waxy green and berries are pinkish red.

Western Snowberry/Buckbrush

- *Symphoricarpos* sp.

Two similar shrubs, both small with opposite growth patterns and shredded, peeling bark. One species exhibits clusters of small white to greenish berries the other larger white berries.



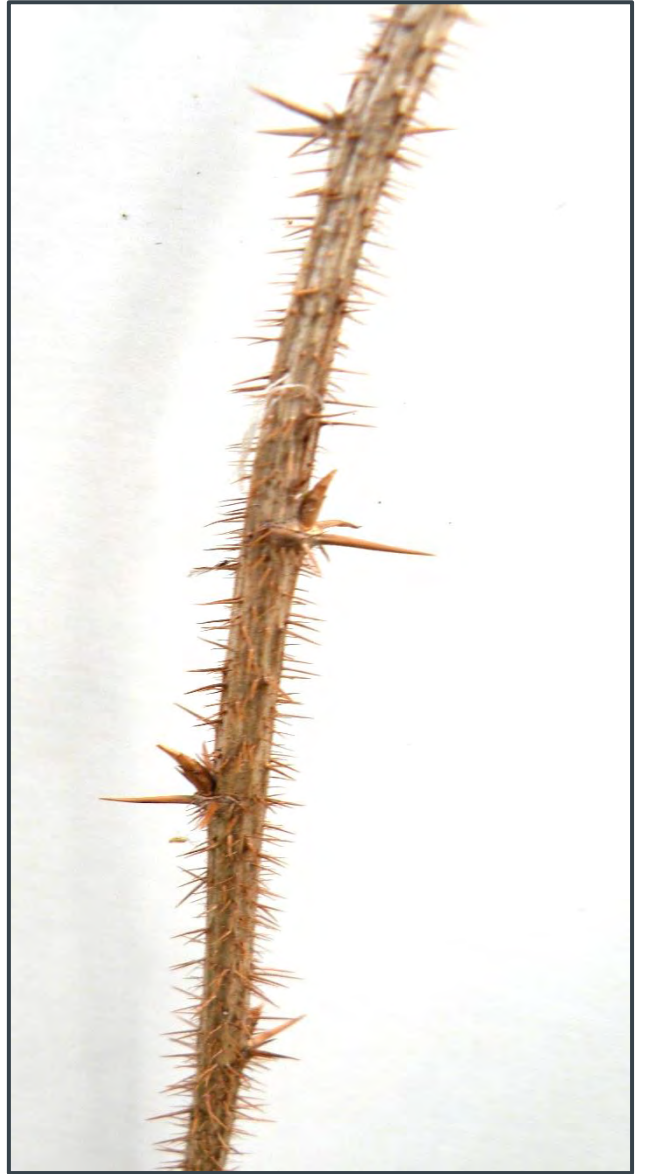
Canada Buffaloberry

- *Shepherdia Canadensis*

A compact shrub with branches that have a sand-like texture. It may also have clusters of tiny globe shaped buds near the tips of small branches.

Wild Gooseberry - *Ribes oxycanthoides*

Often sparsely branched shrubs that have varying densities of thorns and prickles. Thorns are often stout and very sharp.



Wild Rose - *Rosa sp.*

Several species hybridize, all exhibit reddish bark with prickles/thorns. You may also find red rosehips that are the fruit produced.

Chokecherry - *Prunus virginiana*

A shrub, often tall, with strange black growths on its branches caused by a fungus called “black knot”. Older branches are rough brown to grey.



Saskatoon Berry

- *Amelanchier alnifolia*

A shrub with dried berries, leaf buds on short stalk-like branches from main branches. Saskatoon Berry bushes often have clusters of blackened leaves caused by a fungus (*Apiosporina collinsii*).



Wolf Willow/Silverberry – *Elaeagnus commutata*

Young branches are densely covered in rusty brown, scaley dots. Leaves and berries if present will have a silvery colour.



Willow - *Salix* sp.

There are a wide variety of willow shrubs. They often have many small leaf buds along their branches and some may have a small pineapple or pine cone shaped growth called a gall on the tips of some branches. These galls are created by a midge fly.

