

# Historic Bethabara Park

## Woodland Loop

**Legend**

**Bethabara Park**

- Historic Bethabara Park
- City Park

**Hiking**

**Trails**

- Woodland Loop
- Greenway
- Trail
- Boardwalk
- Spur

**Historic Sites**

- Historic Sites

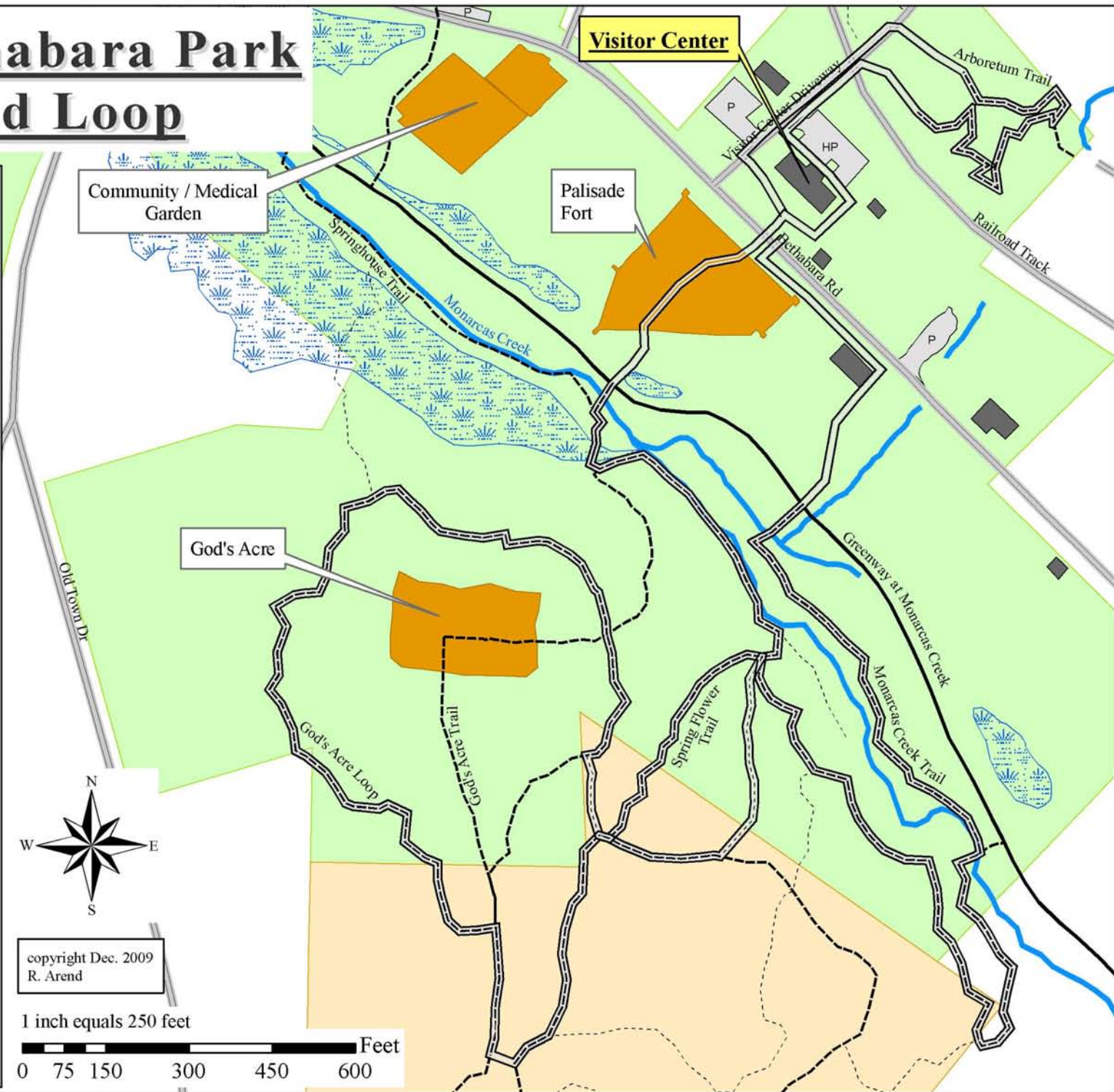
**Wetland**

**Type**

- seasonal
- permanent
- Creeks

**Buildings**

- Building
- Parking
- Streets



**Woodland Loop**  
 Length: 3,1 km; 1,9 mi  
 Overview: A Loop Trail that runs through the forest and shows some of the most typical tree types.

Starting at the Gemeinhaus go past the field and cross the Greenway to follow the Monarcas Creek T. Turn left at the bridge. Before you reach the Spring Flower T. turn left following the spur up to the hill. Turn right following the trail until reaching the barrier on the right. Pass it and turn right in the direction of God's Acre. After 200 feet turn left onto the God's Acre Loop. Follow this trail almost completely around. 250 feet after passing God's Acre T., take the spur to the left. Reaching a trail turn left twice to follow the Spring Flower T. back down the hill and along Monarcas Creek. Reaching God's Acre T. turn right and cross two bridges and go right back to the Gemeinhaus.

**Additional Loop:**  
 Passing the two bridges, proceed trough the Palisade Fort up to the Visitor Center. Go left around the Visitor Center to the Arboretum crossing the railroad track. Follow the short loop through the woods to your right and go back to the Gemeinhaus.

## The Woodlands

Almost every facet of the colonists' lives involved wood products in some way. Hand hewn log homes were clad with hand-sawn boards and roofed with wooden shingles. Wood was the only source of fuel for home cooking and heating as well as offering many products for industry. Tanneries sprang up shortly after the founding of the colony. Maple trees were tapped for sugar.

The *collegium* appointed a ranger to survey and patrol to preserve forest game and protect domestic livestock, but the need to manage the woodlands, their most valuable resource, soon became apparent.

The *collegium* authorized the forrester to select trees to be cut on an individual basis and specify their use. Stumpage fees were charged to citizens based on species and tree diameter.

In addition to producing scores of maps of the almost uncharted territory, Reuter compiled a list of thirty-four kinds of trees and shrubs, along with practical information about their usefulness. He listed twelve fungi and seven types of stone. He also described thirty six birds, seven fish, nine snakes, twenty four insects and creeping vermin and eleven species of flying vermin and insects.

## The Colonial Arboretum



White Oak



Yellow Poplar



Sugar Maple



Sweet Gum



Shagbark Hickory



Sassafras

The Colonial Arboretum features trees and shrubs described in Reuters's work. Many are still native to Bethabara Park.

White oak had the best construction timber. Nine species of oak were named, all were considered good for fuel.

The yellow or "tulip" poplar provided good logs for boards.

The sap of the Sugar Maple was boiled down for sugar. The wood was good on a turning lathe, and made good charcoal.

Gum trees were used for medicinal properties.

Hickory wood was prized by the millwright and for fuel. The nuts were bitter but were used for dye.

Sassafras was used medicinally in tonics to purify the blood.



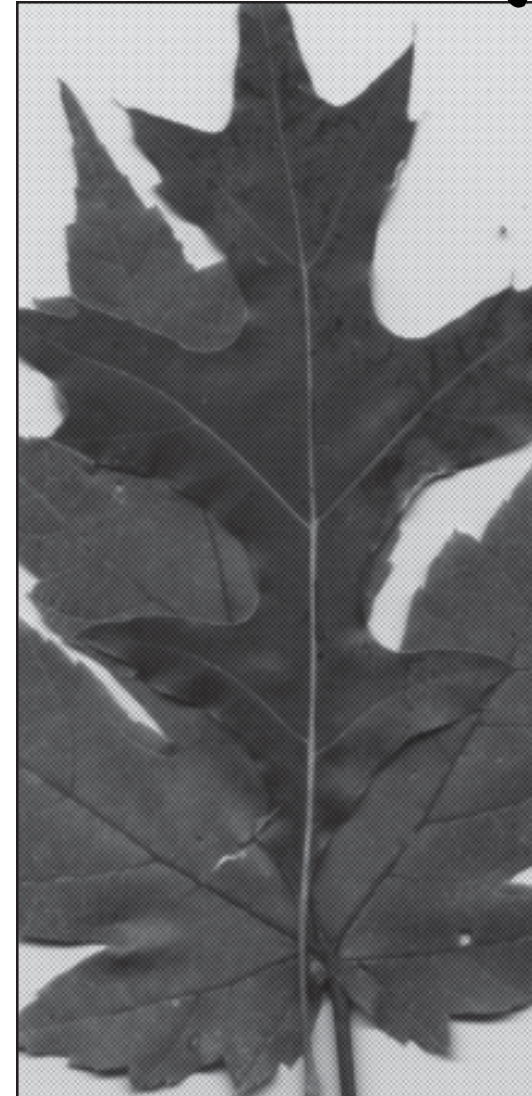
## Historic Bethabara Park

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## Walk Historic Bethabara Park Woodland Loop



Red Maple and Red Oak leaves.

## The Wachovia Tract

The Wachovia Tract was selected for settlement by the Moravians for its abundant natural resources. For the pioneers in the 1750s, conservation and management of natural resources was more than aesthetics, comfort and convenience, it was business.

Most of the land in The Wachovia Tract was owned by the church and leased to settlers. The community was governed by a board of elders, called the *Collegium*. It decided if a business was needed, the quality, quantity and price of goods and wages paid, as well as managed resources to support the community. The heavy and diversified demand for wood and wood products by the settlers underlined a critical need for woodland management.

Phillip Christian Gotlieb Reuter, a surveyor, was appointed Forester and Superintendent of Hunters; North Carolina's first forest ranger. It is apparent from his writings that Reuter saw his work as a personal expression of his religious faith and derived a great deal of satisfaction from his service.

His first challenge was to map the settlement, a monumental task he finished in 1762. The entire 98,985 acres was mapped in a scale of 1 inch for 880 feet. The map showed not only geographical features but timber types found on the land, stand density and predominant tree species. The completed "great map" measured seven feet by nine and is in the care of the Moravian Archives at Old Salem, NC.