Poison Ivy (Toxicodendron radicans)

Origin: Native.

<u>Status in Park</u>: Abundant, usually as low-growing plants in shady areas or less often as tree-climbing vines. Efforts are made to clear it from along trails, but hikers should be careful to avoid it.

<u>Characteristics</u>: Can grow as small plants, shrubs, or climbing vines; larger vines have gray bark and cling tightly to trees with numerous aerial roots; flowers are small and greenish, in loose clusters, appear in May-June, are easily overlooked; fruit small whitish berries that mature between August and November.

<u>Leaves</u>: Alternate, pinnately compound; leaflets are 3 in number, pointed, and 2-7 inches long; edges have a small number of coarse teeth; color glossy green.

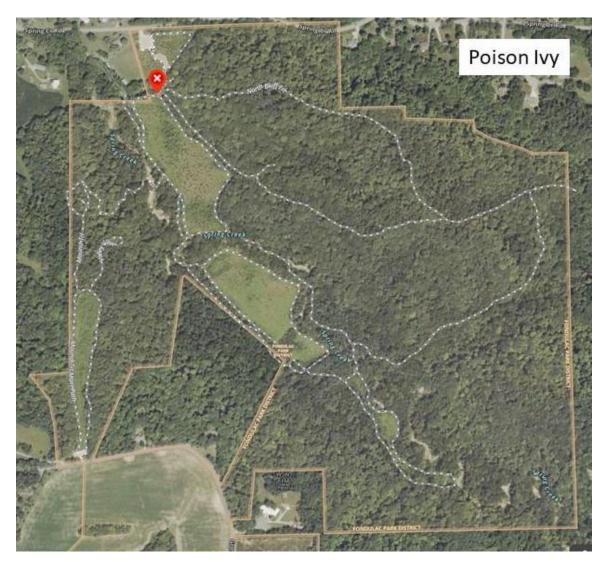








Location of tagged plants (ground cover and vines):



<u>Notes</u>: The main feature is that all parts of the plant are allergenic and cause a serious rash. An oil called urushiol is responsible for this. However, the berries are valuable food for birds and other wildlife.