Understory Trees

**River Birch  *Betula nigra***

Native

50-70' tall  
Prefers moist river bottom soil but adaptable  
Full sun  
Showy exfoliating creamy orange bark  
Medium to fast growth rate

**Eastern Redbud  *Cercis canadensis***

Native

20-30' tall, 25-35' wide  
Moist, well-drained soil but adaptable  
Full sun to light shade  
Showy small purplish-pink pea-like flowers  
Blooms late April to early May  
Bright yellow fall foliage

**Pagoda Dogwood  *Cornus alternifolia***

Native

15-25' tall and wide  
Prefers cool, moist acidic soil  
Prefers partial shade  
Showy white bracts  
Blooms during May and June  
Purplish black fruit ripen in July

**Common Witchhazel  *Hamamelis virginiana***

Native

10-15' tall and wide  
Prefers moist, cool acidic soil  
Full sun to partial shade  
Showy clear yellow fall foliage  
Last woody plant to flower  
Spider-like yellow petals  
Bloom October and November after foliage drop
Understory Trees, cont.

**Shadblow Serviceberry**  *Amelanchier canadensis*

Native

6-20’ tall
Prefers wet sites
Full sun
Small white flowers bloom late March
Sweet, edible red fruit changes to black
Gold fall color

**Downy Serviceberry**  *Amelanchier arborea*

Native

15-25’ tall
Prefers moist, well-drained, acidic soil
Full sun to partial shade
Red edible fruit, ripens in June, favorite of birds
White flowers bloom early spring
Yellow-orange to red fall color
Smooth, grayish bark “striped” with vertical fissures
Very ornamental

**Green Hawthorn**  *Crataegus viridis*

Native

25-30’ tall
Prefers moist, fertile soil
Full sun is best
Easy to grow, slow growth rate
White flowers bloom in late May
Small bright red fruit persists through winter
Thorns 1.5” long
Attracts birds

**American Yellowwood**  *Cladrastis kentukea*

30-50’ tall and wide
Prefers moist, fertile, well-drained soil
Full sun
White fragrant pea-like flowers bloom early June
Showy yellow, gold and orange fall foliage
Attractive smooth light gray bark
Understory Trees, cont.

**Sourwood**  *Oxydendrum arboreum*

25-30’ tall  
Prefers a moist, acidic, peaty, well-drained soil  
Full sun to partial shade  
Fragrant flowers bloom mid-July  
Fall foliage ranges from scarlet to maroon  
Slow growing

**Spicebush**  *Lindera benzoin*

Native  
8-12’ tall  
Prefers moist to well-drained soil  
Full sun to partial shade  
Small yellow flowers bloom early spring  
Showy yellow fall color