

Plant Biology  
Tanyard Creek Field Trip

Site visited: Tanyard Creek. Note any signs of bio-diversity you find, signs of winter approaching, including:

1. Animal Kingdom: List at signs you observe of vertebrate animals.
2. Animal Kingdom: List at least five signs you observe of invertebrate animals.
3. Plant Kingdom: List at least ten different non-woody vascular plants you see on the walk. Which ones are most commonly encountered?
4. List at least ten woody vascular plants you observe on the walk. Which ones are dominant (size and numbers)? Figure out a way to estimate the height and circumference of the larger trees and record.

5. List five non-vascular plants that we observe on the hike.

Of the following, list any evidence for members of the:

a.) Fungi?

b.) Bacteria?

c.) Protista (one celled organisms such as algae, etc.)?

6. What are largest, oldest trees at Tanyard Creek? Estimate the height of the trees. Is there any way to figure their age? What are the dominant trees in the Eastern deciduous forest? What are the common understory trees at Tanyard Creek?

7. Examine the area for any signs of human disturbance, pollution, etc. What are some of the threats to the ecological health of this area? Compare the different ecosystems present as to their bio-diversity.

8. Ecotypes and Ecosystems at Tanyard Creek include: lake, stream, pool, gravel bar, bottomland forest, upland forest, cedar glade/rock outcrop, and residential development/urban park and golf course.

Choose one aquatic system and one terrestrial system and list the abiotic factors present in each. Be able to describe a food chain/web within each of the two systems. Of the types listed above, which one do you consider the most bio-diverse? Why? Explain.