EVERGREEN PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD

TREE TOUR

Published under the auspices of the Evergreen Park Neighborhood Urban Forestry Project.
Co-sponsored by the California Department of Forestry, and Magic, Inc.

Benefits of Urban Trees

Trees in the city serve us in myriad ways. Shade, evaporative cooling, erosion control, groundwater recharging, oxygenation, humidification, particulate precipitation, absorption of pollutants, audio and visual screening, wildlife habitat, and aesthetic enhancement of the urban environment are some of the advantages we enjoy in a well-forested city.

In addition, the urban forest, like any forest, can be managed to yield a steady output of useful products--food, fuel, lumber and soil amendments. However, trees in the urban environment (unlike trees in a timber forest, which once planted demand little attention until harvest) require care throughout their useful lives.

Caring for Urban Trees

Who cares for the trees on public property? Early residents of Palo Alto played an active role in planting and maintaining the City's trees. Over the years, municipal government assumed increasing responsibility. Today, the difficulty of managing a 100,000 tree forest without public participation has overwhelmed City capabilities. As a result, the quality of our urban forest is declining. Before 1970, the annual tree planting rate was 2000 per year. Since then, it has dropped to less than 200 per year. We are planting replacements for only one tenth of the existing trees.

Community Action

As residents, we are the ones who see the trees on our streets every day. We can learn how to recognize the trees' needs and how to protect them ourselves. We also see the empty gaps in parkstrips and can organize our block or neighborhood to plant new street trees. With the support of a grant from the California Department of Forestry, Evergreen Park neighborhood residents organized by Magic, Inc. did just that. Together, we planted nearly 100 street and park trees throughout the neighborhood.

How to use this guide

This tree tour is one of the accomplishments of the Evergreen Park Neighborhood Urban Forestry Project. It is designed to familiarize you with the 40 different species found along the streets of Evergreen Park, and to draw your attention to environmental factors and other considerations important to urban forest management.

Please refrain from taking any sample leaves or flowers from young trees.

Each tree or site described is identified by a green tree painted on the sidewalk. Except in the case of park trees, all trees are located in the parkstrip, the area between the sidewalk and the street. After the address, the directions "left", "right", or "center" will be used to indicate the tree's exact position in the parkstrip as you face the street. When a tree has been described before, its name will be given, followed by reference to the number where more detailed information can be found.

This tree tour is a walk of about one mile, and can be completed in approximately one hour. At the centerfold of this guide is a map of the neighborhood, with each location numbered to correspond to the descriptions in text.

Begin at 302 College Ave., at the corner of College Ave. and Birch St.

1. 302 College Ave. Left parkstrip.

Southern Magnolia
Magnolia grandifolia

Evergreen
Native to southeastern U.S. and Texas.
Leaves are leathery, green on top (when healthy) with a furry brown underneath.
Flowers are white and often measure 8-12" across. They bloom in the summertime, and are followed by small, red seeds encased in pine cone-like seed cases called strobuli.

2. 302 College Ave. Right parkstrip.

Japanese Pagoda Tree
Sophora japonica

Deciduous
Native to China and Korea.
Leaves are pinnately compound, with a feathery, graceful look to them.
Flowers are small, white to pale yellow clusters blooming in the summer.

This is one of the nearly 100 trees planted by the Evergreen Park Neighborhood Urban Forestry Project in 1981.

3. 314 College Ave. Tree on the right.

Coast Live Oak
Quercus agrifolia

Evergreen
Native to California.
Leaves are small, leathery and oval-shaped, with sharp, scalloped edges.

Proximity to the Magnolia and the good vigor of both are in contrast to the Magnolias further up College, which stand alone and show signs of decline.

4. 322 College Ave.

Paved-over parkstrip precludes its 'green-belt' potential.

5. 334 College Ave.

Southern Magnolia (1)

Notice the poor vigor and die-back (loss of life) in the branches without leaves. Although magnolias flourish in some parts of Palo Alto, many in Evergreen Park are unhealthy. Some suggest that trees like the magnolia, which are native to the Southeast, need at least monthly summer watering even once established.

6. 346 College Ave.

Western Catalpa Tree
Catalpa speciosa

Deciduous
Native to the Midwest.
Leaves are large, soft, and heart-shaped.
Bark is rough and often twisted.
The flowers of the Catalpa are exceptionally beautiful, large white cups held above the leaf canopy.
The fruits which follow are skinny pods, often as long as 12".
Objections to messiness have led to discontinuation of Catalpa planting. Is the added "convenience" worth the absence of these trees?

7. 350 College Ave. Both trees are:

Washington Hawthorne
Crataegus phaenopyrum

Deciduous
Native to southeastern U.S.
Flowers are small white clusters blooming in June.
Fruit are small red berries.

Hawthornes are very slow-growing trees and rarely get to be more than 20 feet high. They demand little maintenance and are popular with city staff for that reason.

8. 360 College. Ave.

Red Maple 'Red Sunset'
Acer rubrum 'Red Sunset'

Deciduous
Maples are native to the eastern U.S.
Leaves are 3-5 lobed. They are red when they unfurl, then turn green, and then red again in the fall. (continued)

'Red Sunset' is the name of a "cultivar"--a special variety of the Maple species---reproduced by vegetative propagation (cuttings from parent plant material). This tree was grown in Oregon for about 5 years, dug up during its winter dormancy, and shipped to us last winter. Trees which undergo this process are called "bareroot" stock because they are shipped without any soil around their roots. Sometimes their roots are dipped in mud to prevent them from drying out.

9. 365 College. Large tree across the street.

Silver Maple
Acer saccharinum

Deciduous
Native to eastern and central North America.
Leaves are 5-lobed, with saw-tooth (jagged) edges on each lobe.
The leaves are characteristically silvery underneath. In the wind, the whole tree shimmers.

This tree was planted over 50 years ago. As they reach maturity, Silver Maples tend to crack sidewalks with their strong surface roots, and to become weak-wooded and prone to limb breakage.
They are no longer an approved species to plant as a street tree in Palo Alto. Rather than totally exclude these majestic trees from the City's streets, we may choose to "harvest" them before they start exhibiting these undesirable characteristics. The "useful life span" of a tree in a city parkstrip can be determined by estimating when the cost of maintaining the tree becomes greater than the benefits derived from its life on the street. At that time, removal and replanting is the appropriate urban forest management practice.

10. 390 College Ave.

Red Maple
Acer rubrum 'Red Sunset' (8)

The wood-chip mulch around the tree's root zone reduces soil erosion and compaction, water evaporation, and extreme temperature fluctuations.

11. 390 College. Turn the corner onto Ash St.

Modesto Ash
Fraxinus velutina glabra 'Modesto'

Deciduous
Native to northern temperate zone.
Leaves pinnately compound, narrow and blade-like.

The Modesto Ash was a "wonder tree" in the 50's and 60's, endorsed by horticulturalists, landscape architects and municipal tree staffs, and planted extensively. In Palo Alto, many neighborhoods south of Oregon were planted exclusively to these ashes.
Modesto Ashes are particularly susceptible to anthracnose, a fungus disease which causes leaves to turn brown and drop throughout the summer.
New varieties of street trees often require 20-30 years of observation before all of their growth characteristics and problems are evident. Modesto Ashes are now exhibiting many undesirable characteristics and have fallen out of favor as a street tree. They develop weak "V" crotches which frequently split, they are susceptible to insect infestations and disease, and they have shallow roots which crack sidewalks.
Also note the condition of the parkstrip here. It needs additional soil and mulch to restore its fertility.

12. At the corner of Ash and Oxford, look left.

This block of Oxford was once lined with dead and dying Birches. Trees planted by the Evergreen Park Neighborhood Urban Forestry Project have brought life and greenery to the street. Also notice the great diversity in tree species on this part of Oxford.

13. 391 Oxford. Turn right. First tree to your left.

European White Birch
Betula pendula

Deciduous
Native to Europe and Asia Minor

14. 381 Oxford.

European White Birch (13)

Many of the birches in Evergreen Park are in poor condition. Residents and other volunteers working with EPNUFP removed eight dead birches before beginning the 1981 plantings. Birches require more water than they usually receive during our hot, dry summers, and are better suited to sites where they receive some shade from buildings or other trees, rather than reflected heat from sidewalks and streets.

15. 370 Oxford. Look across the street.

Sweet Gum
Liquidambar styraciflua

Deciduous
Native to southeastern U.S.

16. 373 Oxford.

Raywood Ash
Fraxinus oxycarpa 'Raywood'

Fall color is claret red.

This cultivar is a new variety of Ash, bred for pest resistance and elegant form. Local landscape architects and arboriculturalists who advised the EPNUFP on species selection recommended this tree highly. In contrast to the trees obtained as bareroot stock, this Raywood Ash is one of 63 trees which the Project purchased in 15-gallon containers from a wholesale nursery.

17. 350 Oxford. Across the street, in front of the house with the low chain-link fence.

Coast Live Oak
Quercus agrifolia (3)

This Oak was planted by the resident in about 1960. Native oaks used to cover much of Palo Alto. However, the stresses of the urban environment--pavement over roots, overwatering, smog, vehicle accidents, etc.--have contributed to the decline of many of the great old heritage oaks, and young replacement oaks like the one you see here are relatively rare.

18. 351 Oxford

Glossy Privet
Ligustrum lucidum

Evergreen
Native to Japan and China.
Small white flowers come in large clusters.
Fruit is a small dark-blue berry. (continued)

Although these privets are actually in bush form, the species is often trained as a tree. Many privets were recently removed from the nearby California Avenue business district because some people found them too messy. Of course, others liked the trees, and a bitter controversy arose. Compared to the energy required to grow a tree, trees are very easily removed, and thus, decisions involving tree removal require careful consideration and public discussion.

19. 343 Oxford

Bradford Pear
Pyrus calleryana 'Bradford'

Deciduous
Fruit-less variety
Leaves turn red in the fall.

This cultivar is considered an excellent city tree by municipal tree staff.

20. 323 Oxford

Chinese Hackberry
Celtis sinensis

Deciduous
Native to China, Korea and Japan.

EPNUFP favored this tree for its drought, wind and smog tolerance.

21. 328 Oxford. Across the street.

English Walnut
Juglans regia

Deciduous
Native to southwest Asia, and southeast Europe.
(continued)

English walnuts have, as a whole, done poorly in the parkstrip setting. This tree, well over 30 years old, is in poor condition. Note the large scar along its trunk, probably from a vehicle collision.

22. 315 Oxford

Chinese Hackberry
Celtis sinensis (20)

23. 301 Oxford

Raywood Ash
Fraxinus oxycarpa 'Raywood' (16)

24. 304 Oxford. Now cross Oxford St.

Southern Magnolia
Magnolia grandiflora (1)

The plates to the left and right of this tree are sewer and water laterals. Sewer, water and gas lines extend underground from every house and connect to the main lines, which are located under the street. Sometimes the utility laterals are cracked and invaded by particularly strong tree roots. For this reason, planting trees a minimum of five feet from any underground lines is appropriate. George Hood, Palo Alto's tree supervisor from 1930 to 1970, considers this magnolia a classic example of failure to observe this guideline.

25. 304 Oxford. Turn left and walk up Birch St.

Sweet Gum
Liquidambar styraciflua (17)

The typical growth habit of liquidambars is narrow, upright and columnar.

(continued)

Unfortunately, this shape does little to create a shaded canopy effect for a street as wide as Birch. Great numbers of liquidambars have been planted in Palo Alto by City staff because of their low-maintenance characteristics.

Decisions about which species to plant involve many other considerations besides a species' maintenance requirements. Such choices dramatically effect the character of our forest, and it is the responsibility of the people who live in Palo Alto to decide what kinds of trees we want. In Evergreen Park, residents expressed a preference for wide-spreading trees that will eventually canopy the streets and give ample shade.

26. Notice the overhead power lines across the street.

Line-clearing--the pruning required to keep overhead power lines free of heavy, interfering tree limbs--consumes about half of the City's budgeted resources for trees! Liquidambars commonly grow straight up. These trees are less than 20 years old and they have already reached the lines.

27. 290 Oxford. Across Oxford and on the corner.

Trident Maple, Small Leaf Maple
Acer buergerianum

Deciduous
Native to China and Japan.
Leaves have three points, and turn a beautiful orange-yellow in the fall.

This tree was grown from seed by Carl Landi, an Evergreen Park resident since 1940, and an avid horticulturalist.

28. Notice the spacing on the Liquidambars across the street. (continued)

Appropriate tree spacing is largely dependent on crown spread at maturity. A well-shaded street consists of trees whose canopies overlap slightly. These liquidambars will never do that unless new trees are "interplanted" between the older trees.

29. 2050 Birch. Turn left and walk down Birch St.

Scarlet Oak
Quercus coccinea

Deciduous
Native the eastern U.S.
This tree has a brilliant scarlet autumn color.

The Scarlet Oaks are another experiment undertaken by the EPNUFP. Like the Red Maples, they came bareroot from Oregon. They require very tender handling in shipment and in planting. Before the bareroots came to us, we had prepared a trench three-feet deep and ten-feet long, and had obtained rich, light topsoil with which to cover the roots. This way of storing dormant trees until planting time is called "heeling in", and prevents the roots from drying out.

30. Continuing on Birch St.

Red Maple
Acer rubrum 'Red Sunset'

The 'Red Sunset' variety of the standard Red Maple is rated the number one shade tree by many authorities on tree cultivation and growth. It is a vigorous grower with an elegant, upright, and moderately spreading habit. This cultivar has never been tried along Palo Alto streets before.

31. The next tree on Birch St.

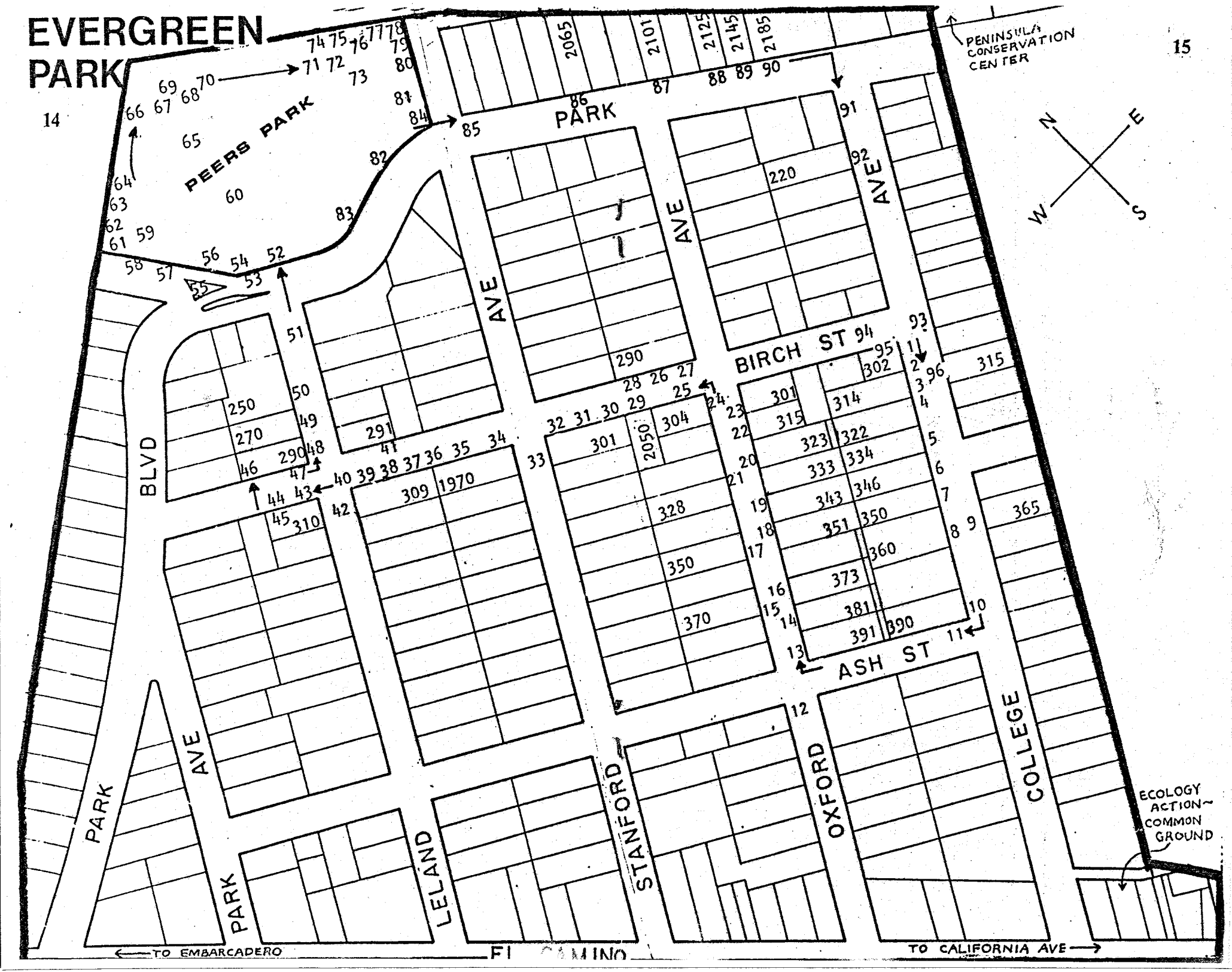
Sweet Gum
Liquidambar styraciflua (17)

This is an example of the quality and size of tree which the City has planted since 1970.
EPNUFP was able to obtain high-quality plant material by hand-selecting trees at wholesale nurseries. At planting time, the EPNUFP trees received a great deal of care. We dug each hole 3' deep and 5' square, backfilled it with a mix of native soil and oak leaf compost, created a watering basin, and covered it with a woodchip mulch. After the young trees leafed out, they were also fertilized. City-planted trees normally receive little or none of this care so important to the establishment of healthy, young trees. Further up the street, you will see a Project-planted liquidambar in good condition.
Public education about tree maintenance has been lacking in Palo Alto. The Evergreen Park project emphasized education. All residents received instructions for proper watering, and members of the Evergreen Park Urban Forestry Association check the trees weekly and talk with residents about proper maintenance.

32. At the corner.

Coast Redwood
Sequoia sempervirens

Evergreen
Native to Coastal California from Santa Cruz northward.
This is a resident-planted tree not normally seen along the streets of Palo Alto. Eventually, its great trunk diameter will fill the parkstrip and possibly break the curb and sidewalk. A parkstrip of six feet is a reasonable amount of space for redwoods. (continued)


EVERGREEN PARK
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PENINSULA CONSERVATION CENTER
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STANFORD
OXFORD
COLLEGE
ECOLOGY ACTION~ COMMON GROUND
TO EMBARCADERO
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Notice that this tree has multiple trunks, more common in urban settings! Redwoods and other tall conifers create a magnificent skyline when seen from a distance.

33. 396 Stanford Ave. Look left on Stanford.

London Plane Tree
Platanus acerifolia

Deciduous
Native to North America and Eurasia.

London Plane Trees, (often referred to as Sycamores, but actually a different species), compose nearly one-third of Evergreen Park's forest, and are planted extensively in Palo Alto. The monoculture (single species) and even-aged stand on this street are urban forest management liabilities seen throughout the city.

34. 1970 Birch St. Continue up Birch.

Red Maple
Acer rubrum 'Red Sunset' (8)

This bareroot tree had a poorly-developed root system upon arrival, and as a result, its initial growth rate has been slower than others of its kind.

35. 1970 Birch St. The next tree.

Camphor Tree
Cinnamomum camphora

Evergreen
Native to China and Japan.
Crushed leaves smell aromatic.

Camphor Trees are slow-growing. Their very shallow, agressive roots often cause sidewalk, curb and lawn damage. (continued)

A widened parkstrip, or park environment are more suitable habitats for this tree in the city. Camphor is valuable for woodworking, and may be marketted at harvest time.

36. 309 Leland Ave. Along Birch St.

Red Maple
Acer rubrum 'Red Sunset' (8)

37. 309 Leland Ave. Along Birch St.

Scarlet Oak
Quercus coccinea (31)

38. 309 Leland Ave. Along Birch St.

Red Maple
Acer rubrum 'Red Sunset' (8)

39. 309 Leland Ave. Along Birch St.

Scarlet Oak
Quercus coccinea (31)

40. 309 Leland Ave. Along Birch.

Red Maple
Acer rubrum 'Red Sunset' (8)

This string of trees is an experiment of the EPNUFP. They are planted on 25 foot centers, which is one-half the distance specified by current City ordinances. The trees will provide the shade and other benefits of a canopy cover sooner than if they were spaced the regulation 50 feet apart. Trees seem to grow better in 'like' company, that is, planted close to other trees. After 30 years, when their branches overlap, every other tree may be removed.

41. Looking across the street at the parkstrip with a utility pole in it, notice that a tree is missing.

42. Look left at the corner of Birch and Leland.

You will see London Plane Trees on centers averaging 25 feet. These trees were planted in about 1940, when the City had an active tree planting policy. Notice how these trees canopy and shade the street. Close centers also encourage upward growth and reduce the need for clearance pruning over streets and sidewalks.

43. 310 Leland. Cross Leland and continue on Birch.

Sweet Gum
Liquidambar styraciflua (17)

These two liquidambars were planted as an experiment to compare the differential growth rate of 5-gallon container grown stock (far tree), and 15-gallon container grown stock (closer tree). The 5-gallon tree is also being compared to the City-planted Liquidambar, mentioned at site 33, which did not benefit from the extensive site preparation performed by EPNUFP planters.

44. 310 Leland. Between liquidambars.

Arizona Ash
Fraxinus velutina

Many such Ashes were once planted on Birch St., however none of them have done well. Although its growth has been stunted for many years, this tree still provides some shade, and will be left in the ground until it shows further deterioration.

45. 310 Leland. In the backyard, near the fence.

Valley Oak, California White Oak
Quercus lobata

Deciduous
Native to California interior valleys, Sierra foothills, and the Coast Ranges.
Leaves are less leathery than those of the Live Oak. They are oblong with round-lobed edges.

46. 290 Leland. Across Birch, tree in backyard.

Valley Oak, California White Oak
Quercus lobata (45)

Native oaks have adapted, over millions of years, to the summer drought conditions of this area. The oaks' low water requirements come into conflict with lawns and other garden landscaping which require summer irrigation. These trees can actually be killed by Oak Root Fungus if they get too much water during the summertime. Indeed, many oaks are disappearing from private property for this reason. Public property (parks and wide median strips) can provide ample space and opportunity for oak regeneration. Stanford University has been very successful in regenerating the oak population on campus, and you can see wonderful young and maturing specimens there.

47. 290 Leland. At the corner of Birch and Leland.

California Pepper Tree
Schinus molle

Evergreen
Native to Peru, Bolivia, and Chile. (continued)

This beautiful tree is noted for its gnarled trunk, graceful, spreading branches, filtered shade and aromatic leaves. However, it also has an invasive root system which tends to crack sidewalks as the tree ages. Rather than eliminate the planting of these very hardy, drought tolerant, and attractive trees (the current City policy), we suggest planting them in widened parkstrips or placing them on a 30-year rotation so that they are removed and replaced when problems develop.

48. 290 Leland. To the front of the house.

Coast Redwood
Sequoia sempervirens

Scotch Pine
Pinus

These two evergreens were planted by the resident in 1981. Unfortunately, they are located to the south of the house, and will thus block out winter sun as they grow larger. This kind of siting consideration is becoming increasingly important as winter heating costs rise and we look towards the sun as an alternative, renewable source of energy for home heating.

49. 270 Leland. Left down Leland.

London Plane Tree
Platanus acerifolia (35)

The ivy which climbs up this tree blocks its leaves from the sun and parasitizes it by sinking roots through its bark and drawing off nutrients. Unless the ivy is removed, the tree will eventually die.

50. 250 Leland.

Washington Palm
Palmae washingtonia

Evergreen
Native to the tropics and subtropics. (continued)

Palms provide few of the benefits normally desired in a street tree, and thus are generally an inappropriate species selection.

51. Observe the canopy above this street.

Note how the lower branches of the Plane Trees been pruned away for vehicular clearance.

52. Cross Park Blvd. to the sidewalk near Peers Park. The tree in the corner of the lawn between the sidewalk and the foot path into the park.

Catalina Ironwood
Lyonothamnus floribundus

Evergreen
Native to the Channel Isles.

53. Walk down the sidewalk towards El Camino. In the parkstrip across from the park clubhouse.

European Hackberry
Celtis australis

Deciduous
Native to Europe.

The European Hackberry is similar to the Chinese Hackberry (22), but it grows larger and is thus more suitable for a street as wide as Park Blvd.

54. Farther down to your right is a multi-trunked tree.

Common Olive
Olea europaea

Evergreen
Native to the Mediterranean, Mexico and western Asia.
The fruit of the olive tree is inedible unless processed.

55. Note the median strip in the middle of Park Blvd., an ideal location for oaks and other large, space-demanding trees.

56. Look into the middle of the low Juniper shrubbery to your right.

Live Oak
Quercus agrifolia (19)

This young oak is a "volunteer." It sprouted from an acorn which was brought to this location by a bird, squirrel, or some other dispersal agent. The park maintenance crew discovered it, and staked it up to encourage its growth.

57. In the left-hand parkstrip.

European Hackberry
Celtis australis (54)

This tree is part of EPNUFP's experimentation with root control barriers. The barriers are molded from hard plastic, and are like a box with open ends. The upper measurement is 2'x2', and the walls flair out towards a bottom of 3'x3'. A barrier was placed here at the time of planting, and this tree is paired for observation with a European Hackberry without a barrier. By directing roots downward, this device is meant to prevent shallow, sidewalk-cracking roots from developing.

58. The next tree in this parkstrip.

Brisbane Box
Tristania conferta

Evergreen
Native to Australia.
Flowers are small and white, and blossom in May and June.
The bark is reddish and peels like a eucalyptus.

This tree is actually in the same family as the eucalyptus. It is fast-growing to 50 feet, drought resistant, and disease and pest–free. Before the EPNUFP plantings, the Brisbane Box had never been tried before as a street tree in Palo Alto. We are watching its performance carefully, and so far, it shows promise as an excellent evergreen species.

59. The three young trees to the right, inside the grass.

Littleleaf Linden
Tilia cordata

Deciduous
Native to Northern Europe.
Leaves are heart-shaped and shiny.
Flowers are in small yellow clusters in mid-summer.

Although they are highly adaptable to city conditions, the lindens are another relatively uncommon species in Palo Alto. The EPNUFP planted them as park specimens in an area that once had a tree which was removed and never replaced.

60. The large trees lining two sides of the play area.

Tulip Tree
Liriodendron tulipfera

Deciduous
Native to eastern U.S.
Leaves are bright green, with four symmetrical lobes.
Flowers are tulip-shaped, blooming in late spring.

61. At the end of the grass area near the sidewalk are two mature trees.

Ginkgo Tree
Ginkgo biloba

Deciduous
Native to China.
Leaves are fan-shaped, and turn a blazing yellow in the fall.

Ginkgos are the only surviving species and genus of Ginkgoaceae--once a widely distributed conifer group. It is an extremely long-lived, slow-growing tree, with male and female reproductive parts on separate trees. In the springtime, female trees, like the one on the right, produce a seed encased in an extremely malodorous fleshy orange cover.

62. Growing next to the Ginkgos.

Camphor Tree
Cinnamomum camphora (37)

This slow-growing tree does well in the park environment, where its shallow roots meet no sidewalk or curb interference.

63. Now step onto the little path behind the trees and the hedge which traverses the fringe of the northwest end of the park. The tree to the right, next to another Camphor.

Silk Tree
Albizia julibrissin

Deciduous
Native to the Middle East and Orient.
Flowers are pink pin-cushions.
Leaves are graceful and fern-like.

64. Next to the Silk Tree.

Camphor Tree
Cinnamomum camphora (37)

65. Looking off towards the tennis courts, the single tree at the corner of the fence.

Glossy Privet
Ligustrum lucidum (20)

66. Back on the path, the five trees towards the northern corner of the park.

Coast Redwood
Sequoia sempervirens (34)

The Evergreen Park Neighborhood Urban Forestry Project planted this grove on Arbor Day, March 7, 1981, as a tribute to all tree caretakers.

67. On the edge of the lawn to the south.

Silk Tree
Albizia julibrissin (64)

(continued)

This is one of 14 trees planted in Peers Park by the EPNUFP. Before we began, only a few of the park's nearly 100 trees were less than 20 years old. This age gap is the sign of an unstable, non-regenerative forest. Continuous planting is essential to a healthy urban forest.

68. The large tree next to the Silk Tree.

Big Tree, Giant Redwood *Sequoia gigantea* (32)

Evergreen
Native to the west slope of the Sierra Nevada.

The Sequoia gigantea has the largest trunk and is one of the tallest of trees in all the world.

69. In back of the Silk Tree.

Coast Live Oak
Quercus agrifolia (19)

In a century, this may become a giant, spreading oak like the some of ones we see in Palo Alto today.

70. Next to the Sequoia gigantea.

Deodar Cedar
Cedrus deodara

Evergreen
Native to the Himalayas.

This tree marks the beginning of a whole row of Deodar Cedars lining the park's northeast border near the railroad tracks.

71. Now walk to the northern corner of the picnic table area.

Brazilian Peppertree
Schinus terebinthifolius

Evergreen
Native to Brazil.

72. The huge, triple-trunked tree.

Blue Gum
Eucalyptus globulus

Evergreen
Native to Australia.

73. The three large pines in the grass.

Coulter Pine
Pinus coulteri

Evergreen
Native to California.

These specimens are over 80 years old. They produce the largest cones of the Pine family. Various theories exist to account for the lean on these trees, but no one is really certain how they came to tilt at such an angle.

74. The multiple-trunked tree in back of the picnic tables towards the fence.

California Laurel, Calif. Bay
Umbellularia californica

Evergreen
Native to Oregon and California.

Although this is not the same species as the bay tree from which store-bought bay leaves are obtained, the leaves of the Californa Bay do have a strong aroma when crushed, and can be used in cooking.

75. South of the California Bay.

Purpleleaf Plum
Prunus cerasifera

Deciduous
Native from Central Asia to the Balkans.

76. South of the Plum.

Coast Live Oak
Quercus agrifolia (19)

77. The very large tree near the fence.

Manna Gum
Eucalyptus viminalis

Evergreen
Native to Australia

Note this tree's characteristic white trunk and branches.

78. The next tree south.

Manna Gum
Eucalyptus viminalis (77)

This variety of E. viminalis has dark, heavy, peeling bark. There are many other eucalyptus on the other side of the fence, serving to buffer the wind and noise of the Southern Pacific right-of-way. Eucalyptus are drought-resistant, pest and disease free, and require virtually no maintenance until older, when weak limbs can break.

79. In front of the green-painted well.

California Peppertree
Schinus molle (49)

EPNUFP planted this hardy, drought tolerant tree as an eventual screen to the area behind it. There once was an old Peppertree in the park which children loved to climb. However, it was in the grassy area and received too much water. These trees will develop a fungus called Armillaria Root Rot, if drainage is insufficient. Back in this high, dry corner of the park, this tree has a good chance of fairing well.

80. The grove of four trees at the southeast corner of the grass.

White Birch
Betula alba

Deciduous
Native to Europe and Asia Minor.

(continued)

Because these birches are in a lawn area which gets watered regularly, they are healthier than the birches in parkstrips along the streets of Evergreen Park.

81. The grove of four trees west of the birches.

Red-flowering horsechestnut
Aesculus carnea x 'Briotti'

Deciduous
Flowers are red plumes in April and May.

This variety is a cross between two species of the Aesculus genera. The horsechestnut got its name during Napolean's time. Napolean's horse ate the large, hard-skinned, nut-like fruit which fall from these trees, and so they were called "horsechestnuts."

82. The multi-trunked tree to the right along the grass.

California Bay, Calif. Laurel
Umbellularia californica (75)

83. The very large skyline tree near Park Blvd.

Deodar Cedar
Cedrus deodara (71)

84. Behind the park bench in the hedge.

Tan Oak
Quercus ilex

85. Now we're out of Peers Park and walking up Park Blvd. What you see are London Plane Trees, planted at the same time as those on Stanford and Leland. Some side-walk cracking is apparent.

86. 2065 Park Blvd.

European Hackberry
Celtis australis (54)

87. 2101 Park Blvd.

Goldenrain Tree
Koelreuteria paniculata

Deciduous
Native to China and Korea.
Flowers--yellow clusters in July.
Fruit are balloon-like pods which follow the flowers.

This tree is very drought tolerant once established. It also boasts pollution, wind, and pest resistance, and tolerates alkaline (non-acidic) soil, which is the soil type of Evergreen Park, and much of Palo Alto. Unfortunately, this specimen dried out too much after planting. Many of its leaves yellowed, and some dropped off. With special care and sufficient watering, we hope it will recover.

88. 2125 Park Blvd.

European Hackberry
Celtis australis (54)

89. 2145 Park Blvd.

Home orcharding is demonstrated beautifully in this front yard. The variety of fruit trees here supply the residents with fresh fruit from June to September.

90. In front of the two-story commercial building. 2185 Park Blvd.

California Pepper
Schinus molle (48)

91. Now cross Park Blvd. and turn up College Ave. Note the overhead power lines--always a constraint in urban forest management.

92. 220 College

Silver Maple
Acer saccharinum (9)

This tree is over 50 years old, and was probably planted by the resident who lived here before the apartments were built.

93. Walk down to the corner of College and Birch St. Look across College to see another grand Silver Maple.

94. Look right up Birch St. at the newly-planted trees.

Red Maple
Acer rubrum 'Red Sunset' (8)

Scarlet Oak
Quercus coccinea (31)

The close spacing (20' centers), and alternating species of these trees are new concepts in urban forestry management. We picked these two species because their growth habits and maintenance requirements are compatible. We wanted to space them so that their canopying effect will be enjoyed by the neighborhood in 20 years, rather than the 40 years it normally takes when trees are planted 40 or 50 feet apart. After 20 years, it is conceivable that the middle tree of each set will be harvested in order to allow the two on either side to grow to maturity.

95. 302 College Ave.

Another good example of home orcharding. This yard contains: fig, peach, apple, apricot, orange, tangerine, lemon, and plum trees.

96. 315 College Ave. Across the street.

Carob Tree, St. John's Bread
Ceratonia siliqua

Evergreen
Native to southeastern Mediterranean in Europe, and Asia minor.

(continued)

Note the characteristic dark, twisting trunks on these three trees. The fruit hangs in dark pods to the inside of the canopy. The inside lining of the pod is the edible carob used like chocolate. Try it!

We are enjoying learning more about the trees in our neighborhood. Perhaps this tree tour has given you a fuller appreciation of the trees around you, and will inspire you to actively protect and care for them.