

BRANCH OUT

Welcome to the University of Louisville's Belknap Campus. Although we're located in an urban area, our 309-acre, park-like campus has more than 1,100 trees representing many species. We invite you to take this self-guided tour to see some of the more significant and interesting among them.

Not a tree expert? No worries. Identification plaques will help you identify the trees. The full tour will take about an hour and a half, approximately a 1.75 mile walk.

WHERE TO START

To check out our bark, here's where to park:
North Information Center
2000 S. First Street, Louisville, KY.

You can begin the tour outside the center.



THE ROOT OF THE MATTER

Trees bring natural beauty to our campus and play an essential role in UofL's initiatives to create a sustainable campus environment.

- A mature leafy tree produces as much oxygen in a season as 10 people inhale in a year.
- Trees clean the air by filtering pollution and acting as enormous carbon sinks.
- Trees clean the soil by absorbing dangerous chemicals and other pollutants. They reduce “greenhouse” gases that contribute to global climate change.
- Trees control noise pollution by muffling urban noise.
- Trees slow storm-water runoff by capturing rain water and binding the soil, reducing flash flooding and recharging underground aquifers.
- Trees provide shade in the summer and break the force of winter winds. They cut costs and energy consumed by heating and cooling buildings.
- Trees harbor birds and other wildlife, including UofL’s famed white squirrels, making our urban centers a more pleasant place to live.

UofL is committed to maintaining campus as a green oasis in an urban setting. We are proud of our designation as a "Tree Campus USA" by the national Arbor Day Foundation.

Key

H

- Trees with historic significance

N

- Trees native to Kentucky

1.

Cedar of Lebanon, *Cedrus libani* (Pinaceae)

Celebrated by religions, poets and history, this tree is among the most renowned natural monuments in the universe. The Egyptians used its resin to mummify their dead and called it the “life of death.” Its beautiful color, hardness, fragrance and resistance to insects, humidity and temperature have made it useful for many purposes.
2.

Clara Barton Dogwood, *Cornus kousa* (Cornaceae)

Propagated from a tree outside the private office and home of American Red Cross founder Clara Barton at Glen Echo, Md. A flowering dogwood is a welcome sign of spring. **H**
3.

Hybrid London Planes, *Platanus x hispanica* (Platanaceae)

Sometimes called a buttonwood tree, its fruits — one-inch seed balls — appear in winter. The bark — a “camouflage” pattern of peeling patches that resembles tan, gray and brown puzzle pieces — eventually turns to a smooth white on mature trunks and branches. Also called sycamores, they grow quickly and can live for hundreds of years.
4.

English Yew, *Taxus baccata* (Taxaceae)

A small coniferous tree, relatively slow growing that can be long-lived. Inconspicuous flowers appear in spring, followed by small, red fruits. Its needles, stems and seeds are poisonous to both man and livestock.
5.

Smoketree, *Cotinus coggygia* (Anacardiaceae)

This multi-stemmed small tree turns a smoky pink color June through August. In fall, its leaves turn from medium blue-green to yellow-red-purple.
6.

Robert E. Lee Chestnut Oak, *Quercus montana* (Fagaceae)

A descendant of a tree at the Stratford plantation in Westmoreland County, Va., where the Civil War general was born Jan. 19, 1807. **HN**
7.

Northern Red Oak, *Quercus rubra* (Fagaceae)

At 64 inches, Northern Red Oak has the greatest Diameter at Breast Height (4’6”) of any tree on campus. Red Oaks are one of our most important lumber trees, both for boards and veneer. It gets its name from the deep red color of its leaves in fall.

8.

Black Oak, *Quercus velutina* (Fagaceae)

With a height of 125 feet, this black oak is the tallest tree on campus. This tree also is one of the tallest in the red oak family, and it will readily hybridize with red oaks.
9.

Ginkgo, *Ginkgo biloba* (Ginkgoaceae)

The fruit of the female tree is fragrant, but not pleasantly so. Watch where you step in the fall when the fruit falls to the ground! Considered one of the oldest trees in the world, keeping company with the dinosaurs, the ginkgo is often called a “living fossil.” They were first planted in Kentucky by Henry Clay, a 19th century statesman who represented Kentucky in both the U.S. House and Senate.
10.

Willow Oak, *Quercus phellos* (Fagaceae)

This handsome oak has willow-like leaves, light to bright green in summer turning to yellow, yellow-brown and russet in fall. **N**
11.

Weeping Beech, *Fagus sylvatica* (Fagaceae)

Its lustrous dark green leaves become copper-toned in the fall.
12.

Pin Oak, *Quercus palustris* (Fagaceae)

Pin oaks are mainly found in the eastern United States. Compared to other oaks which can live for several centuries, pin oaks are relatively short-lived with a maximum lifespan of 120 years. **N**
13.

Littleleaf Linden, *Tilia cordata* (Tiliaceae)

This is a medium-size tree, native to Europe. Bees find its highly fragrant flowers attractive.
14.

Tulip Tree, *Liriodendron tulipifera* (Magnoliacea)

More commonly known in Kentucky as the tulip poplar, it is the state's official tree. It also is known as tulip tree magnolia, whitewood and canoewood (in some areas) because Native Americans once fashioned dugout canoes from its trunk. The tulip poplar wood is a top choice of organ makers. The inner bark of the roots yields an alkaloid and heart stimulant; the flowers produce nectar used in gourmet honey. **N**
15.

Chinese Elm (Lacebark), *Ulmus parvifolia* (Ulmaceae)

This species of tree is native to China, Japan and surrounding countries but can be found on every continent except Antarctica. It has the hardest wood of any elm and is prized as an ornamental tree for its hardiness and appealing bark pattern and coloration. This particular tree is believed to be a survivor of Fredrick Law Olmsted's tree plan for the parkways connecting Louisville's renowned Olmsted Parks.

16.

American Yellow Wood, *Cladrastris kentukea* (Fabaceae)

Also known as the Kentucky Yellowwood, it produces fragrant white flower clusters called panicles. This is one of the rarest trees in the eastern United States and is primarily found on limestone cliffs in Kentucky, Tennessee and Arkansas. It is prized as an ornamental for its intensely fragrant white flowers and bright green leaves. **N**
17.

Saucer Magnolia, *Magnolia x soulangeana* (Magnoliaceae)

This tree is a hybrid of the Yulan Magnolia and Japanese Magnolia. It is one of the most commonly used magnolias in horticulture, and produces white, pink, and purple flowers. Saucer Magnolias are intolerant of many urban pollutants, so they are usually planted with other trees or away from roads and factories.
18.

Eastern Redbuds, *Cercis canadensis* (Fabaceae)

The brilliant spring blooms appear in clusters on the bare stems and trunk of the tree before the leaves appear. They are common along rural Kentucky roadsides and as an understory tree in native forests. In some parts of Appalachia, the tree is known as the spicewood because early settlers used green twigs from the branches to season wild game. People have used the flowers to flavor salads and have fried and eaten them as a separate dish. **N**
19.

Bald Cypress, *Taxodium distichum* (Cupressaeae)

Although it looks like an evergreen, it is deciduous and drops its leaves in the fall. Another peculiarity is cypress “knees,” woody projections seen at the base of older trees, especially in or near water. These trees are found naturally in eastern Kentucky, and along the Mississippi River and its tributaries. At 75 feet tall, this bald cypress is the tallest conifer on UofL's campus. **N**
20.

White Oak, *Quercus alba* (Fagaceae)

This is the most valuable tree on campus and it also has the largest canopy. White oaks can grow to massive size. They commonly live two or three centuries and can live significantly longer. **N**
21.

River Birches, *Betula nigra* (Betulaceae)

Well-suited for river banks, it has found the next best thing on campus, the Cochran Fountain. River birch bark is variable in color and exfoliates in curly, papery sheets. **N**
22.

Flowering Cherry, *Prunus x yedoensis* (Rosaceae)

This grove in front of Lutz Hall includes Yoshino varieties, which are best known for their majesty along the Washington, D.C. Tidal Basin.

23.

Harpers Ferry Flowering Dogwoods, *Cornus florida* (Cornaceae)

Three trees descended from a tree on the grounds of the United States Armory and Arsenal at Harpers Ferry. Abolitionist leader John Brown and his men raided the armory in 1859. **HN**
24.

Katsura tree, *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* (Cercidiphyllaceae)

In spring, its heart-shaped leaves emerge reddish-purple, changing to blue-green as they mature. In autumn, leaves change to a brilliant yellow, releasing a warm and spicy fragrance, reminiscent of cotton candy. This tree has the longest scientific name of any tree on campus.
25.

Japanese Maple, *Acer palmatum* (Aceraceae)

Its unique seven-palmed green or red colored leaf turns to a striking color, ranging from bright yellow through orange and red.
26.

White Ash, *Fraxinus Americana* (Oleaceae)

Native ash trees are endangered by the invasion of the emerald ash borer insect that has killed millions of the trees. **N**
27.

Shumard Oak, *Quercus shumardii* (Fagaceae)

This is the oldest and heaviest tree on campus. It is estimated to be more than 200 years old. **N**
28.

Rutgers Hybrid Dogwood, *Cornus x rutgersensis* (Cornaceae)

The newest dogwoods planted on campus are hybridized at Rutgers University to be more disease resistant.
29.

American Elm, *Ulmus americana* (Ulmaceae)

A species devastated by Dutch elm disease in the last century. It is in front of the Overseers Honors House, a 130-year-old townhouse typical of Victorian Louisville. **N**
30.

Southern Magnolias, *Magnolia grandiflora* (Magnoliaceae)

In late spring its huge, waxy, fragrant, white blossoms perfume the area.
31.

Apple Tree, *Malus domestica* (Rosaceae)

Within England's Royal Botanical Gardens grows an apple tree that is a cutting of the tree that dropped Isaac Newton's famous apple, leading him to form his theory of gravity. From that tree, many cuttings have been given to halls of learning around the world. One of those is said to have grown into this apple tree on UofL's campus.

