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The weather was perfect on this Sunday morning, as members of the Philadelphia Botanical Club joined the leader for an informal 600-meter linear survey, aggregating to less than one-tenth of an acre, of the plant life around the perimeter of a small suburban shopping mall and a recent construction zone. We were rewarded by finding 109 species of vascular plants of which 52 were annuals, 34 were perennials, and 23 were woody plants or woody vines. Of the 52 annuals, 31 were non-native. Of the 34 perennials, 16 were non-native. Of the 23 woody plants, 13 were non-native. Of the 109 total species, 60 were non-native. Few of the plants we saw during our walk were unfamiliar to the seasoned field botanists of our group, but *Calibrachoa parviflora*, a late nineteenth century ballast dump plant which has reappeared in New Jersey three times, in different locations, in recent years, was an exception. After completing our walk and a brief rest, we braved thickets of *Ampelopsis heterophylla* and *Clematis terniflora* to reach the shores of Broad Street Lake, where a quick look around produced 55 species of which 14 were annuals, 25 were perennials, and 16 were woody plants or woody vines. Of the 55 total lakeshore species, 17 were non-native. This trip amply demonstrated both the adaptability of native and introduced plants, and the botanical diversity of a site that might otherwise have been dismissed as uninteresting.

Even 207 years ago, many of the non-native plants we found would have been familiar to William P. C. Barton, who was then writing his *Compendium Florae Philadelphicae*. Such would have included *Mollugo verticillata*, *Digitaria sanguinalis*, *Portulaca oleracea*, *Sida spinosa*, and *Persicaria maculosa*. But *Diodia virginiana*, *Cyperus iria*, *Arthraxon hispidus*, and even *Lonicera japonica* would have been new to him. The town of Woodbury is mentioned 73 times in the *Compendium*, which, covering “plants found within a circuit of ten miles around Philadelphia,” includes a large area in New Jersey. Barton used the town as a seasonal base of operations.

Barton would have arrived in New Jersey via the ferry from Philadelphia to Kaighn's Point. Taking the Woodbury Road south for seven miles, he would have noticed our trip site which was then a wet meadow bordering Woodbury Creek, still tidal at three miles from its mouth. (Here is a current map of the survey site.) A few hundred yards farther south was the Friends Meeting House, constructed in 1715. (Click here to learn about Woodbury Friends). And another hundred yards south was two-story Wilkin's Inn, the northernmost of three hostleries in the town. What else could he have needed? Barton was a surgeon (a more general term then than now) in the United States Navy, but in his era much of medicine derived from plants and in 1815 at the age of 27 he became the Professor of Medical Botany at the University of Pennsylvania. The *Compendium* grew out of Barton's need to provide a “field guide” for his students to use during their excursions with his class into the environs of Philadelphia.

## PLANT LIST

### SUBURBAN BOTANY TRIP, SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

### BROAD STREET AND RED BANK AVENUE, WOODBURY NJ

### CVS PARKING LOT PERIMETER, PLANTING BEDS, PAVEMENT CRACKS, CONSTRUCTION SITE

### ANNUAL OR BIENNIAL PLANTS

Acalypha rhomboidea – Copperleaf  
Ambrosia artemisiifolia – Ragweed  
Artemisia annua – Sweet wormwood NN  
Artemisia vulgaris – Mugwort NN  
Bidens frondosa – Beggarticks  
Bidens bipinnata – Spanish needles  
Calibrachoa parviflora – Seaside petunia NN  
Cenchrus longispinus – Mat sandbur  
Chenopodium album – Lamb's quarters NN  
Cirsium vulgare – Bull thistle NN  
Commelina communis – Dayflower NN  
Conyza canadensis – Horseweed  
Cyperus bipartitus – Shining flatsedge  
Cyperus iria – Ricefield flatsedge NN  
Cyperus microiria – Asian Flatsedge NN  
Cyperus squarrosus – Bearded flatsedge  
Digitaria sanguinalis – Large crabgrass NN  
Diodia virginiana – Virginia buttonweed  
Dysphania pumilio – Clammy goosefoot NN  
Echinochloa crus-galli – Barnyard grass NN  
Eclipta prostrata – False daisy NN  
Eleusine indica – Goosegrass NN  
Eragrostis cilianensis – Stinkgrass NN  
Eragrostis pectinacea – Tufted lovegrass  
Erechtities hieracifolia – American burnweed  
Erigeron strigosus – Prairie fleabane.  
Euphorbia maculata – Spotted Spurge  
Euphorbia nutans – Eyebane  
Ipomoea hederacea – Ivy-leaved morning glory NN  
Ipomoea lacunosa – Small white morning glory NN  
Kellochloa verrucosum – Warty panic grass  
Kummerowia striata – Japanese clover NN  
Lactuca serriola – Prickly lettuce NN  
Lepidium virginicum – Virginia pepperwort  
Melilotus alba – White sweetclover NN  
Melilotus officinalis – Yellow sweetclover NN  
Mollugo verticillata – Carpetweed NN  
Persicaria longiseta – Oriental lady's thumb NN  
Persicaria maculosa – Spotted lady's thumb NN  
Physalis angulata – Cutleaf ground cherry  
Polygonum aviculare – Prostrate knotweed NN  
Portulaca oleracea – Purslane NN  
Senecio vulgaris – Common groundsel NN  
Setaria faberi – Nodding foxtail NN  
Setaria pumila – Yellow foxtail NN

*Setaria viridis* – Green foxtail NN  
*Sida spinosa* – Prickly fanpetals NN  
*Solanum emulans* – American black nightshade  
*Strophostyles helvola* – Trailing fuzzybean  
*Triplasis purpurea* – Sandgrass  
*Verbascum phlomoides* – Orange mullein NN  
*Vicia tetrasperma* – Slender vetch NN  
*Xanthium strumarium* – Cocklebur

## PERENNIALS

*Andropogon virginicus* – Broomsedge  
*Apocynum cannabinum* – Dogbane  
*Artemisia vulgaris* – Mugwort NN  
*Asclepias syriaca* – Common milkweed  
*Calystegia sepium* – Hedge False bindweed  
*Cichorium intybus* – Chicory NN  
*Convolvulus arvensis* – Field bindweed NN  
*Cynodon dactylon* – Bermudagrass NN  
*Cyperus esculentus* – Chufa flatsedge NN  
*Cyperus lupulinus* – Great Plains flatsedge  
*Cyperus strigosus* – Straw-colored flatsedge  
*Erodium cicutaria* – Storksbill  
*Eupatorium serotinum* – Late-flowering boneset NN  
*Hypochoeris radicata* – Cat's ear NN  
*Juncus tenuis* – Path rush  
*Lolium sp.* – Ryegrass NN  
*Lythrum salicaria* – Purple loosestrife NN  
*Oenothera biennis* – Evening primrose  
*Oxalis sp.* – Wood sorrel  
*Persicaria hydropiperoides* – Swamp smartweed  
*Phragmites australis* – Common reed NN  
*Phytolacca americana* – Pokeweed  
*Plantago lanceolata* – NN  
*Plantago major* – Common plantain NN  
*Plantago rugelii* – Blackseed plantain  
*Reynoutria japonica* – Japanese knotweed NN  
*Rumex obtusifolius* – Broad-leaved dock NN  
*Schizachyrium scoparium* – Little bluestem  
*Solidago altissima* – Tall goldenrod  
*Symphyotrichum pilosum* – White oldfield aster  
*Symphyotrichum racemosum* – Small white aster  
*Taraxacum sp.* – Dandelion NN  
*Tridens flavus* – Purpletop  
*Trifolium repens* – White clover NN

## WOODY PLANTS

Ailanthus altissima – Tree of Heaven NN  
Ampelopsis heterophylla – Porcelainberry NN  
Baccharis halimifolia – Groundsel tree  
Buddleia davidii – Butterfly bush NN  
Celastrus orientalis – Asiatic bittersweet NN  
Clematis terniflora – Autumn clematis NN  
Hedera helix – English ivy NN  
Juglans nigra – Black walnut  
Juniperus virginiana – Red cedar  
Liquidambar styraciflua – Sweet gum  
Lonicera japonica – Japanese honeysuckle NN  
Morus alba – White mulberry NN  
Parthenocissus quinquefolia – Virginia creeper  
Platanus occidentalis – Sycamore  
Populus deltoides – Eastern cottonwood  
Prunus serotina – Black cherry  
Pyrus calleryana – Bradford pear NN  
Robinia pseudoacacia – Black locust NN  
Rubus phoenicolasius – Wineberry NN  
Toxicodendron radicans – Poison ivy  
Ulmus americana – American elm  
Ulmus parvifolia – Chinese elm NN  
Wisteria sp. – Wisteria NN

## ALONG ADJACENT BROAD STREET LAKE

### ANNUAL PLANTS

Acalypha rhomboidea – Copperleaf  
Ambrosia artemisiifolia – Ragweed  
Arthraxon hispidus – Small carpgrass NN  
Commelina communis – Dayflower NN  
Cyperus iria – Ricefield flatsedge NN  
Digitaria sanguinalis – Large crabgrass NN  
Diodia virginiana – Virginia buttonweed  
Echinochloa crus-galli – Barnyard grass NN  
Eclipta prostrata – False daisy NN  
Euphorbia nutans – Eyebane  
Lindernia dubia – Yellowseed false pimpernel  
Persicaria longiseta – Oriental lady's thumb NN  
Persicaria sagittata – Arrowleaf tearthumb  
Setaria pumila – Yellow foxtail NN

## PERENNIALS

Andropogon virginicus – Broomsedge bluestem  
Apios americana – Groundnut  
Apocynum cannabinum – Dogbane  
Asclepias incarnata – Swamp milkweed  
Calystegia sepium – Hedge false bindweed  
Cyperus strigosus – Straw-colored flatsedge  
Desmodium glabellum – Dillenius' ticktrefoil  
Eupatorium serotinum – Late-flowering boneset NN  
Hibiscus moscheutos – Swamp rosemallow  
Ludwigia peploides – Floating primrose-willow NN  
Lythrum salicaria – Purple loosestrife NN  
Mikania scandens – Climbing hempweed  
Panicum virgatum – Switchgrass  
Paspalum setaceum – Thin paspalum  
Persicaria hydropiperoides – Swamp smartweed  
Phragmites australis – Common reed NN  
Plantago lanceolata – Narrowleaf plantain NN  
Phytolacca americana – Pokeweed  
Solanum carolinense – Carolina horsenettle  
Solidago altissima – Tall goldenrod  
Solidago gigantea – Giant goldenrod  
Sorghastrum nutans – Indiangrass  
Symphyotrichum pilosum – White oldfield aster  
Symphyotrichum lanceolatum – Panicked aster  
Tridens flavus – Purpletop

## WOODY PLANTS

Alnus serrulata – Smooth alder  
Amorpha fruticosa – Desert false indigo NN  
Ampelopsis heterophylla – Porcelainberry NN  
Catalpa bignonioides – Southern catalpa NN  
Cephalanthus occidentalis – Buttonbush  
Clematis terniflora – Autumn clematis NN  
Lonicera japonica – Japanese honeysuckle NN  
Nyssa sylvatica – Black gum  
Parthenocissus virginiana – Virginia creeper  
Prunus serotina – Black cherry  
Rubus sp. – Blackberry  
Sambucus canadensis – American black elderberry  
Sassafras albidum – Sassafras  
Toxicodendron radicans – Poison ivy  
Ulmus americana – American elm

*Viburnum dentatum* – Southern arrowwood

English names are from various sources.

NN = Species not native to New Jersey

## SUMMARY

Around the parking lot: 110 species total, of which 53 were annual plants, 34 were perennials, and 23 were woody plants or woody vines. Of the 53 annuals, 32 were non-native. Of the 34 perennials, 16 were non-native. Of the 23 woody plants, 13 were non-native. Overall, of the 110 total species, 61 were non-native .

Along the lake: 55 species total, of which 14 were annual plants, 25 were perennials, and 16 were woody plants or woody vines. Of the 14 annuals, 8 were non-native. Of the 25 perennials, 5 were non-native. Of the 16 woody plants, 5 were non-native. Overall, of the 55 total species, 18 were non-native .