Introduction to the Linda Hall Library Arboretum

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History of the Arboretum

When Herbert and Linda Hall bequeathed their estate for the purpose of establishing a public library, it was their wish that the grounds on which their former home stood be appropriately preserved and maintained so "that the surrounding trees and grass shall add beauty and dignity" to the Library. Accordingly, the Linda Hall Library's grounds have been managed for more than 70 years as an urban arboretum, a garden of trees within the city.

Complementing the Library's mission, tree acquisition has emphasized obtaining unusual and underutilized trees that are adapted to the local environment. Careful selection and meticulous cultivation of plantings through the years have yielded an urban green space that is recognized as one of the Library's most distinctive features. Today the grounds surrounding the Library are home to some 300 trees representing 48 genera and 130 species.

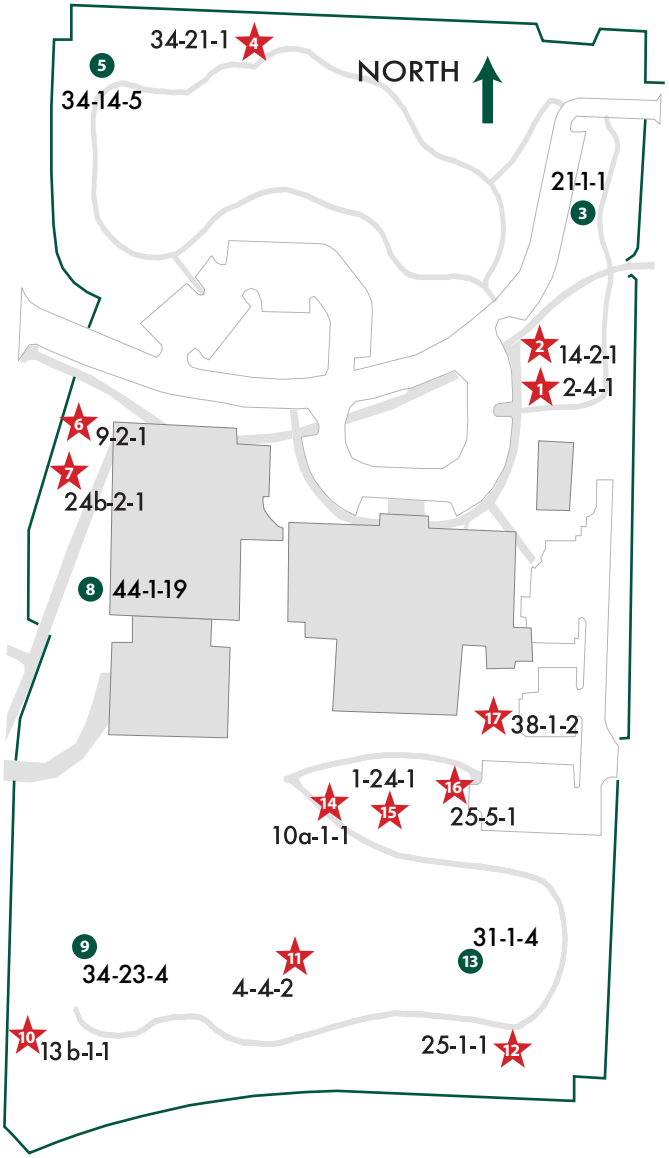
Guided by the accompanying map, a walk through the arboretum to view the selected trees would take about 30 minutes.

For a complete map and tree list visit
https://www.lindahall.org/arboretum

The Library encourages the public to visit the arboretum and has selected a variety of trees for viewing through a self-guided tour.

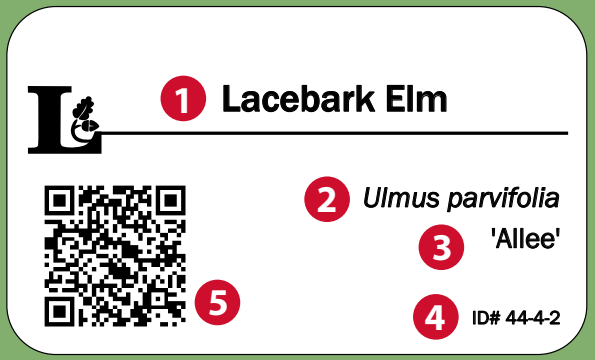
Five of the trees selected are native to this area, and with one exception, were growing here during the time of Herbert and Linda Hall's residence. The other 12 are the Greater Kansas City Champion Trees.

Descriptive information on each of the selected trees has been included in this guide along with an aid to assist in reading tree labels, what makes a Champion Tree, and background on the origins of the Greater Kansas City Champion Trees.



Greater Kansas City Champion Trees

Trees of Interest



How to Read a Tree Label

1. Common Name: Ex., Lacebark Elm. Common names are known to vary widely and are not used for formal identification. A plant often has many common names and a single common name may be associated with several different plants.

2. Scientific Name: Every plant has a unique two-part name that identifies it and is accepted around the world. This two-part name consists of a genus name and a species name. Scientific names are written in italics; the genus name is capitalized, and the species name is not.

   Ex., Ulmus parvifolia. A genus is a class or group with common characteristics. A species is a natural group of similar individuals that can produce similar offspring.

3. Cultivar Name: (If applicable) Ex., 'Allee.' A cultivar is a variety of a plant that has been selected intentionally and maintained through cultivation; from culti(vated) + var(iety.) Cultivars are asexually propagated to maintain their unique characteristics.

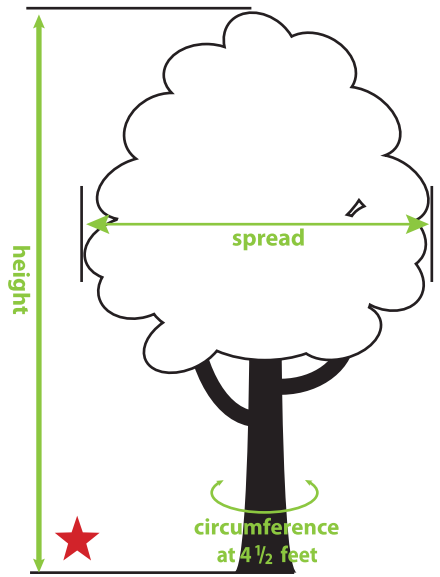
4. ID#: This is a three-part number that is assigned to every tree growing or planted on the grounds. The first number represents the genus, the second number species, and the third is for the individual tree.

5. QR Code - Allows you to access descriptive information and pictures of the tree from your smartphone or tablet if you have the QR app installed.

To test your QR app, scan the QR code on the label.

What Makes a Champion Tree?

Champion Tree status is determined using a mathematical formula based on tree height, spread, and trunk circumference. Trunk circumference is measured in inches four and one-half feet above ground. Tree height and spread are measured in feet. One point is given for each inch of trunk circumference and each foot of height. One quarter point is given for each foot of spread. The three measurements are added together to determine a tree's point total. The designation of Champion Tree is assigned to the tree of a given genus and species with the largest point total.



Example:
The formula for the champion Anise Magnolia on the Library grounds is:62+32+(29*.25)=101.25. This point total is compared to the total for other Anise Magnolias growing in the metropolitan area to determine champion status.

Champion Trees ★

The list of Greater Kansas City Champion Trees dates back to 1955 when the late Stanley R. McClane, landscaping superintendent for the J.C. Nichols Company, completed the first survey. From 1974 - 2012, Chuck Brasher, arborist for Country Club Tree Service, maintained and updated the list. Since his death in 2012, Powell Gardens has continued the list and expanded it to include runner-up trees.

1 **ID# 2-4-1**
Aesculus hippocastanum
'Baumannii' Double Flowered Horsechestnut
Plant date: Pre-1956
Origin: Unknown
Year Measured: 2008
Size: Cir. 91" Ht. 54' Spr. 40'
Native: Northern Greece, Albania, Bulgaria
Introduced: 1819
Notes: Long lasting, double, white flowers, sterile

2 **ID# 14-2-1**
Fagus sylvatica
'Riversii' Rivers Purple Beech
Plant date: 1971
Origin: Rosehill Nursery
Year Measured: 2008
Size: Cir. 85" Ht. 43' Spr. 42'
Native: Central Europe to the Caucasus Mountains
Notes: Deep black-brown glossy spring leaves

3 **ID# 21-1-1**
Juglans nigra
Black Walnut
Plant date: Approximately 140 years ago
Native: Eastern North America, can be found growing in every county in Missouri
Notes: Valued for furniture making and for edible nuts

4 **ID# 34-21-1**
Quercus shumardii
Shumard Oak
Plant date: 1968
Origin: Rosehill Nursery
Year Measured: 2008
Size: Cir. 83" Ht. 61' Spr. 45'
Native: Central United States
Notes: Native to the Kansas City area

5 **ID# 34-14-5**
Quercus muehlenbergii
Chinkapin Oak
Plant date: 1957
Native: Eastern United States, grows throughout Missouri with the exception of Scotland County and St. Louis City
Notes: Durable hardwood, used for furniture and barrels, acorns have low tannin content making them an excellent food source

6 **ID# 9-2-1**
Cladrastis platycarpa
Japanese Yellowwood
Plant date: 1975
Origin: Seeding donated by Don Hollingsworth
Year Measured: 2008
Size: Cir. 27" Ht. 25' Spr. 20'
Native: Japan
Notes: May not bloom every year

7 **ID# 24b-2-1**
Maackia amurensis
Amur Maackia
Plant date: 1995
Origin: Musser Forests
Year Measured: 2011
Size: Cir. 44" Ht. 31' Spr. 40'
Native: Manchuria, China
Notes: July flowers smell like alfalfa or recently mown grass

8 ID# 44-1-19
Ulmus Americana
American Elm
Plant date: original, today only
2 of the original 35 remain
Native: Eastern North America
Notes: Used as a street tree until
Dutch Elm Disease (DED) decimated
the population, estimated age is 138 years

9 ID# 34-23-4
Quercus stellata
Post Oak
Plant date: Original, the death of a similarly
sized Post Oak on the ground yielded an annual
ring count of 138, indicating the tree was 138
Native: Eastern United States
Notes: Slow growing, adapted to poor, shallow,
rocky and low moisture soil, grows in clumps
of 2-7 as the tree responds to drought stress
by sending up root suckers

10 ID# 13b-1-1
Eucommia ulmoides
Hardy Rubber Tree
Plant date: 1975
Origin: Raytown Nursery
Year Measured: 2008
Size: Cir. 29" Ht. 26' Spr. 33'
Native: Central China
Notes: Leaves and bark contain latex,
used in traditional Chinese medicine

11 ID# 4-4-2
Carpinus laxiflora
Loose-flower Hornbeam
Plan date: 2000
Origin: Arbor Village Nursery
Year Measured: 2011
Size: Cir. 17" Ht. 24' Spr. 25'
Native: Japan
Notes: Considered rare in cultivation

12 ID# 25-1-1
Magnolia denudata
Yulan Magnolia
Plant date: 1968
Origin: Rosehill Nursery
Year Measured: 2008
Size: Cir. 22" Ht. 19' Spr. 16'
Native: Eastern and southern China
Notes: In cultivation since 600CE

13 ID# 31-1-4
Platanus occidentalis
Sycamore
Plant date: Original
Native: Northern America
Notes: One of the largest growing
trees in the eastern deciduous forests,
widely adaptable, clear white bark
in its upper branches, and the
largest tree on the Library's
grounds with a trunk circumference
of 142 inches. The largest Sycamore
in the United States has a
circumference of 422 inches

14 **ID# 10a-1-1**
Corylus colurna
Turkish Hazel
Plant date: 1990
Origin: Arbor Village Nursery
Year Measured: 2010
Size: Cir. 50" Ht. 35' Spr. 33'
Native: Southeast Europe, Asia Minor
Notes: Very drought tolerant once established

15 **ID# 1-24-1**
Acer miyabei
Miyabei Maple
Plant date: 1994
Orgin: Arbor Village Nursery
Year Measured: 2009
Size: Cir. 59" Ht. 33' Spr. 40'
Native: Japan
Notes: Endangered species in Japan

16 **ID# 25-5-1**
Magnolia salicifolia
Anise Magnolia
Plant date: 1966
Origin: Scanlon Nursery
Year Measured: 2008
Size: Cir. 62" Ht. 32' Spr. 29'
Native: Japan
Notes: Bruised or broken stems smell lemony

17 **ID# 38-1-2**
Sorbus alnifolia
Korean Mountainash
Plant date: 1990
Origin: Wayside Gardens
Year Measured: 2008
Size: Cir. 16" Ht. 24' Spr. 21'
Native: Korea, Japan, Central China
Notes: Holds red berries into winter, good food source for birds

Botanical illustrations from
The Linda Hall Library History of Science Collection
Michaux, François André, and Thomas Nuttall.
***The North American Sylva.* Wm. Rutter & Co., 1865.**

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