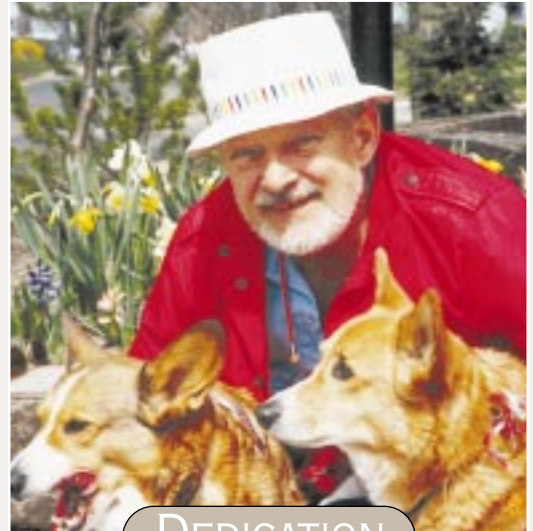




# CITY OF URBANA STATE STREET TREE TRAIL



## DEDICATION

The State Street Tree Trail is dedicated to Bruno Schielzeth, Urbana's first City Arborist. One of Mr. Schielzeth's dreams was to diversify Urbana's street tree population, which in 1975 was comprised of 30% Silver Maple and 50% undesirable trees. Thanks to Bruno's efforts and the City's ongoing urban forestry program, Urbana's street tree population has grown to include more than 150 carefully selected species, with no one species representing more than 10% of the population.

# STATE STREET TREE TRAIL



## State Street Tree Trail Legend

- 1 Amur Corktree
- 2 Kentucky Coffeetree
- 3 Serviceberry
- 4 Weeping Eastern White Pine
- 5 Concolor Fir
- 6 Dragon Eye Pine
- 7 Horsechestnut
- 8 Variegated Smoothleaf Elm
- 9 Sawtooth Oak
- 10 Northern Catalpa
- 11 Japanese Pagoda
- 12 Ohio Buckeye
- 13 European Hornbeam
- 14 Swamp White Oak
- 15 Zelkova
- 16 Sweetbay Magnolia
- 17 Goldenrain Tree
- 18 Baldcypress
- 19 European Beech
- 20 Katsuratree



## Local Landmark Legend

- A Illini Grove
- B Prior Residence of Dr. Micheal Dirr, U of I Professor of Horticulture
- C Carle Park Pavilion
- D Leal School
- E Freer Hall
- F Lincoln Avenue Residence Halls
- G U of I Extension Master Gardeners—Idea Garden
- H U of I Arboretum—Hartley Gardens



## WELCOME!

Welcome to Urbana, the first Illinois community to receive the "Tree City USA" designation in 1975. With more than 12,000 street trees, 6,000 park trees, and 100,000 privately owned trees, we take great pride in maintaining these valuable community assets. Not only are trees environmental and aesthetic treasures, they are also a part of the rich history of Urbana.

This guide is designed to provide you with a tour of 20 different specimens, which are part of the outstanding collection of trees in our city. These trees add beautiful color and welcome shade to our neighborhoods, and they reduce urban noise and remove pollutants from the air.

We invite you to learn about the value of these trees as you view their features, habitats and unique characteristics. As Urbana residents, students and visitors develop an appreciation for the benefits and pleasures of these magnificent trees, it ensures that a healthy and vibrant urban forest will continue to survive for generations to come.

Enjoy your tour!



## GROWING GREEN AND PROUD IN URBANA

As the site of some of the oldest trees in Illinois, the City of Urbana and its residents have long recognized the importance of these valuable community resources and have been committed to wisely managing our diverse urban tree population.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Urbana's Arbor Division is responsible for maintaining over 12,000 public trees. Every year our forestry crew averages 1,500 full tree prunes, 120 new tree plantings, 60 hazardous tree removals, 150 hazardous tree prunes and 300 tree clearance prunes.
- The average diameter of an Urbana street tree is 14 inches.
- Urbana averages 120 trees per linear mile of street, which ranks just under Boston as the most densely planted city in the U.S.
- Urbana's street tree population is made of 67+ genera (i.e., maple, oak, crabapple) and 156+ species (i.e., hedge maple, red maple, sugar maple).
- Maple, oak, crabapple, ash and linden are the five most numerous genera of Urbana's street tree population.

## AWARDS

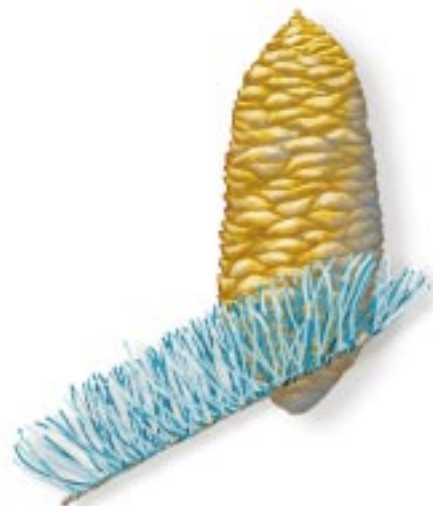
First Illinois community to be awarded Tree City USA recognition in 1975 and one of only 17 remaining charter members of the program, which has grown to include 2,100 communities.

Recipient of 1993 Illinois Urban Forestry Award for "Best Partnership-Central Region" between the Champaign County Design and Conservation Foundation and the City of Urbana.

Recognized for Urban Forestry Excellence at the First Governor's Conference on Urban Forestry in 1993.

Recipient of Tree City USA Growth Award designed to recognize environmental improvement and encourage higher levels of tree care throughout America.

Only community in Illinois selected by the White House Millennium Council to receive national recognition for its Tree City USA and greenspace efforts over the past 25 years. Millennium Green is a national project designed to encourage, promote and recognize the creation of healthier, more livable community environments.





## GET READY TO HIT THE TRAIL!

Often the trees in a city are overlooked as we drive past them each day. A greater appreciation for their beauty and benefits can be gained by taking the time to see them individually. The State Street Tree Trail provides that opportunity.

This guide charts a route that takes you past 20 trees, chosen as a representative sample of the beauty and variety of species found in Urbana. The descriptions, illustrations and accompanying map allow you to tour at your own pace with the benefit of a written tour guide.

The route begins at Illini Grove, itself a significant "landmark" in Urbana's tree history. In 1868, the University of Illinois Horticulture Committee designated this area for forestry. Originally, it extended from Pennsylvania Avenue to Nevada Street but was divided in 1925 to make way for McKinley Hospital and the Lincoln Avenue Residence Hall. Illini Grove was planted tightly with a variety of trees, with each species in its own area of the Grove. In the early 1890s, however, the trees were thinned, leaving them in a less formal arrangement. Currently, the site features a variety of mature oak, hickory and larch trees, with only the larches still organized in a linear block at the east side of the Grove.

From Illini Grove, the trail moves through our neighborhood of state streets, with stops on campus and at Carle Park. This park is home to a wide variety of trees as well, which you may want to explore further when you complete this tree trail. (A guide to the trees of Carle Park is available from the Urbana Park District and the City of Urbana.)

Also included on the trail is a visit to the former home of Dr. Michael Dirr, an award-winning horticulturalist, renowned author, photographer and former professor of horticulture at the University of Illinois. Dirr spent seven years in Urbana and planted numerous unusual species in his yard, three of which are included on the trail.

The trail is approximately 4 miles long. Walking briskly, you can complete it in about 80 minutes. If you take time to examine the features of each tree, it will probably take 2 hours. Although the trees are not physically tagged, the guide's written descriptions, illustrations and detailed map should help you to identify and learn about each tree.

### TRAIL RULES

As you make your way along the tree trail, please observe the following rules:

Please do not collect specimens, including bark, leaves, flowers and fruit from the tree or the ground surrounding it. Numerous collectors could easily damage trees beyond recovery. Urbana's Tree Care Ordinance prohibits disturbance of public trees.

Please observe beauty at a distance. Respect the rights of property owners and do not trespass into yards. Large volumes of trail users could unknowingly damage property and invade privacy.

After you complete the tree trail, we invite you to visit again during another time of the year to see the beauty and unique characteristics of each tree in different seasons.

# AMUR CORKTREE

*Phellodendron amurense* 'Macho'

702 W. Vermont, smaller of 2 parkway trees

1



Native to China and Japan, the Amur Corktree gets its name from its bark, which has a ridged and furrowed cork-like pattern. The unique and attractive bark does not appear until old age. Its pinnately compound leaves are lustrous green in summer transforming to bronzish-yellow in fall. 'Macho' is a male (fruitless) variety. Because the Amur Corktree is usually free of pests and is relatively tolerant of urban conditions, it's an excellent choice for parks and other open areas within the city.



# KENTUCKY COFFEETREE

*Gymnocladus dioica*

407 W. Delaware, west side of yard

2



This versatile tree is native to North America. Early pioneers collected its seeds and roasted them as a substitute for coffee, hence the name. Recently, a fruitless variety named 'Espresso' has been introduced. Native Americans also used the nickel-diameter round seeds as game pieces. Fall colors usually do not impact this tree, but it will sometimes achieve an excellent yellow hue. Its reddish-brown pods hang on throughout the winter. Claims have been made that the seeds in the pods are poisonous. The leaves are bipinnately compound, comprised of 3 to 7 pairs of pinnae (leaflets).

On your way to the next tree, note the unusual pink, tri-colored leaves on the Tricolor Beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Roseomarginata') at the northwest corner of the house at 711 W. Delaware.



3



### SERVICEBERRY

*Amelanchier X grandiflora 'Autumn Brilliance'*

802 W. Delaware, parkway tree north of drive on Busey

This attractive tree is excellent in all seasons. In mid-April, 2- to 4-inch long, white fragrant flowers appear. The small fruit, which ripens in June changing from green to red and finally to purple, attracts many area birds. In the fall, the leaves turn from a medium green to yellow, orange and red, earning its cultivar name, Autumn Brilliance. Because of its smaller size, the Serviceberry is a perfect choice for many Urbana landscapes.



### WEeping EASTERN WHITE PINE

*Pinus strobus 'Pendula'*

1306 S. Orchard, near the corner of Orchard and Pennsylvania

4



This tree and the next two on the trail, were planted by Michael Dirr, a renowned horticulturist who lived in Urbana in the 1970s. For more information

on Dirr, see page 5. The White Pine is one of the fastest-growing ornamental pines, able to reach 75 feet in just 30 to 40 years. Although the bark is smooth and gray when young, it becomes dark and furrowed with age. The needles exist in clusters of 5, giving the tree a feathery appearance. This beautiful native pine is very distinctive, with pendulous branches that sometimes sweep the ground. Rarely are two of them similar in character. This tree is sensitive to many conditions, not tolerating air pollution, salts or high pH levels.

# DRAGON EYE PINE

*Pinus densiflora 'Oculus Draconis'*

1306 S. Orchard, northwest corner of house

6



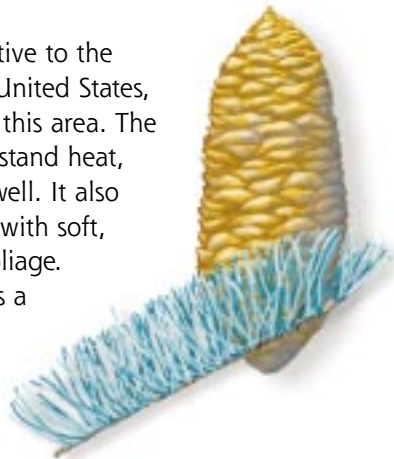
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## CONCOLOR FIR

*Abies concolor*

1306 S. Orchard, near southwest corner of house

Even though this tree is native to the western and southwestern United States, it is one of the best firs for this area. The Concolor Fir is able to withstand heat, drought and cold equally well. It also has a pleasant appearance with soft, bluish-green, needle-like foliage. Crushing its foliage releases a strong, lemon-balm aroma. Its cones can be 3 to 6 inches in size and have a pale green and sometimes purplish tint.



Native to Japan, this particular species is a cultivar of the Japanese Red Pine. This handsome, two-needled pine has an orangish-red, flaky bark. The Dragon Eye Pine's uniqueness comes from its needles, which are marked with two yellow lines and when viewed from above show alternate yellow and green rings. It is especially attractive in late summer and fall. However, don't expect its appeal to last year round since this tree discolors to a muddied yellow-brown in winter.





# VARIGATED SMOOTHLEAF ELM

*Ulmus carpinifolia 'Variegata'*

Carle Park, northwest corner of sand volleyball area



7

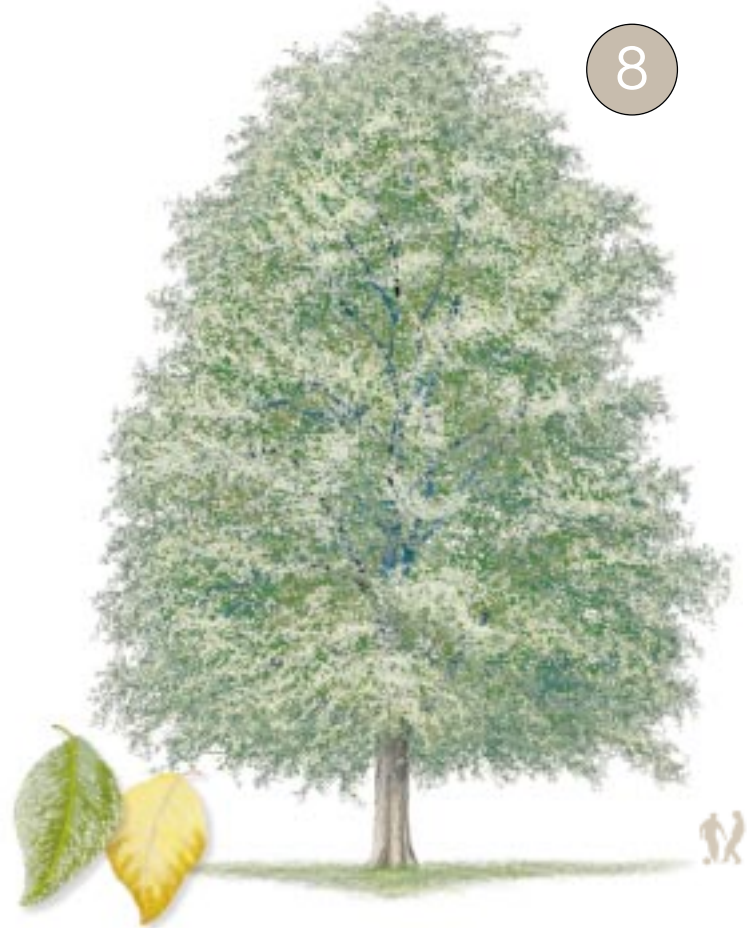
## HORSE CHESTNUT

*Aesculus hippocastanum*

508 W. Michigan, east side of parkway

Although its origins lie in Asia, the Horse Chestnut was introduced to America from Europe in the 18th century. Today, it is widely used as a shade tree both here and abroad. Perfect for open areas, the Horse Chestnut has found homes in such famous gardens as Versailles and Schwetzingen. White flowers can be enjoyed while relaxing in its shade during mid- to later May.

Two other interesting trees on Michigan include a Pecan (*Carya illinoensis*) at 701 (west of the driveway in the parkway) and a Turkish Filbert (*Corylus colurna*) at 612 (small tree in front parkway).



8

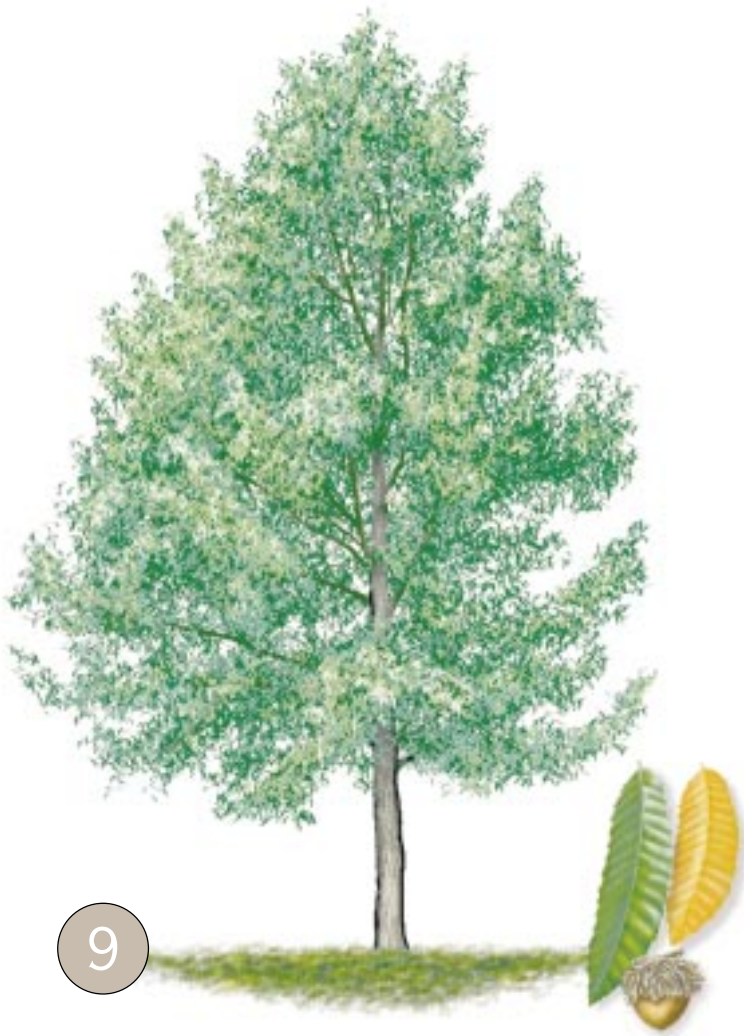
This tree and the next two on the trail are located in Carle Park, the second oldest park in Urbana, which features a two-story stone pavillion. This elm, which is characterized by the white stippling in its leaves, may be a variety of the European elm species. It is a rare specimen and is not available commercially. This particular tree stands 65 feet tall with a circumference of nearly 10 feet. In the past 35 years, it has survived both Dutch elm disease and phloem necrosis, two very destructive and widespread elm diseases.

On your way to the next tree, note the Champion English Oak (*Quercus robur*) at the southeast corner of the pavillion. It is the largest of its species in Illinois and the second largest of its species in the U.S.

# NORTHERN CATALPA

*Catalpa speciosa*

Carle Park, northwest of pavillion, due north of  
Varigated Elm



## SAWTOOTH OAK

*Quercus acutissima*

Carle Park, northeast of pavillion, south of Garfield  
Avenue

The Sawtooth is one of the fastest-growing oaks and has a relatively dense habit. The leaves open as brilliant yellow-green in spring, changing to a lustrous green foliage in summer and then a pale brown in fall. These leaves hold on during the winter. It's a great choice for this area since it is resistant to insects and diseases. This is a nice, wide-spreading shade or lawn tree, which will withstand temperatures to -20 degrees Fahrenheit once it is established. It is easily transplanted.



Known for its flowers, fruit and large, heart-shaped leaves, the Northern Catalpa is native along rivers in the south-central United States. The 2-inch-long flower blooms in early June and is followed shortly thereafter with the long, slender, pod-shaped fruit. Catalpa wood is rot resistant and has been used for railroad ties. However, the wood is also brittle, which makes Catalpas susceptible to wind and ice damage. Catalpas are not recommended for the average urban setting. This particular Catalpa is an excellent specimen, standing 83 feet with a circumference of nearly 13 feet. It also survived a lightning strike in the late 1980s.

# OHIO BUCKEYE

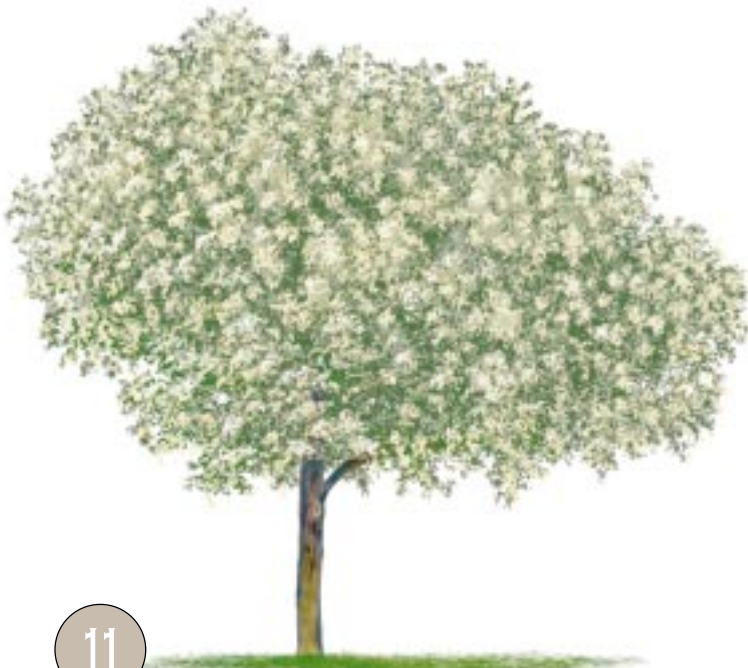
*Aesculus glabra*

411 W. Nevada, smooth-barked tree in parkway  
on Nevada Street side

12



The leaves of the Ohio Buckeye go through many color changes. They begin as bright green turning dark green in summer and then yellow and at times orange-red in the fall. Perfectly shaped greenish-yellow flowers bloom around mid-May. This Buckeye's dark brown fruit is highly recognizable due to its prickly outer shell. Because of this fruit, street planting of the Ohio Buckeye is limited.



11

# JAPANESE PAGODA

*Sophora japonica*

408 W. Iowa, southeast corner of yard

The Japanese Pagoda has foliage similar to a Honeylocust. Yellowish-green flowers in 12- to 14-inch clusters appear in late summer lasting about a month, and its small branches remain green throughout the winter. The leaves are pinnately compound, comprised of 3 to 7 pairs of pinnae. Although it's available through few nurseries, this tree can easily be grown from pods collected in fall or early winter. Also known as a Scholar Tree, the

Japanese Pagoda is a perfect addition to our university town.

However, it can be messy due to the large numbers of flowers and seeds it deposits.



13



### EUROPEAN HORNBEAM *Carpinus betulus*

606 W. Birch, grouping of parkway trees west of Leal School

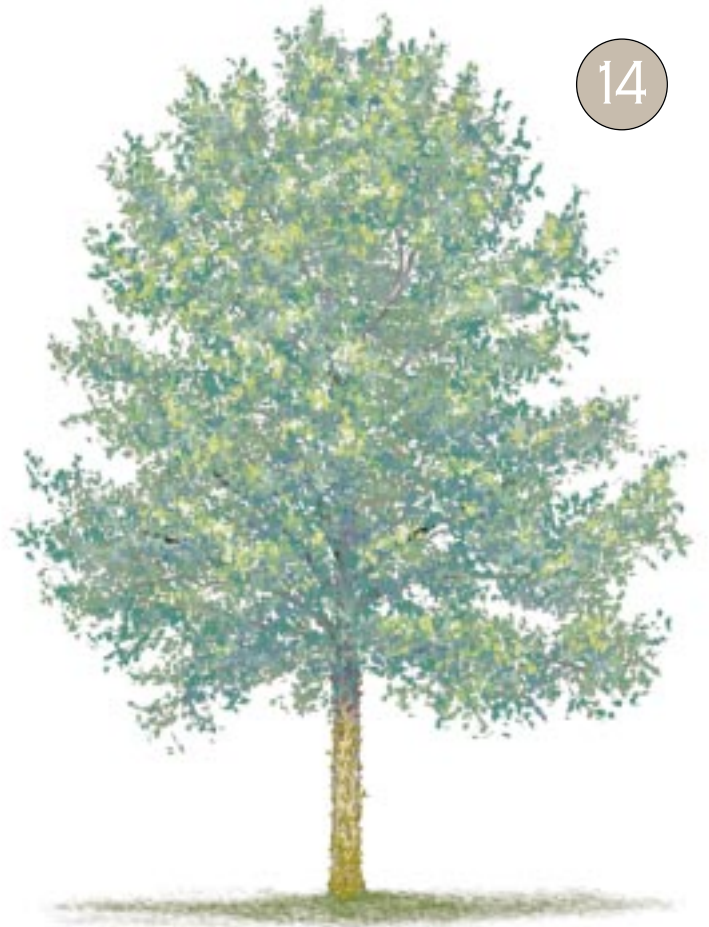
The European Hornbeam has many admirable qualities. The dense foliage is very clean, showing no evidence of insect or disease damage. The bark on older specimens is a handsome gray and beautifully fluted. Although it can reach a height of 100 feet, more commonly this tree matures at 40 to 60 feet. One of the finest landscape trees, the European Hornbeam is widely used in Europe for roadside planting and hedges.

*Originally built in 1855, Leal School is Urbana's oldest school site. After being destroyed by fire in 1872, the structure was rebuilt in 1935 using an Art Deco style.*

## SWAMP WHITE OAK *Quercus bicolor*

604 and 607 W. California, parkway trees

14



Relatively slow-growing, the Swamp White Oak performs well as a street or shade tree. The technical name "bicolor" refers to the two contrasting colors in the leaf—dark green above the pale and silvery white below. Its somewhat large acorns attract many of the area's squirrels. Native to the United States, the wood of this tree is used for furniture, boats and wine casks.



15



## ZELKOVA

*Zelkova serrata* 'Village Green'

701 W. Oregon, two parkway trees located on Coler side

The Zelkova has been planted in many areas as a replacement for the American Elm because it has a similar vase shape and is resistant to many diseases and pests, most notably Dutch Elm disease. This native of Japan makes a beautiful landscape tree with its good foliage, interesting shape and handsome bark. It is a fine street tree although it must be kept away from telephone wires due to its ultimate height of 130 feet.



## SWEETBAY MAGNOLIA

*Magnolia virginiana*

808 W. Nevada, parkway tree west of driveway

16



This native of the southern states is unusual for the Illinois climate, normally preferring warmer temperatures. Although it can grow to 60 feet in the South, it does not grow taller than 10 to 20 feet in this area. Also called Swamp Magnolia, it grows well in wet, even swampy, soils and tolerates shade as well. This particular tree is welcome in most landscapes due to its flowers that bloom from May to August. Although the individual flowers last only one week, they have a very fragrant lemon scent. In addition, bright red seed pods appear in fall and attract many birds. This particular Magnolia was found and chosen by J.C. McDaniel, a U of I professor in horticulture, for its superior cold hardiness. He planted this tree and many other unique specimens in the immediate neighborhood to study and propagate. It is unknown where this Sweetbay Magnolia originated.



17

## GOLDENRAIN TREE

*Koelreuteria paniculata*

715 W. Washington, parkway tree on Busey side

The name of this unusual species is derived from the long, loose clusters of yellow flowers that appear in early summer. These flowers are then followed by papery fruit capsules, which resemble Japanese lanterns. It is at its most beautiful in early July. This tree's leaves can be pinnately and/or bipinnately compound. Introduced to Europe from China in 1763, the Goldenrain Tree was designated by the early Chinese dynasties as one of five official memorial trees. The Goldenrain Tree was typically planted on the tombs of scholars, although not in all cases as demonstrated by the specimen in our guide.



## BALDCYPRESS

*Taxodium distichum*

805 W. Iowa, large parkway tree

18



This deciduous conifer has a slender pyramidal form with horizontal branching. Its feathery needle-like foliage appears soft green in the summer changing to a rusty orange in fall. The fruit consists of a round cone approximately 1 inch across. Although the Baldcypress can be seen growing in swamps of the southern United States, this stately tree also grows well in most urban soils. The Cache River Basin in Southern Illinois is home to numerous historic Baldcypress trees well over 800 years old.



On your way to the next tree, note the Cucumbertree *Magnolia* (*Magnolia acuminata*) at 810 W. Iowa. Located in the parkway south of the apartment building, it is among the largest *Magnolias* in Urbana. The name is derived from small cucumber-like fruit which appear in October.

# KATSURATREE

*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*

906 S. Goodwin, 2 trees west of entrance to Freer Hall

20



The Katsuratree is most admired for its beauty. Much of the focus lands on the leaves, which are heart-shaped with wavy edges. New leaves materialize with a reddish-purple color, changing to bluish-green in summer and yellow to apricot-orange in the fall. In addition, the fall leaves give off a spicy cinnamon odor. Katsuratrees are ideal for residential properties, parks, golf courses and other areas desiring a nice show piece.

*Freer Hall was named after Louise Freer, head of the Women's Physical Education Department at the University of Illinois from 1915 to 1949.*



19



# EUROPEAN BEECH

*Fagus sylvatica*

1003 W. Nevada, east side of yard



This magnificent tree has smooth, light gray bark and dense, glossy foliage. There are so many beautiful cultivars (this is the purple-leaved variety) that it is easy to find at least one to blend into any Urbana landscape. Due to the deep

shade it creates, grass will not grow underneath. If pollinated, the tree will provide small nuts. Since the European Beech can withstand heavy pruning, it makes an excellent privacy hedge.

*Another example of European Beech is just south of Nevada on the west side of Lincoln in the greenspace that once was the northern section of Illini Grove. This Beech and its historic neighbors have been saved from destruction several times over the past decades with the help of concerned citizens and university staff.*

# PLANTING PROGRAMS

Without new plantings, the lush green landscape of Urbana would eventually disappear. We must continually invest in new plantings to keep our city green and growing.

**New Construction Plantings**—Urbana works closely with developers to ensure greenspace and trees are a part of those developments.

**Beautification Projects**—The City periodically plants trees in high-visibility locations along major roads and near businesses.

**Cost-Share Program**—Trees are planted on a cost-sharing basis between residents and the City.

**Reforestation Program**—Rare species are planted as part of this program. Planting sites are identified by the Arbor Division.

## DON'T FORGET YOUR PERMIT

Urbana's codes regulate spacing between parkway tree plantings so that each tree will have enough room at maturity. There are restrictions about planting under overhead power lines as well. Even knowing where the parkway is can be confusing, depending on whether there is a sidewalk.

Play it safe. Contact the Arbor Division to obtain a permit before you plant, prune, dig near or remove a parkway tree. Permits are free, and failure to obtain one can be expensive. Unauthorized destruction or removal of parkway trees can result in damage charges, and trees planted without permits may need to be removed at the planter's expense. By obtaining a permit, you'll know how to comply with City code requirements.

## WHEN TREES MUST COME DOWN

Unfortunately, there are times when trees become hazardous and must be removed because of death, structural weakness, storm damage, vandalism, auto accidents or disease. Damaged trees that can be repaired or made safe and trees that constitute an inconvenience by virtue of leaf, twig or fruit drop are rarely considered for removal.



## A PARTNER IN HORTICULTURE EDUCATION

University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners are a vital link in providing up-to-date, research-based information to home gardeners. The Master Gardener program is an adult volunteer program sanctioned by land grant universities in all 50 states.

Master Gardeners in Champaign County use a variety of educational techniques. These include: answering home gardener questions in the extension office; serving as resource people in community gardens at schools, parks and nursing homes; developing exhibits; and conducting programs for local civic groups. U of I Extension Master Gardeners are involved in many community garden projects. The most visible is the Idea Demonstration Garden located at the U of I Arboretum on south Lincoln Avenue in Urbana. The Idea Garden gazebo is a relaxing place to view a tasty vegetable and herb garden, a children's garden to delight young and old and colorful flower gardens. (See Tree Trail map for exact location.)

For more information on the Master Gardener program or any of the many other extension programs in horticulture, nutrition, family, youth, agriculture and consumer issues, contact: University of Illinois Extension-Champaign County, 801 N. Country Fair Drive, Suite D, Champaign, Illinois 61821, 217-333-7672; or visit the website at [www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/champaign](http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/champaign).





# INFORMATION AND PEOPLE TO CALL

## PLANTING ADVICE

The Central Illinois Tree Planting Guide provides step-by-step instructions on how to select, plant and care for trees as well as information about 26 trees which are well suited to the Central Illinois region. Copies are available at:

- Urbana Public Works, 706 S. Glover, Urbana
- Urbana Free Library, 201 S. Race, Urbana
- University of Illinois Extension,  
801 N. Country Fair Drive, Suite D, Champaign

## INFORMATION ON PARKWAY TREES

For safety inspections or permits for parkway trees, contact Urbana's Arbor Division at 217-384-2393.

## GENERAL TREE CARE

- University of Illinois Extension, 217-333-7672  
801 N. Country Fair Drive, Suite D, Champaign
- Certified Arborist Guide  
Copies are available at the Urbana Public Works office, 706 S. Glover, Urbana.
- International Society of Arboriculture  
217-355-9411 isa-arbor.com

## LANDSCAPE RECYCLING

Urbana claims the only municipally operated Landscape Recycling Facility in the state which is not subsidized through tax dollars. By processing 60,000 cubic yards of yard debris each year, we help reduce the demand for further landfill space by as much as 25%. The facility, which is located at 1210 E. University in Urbana, is open to the public. Local residents may drop off yard debris for recycling for a disposal fee, and the site has items such as compost and mulch available for purchase. For more information or deliveries, call 217-344-5323.

## GREENSCAPES PROGRAM

To preserve greenspace for the future and undertake educational and beautification projects not possible with limited tax dollars, Urbana has created the Greenscapes Program. This privately funded effort provides valuable resources for projects such as this State Street Tree Trail. For additional information, call the Arbor Division at 217-384-2393. Direct contributions can be made to Urbana Greenscapes, 706 S. Glover, Urbana, Illinois 61802.