

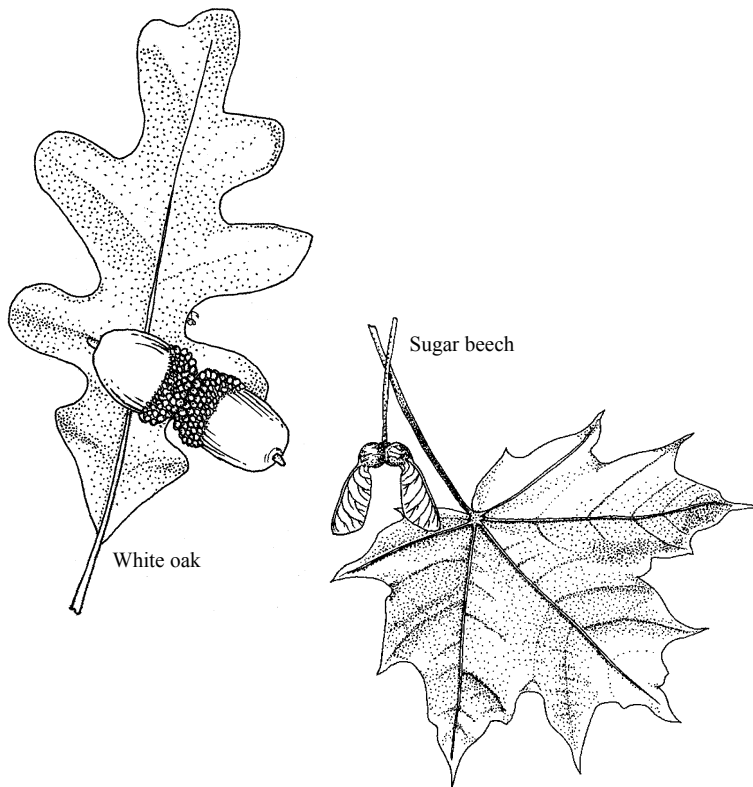


**Donaldson's Woods:** This undisturbed old-growth woods is recognized by botanists as one of the most impressive stands of the original forest remaining in Indiana. The woods is classified as a western mesophytic forest type because it is intermediate between beech-maple and oak-hickory types. However, studies indicate that beech and maple are assuming greater importance. An unusual feature of the woods is the high percentage of white oaks.

This region of the state is rich in karst features such as caves and sinkholes. Much of the runoff from the woods drains through sinkholes rather than surface streams.

**Mitchell Sinkhole Plain:** This example of classic karst terrain consists of a very pronounced sinkhole plain that borders the entrenched valley of Mill Creek. The area is dominated by an abundance of sinkholes in various states of activity—many quickly swallow rainwater whereas others are plugged and remain ponded for short time periods. The natural opening and collapse of small caverns throughout exemplify the very dynamic nature of this landscape. This portion of Spring Mill, with its old-growth timber, appears to represent the largest single block of undisturbed sinkhole plain in a natural forest community remaining in Indiana.

American beech



**Further Information:**

Spring Mill State Park. Box 376, Mitchell IN 47446. 812-849-4129.  
Division of Nature Preserves. 402 W Washington St, Rm W267. Indianapolis IN 46204-2739.  
317-232-0209. [www.in.gov/dnr/naturepr](http://www.in.gov/dnr/naturepr).