

**NATIONAL BIOLOGICAL SERVICE/NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
VEGETATION INVENTORY AND MAPPING PROGRAM  
PRELIMINARY PHOTO INTERPRETIVE SIGNATURE KEY – ROCK CREEK PARK , WASHINGTON DC**

PI CODE	PI SIGNATURE NAME	COLOR – TEXTURE (Late October, 1996 photography)	GEOGRAPHIC SETTING	PARK LOCATION	ASSOCIATED COMMUNITY CODES
01	*Not used				
02	Managed grass/lawns	Generally a bright orange signature with a smooth texture	Primarily along outliner portions of the park	Parks, road easements, narrow bands and outliner portions of the park.	(12) None
03	Meadow grasslands	Color somewhat less intense of an orange than grasslands with a slightly coarser texture.	Areas intentionally set aside to enhance native component and also areas which are not regularly maintained	Primary example located off Military road just north of the park interpretive center.	(13) None
04	Shrub areas	Color highly variable depending on species component, texture mottled, at times repeating across the unit.	Forest edges throughout the park.	Largest examples located in the western portions (Glover – Archibald).	(11) None
05	Canopy openings (shrubs, vines, some trees)	Color highly variable, greatly diminished by shadowing effect. Texture is coarse and irregular throughout the signature unit.	Blow downs throughout the main portions of the park.	Sizable openings located just north of Military Road.	(01) Forest canopy gap
06	Water	Black	Rock Creek active channel	Rock Creek	(98) None
10	Floodplain areas	Yellow-orange to orange with dark openings. Texture variable	Associated with streams where floodplain is not restricted.	Best examples on Rock creek north of Beach Dive.	(04) Platanus occidentalis – fraxinus pennsylvanica forest
11	Ash swamps	Similar to floodplain areas, yellow-orange to orange with dark openings showing wetness under the canopy. Texture variable.	Broad floodplains	Noted south of Parkside Drive along the north side of Rock Creek.	(04) Platanus occidentalis – fraxinus pennsylvanica forest
12	Oak/beechn	Oaks tend to have a yellow-orange color; beech when seen in the canopy tend to have a pink color with multiple divisions within the individual crowns.	Most common on mid and lower slopes that are level to moderate.	Throughout the park - best examples north of Military Road.	(08) Mixed oak / beech variant of the beech – white oak / mayapple forest (10) Classic type of the beech – white oak / mayapple forest

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13	Mixed Oak	Color variable, wide ranging including shades of orange, brown and yellow.	Mid and upper slopes; moderately steep.	Throughout the park.	(08) Mixed oak / beech variant of the beech - white oak / mayapple forest
14	Dry Mesic oak	Yellow to light brown, signature mottled but fairly uniform throughout.	Steep upper slopes, especially southerly, and ridges.	Good examples located north of park headquarters.	(06) Quercus (prinus, velutina) / Gaylussacia baccata Forest (08) Mixed oak variant
15	Tulip/oak	White (tulip signature in leaf off conditions) mixing with yellows and browns (indicative to the oaks).	Mid slopes all aspects, moderate elevations.	Throughout the park, the most common signature type assigned.	(10) Classic type of the beech – white oak / mayapple forest (10b) Classic type of the beech – white oak / mayapple forest with a strong component of beech & tulip.
16	Tulip	Uniform white – signature is monotypic, texture is coarse.	Disturbed sites, successional forests, and floodplains.	Largest and most uniform signature type noted at Glover – Archibald	(05) Liriodendron tulipifera forest (Provisional) (10b) Classic type of the beech – white oak / mayapple forest with a strong component of beech & tulip.
17	Pine/oak	Pine shows up as a red-orange signature; crown is rounded and narrower than the associated hardwoods. Oak signature is variable, tending to be brown to yellow.	Upper slopes and ridges.	Remnant stands of Virginia pine noted near park headquarters; Loblolly types noted east of the fall line.	(02) Pinus taeda – quercus (alba, falcata, stellata) forest. (Provisional) (03) Pinus virginiana – Quercus (alba, stellata, falcata, velutina) forest
18	Tulip/oak/beech	Color is a mix of white, pink, brown and orange.	Uncommon signature, occurs on lower slopes, mesic sites, often near floodplains.	Noted at the intersection of Wise road and Beech drive.	(10b) Classic type of the beech – white oak / mayapple forest with a strong component of beech & tulip.
19	Tulip floodplain	Signature similar to tulip areas out of the floodplain, a uniform white, with a fairly coarse texture.	Uncommon signature, used in floodplains where sycamore or ash did not appear in the canopy.	Noted south of Glover – Archibald Park.	(10b) Classic type of the beech – white oak / mayapple forest with a strong component of beech & tulip.
20	Exotic/planted trees with managed grass/lawn	Trees have variable signature, lawns have a bright orange with smooth texture.	Lawn and trees occurring together (park like settings)	Playgrounds, road easements, and narrow outliner portions of the park, especially in the extreme southern portions.	(14) None
99	Urban	Variable	N/A	Park facilities and surrounding land use.	(99) None