

THOMPSON PARK TREE TREK



Enjoy a Walking Tour of the Many Tree Species to be Found in Thompson Park

Thompson Park's 49 acres are well known to local walkers, joggers, and sports enthusiasts. Few residents are aware, however, of the rich diversity of trees growing within the park. Over 70 different species can be found, ranging from native trees such as black walnut and red oak to more exotic species such as dawn redwood and Caucasian wingnut. Some of the trees have been growing on this land since long before establishment of the park, some were donated through the City's Commemorative Tree Program, and some were planted due to their horticultural value or for observation prior to use as street trees.

The Tree Trek brochure aims to introduce some of these trees to park users. Trees are numbered on the map and on corresponding signs. This self-guiding walk begins and ends at the Lane Road branch of the Upper Arlington Public Library.

We hope you enjoy learning about the trees of Thompson Park.

1. **Baldcypress** (*Taxodium distichum*) is a large fastgrowing, deciduous conifer that does well in wet locations. It has a deep orange fall color and flattened, narrow short needles.
2. **Sugar Maple** (*Acer saccharum*) is the source of real maple syrup. It has a moderate rate of growth and a brilliant mix of colors in the fall.
3. **Yellowwood** (*Cladrastis kentuckia*), a member of the legume family, has bright yellow heartwood. It is medium-sized with white flowers, broad, flat compound leaves, and smooth light-gray bark.
4. **Green Giant Arborvitae** (*Thuja plicata* 'Green Giant') is often planted as a hedge but can also be used as an individual specimen. Its pyramidal form is more open than some more common arborvitae cultivars and has dark green foliage.
5. **Serviceberry** (*Amelanchier sp.*) has white spring flowers followed by red/purple berries in summer, a favorite food of birds and other wildlife. Some serviceberries have a single trunk, others feature a more branched form. Its leaves are small, with orange/red fall color.

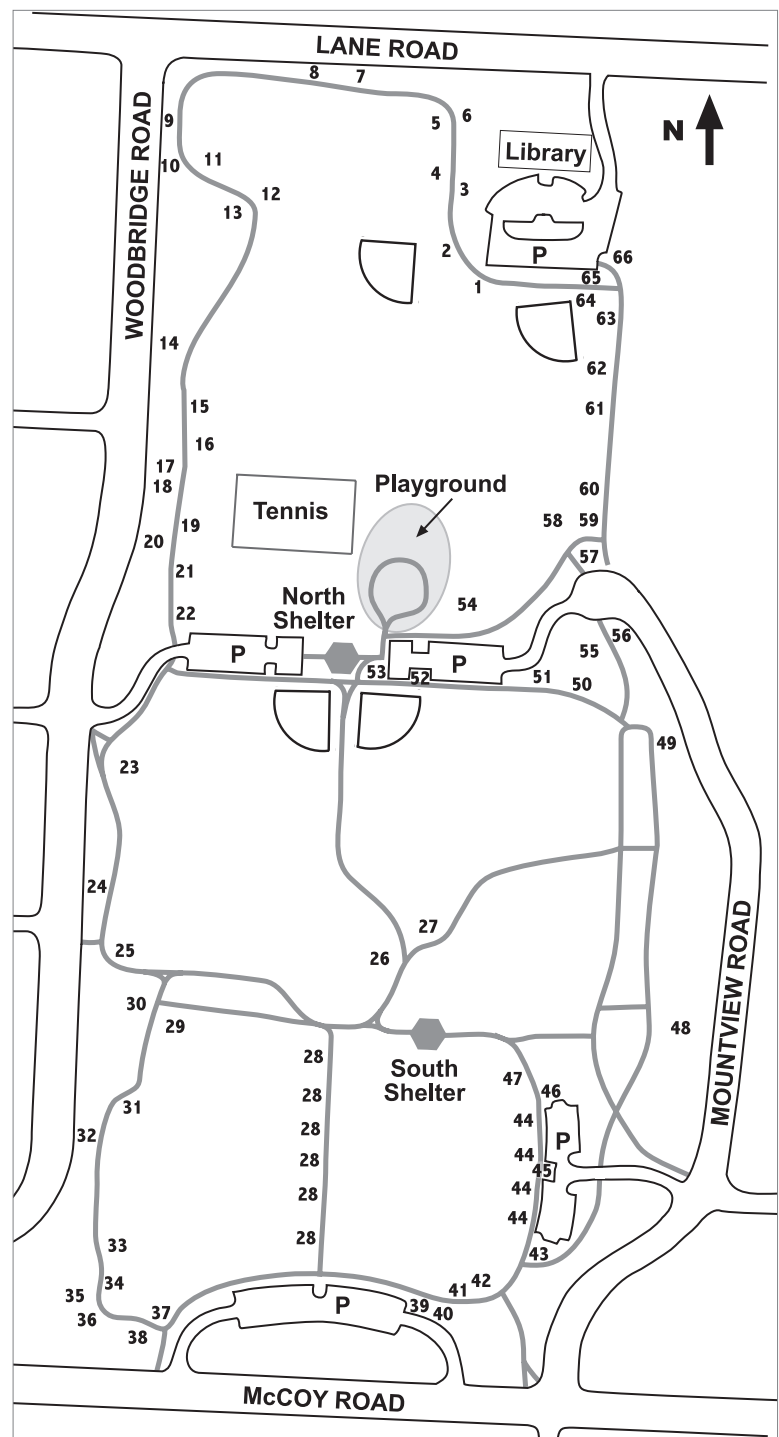


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6. **Dawn Redwood** (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) grows to 70'-80.' It is known as the "living fossil" because it was thought to be extinct when three trees were found in a small Chinese village. Most dawn redwoods in the U.S. have been propagated from those three trees. While a deciduous conifer, it is not closely related to the baldcypress.
7. **Swamp White Oak** (*Quercus bicolor*) is native to Ohio and grows quite large. It can retain its leaves far into winter, and smaller limbs have attractive exfoliating bark. Leaves are not nearly as deeply lobed as in white oak.
8. **Weeping Bald Cypress** (*Taxodium distichum* 'Cascade Falls') is a weeping form of the Common Bald Cypress. It is a deciduous conifer that tolerates wet sites but does not require them. It has a nice orange color in the fall.
9. **Bretscherderii Pear** (*Pyrus x 'Bretscherderii'*) This is the only one of its kind in the park. It features white flowers in early spring similar to other ornamental pears.
10. **London Plane Tree** (*Platanus x acerifolia*) is a cross between the sycamore and the oriental plane tree, developed to withstand the polluted air in 19th Century London, England. It tends to be more disease resistant than native sycamores but still has the interesting mottled bark and large broad leaf.
11. **Washington Hawthorn** (*Crataegus phaenopyrum*) bears long, sharp thorns making it a questionable choice for home landscaping. It bears white flowers and small orange fruit. Leaves are small, simple and variable with good fall color.
12. **Sweetgum** (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) is easily distinguished by its star-shaped leaves and prickly hanging fruits. It is a large tree with good structure and excellent purple and red fall color.
13. **Norway Spruce** (*Picea abies*) is a large-growing evergreen reaching 60'-70.' It may be too large for a typical yard but can be magnificent in a park-type setting. Spruce needles are single, not in clusters.
14. **Osage Orange** (*Madura pomifera*) is a tough, durable tree that can do well in poor sites. It has dark green leaves and the female trees have large green fruit known as hedge apples. The wood is extremely hard often used for fence posts and was used by indigenous people for bows.
15. **Japanese Tree Lilac** (*Syringa reticulata* 'Ivory Silk') has small ivory flowers and cherry-like bark. It reaches 25'-30' in height, and under 20' in spread.
16. **American Hophornbeam** (*Ostrya virginiana*) has strong, heavy wood. Leaves are simple and unlobed with small teeth. It has shaggy bark and will tolerate some shade. It is common in rich woods in Canada and the eastern U.S.



17. **Hardy Rubber Tree** (*Eucommia ulmoides*) has glossy dark green leaves which contain latex and are very resistant to pests and diseases. Mature height is approximately 30'. Inconspicuous blooms are followed by the production of small, 1.5" long flat-winged seeds. It requires full sun.
18. **Kentucky Coffeetree** (*Gymnocladus dioica*) has unique bipinnately compound leaves which give it a tropical look in summer. It has a very open winter habit, often retaining flat brown pods on female trees. Males are seedless.



19. **Lacebark Elm** (*Ulmus parvifolia*) grows 30'-40' tall. It is very resistant to Dutch elm disease, with beautiful exfoliating bark and small, glossy leaves with tiny teeth.
20. **White Oak** (*Quercus alba*) is a large, slow growing tree with light gray bark and deeply sinused leaves which distinguish it from swamp white oak. It is one of the largest trees of the eastern U.S., and is found in a variety of habitats in Ohio.
21. **Kousa Dogwood** (*Cornus kousa*) has ornamental bark when mature and the fruit looks like red raspberries. This tree was planted in memory of a dog as part of the City's Commemorative Tree Program.
22. **Red Horsechestnut** (*Aesculus x carnea*) is a hybrid of Red Buckeye and European Horsechestnut. The leaves and fruit look like the Ohio Buckeye, but this tree has pink flowers, not the white blooms of our state tree.
23. **Black Walnut** (*Juglans nigra*) is a large tree with compound leaves and green-husked nuts which the squirrels plant all over the park. This individual, growing off the path a bit, originated in that manner. The dark colored heartwood is popular among woodworkers. The species is allelopathic, meaning that some other plants do not grow well within its dripline.
24. **Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn** (*Crataegus crusgalli* var. *inermis*) has the white flowers and small berries typical of the species, without the thorns. It grows slowly and becomes quite wide, with broad, simple leaves. Berries are clustered at the ends of branching stalks.
25. **Cutleaf European Beech** (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Asplenifolia') is a large, slow growing tree with majestic smooth light gray bark. Its deeply cut leaf produces unusual texture and form.

26. **Trident Maple** (*Acer buergerianum*) is a small, Asian maple which has a three-lobed, simple leaf. It is an uncommon tree but one that deserves more use. Leaves are glossy green in summer and fall color includes orange and red tones.
27. **Red Maple** (*Acer rubrum*) is a relatively fast-growing native tree with red twigs and brilliant red fall color. The bark on young trees is very smooth and becomes platy as the tree gets older. It has small red flowers in early spring.
28. **Japanese Zelkova** (*Zelkovia serrata* 'Green Vase') is an Asian member of the elm family which is highly resistant to Dutch elm disease. It develops mottled ornamental bark as it ages. It is one of the few trees with the "vase" growth habit, reminiscent of the American elm. It grows to 50'-60' tall and quite wide.
29. **Tulip Tree** (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) is an Ohio native that reaches 80' or more in the right forest site, but 50' is more likely in urban areas. It is a member of the magnolia family and has beautiful orange and yellow flowers in spring and a unique leaf shape.
30. **Oriental Spruce** (*Picea orientalis*) can reach more than 60' in height while retaining its conical form. The dark green needles are shorter than those of other spruces, making this species a graceful and elegant choice where space permits.
31. **'Indian Summer' Crabapple** (*Malus* sp. 'Indian Summer') is a pink-flowering crabapple cultivar with good disease resistance. It grows to about 20' in height and an equal crown width.
32. **Colorado Spruce** (*Picea pungens*) is a popular evergreen native to the western U.S. It can reach 60' in height. Its foliar color varies from green to vivid blue, depending on the individual tree and cultivar. Older trees may develop needle diseases.
33. **Italian Alder** (*Alnus cordata*) is a dense, fast growing plant with glossy bright green heart-shaped leaves. Its cone-like fruits and catkins give it great winter character. It is ideal for wet conditions, but rarely seen in Ohio.
34. **Hedge Maple** (*Acer campestre*) is a medium-sized, European maple. It grows well as a street tree because it is very tolerant to heat and drought, and is relatively free of insect pests and diseases. It has excellent yellow fall color. Some specimens have very corky twigs.
35. **River Birch** (*Betula nigra*) is a native birch with shaggy peach-colored bark. It can be grown as a multi-trunked or single-trunked specimen. It tends to be more pest resistant than any white-barked birch in Central Ohio.
36. **Caucasian Wingnut** (*Pterocarya fraxinifolia*) grows 40'-50' tall with a spread equal to or greater than its height. It has a dark, glossy green compound leaf in summer, and gets its name from its winged nutlets.

37. **Japanese Pagodatree** (*Styphnolobium japonicum*) is sometimes known as “the scholar tree.” It is a large tree with compound leaves similar to honeylocust, and it is also a member of the legume family. Its most unusual trait is its profusion of white flowers in August when few other trees are in bloom.
38. **Bigtooth Maple ‘Rocky Mountain Glow’** (*Acer grandidentatum* ‘Rocky Mountain Glow’) is a small maple native to the western U.S. It grows to 25’ and in many respects is like a dwarf sugar maple.
39. **European Hornbeam** (*Carpinus betulus*) is a slow growing tree native to Europe which is most commonly found as an “upright” cultivar in the U.S. This specimen is the natural form, which is uncommon.
40. **European Beech ‘Riversii’** (*Fagus sylvatica* ‘Riversii’) is a slow-growing native of Europe which features smooth light gray bark. This variety of European Beech has a broad, flat, simple leaf which is dark maroon/copper all summer.
41. **Pondcypress** (*Taxodium ascendens*) looks similar to its relative baldcypress but has minor differences in needle attachment. It is native to the southern U.S. and reaches 80’ in height.
42. **Scotch Pine** (*Pinus sylvestris*) is a two-needled pine native to Europe. The bark shows a striking orange color on older trees. It becomes 30’-40’ tall, and is a popular Christmas tree.
43. **Ginkgo** (*Ginkgo biloba*) is a large but slow growing tree native to China. It is an ancient tree with unique fan-shaped leaves. It has a very clear gold color in the fall. It is dioecious, meaning that only female trees bear fruit. Most ginkgos planted in the U.S. are male, because the fruits are foul-smelling.
44. **Amur Corktree** (*Phellodendron amurense*) is a medium-sized tree native to Asia. It can become as wide as it is tall. Older trees have thick bark. Its compound leaf is very similar to that of the ash family. Male cultivars are fruitless.
45. **‘Prairifire’ Crabapple** (*Malus* sp. ‘Prairifire’) is a good pink flowering crab with small red fruits and excellent disease resistance, requiring no spraying.
46. **Honeylocust** (*Gleditsia tricanthos* var. *inermis*) is a large, fast-growing tree with small leaflets comprising its compound leaf. It tolerates wet and challenging sites. This specimen is a thornless variety; native trees have large thorns on the trunk.
47. **Lacebark Pine** (*Pinus bungeana*) is an uncommon, slowgrowing pine. On older specimens the variegated bark pattern is quite striking. A native of Asia, it grows 30’- 40’ in height.
48. **The Tree Commission Grove was established in 2003, incorporating trees donated by current and former Tree Commission members. The species in the grove, all native to Ohio include:** Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*); River Birch (*Betula nigra*); Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*); Yellow Buckeye (*Aesculus octandra*); Cucumber tree (*Magnolia acuminata*); Musclewood (*Carpinus caroliniana*); Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*); Black Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*); Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*); American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*); Northern Pecan (*Carya illinoensis*); Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*); Shumard Oak (*Quercus shumardii*); Big Leaf Magnolia (*Magnolia macrophylla*); Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*); Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*); Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*); Blue Ash (*Fraxinus quadrangulata*); Hophornbean (*Ostrya virginiana*); and Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*).
49. **European Beech ‘Tricolor’** (*Fagus sylvatica* ‘Tricolor’) is a slow-growing cultivar with a distinctive maroon, pink and white leaf. It grows to about 30’ tall.
50. **American Beech** (*Fagus grandifolia*) does not tolerate poor soils. It is found throughout Ohio, and hollows in beech trees provide shelter for many animals. The smooth, gray bark is distinctive, as are the long, slender chestnut brown buds. Leaves are simple, 2”-5” long, with coarse teeth.
51. **Blackgum** (*Nyssa sylvatica*) or Tupelo has bright scarlet fall color and shiny leaves. Leaves are simple and unlobed with smooth margins. The smooth, gray bark of younger trees darkens with age, breaking into rectangular blocks separated by deep crevices.
52. **European (Black) Alder** (*Alnus glutinosa*) is a relatively fast-growing tree with ornamental catkins and cone-like fruits during the winter. It tends to be tolerant of poor soils, including those that are wet and infertile. The small rounded leaves turn yellow in fall.



53. **Silver Linden** (*Tilia tomentosa*) is native to southeastern Europe and western Asia. Horticulturists brought it to North America during our colonial period. The bark is silver gray. Few plants grow well under its dense foliage. It has broad, asymmetrical heart-shaped leaves. Spring flowers are fragrant, and mature height reaches 75'.
54. **The Magnolia Grove** (*Magnolia spp.*) contains over a dozen different magnolias with blooms occurring from spring to early summer. Some have white or yellow flowers while most bloom in varying shades of pink. Most mature at 15'-25'. Some are subject to magnolia scale and may require treatment.
55. **Pin Oak** (*Quercus palustris*) is distinctive from a distance with its ascending upper branches, horizontal middle branches, and drooping lower branches. It is a fast growing tree and retains its leaves far into winter. Some trees suffer from iron deficiency in our alkaline soils. Leaves are deeply lobed with bristle tips.
56. **Hackberry** (*Celtis occidentalis*) has rough-textured bark when mature. It bears blue-black berries which are fed upon by various birds and mammals after they ripen in the fall. Hackberry leaves are simple and unlobed with a twisting tip and fine teeth.
57. **White Pine** (*Pinus strobus*) is the largest conifer native to the northeastern US. It is fast growing, and has an open habit. It is native to a small portion of northeast Ohio, but has been planted throughout the state. Its needles are in bundles of five.
58. **Shagbark Hickory** (*Carya ovata*) spends the first three years of life developing a root system with little top growth. It produces large hickory nuts that are a favorite food of squirrels. The shaggy bark, conspicuous on tall, straight trees, gives this tree its common name. It has compound leaves with five to seven leaflets.
59. **Littleleaf Linden** (*Tilia cordata*) has dense, compact foliage and a pyramidal shape. It has broad, flat, finely toothed simple heart-shaped leaves. Sadly, Japanese beetles love to feed on this European native.
60. **'Pacific Sunset' Maple** (*Acer platanoides x truncatum 'Pacific Sunset'*) is a hybrid cultivar frequently used as a street tree due to its medium size and pretty fall color. It is derived from the Norway maple and the Shantung or Asian maple.
61. **European Beech** (*Fagus sylvatica*) has broad, flat, simple, unlobed leaves. It has smooth bark and is available in assorted cutleaf, weeping and red leafed forms. It is somewhat easier to grow than the American beech and reaches 75' tall.

62. **Red Oak** (*Quercus rubra*) has broad, simple, lobed leaves with bristle tips. Its acorns are bitter to squirrels, which plant them to eat after white oak acorns are gone. It grows relatively quickly and has red fall color.
63. **'Sugar Tyme' Crabapple** (*Malus sp. 'Sugar Tyme'*) has an upright oval form with glossy deep green simple leaves. Flowers begin as pink buds and open to sparkling white. The small red fruits cover the branches in the fall and persist into late winter. It is disease resistant.
64. **Bur Oak** (*Quercus macrocarpa*) has simple, deeply lobed leaves which are broader at the top than at the base. It has very corky bark which has protected many bur oaks from prairie fires. They produce large acorns and can live for 300 years. It is one of the most massive of Ohio's trees.
65. **Paperbark Maple** (*Acer griseum*) has a compound leaf with toothed margins. The bark exfoliates like birch, but with a cinnamon color. It is a native of China, introduced into this country in 1901. The leaves turn red in autumn. The tree is relatively free of pests.
66. **Silver Maple** (*Acer saccharinum*) has deeply lobed, simple leaves that are silvery underneath. It is relatively short-lived and fast growing, and its wood is neither strong nor durable.

