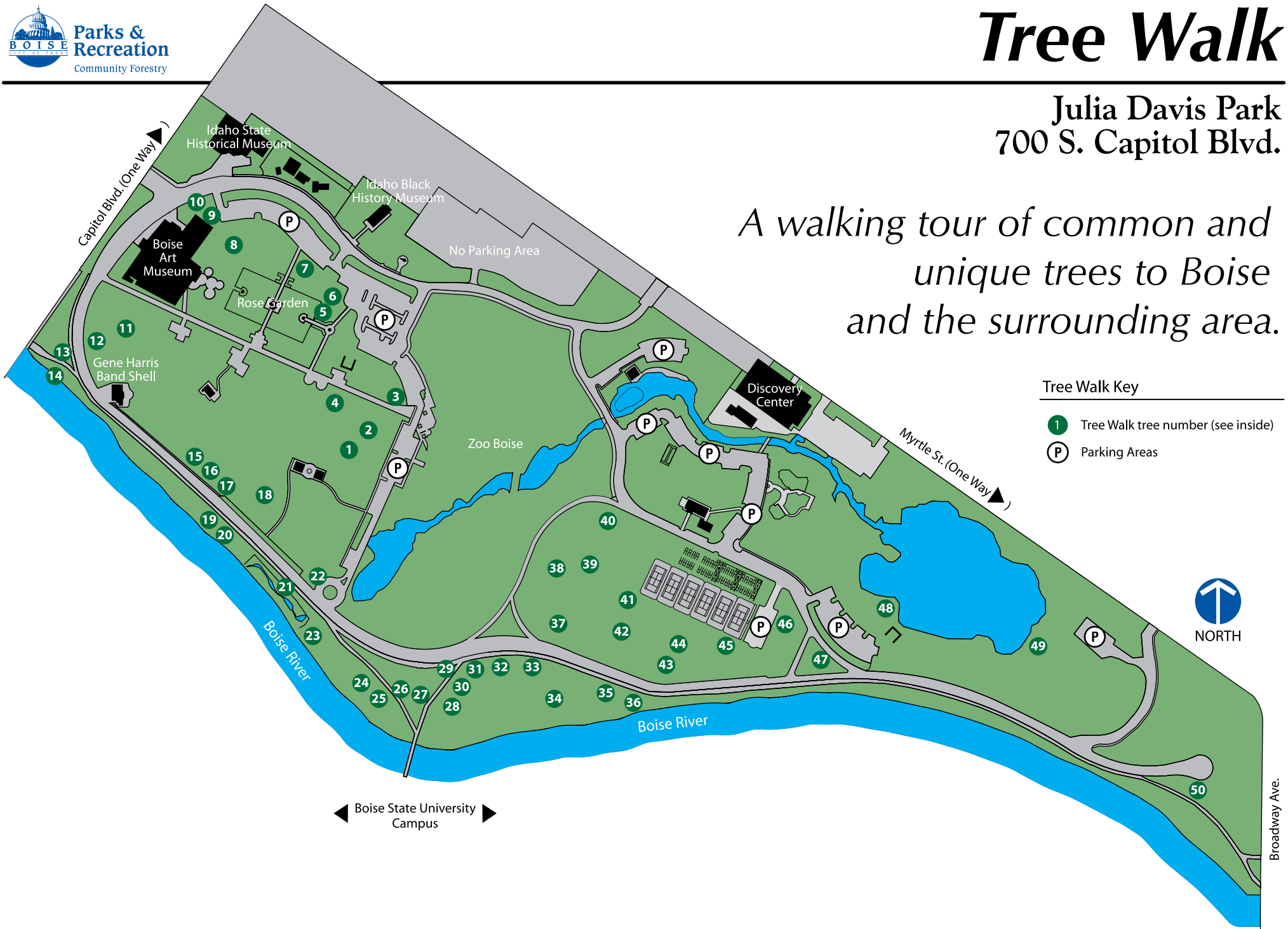


Tree Walk

Julia Davis Park
700 S. Capitol Blvd.

A walking tour of common and unique trees to Boise and the surrounding area.



Tree Walk Key

- 1 Tree Walk tree number (see inside)
- P Parking Areas



Welcome to Boise Parks & Recreation Department's self-guided tree walk in Julia Davis Park. Julia Davis Park is home to more than 1,000 trees with about 80 species – common and unique – with some excellent specimens. Some of Boise's oldest and largest trees are in the park, which was dedicated in 1907.

“Les bois, les bois. Voyez les bois!” “The trees, the trees. Look at the trees!” Words exclaimed by a French explorer in 1833 when first sighting the Cottonwood trees growing along the river in this valley. Cottonwoods (*Populus*) are among the few native species to the area. The vast majority of our current urban forest is made up of non-native species planted in our arid environment, which will not sustain trees without proper irrigation and diligent care.

The following basic descriptions of each tree on the tree walk include the common and botanical name, the ability for the tree to adapt to different soil and site conditions, and the size of an average full grown healthy tree. Sizes range from Small (25 feet), Medium (40 to 50 feet), Large (60 to 80 feet) to Very Large (80 feet or more). Most trees have cultivars that will vary the height, spread, and adaptability of the species and there will always be exceptions to the usual species characteristics.

The Julia Davis Tree Walk will continue to evolve, as new trees are planted and others are removed.

For more information, see our Tree Selection Guide at www.cityofboise.org/parks/forestry.



1. Bur Oak

Quercus macrocarpa
Very large and adaptable. Large acorns nearly covered by fringed caps. A truly grand oak in the summer and winter. This particular tree is believed to be the largest Bur Oak in Idaho.



2. American Sycamore

Platanus occidentalis
Very large. Highly susceptible to anthracnose, a fungus disease affecting the development of buds causing the leaves to come out late in the spring or possibly not until early summer. Not recommended for Boise.



3. London Planetree

Platanus x acerifolia
Very large, adaptable but does best in moist well-drained soils in full sun. Related to American Sycamore. Planetree has greater resistance to anthracnose even though these particular trees don't appear that way. Fast growing, dense shade,

large persistent leaves. Give this tree plenty of room to grow.



4. Larch, *Larix laricina* (Tamarack)
Tall narrow canopy. Deciduous (leaves drop in winter). Needs well-drained acid soil, full sun but does not like high temperatures.



5. Tupelo, *Nyssa sylvatica*
Medium size at best in Boise although national champion in South Carolina swamp is 165' x 135'. Needs moist well-drained acidic soil. Slow growth. Outstanding red fall color. Not a dependable performer in Boise.



6. Green Ash

Fraxinus pennsylvanica
Large. Adaptable and moderately fast growing. Tough, dependable and therefore over used. Usually a bright yellow fall color. Ash borers can be a problem unless the tree is kept in a healthy vigorous condition. Expect aphids.

7. Shingle Oak

Quercus imbricaria
Large. Somewhat adaptable but prefers rich, deep well-drained acidic soil. Often has drooping lower branches. Very nice red fall color. Wood has been used to make shingles hence the common name. This particular tree has root damage and is showing ill effects.



8. Juniper

Juniperus
Chinese Juniper includes many cultivars that range from ground cover to shrubs to trees. As a tree they are generally medium in size. Adaptable once established although prefer low pH.



9. Silver Linden, *Tilia tomentosa*
Large, Adaptable. Fragrant flowers that are used to make tea. Aphids can be a concern. A dependable tree.



10. Washington Hawthorn
Crataegus phaenopyrum
Small, Adaptable. Attractive white pungent flowers and persistent small red fruit. Good tree for birds. Be sure to consider spreading habit and long, sharp thorn-like spurs.



11. European Beech
Fagus sylvatica
Large. Must have moist,

well-drained soil in a generally sheltered area. Beautiful tree not often used due to being very particular about its planting environment.



12. Kentucky Coffee
Gymnocladus dioica
Large. Adaptable. Sparse-branching of a small young tree develops into a wonderful

full branching habit (See mature tree #18). Large, thick seed pods contain beans used by early settlers in the plains as a really bad substitute for coffee. This particular tree was planted and dedicated at the park's centennial celebration in 2007 to replace a Coffeetree planted at the park dedication in 1907. The original tree had to be removed due to severe trunk and root decay.



13. Norway Maple 'Crimson Sentry', *Acer plantanoides 'Crimson Sentry'*
Medium and fairly narrow. Somewhat adaptable, but prefers moist well-drained soil. Columnar form of Crimson King Norway Maple. Recent

indications show Crimson Sentry might be quite susceptible to Powdery Mildew, a leaf fungus.



14. Turkish Filbert
Corylus colurna
Medium to large, adaptable. Difficult to transplant and establish, but does quite well afterwards. While it bears nuts, a different Filbert is used in commercial nut production.



15. Sawtooth Oak
Quercus acutissima
 Medium to large. Somewhat adaptable. Can experience chlorosis (yellowing due to mineral deficiency) in alkaline soils. Often wide-spreading branches. Reported to be fast-growing in the right soils, however it has shown to have a more moderate growth rate in Boise.



16. Tuliptree
Liriodendron tulipifera
 Large. Prefers well-drained loam soils. In the Magnolia family. Nice flowers are smaller and paler than typical Magnolia and are well above ground therefore are often overlooked. Susceptible to leaf scorch.



17. Konara Oak
Quercus glandulifera
 Medium to large. Reported to be adaptable. Rare and difficult to find much literature on it. Native to China, Korea and Japan. Some references relate it to Sawtooth Oak. Perhaps another good Oak for the area.



18. Kentucky Coffeetree
Gymnocladus dioica
 A mature example of tree #12.



19. Lavalle Hawthorn
Crataegus x lavallei
 Small. Needs moist, well-drained soil. Seems difficult to get established but well worth the effort when successful. Dark lustrous green leaves are more persistent than other trees.

Pleasant white flowers. Small red fruit attracts birds.



20. European Ash
Fraxinus excelsior
 Medium to large. Very poor selection due to high susceptibility to Ash borer. This particular tree for some reason has relatively minor

infestation of the borer, which will usually cause severe damage if not outright death to this cultivar of Ash. Enjoy it while you can.



21. Japanese Tree Lilac
Syringa reticulata
Small. Prefers loose, well-drained soils but is pH adaptable. Large, creamy white flower clusters (see below). Good addition to the landscape.



22. Scotch Pine
Pinus sylvestris
Large, adaptable. Orange flaking bark adds interest to this dependable tree. Wood is brittle.



23. Himalayan White Pine
Pinus wallichiana
Large in the urban setting. Needs well-drained low pH soils and protection from winter winds. Broad growth. Graceful, soft appearance.



24. Sequoia or Giant Redwood
Sequoiadendron giganteum
Very large. Needs low pH, moist, deep, well-drained soil. In its native range Sequoia has the greatest mass of any tree and can reach 250-300 feet tall but don't expect much more than 100 feet here. Some Sequoias are doing surprisingly well in Boise's hot/cold dry climate.



25. Dawn Redwood
Metasequoia glytostroboides
Large to very large. Deciduous. Needs moist, well-drained acidic soil. Otherwise, well suited to Boise climate. Will be similar in form to Sequoia.



26. Mulberry
Morus alba
Medium to large. Adaptable. Fruit is edible and similar in appearance to blackberry. Birds love them and spread purple stain droppings all around. Fruitless types are much preferred.



27. English Oak
Quercus robur
 Large. Adaptable.
 Branching habit more
 dense than most Oaks.
 Acorns can be prolific.



28. Northern Red Oak
Quercus rubra
 Very large. Prefers well-drained,
 acidic soil. Can be chlorotic in
 clay, alkaline soils. Fast growing
 for an oak. Nice red fall color.
 Another impressive oak.



29. Mountain Ash
Sorbus aucuparia
 Small, temperamental
 tree. Must have well-
 drained, acidic loam
 soil. Generally does not
 do well in urban areas
 or high temperatures.
 Despite the name, it is
 not a member of the Ash
 Family. Large clusters of

bright red fruit are a favorite for birds and can be processed into juice, vinegar etc.



30. English Elm, *Ulmus procera*
 Very large. Adaptable but
 highly susceptible to Dutch Elm
 Disease (DED). It's within a large
 classification of European Elms
 that is difficult to distinguish.
 Strong tree that has done very well
 in Boise and heavily planted in the
 early 1900s. New varieties of Elms
 resistant to DED are now available.



**31. White
 Oak**
*Quercus
 alba*
 Large.
 Prefers
 moist
 deep
 well-
 drained

soils. State tree of Illinois. Very handsome tree. Reference suggests this tree should stay in its native range, however it has been successful in Boise in the right soil.



**32. Sugar
 Maple**
*Acer
 saccharum*
 Medium to
 large. Must
 have well-
 drained low
 pH loam
 soil. Highly
 prized for
 its brilliant
 orange/red
 fall color.
 Visit this tree
 in mid to late
 October.



33. Ginkgo
Ginkgo biloba
 Large, adaptable.
 Slow growing.
 Excellent yellow
 fall color. The
 oldest living
 species of tree on
 earth with fossils
 dating back 225
 million years.
 Female trees bear
 very foul-smelling
 fruit. A Ginkgo
 was the closest

surviving tree to ground zero of the Hiroshima bomb.



34. Pagoda
Styphnolobium japonicum
 (formerly *Sophora japonicum*)
 Medium to Large, adaptable but prefers loamy well-drained soil. Usually the latest tree to flower in the summer. Flowers fall to create a fine creamy carpet under the tree. In the Legume family. Can

be a bit messy but a good tree for the urban environment.



35. Katsuratree
Cercidiphyllum japonicum
 Medium. Needs rich, moist well-drained soil. Does not like to dry out. Nice yellow fall color. A really nice tree when properly maintained.



36. Japanese Zelkova
Zelkova serrata
 Large. Prefers well-drained soils. Seems difficult to get established but if successful it can be pH adaptable. In the Elm family and is similar in form to American Elm (*Ulmus americana*).



37. Amur Corktree
Phellodendron amurense
 Small to medium and broad. Differing reports and experience on adaptability. Uncommon, however, several are doing well in park settings with well-drained soils, none better than these two trees (one male and one berry producing female).



38. Silver Maple
Acer saccharinum
 Very large. Somewhat adaptable. Can experience chlorosis and verticillium wilt disease (soil born fungus disease). Despite positives of fast growth, nice form and excellent shade, the negatives of soft, weak and decay-prone wood make this tree inadvisable in yard and boulevard locations.



39. Horsechestnut
Aesculus hippocastanum
 Medium to large. Prefers moist well-drained soil. Tight dense uniform shape is quite handsome. Large white flower clusters upright on the stem. A related species *Aesculus xcarnea* has red flower clusters.



40. American Elm
Ulmus Americana
Very large. Adaptable. Vase shaped branching habit. Widely planted in the early part of the 1900s, especially in the East and Midwest U.S. Dutch Elm Disease (DED) decimated the trees beginning in the 1930s. New varieties of American Elm supposedly resistant to DED are now available.



41. Honeylocust
Gleditsia triacanthos
Large. Adaptable. Most cultivars are thornless and seedless. Small leaf provides filtered shade. Often a drooping branch habit. Good, strong tree a bit over used. Recent problem with a canker disease. This particular tree is especially large.



42. Pin Oak
Quercus palustris
Large. Needs well-drained, acidic soils. Will be chlorotic in alkaline soils. Distinctive growth habit where lower branches tend to grow downward. Fall red color can be very good.



43. Hackberry, *Celtis occidentalis*
Large. Adaptable. Good tree for tough sites. Highly susceptible to Leaf Nipple Gall, a relatively harmless insect that will form knobby bumps on the leaf.



44. Catalpa
Catalpa speciosa
Very large. Adaptable. Large leaves, long thin seed pods and large showy flower cluster with individual flowerets reminiscent of Orchid (see below). Can have a narrow canopy, but often has a broad-branching habit at maturity that offers a sense of majesty year round.



45. Colorado Spruce
Picea pungens
Large. Somewhat adaptable, but prefers well-drained soils. Densely branched. Consider eventual size before planting a cute little tree close to structures or in small gardens.



46. White Ash
Fraxinus americana
 Large to very large. Adaptable however a stressed condition due to poor soil conditions or improper irrigation will make it much more susceptible to ash borers. Has excellent yellow/auburn fall color. Aphids less of an issue than with Green Ash.



48. Bald Cypress
Taxodium distichum
 Large. Somewhat adaptable. Can be chlorotic in high pH soils. Deciduous. Roots can develop unique knobby “knees” protruding above ground. Excellent choice for wet areas.



49. Weeping Willow, *Salix alba* ‘Niobe’
 Other references include *S. vitelina* var. *pendula* or *S. alba* ‘*Tristis*’ and others. Large and broad. pH adaptable but prefers moist soils. Very fast growth, weak wood, aphids. Beautiful form. Fantastic for framing a brilliant sunset, a pond or Scarlett O’Hara. Otherwise best left out of yard or boulevard locations.



47. Ruby Lace Honeylocust
Gleditsia triacanthos “Ruby Lace”
 Small. One of only a few surviving Ruby Lace in the area and it is in slow but steady decline. Leaves emerge dark red in the spring. Spreading untidy growth habit. Cultivar has not done well in Boise but its uniqueness makes this a special specimen.



50. Swamp White Oak
Quercus bicolor
 Very Large. Somewhat adaptable but can be chlorotic in alkaline soils. Similar in appearance to Bur Oak but with smaller acorns. Deserving of more use.



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Hours of Operation

7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Closed on Holidays

Emergency/After Hours

208-384-4083

Community Forestry takes pride in providing expert advice and care for our city's trees.

If you wish to see other examples of tree species, please see Ann Morrison Tree Walk at www.cityofboise.org/parks/forestry.

References pertaining to the information found in this brochure are available upon request.

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