

Red Cedar

Juniperus virginiana

This tree is not a Cedar; it is a Juniper. But, most call it a Red Cedar.

Unlike many of the trees in this park, it is dioecious, meaning that pollen and cones form on different trees. Hmmm, where is this tree's mate?

Speaking of pollen, it is a known allergen. Sneeze if you agree.

While a native species, many consider it invasive. But, it does have some uses: Native Americans used it for bows and for marking hunting territories (baton rouge means red stick in French), the wood repels moths and is used for chests and closets, the berries are used to flavor gin.

The tree burns readily and has been a contributing factor to wildfires in Texas. On the other hand, the tree is readily managed by controlled burns.



This sign provided by Polk County Fresh Water Supply District #2