

1 Bois d'arc Tree

The wood was used to make bows and arrows. *They have large green fruit that is the shape of a ball called a horse apple*

2 Live Oak Tree

One of the live oaks at Twelve Hills is very large with spreading limbs.

Galls are round growths on some live oak leaves, and are caused by an insect. Several hundred years ago, galls were used to make ink. Gall ink was used to write the Declaration of Independence.

3 Cottonwood Tree

Cottonwood trees are usually found close to water. Wind blowing through their leaves sounds like rain or flowing water. *Their seeds are carried in cotton-like fibers that float in the air.* This is not the plant that cotton clothing is made from.

When beavers live near cottonwood trees, they build their homes from them.

4 Cedar Tree

The cedar tree is evergreen.

The leaves look like scales. The wood smells good and is weather resistant. Birds eat its blue berries and nest inside cavities in the tree.

5 Squirrels

Squirrels bury acorns, nuts, that grow into trees.

Squirrels have four teeth in the front of their mouth that constantly grow throughout their lives. This ensures that their teeth don't wear down to nubs from gnawing on nuts and other objects.

6 Blue Jay

Blue jays have blue, white and black feathers.

They are often found near oak trees, which provide acorns, their preferred food and a major part of their diet.

7 Cardinal

Cardinal-males are red, females are light brown.

While female cardinals are light brown, the red pigment in the male cardinal's feathers comes from carotenoids in their food. If these pigment-triggering foods are in short supply, their feathers may fade to a more brownish hue.

8 Mockingbird

Mockingbirds, are gray and white, and very vocal.

In addition to mimicking the calls of other birds and manmade noises like music and machinery, Northern Mockingbirds have been known to imitate at least 12 different species of North American frogs and toads.

9 Bees

Native bees pollinate most flowering plants.

Native bees are super-important pollinators for flowering plants. This means that they help other plants grow!

10 Ladybug

Ladybugs are a type of beetle.

They are not always red with black spots but can be shades of orange and brown, too. They eat many insects.

11 Sulfur Butterfly

Sulfur butterflies are yellow.

There are several different types of sulfur butterflies at Twelve Hills.

12 Buckeye Butterfly

The common buckeye butterfly is mostly brown. *Buckeyes have brightly colored eyespots on their wings that scare away predators.* Eyespots are round spots that look like eyes.

13 Cutleaf Daisy or Engelmann's Daisy

The leaves of the yellow cutleaf daisy look like their sides were cut out with scissors.

Their flower petals curl under on hot days.

14 Pink Evening Primrose

The pink evening primrose provides nectar for native bees and moths, including the hawk moth.

15 Indian Blanket

The flower's petals show brilliant colors of red, orange, and yellow.

They look like brightly colored blankets woven by Native Americans of the Southwest U.S. During May and June, they grow abundantly and blanket the land.

16 Milkweed

The white flower cluster is round like a tennis ball.

Monarch butterflies lay eggs on milkweed. Therefore, its caterpillars develop here.

17 Poison Ivy

Leaves of three, let them be!

A vine, shrub or climbing vine. An itchy rash results from touching this plant.

18 Prairie Grass

80% of the plant species on native prairies are various grasses.

They provide food for birds, animals and insects. People eat grasses too; some grasses we eat are wheat, oats and corn.

19 Bluebonnet

The state flower of Texas.

20 Ant

There are many different types of ants.

They live in colonies. An ant can lift 20 times its body weight. Ants do not have ears.

21 Pill Bug

It is sometimes called a Rolly Poly or Doodle Bug.
The shells look like armor. They can roll into a ball.

22 Snails

Snails carry their homes on their backs.

Snails are nocturnal. This means most of their activity is at night. Snails gather in groups when they find something beneficial like food or a suitable environment.

23 Brush Pile

Brush piles provide a place for birds, animals and insects to hide from predators, build a nest, and find food.

24 Coombs Creek

The water from Coombs Creek flows into the Trinity River and on to the Gulf of Mexico.

Twelve Hills is in the Trinity River Watershed. Keep your watershed clean by not littering or polluting.