

IVY AND DECOMPOSITION

On the trail are many fallen trees. Old age, disease or storms cause their death. Even now, they are an important part of the forest community. Dead trees provide homes (can you find woodpecker holes?). As you walk by the trees, carpenter ants provide food for other animals like shrews, salamanders, and birds. Hollow logs shelter small forest animals. Mushrooms help to break the tough wood into smaller and smaller bits. Mushrooms and fungi work with other animals to eventually decompose the wood and return nutrients and materials to the soil. The space left by the fallen giants is soon taken over by rapidly growing trees.



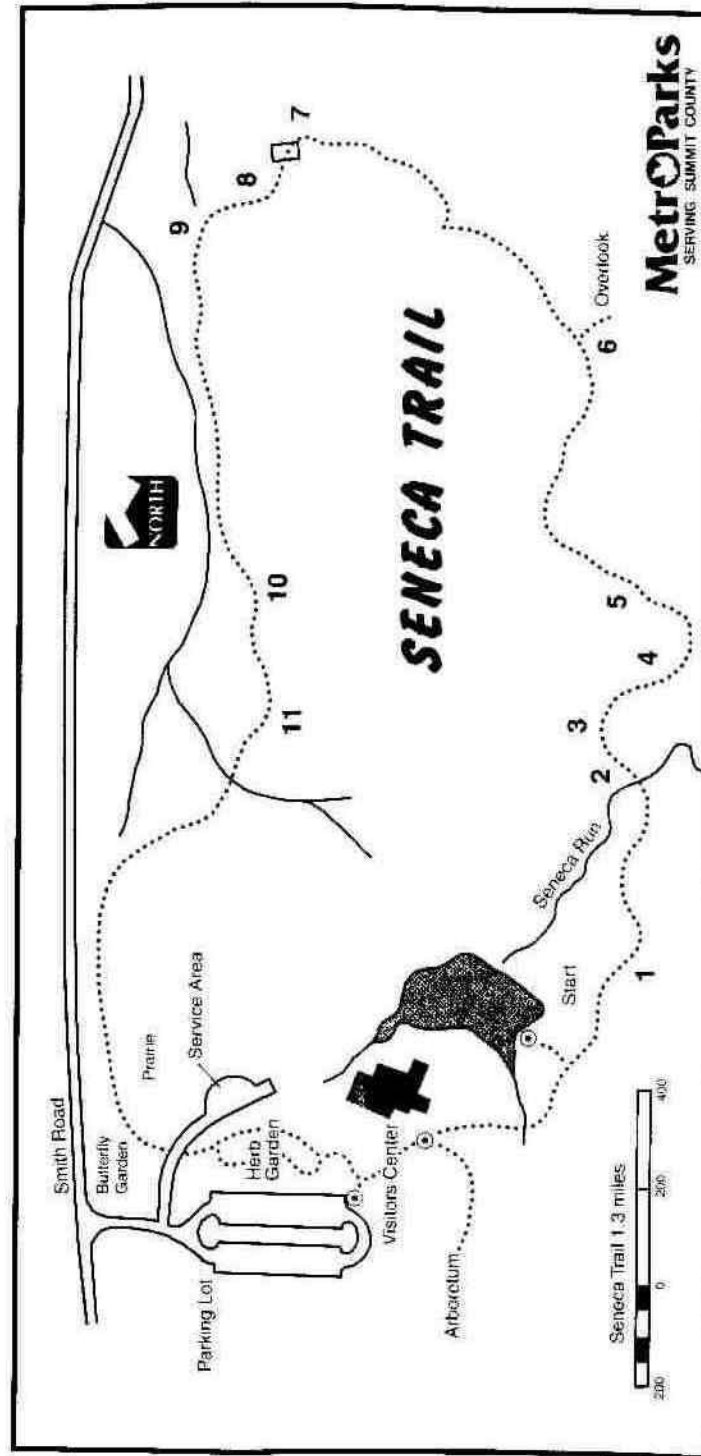
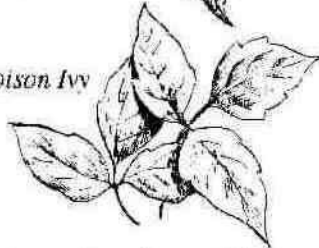
PELVINE TANGLES

There have been many types of vine tangles in the Seneca Trail. Some use trees to support themselves while climbing to the top. Then their leaves are blocking the sun-reaching the tree's trunk. Usually high wind or heavy rain brings down a tangled mass of vines. Birds use these tangles for shelter and nesting sites. Other vines are on the ground level. The grapes and dried grapes are eaten by many forest animals. Beware of other types of vines in the forest. Beware of the tree by many small hairs and with leaves that are green - they may be poison ivy.

Grape Leaves



Poison Ivy



A GUIDE TO

SENECA TRAIL

Carry this guide with you along the trail and learn about the forest community at each numbered post. Please stay on the trail, leaving plants, animals and rocks undisturbed. All are important to the forest community.

