Guide to the TREES *of* DISTINCTION *in* Webster Groves

WEBSTER GROVES

Green Space Advisory Commission and the
City of Webster Groves, Missouri 2015

trees work™

Trees Work for Your Family

- A 10 percent increase in trees in a neighborhood reduces crime by 12 percent.

Trees Work for Your Health

- ADD symptoms in children are relieved after spending time in an area with trees.

Trees Work for Your Wallet

- Shade from trees just two trees can save up to 30 percent on annual air conditioning costs.

Trees Work for Your Community

- In neighborhoods with trees, people socialize more and report feeling more satisfied with where they live.

Trees Work for the Environment

- A 10 percent increase in the amount of forest around streams can decrease the cost to clean drinking water by 20 percent.

Trees Work for the Economy

- Employees with a view of nature report feeling more enthusiastic on the job, less frustrated, and take 15 percent fewer sick days.

Help spread the word—
Trees Work!

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The purpose of this Guide is to formally recognize and locate the Trees of Distinction in Webster Groves. We invite the residents of Webster Groves to become partners with the city as we work together to protect the tree canopy that provides so much value to our community.

The Guide is intended to enhance public awareness regarding the importance of trees to the City's rich history and heritage, culture and beauty. It features each tree that has been awarded a **Tree of Distinction** status, along with it's address, a picture and the year in which the tree was commended. Other information in the Guide will help users understand the value and significance of these tree species and trees in general.

Trees are very important, providing many services that are beneficial to the community. The expansive tree canopy cools, quiets, and relaxes residents and visitors.

When asked about Webster, the lovely trees are one of the first things mentioned by most people.

The trees of Webster Groves provide many services. They increase property values, mitigate storm water run-off and significantly lower utility bills.

An important goal of The Green Space Advisory Commission is to inspire, support and promote strong tree stewardship in Webster Groves. The Commission respectfully invites residents to become partners with the Parks Department in an effort to protect, preserve and maintain the urban forest in Webster Groves.

Trees of Distinction Program

The Trees of Distinction program has been established to raise public awareness of the importance of trees to the City's rich history and heritage, culture and beauty. It documents and compiles a record of the significant trees located within the city, both public and private. Property owners of the Trees of Distinction award receive recognition from the City during Arbor Day festivities including a commemorative plaque. These trees are identified in this brochure. To submit a tree for consideration for this award, go to **www.webstergroves.org/parks/trees**

Tree City USA

The Tree City USA program is a national program that provides the framework for community forestry management for cities and towns across America. Webster Groves has been certified as a Tree City USA participant since 1983. We have achieved this status by effectively managing our public trees, and by encouraging the implementation of community tree management based on four core standards. Those four standards are: maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least $2 per capita on urban forestry and celebrating Arbor Day.

Community Tree Steward

A Webster Groves citizen is recognized for his/her outstanding efforts in caring for trees, receiving recognition from the City during Arbor Day festivities that includes a commemorative plaque.

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– Fun Fact –
Missouri's forests store more than
5 million tons of carbon.

Northern Red Oak (Quercus rubra)
Address: 550 Sunnyside
Year Nominated: 2006

Size: Height: 60'; circumference: 169"; spread: 65'

Age: Approximately 215 years old

Characteristics: A rapid-growing large tree with a tall, straight trunk; large, spreading branches; and a rounded crown. Bark greenish-brown to gray, becoming brown-to-black with age. Buds reddish, fringed with hair

Leaf: Alternate, simple, 5–9 inches long; lobes are uneven in size and length

Flower: From April to May, male and female flowers are borne in separate catkins on the same tree.

Fruit: Hairy at the cup end that encloses about ¼ of the nut. Requires about 20 years to reach flowering age, and even longer before its first crop of acorns, after which acorns ripen in autumn every other year.

Habitat: Occurs on well-drained soils of moist ravines and bottomland sites, north- and east-facing upland slopes and on slopes at the bases of bluffs. Thrives on fertile, sandy loam soils. Widespread in the eastern United States.

Suggested Uses: Its attractive bark, bright autumn color and stately look makes it a popular street and park tree.

Wildlife Use: The acorns of red oaks are not as sweet as those of white oaks, but they are nevertheless eaten by an array of wildlife. As trees mature, grow old, die and decay, they offer sites for nests and dens to many animals.

Practical Uses: To the lumber industry, northern red oak is less desirable than white oak but of higher quality than other oaks. It is used for bridge timbers, cross ties, flooring, clapboards, rough construction lumber, furniture, veneer, interior finishing and fuel.

Horse Chestnut (Aesculus hippocastanum)
Address: 213 Maple
Year Nominated: 2007

Size: Height: 70'; circumference: 114"; spread: 50'

Age: Approximately 288 years old

Characteristics: In older trees the branches bend toward the ground then curl upward toward the ends. Related to the buckeye, it grows more upright.

Leaf: Leaves opposite, palm-shaped, compound with five 3–6 inches long leaflets

Flower: The spectacular spring flowers are usually white with a small red spot. The cultivar, 'Baumannii' has double flowers and doesn't produce fruit that litters.

Fruit: The glossy, brown seed develops inside a green shell and is slightly poisonous if eaten. The horse chestnut seed is called a conker and is used in a children's game, "conkers".

Habitat: Native to the Balkans, it prefers cooler summers than are normal in Missouri; needs moisture in the heat of the summer. The largest and oldest horse chestnut tree in the world is located near Mount Etna in Sicily. It is estimated to be more than 2,000 years old and has a circumference of 190 feet.

Suggested Uses: Attractive tree for a park and along streets, though litter can be a nuisance.

– Fun Fact –
Trees along streets in Missouri's communities provide $148 million annually in benefits, including energy savings, increase in property value, and stormwater retention.

Ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba) or maidenhair tree
Address: 315 W. Swon
Year Nominated: 2008

Size: Height: 65'; circumference: 162"; spread: 55'

Age: Approximately 260 years old

Characteristics: Young trees are often tall and slender with few branches. Its fibrous root system makes it easy to transplant. It grows slowly to form a wide-spreading open crown, allowing grass to grow beneath it. It is one of the oldest trees on Earth and was once part of the flora of the Mesozoic period. Some trees are claimed to be more than 2,500 years old.

Leaf: Fan-shaped (similar to the maidenhair fern; hence its common name) and turn a rich saffron yellow in the autumn but drop early and quickly with a hard frost.

Flower: The ginkgo developed before the evolution of flowering plants, so the male and female trees reproduce without flowers. The sex of the tree is not known until the tree reaches flowering stage in 20 years.

Habitat: It will grow on a wide variety of soils, has almost no pests and can withstand smoke, dust, wind, and ice.

Suggested Uses: The ginkgo is one of the best large trees for city use in parks, yards and street-side. Because the female trees produce foul-smelling fruits, usually only male cultivars ('Autumn Gold', 'Princeton Sentry', or 'Lakeview') are planted.

Wildlife Use: Ginkgos are native to eastern China, so our native animals are not dependent on them for food.

Practical Uses: Extracts from its leaves have been used for 1000s of years in traditional Chinese medicine.

– Fun Fact –
100 mature trees intercept about 100,000 gallons of rainfall per year, reducing runoff and providing cleaner water.

White Oak (Quercus alba)
Address: 111 Jefferson
Year Nominated: 2009

Size: Height: 100'; circumference: 9'3"; spread: 80'

Age: Approximately 177 years old; white oaks can live 500-600 years

Characteristics: A large, slow-growing, strong, superior shade tree whose wide-spreading branches form an upright, broad-rounded crown. It's bark is a flaky, ashen gray, with shallow fissures. It's root zones must be respected for it to remain healthy. Older trees are very sensitive to construction disturbances. It is hard to transplant due to its deep tap root.

Leaf: Alternate, simple 5-9 inches long with 7-9 rounded lobes; deep red in fall

Flower: Female and male flowers are not showy in spring. Acorns are produced generally when the tree is between 50-100 years old but as early as 20 years if in full sun.

Habitat: Our state's most valuable tree, it is found in every county in the state and in many conditions, though it does best in deep, moist, well-drained sites with full sun.

Suggested Uses: The white oak is a tree for large spaces, parks and other recreational areas, golf courses, campuses, cemeteries and other pastoral landscapes.

Wildlife Use: The acorns are one of the best sources of food for wildlife. Leaf buds are also eaten by several bird species and all parts of the tree are a favorite deer food.

Practical Uses: Its lumber is very valuable due to its strength, durability, and waterproof qualities. Because of balloon like swelling in its wood, it is very important to the barrel industry. All bourbon whiskey in the U.S. must, by law, be aged in white oak barrels.

In Clarissa Start's book, Webster Groves, 1975, this is the tree that General Ulysses S. Grant tied up his horse when visiting the Helfensteins.

– Fun Fact –
The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to 10 room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day.

Award: Swamp White Oak (Quercus bicolor)
Address: 343 Hillside
Year Nominated: 2008; year accepted 2014

Size: Height: 117'9"; circumference: 15'8"; spread: 116' - might be a contender for State Champion for this species with a score of 335.

Age: Estimate of 300 years. It is a long-lived species, living between 300-350 years.

Characteristics: A native of Missouri, it grows fairly fast, usually to 50' in urban areas, with bark that is grey and shaggy. Like most oaks, it is subject to attack by many leaf-feeding insects, leaf galls, powdery mildew, and other diseases. None are serious.

Leaf: Five to seven inches long, edges wavy rather than deeply lobed, hairy underneath, and dark green above. Fall color is a weak yellow.

Fruit: Acorn, 3/4" to 1 1/2" long, in pairs on a 2-4" stalk. The best seed production is between 75-100 years.

Habitat: It is often grown in swamps, but will adapt to many soil types and conditions, including dense urban clay soils in zones 3-8. It is well adapted to moist areas and bottomlands, though it will withstand drought conditions once well-established.

Wildlife Use: Acorns are eaten by squirrels, chipmunks, turkeys and deer, black bear, and ducks when near water.

Practical Uses: It is sold as white oak lumber. Native Americans used the very astringent tannins from oak galls to treat chronic diarrhea, dysentery, and hemorrhages.

– Fun Fact –
Trees contribute positively to downtown shopping areas. People are willing to spend 12% more for goods and services in downtowns with trees. They'll also spend more time shopping and come back more frequently.

American Elm (Ulmus americana)
Address: 607 E. Jackson
Year Nominated: 2009

Size: Height: 75'; circumference: 12'10"; spread: 70'

Age: Approximately 196 years

Characteristics: An imposing tree with wide spreading crowns; gray, rough and furrowed bark; reddish brown pointed buds. It was the All-American shade tree in the U.S. until Dutch elm disease and phloem necrosis decimated most of the trees in the country.

Leaf: Alternate, simple with coarse saw-tooth edges; pale yellow in the autumn

Fruit: Seeds surrounded by a broad papery wing; can become a nuisance to the homeowner due to their abundance.

Habitat: It was a native of every county in Missouri, and was adaptable to a variety of soil types from acidic to slightly alkaline, though it does best in moist well-drained rich soils along creeks and rivers.

Suggested Uses: It is not recommended to plant this tree until disease-resistant cultivars are further developed. An aggressive spraying/injection regimen is necessary for those who still have these trees.

Wildlife Use: Its seeds were an important food source for many game birds, including grouse and bobwhite quail and for mammals such as mice and squirrels.

Practical Uses: It was a very important wood for barrel staves and also for the production of boxes and crates due to its exceptional ability to hold screws. Indians and early settlers used them for meeting places; hence, called "council trees".

– Fun Fact –
Contact with nature helps children to develop imagination and creativity, intellectual development and social relationships.

White Oak (Quercus alba)
Address: 50 Webster Acres
Year Nominated: 2010

Size: Height: 80'; circumference: 10'; spread 80'

Age: Approximately 191 years

Characteristics: A large, slow-growing, strong, superior shade tree whose wide spreading branches form an upright, broad-rounded crown. It can reach up to 120', and its trunk can be several feet wide. It's bark is a flaky, ashen gray, with shallow fissures. It's root zones must be respected for it to remain healthy. Older trees are very sensitive to construction disturbances. It is hard to transplant due to its deep tap root.

Leaf: Alternate, simple, 5-9 inches long with 7-9 rounded lobes; deep red in fall.

Flower: Female and male flowers are not showy in spring. Acorns are produced generally when the tree is between 50-100 years old but as early as 20 years if in full sun.

Habitat: Our state's most valuable tree, it is found in every county in the state and in many conditions, though it does best in deep, moist, well-drained sites with full sun.

Suggested Uses: The white oak is a tree for large spaces, parks and other recreational areas, golf courses, campuses, cemeteries and other pastoral landscapes.

Wildlife Use: The acorns are one of the best sources of food for wildlife. Leaf buds are also eaten by several bird species and all parts of the tree are a favorite deer food.

Practical Uses: Its lumber is very valuable due to its strength, durability, and waterproof qualities. Because of balloon-like swelling in its wood, it is very important to the barrel industry. All bourbon whiskey in the U.S. must, by law, be aged in white oak barrels.

– Fun Fact –
For every 10% increase in forest cover in a watershed, costs to clean drinking water decreases by approximately 20%.

American Basswood (Tilia americana)
Address: Commons area entrance to Webster Acres
Year Nominated: 2011

Size: Height: 92'; circumference: 17'6"; spread: 45'

Age: Estimated to be over 200 years old

Characteristics: It is a fast growing, drought resistant tree, but sensitive to damage to early frosts. Older trees often have sprouts from their roots, forming clumps in the wild. This particular softwood tree has 5 trunks with graceful drooping branches. Its bark is light brown to gray with deep furrows.

Leaf: Alternate, heart-shaped, simple, coarsely toothed, dark green with tufts of hair in the axils.

Flower: Fragrant yellow to whitish flowers bloom May-June and last for 2 weeks; 6-15 on a drooping stalk attached to a reduced (2-5"l. x ~1" w.) leaf. The fruit is 1/4" round, persistent structure.

Habitat: A native of Missouri, it is distributed statewide, often in moist woods at the base of bluffs and along streams.

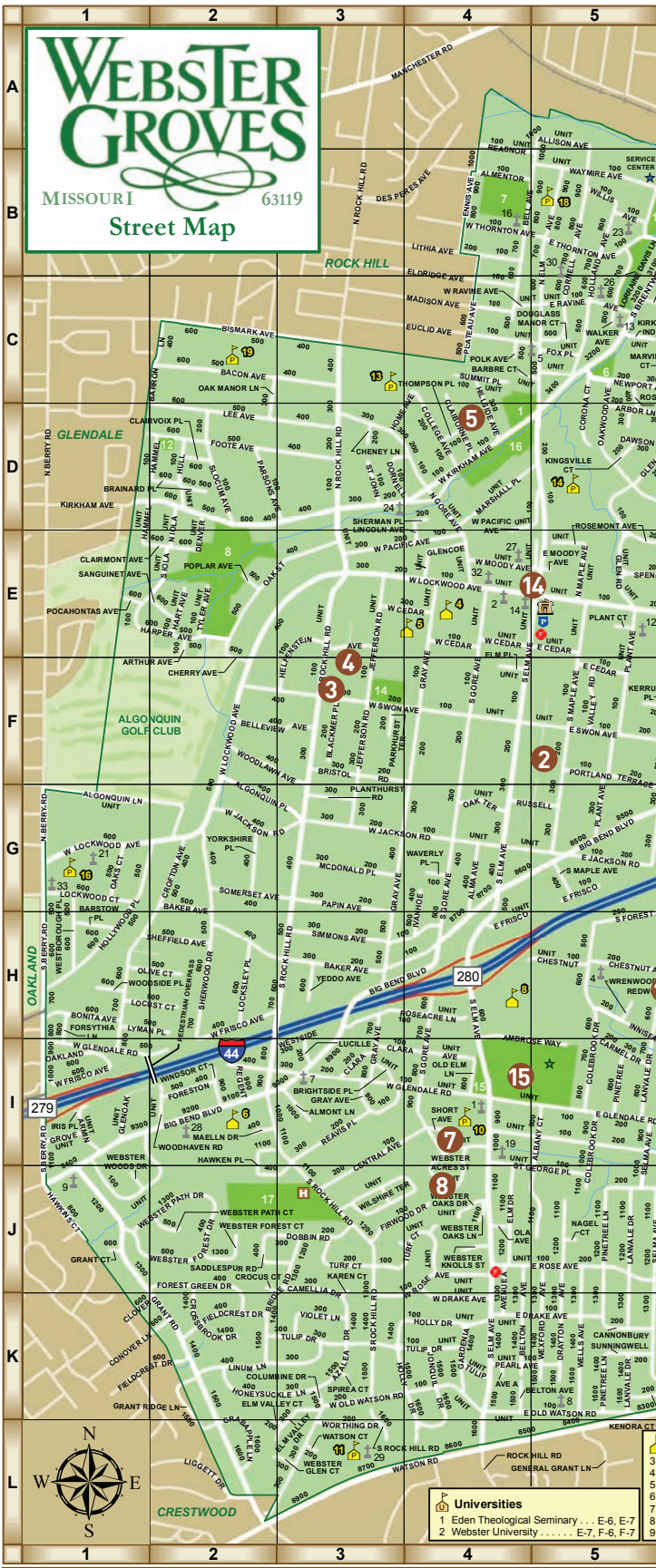
Suggested Uses: The tree is a fast-growing, long-lived tree popular for landscaping and along streets but needs room for spreading branches.

Wildlife Use: The fruit is eaten by many species of birds and rodents. Rabbits and deer browse the foliage.

Practical Uses: Bees make a high-quality honey from the flowers' nectar. Its soft wood is used for carving, musical instruments, toys, and furniture. Native Americans used the fibrous inner bark for rope, thongs, baskets, and mats.

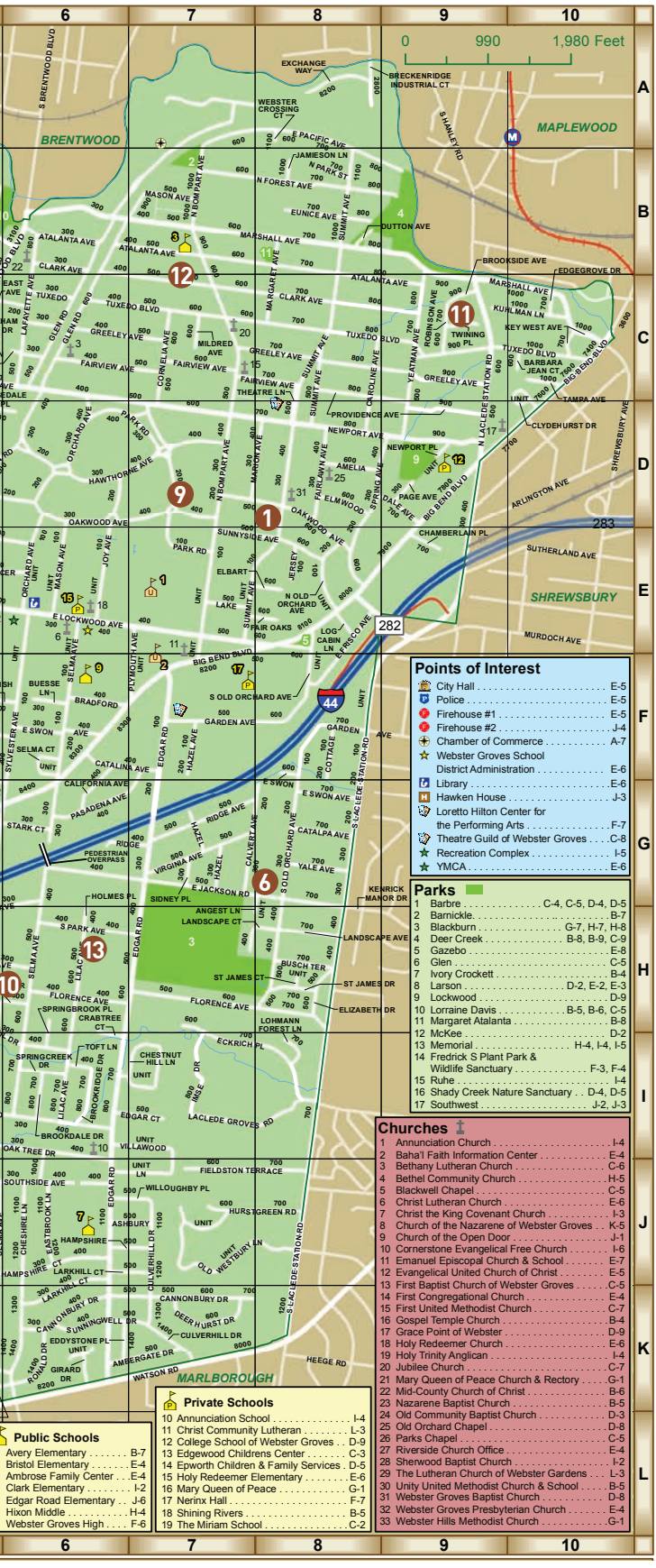
This particular tree has become a center of activity for this neighborhood with picnic tables underneath its protective shade.

– Fun Fact –
The presence of street trees in a neighborhood increase the sale prices of houses by an average of $8,870.



Residential Trees

1 / Northern Red Oak - 550 Sunnyside
2 / Horse Chestnut - 213 Maple
3 / Ginkgo - 315 W. Swon
4 / White Oak -111 Jefferson
5 / Swamp White Oak - 343 Hillside
6 / American Elm
7 / White Oak - 50
8 / American Bass
- Common Area
9 / Bur Oak - 204
10 / Tulip Poplar -



- 607 E. Jackson
Webster Acres
swood
a Webster Acres
Park
- 615 Selma

11 / Willow Oak - 948 Twining Place
12 / Sycamore - 604 Clark
13 / Post Oak - 452 S. Park

Public Trees

14 / Hybrid White Oak - 4 E. Lockwood
15 / Sycamore - 33 E. Glendale

Community Tree Award
Sycamore (Platanus occidentalis)
Address: 33 East Glendale
Year nominated: 2015

Size: Height: 95'; circumference: 13' 8"; spread: 75'

Age: The estimate is 195 years

Characteristics: It is one of our largest native trees with a massive trunk, a broad, open and irregular crown and large crooked, spreading, white branches.

Leaf: Alternate, simple, 4–8 inches long and broad or larger; with 3–5 broad, shallow lobes with coarse teeth, each lobe tip pointed; upper surface bright green; lower surface whitish.

Flower: April–June; male and female flowers on the same tree with numerous flowers in globe-shaped clusters. Male flower cluster red or yellow, about 3/8 inch in diameter; female flower cluster red, about 1/2 inch in diameter.

Fruit: A woody orb that maintains its shape through the winter, when it breaks up into dozens of tiny seeds that feature little brown hairs which are scattered about by the wind.

Habitat: A fast-growing tree, it is found in valleys either on gravel bars or in low or wet rich bottomland. An integral part of our streamside habitats, it occurs in almost every county in Missouri and is a long-lived tree, despite all the diseases that afflict it. Requires a lot of space.

Suggested Uses: It is planted statewide in yards, parks and streetscapes and is particularly beautiful in the winter with its white bark. However, it requires frequent cleanup due to peeling bark and leaf fall.

Wildlife Use: The seeds are an important late winter food source for finches. Trunk cavities in old trees provide shelter for nesting swifts and swallows and for mammals. In Missouri, great blue herons almost always nest in sycamores.

Practical Uses: In addition to its popularity as a large tree for landscaping, the sycamore tree is valued for its durable coarse-grained hardwood. The wood is used to make crates, barrels, backs/necks/scrolls of violins, music boxes, cabinets, flooring, veneer, paneling and furniture. Difficult to split, it is also used for butcher blocks; it has a tendency to warp and has to be carefully dried. The London planetree, a hybrid between the American and oriental sycamores is more disease-resistant; hybrids are "Bloodgood', 'Columbia', and 'Liberty'.

Community Tree Award
Hybrid White Oak (Quercus alba)
Address: 4 East Lockwood
Year Nominated: 2014

Size: Height: 65-70' circumference: 150"
Spread: 70-75'

Age: Approximately 240 years old

– Fun Fact –
Tree-lined streets are more walkable, encouraging more active lifestyles which decreases obesity and improves heart health.

Post Oak (Quercus stellata)
Address: 452 S. Park
Year nominated: 2015

Size: Height: 75-80'; circumference: 10' 3"; spread: 80-90'

Age: The estimate is 175 years

Characteristics: A medium-sized deciduous oak of the white oak group that typically grows 35-50' tall with a rounded crown. Fall color is variable, ranging from uninteresting to quality shades of yellow and brown.

Leaf: Rough, often leathery, dark green leaves (4-8" long) with 3-5 rounded lobes have a cruciform appearance due to large wide-spreading central lobes. Stellata means starlike, in probably reference to the leaf shape, which is actually more cruciform than starlike.

Flower: Insignificant yellowish-green flowers in separate male and female catkins appear in spring as the leaves emerge.

Fruit: Oval acorns (to 3/4" long), with bowl-shaped cups extending 1/3 to 1/2 the acorn length. May take up to 25 years for this tree to bear a first crop of acorns.

Habitat: It typically occurs in dry soils on rocky upland slopes, woods and glades or in moist soils along streams. Best grown in rich, moist, acidic, well-drained loams in full sun. Adapts to a wide variety of soil conditions from poor dry sandy soils to moist heavy loams. Prefers acidic soils. Good drought tolerance.

Suggested Uses: It is called post oak because its durable wood has been used for fence posts. Considered a beautiful shade tree for parks, post oak is often used in urban forestry. It is also planted for soil stabilization on dry, sloping, stony sites where few other trees will grow. It develops an attractive crown with strong horizontal branches.

Wildlife Use: A valuable contributor to wildlife food and cover. Acorns provide high energy food during fall and winter and are considered important in the diet of wild turkey, white-tailed deer, squirrels, and many other rodents. When acorns are available, animals fatten quickly, go through the winter in good condition, and are most likely to produce healthy young. Leaves are used for nest building by birds, squirrels, and raccoons. Cavities provide nests and dens for various birds and mammals.

Practical Use: The Post Oak is sometimes called iron oak because it is very resistant to decay. It is used for fence post, railroad ties, construction timbers, barrels, furniture, flooring and fuel. The bark provides tannin and is often used as mulch in landscaping.

Willow Oak (Quercus phellas)
Address: 948 Twining Place
Year Nominated: 2012

Size: Height: 75'; circumference: 15'; spread: 90', covering the whole end of the dead-end street.

Age: Approximately 171 years

Leaf: Alternate, simple, 2–5 inches long, to 1 inch wide, willow-like leaves, margin entire, bristle-tipped. Leaves turn pale yellow in fall.

Characteristics: A large deciduous tree native to Missouri's Boot Heel, it has a dense, pyramidal crown. The willow oak is known for its rapid growth, long life and handsome shape.

Flower: April–May, in catkins.

Fruit: September–October; its acorns are about 1/2 inch long, with a greenish-brown saucer.

Habitat: Typically occurs in poorly drained soils, in wet bottomland forests bordering swamps and slow streams in the southeastern Missouri lowlands. Prefers acid soil and full sun.

Suggested Uses: It is a favored shade tree, is easily transplanted, and is being used more widely in urban areas. Due to its damaging root system, it should not be planted too closely to houses, driveways, sidewalks or plumbing.

Wildlife Use: The heavy annual acorn crop is eaten by many birds and deer.

Practical Uses: It is an important source of lumber and pulp.

– Fun Fact –
Through the production of wood products, Missouri's forest product industry contributes $8 billion to the state's economy annually, supports 42,000 jobs and generates $600 million in taxes.

Tulip Poplar (Liriodendron tulipfera)
Address: 615 Selma
Year Nominated: 2012

Size: Height: 75'; circumference: 14'; spread: 90'

Age: Approximately 160 years

Characteristics: A Missouri native, located only in the Boot Heel; it is not a poplar at all but a member of the magnolia family. It is the tallest hardwood in the eastern U.S., is fast growing and disease-resistant.

Leaf: Alternate, yellow green 3-5" long, borne on long, slender stems with 5 main lobes, looking like a cross-section drawing of a tulip; bright yellow in autumn; flutter noisily in breeze.

Flower: Tulip-shaped greenish yellow flowers with orange band at base of each petal in May-June; fruits: pyramidal dry cones with many woody winged seeds.

Habitat: Likes full sun and moist soil; fast growing in good soil

Suggested Uses: Not good near utility lines or along narrow streets but good for windbreaks. The bark of young trees needs to be protected from sunscald.

Wildlife Use: The seeds are eaten by at least 10 species of birds and also by squirrels and rodents; the leaves are eaten by deer and rabbits. It is a favorite nesting site of many birds.

Practical Uses: Indians used to use the trunk for dugout canoes. The wood can be used for veneer, furniture, and musical instruments.

– Fun Fact –
Those who commute along tree lined roads remain calmer (lower pulse and blood pressure) and drive less aggressively than those who drive along less treed roads.

Bur Oak (Quercus macrocarpa)
Address: 204 Park
Year Nominated: 2012

Size: Height: 72'; circumference: 15'; spread: 100'

Age: The estimate is 300 years (can live to 500 years)

Characteristics: Drought-tolerant and well adapted to alkaline soils, poor drainage, and high clay content; pest resistant, ozone and smoke tolerant; low maintenance. Resist pests and fungus. It is the only oak to have corky, thick twigs as an identifying feature.

Leaf: Alternate, 6-10 inches long, spatula-shaped with a lobed margin; dull yellow in autumn

Flower: Produces the largest acorn of any oak with a very prickly cap.

Habitat: Bur oaks are native to Missouri and establish themselves quickly by developing a deep taproot that does not dislocate sidewalks or landscaping. It is one of the few trees to grow on moist prairies and plains. Mainly a tree of the Great Plains, it extends all the way to the Rockies.

Suggested Uses: Excellent fast-growing shade tree used in a wide variety of landscaping plans. Not good for planting under power lines.

Wildlife Use: A favorite food of squirrels, birds and other wildlife. Strong branches provide sturdy support for a variety of animal habitat.

Practical Uses: Its lumber is very valuable due to its strength, durability, and waterproof qualities.

The world's record bur oak was in big Oak Tree State Park in southeast MO, home to many past and current state and national champions. The famous "council oak" in Sioux City, IA that witnessed Lewis and Clark's meeting with Sioux chiefs in 1803 was cut down in the 1970s at over 300 years of age.

Sycamore (Platanus occidentalis)
Address: 604 Clark
Year nominated: 2013

Size: Height: 90-100'; circumference: 18'; spread: 90-100'

Age: The estimate is 275 years

Characteristics: It is one of our largest native trees with a massive trunk, a broad, open and irregular crown and large crooked, spreading, white branches.

Leaf: Alternate, simple, 4–8 inches long and broad or larger; with 3–5 broad, shallow lobes with coarse teeth, each lobe tip pointed; upper surface bright green; lower surface whitish.

Flower: April–June; male and female flowers on the same tree with numerous flowers in globe-shaped clusters. Male flower cluster red or yellow, about 3/8 inch in diameter; female flower cluster red, about 1/2 inch in diameter.

Fruit: A woody orb that maintains its shape through the winter, when it breaks up into dozens of tiny seeds that feature little brown hairs which are scattered about by the wind.

Habitat: A fast-growing tree, it is found in valleys either on gravel bars or in low or wet rich bottomland. An integral part of our streamside habitats, it occurs in almost every county in Missouri and is a long-lived tree, despite all the diseases that afflict it. Requires a lot of space.

Suggested Uses: It is planted statewide in yards, parks and streetscapes and is particularly beautiful in the winter with its white bark. However, it requires frequent cleanup due to peeling bark and leaf fall.

Wildlife Use: The seeds are an important late winter food source for finches. Trunk cavities in old trees provide shelter for nesting swifts and swallows and for mammals. In Missouri, great blue herons almost always nest in sycamores.

Practical Uses: In addition to its popularity as a large tree for landscaping, the sycamore tree is valued for its durable coarse-grained hardwood. The wood is used to make crates, barrels, backs/necks/scrolls of violins, music boxes, cabinets, flooring, veneer, paneling and furniture. Difficult to split, it is also used for butcher blocks; it has a tendency to warp and has to be carefully dried.

The London planetree, a hybrid between the American and oriental sycamores is more disease-resistant; hybrids are "Bloodgood', 'Columbia', and 'Liberty'.

Trees of Distinction Found in Historic Webster Walks

The Heart of Webster

- 111 S. Jefferson - White Oak
-4 E. Lockwood - Hybrid White Oak

A Walk in the Park

- 204 Park - Bur Oak

A New Century in Old Orchard

- 550 Sunnyside - Northern Red Oak

The Ridge at Rock Hill Rd. (See also the Heart of Webster)

- 111 Jefferson - White Oak

The Vision of Tuxedo Park

- 604 Clark - Sycamore

Locations of Trees of Distinction by Area in Webster Groves

Northeast Webster and Webster Park

2012 – 948 Twinning Place - Willow Oak, near Laclede Station Rd. and Tuxedo Blvd.
2006 – 550 Sunnyside - Northern Red Oak
2013 – 604 Clark - Sycamore
2012 – 204 Park - Bur Oak
2014 – 343 Hillside - Swamp White Oak

Heart of Webster

2007 – 213 S. Maple - Horse Chestnut
2008 – 315 W. Swon - Gingko
2009 – 111 Jefferson - White Oak
2014 – 4 E. Lockwood - Hybrid White Oak

South of Hwy 44

2010 – 50 Webster Acres - White Oak
2011 – Commons area in Webster Acres - American Basswood
2012 – 615 Selma - Tulip Poplar
2009 – 607 E. Jackson - American Elm
2015 – 452 S. Park - Post Oak
2015 – 33 E. Glendale - Sycamore

Web Sites of Interest

City of Webster Groves
http://webstergroves.org

Missouri Botanical Gardens
http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org

Missouri Department of Conservation:
http://mdc.mo.gov

University of Missouri Extension Service:
Lawn and Garden
http://extension.missouri.edu

Definitions

Alternate - The leaves and twigs not directly across from each other on the branches

Axils - The place where the lead's stem is attached to the branch

Catkins - Elongated cluster of single-sex flowers bearing scaly bracts and usually lacking petals

Circumference - The circumference is the distance around the trunk 4.5ft above ground level

Compound - Each leaf stem has many leaflets

Crown - The branches and leaves of a tree

Cultivar - A plant variety that has been produced in cultivation by selective breeding

Deciduous - Trees or shrubs that lose their leaves in the fall

Diameter - The distance through the center of the trunk determined by using the formula: circumference divided by 3.14

Margin - The edge of a leaf

Native - Things that have lived in Missouri since the last Ice Age

Opposite - The leaves and twigs directly across from each other on the branches

Simple - Each leaf stem with exactly one leaf

Spread - The average of the diameter of the crown at its widest and narrowest

– Fun Fact –
A 10% increase in trees in a neighborhood reduces crime by 12%.

Tree Ordinance Highlights

In 2004, a Tree Ordinance was developed for the City of Webster Groves. With all the benefits that trees provide it is important for the city to provide regulations that protect and expand the city's urban forest. Highlights of the ordinance are:

No Topping: Tree companies are not permitted to top trees in Webster Groves. This practice is also known as heading, stubbing, tipping, lopping, round-over or shaping. Regardless of what it is called, topping is ugly, expensive and harmful. Severely cutting back a tree results in the sudden growth of ugly shoots which then makes the tree branch weaker and more hazardous. These improper pruning cuts starve the tree by inhibiting their ability to utilize their food and water sources. Topping exposes the tree to disease and decay, often causing early death. For the homeowner, the topped tree will ultimately cost more to maintain than a properly pruned tree.

Licensed Tree Companies: Companies that perform tree work in Webster Groves must obtain an annual tree license. Homeowners need to verify that the companies are compliant before hiring. This license requirement makes sure that they have insurance and Workman's Compensation coverage. Though, it does not require them to have any tree care qualifications. A good measurement of a company's credentials is an ISA certified arborist on staff. A Certified Arborist credential identifies professional arborists who have a minimum of three years' full-time experience working in the professional tree care industry, and who have passed an extensive examination covering all facets of arboriculture.

Visit the city's website: **http://www.webstergroves.org/BusinessDirectoryII.aspx** for a business directory regarding licensed tree companies serving our area.

New Development: A tree permit is required for the removal or disturbance of any tree associated with development that requires site plan approval, demolition or building permit.

– Fun Fact –
Shade from two large trees on the west side of a house and one on the east side can save up to 30% of a typical residence's annual air conditioning costs.

What is the emerald ash borer?

The Emerald ash borer (EAB) is an exotic, invasive wood-boring insect that infests and kills native North American ash, both in forests and landscape plantings. The adult beetle is dark metallic green, bullet-shaped and about ½ inch long and 1/8 inch wide.

Adult females lay their eggs on the bark of all species of ash trees. When the eggs hatch, the white, flat larvae burrow under the bark and eat the living tissue. This cuts off the life-giving channels that carry nutrients, like water and sugars, to the tree. After 2-4 years, the tree starves to death.

Originally from Asia, the EAB made its way to the US in ash wood used to package cargo on ships and airplanes. As of December 2012, EAB has been found in 18 states, including Missouri. Humans most likely transported it through moving firewood, landscape trees, and ash tree debris, since it can only fly short distances on its own.

What can we do as homeowners?

• Keeping ash trees healthy with proper pruning, mulching, watering, and by avoiding wounding the trees may help them resist insect attacks.

• Intersperse replacement trees (non ash) among existing ash trees so they can become established and grow before ash trees die.

• Cull out ash trees in very poor condition. Weak trees are more susceptible.

• If you camp, buy firewood at the site and burn it all- **DON'T MOVE IT OR TAKE IT HOME!**

• Do not plant any new ash trees. In general, having a diversity of species in your yard, on your street, and in the community is the best defense against all tree health problems.

If you suspect your ash tree is infested, call **(866) 716-9974.**

More information:

www.eab.missouri.edu

www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/emerald_ash_b/index.shtml

www.emeraldashborer.info

www.dontmovefirewood.org/

www.extension.missouri.edu/treepests/emeraldashborer.aspx

NOTES

Serving nature and you®

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Green Space Advisory Commission and the City of Webster Groves, Missouri 2015

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