

Memorial Union Loop Tree Trail Descriptions

1. Persian Parrotia – *Parrotia persica*

Persian parrotia is a small specimen tree reputed to have excellent fall colors of yellow, orange and scarlet, but has yet to demonstrate it in our area. It has an attractive mottled bark of gray, green, white and brown and is praised as a nearly pest-free landscape tree.

2. European Hornbeam - *Carpinus betulus* 'Franz Fontaine'

This is a fastigate form of European hornbeam listed as growing 35 feet with an 18-foot width. Its tight upright branching and narrow habit make a distinct architectural statement in the landscape. However, with time, it will get much wider than advertised. Fall color is yellow.

- ***Adopted in Honor of John H. Clay, BS '73***

3. White Oak – *Quercus alba*

White oak is one of our native woodland giants. This slow-growing, long-lived tree is typically broad-branched, eventually spreading to 100 feet in diameter. White oak and hickory made up the climax forest found by our ancestors in this area.

- ***Ronald Turner – Service to Missourians through extension***

4. Ohio Buckeye – *Aesculus glabra*

Ohio buckeye is one of the first trees to leaf out in the spring and one of the first to drop its leaves in the fall. The spiny fruit holds the glossy brown nut cherished by children. Native Americans named this tree because the seeds resembled the eye of a buck (male) deer. This tree is best for natural areas.

- ***Adopted by Professor James E. Smith, Jr. Family***

5. European Horse Chestnut – *Aesculus hippocastanum*

European horse chestnut grows 50 to 75 feet and best planted in areas with a large landscape such as parks and college campuses. The flowers, up to 12 inches long, are very showy in the spring but fall color is a dull yellow at best. European horse chestnut is native to Bulgaria, Greece and Albania.

6. Red Horse Chestnut – *Aesculus x carnea*

This 30- to 40-foot hybrid of Horse chestnut and red buckeye is one of England's most popular ornamental trees. It has eight-inch clusters of red and rose-colored flowers that appear in May and its seeds produce true-to-type plants, which is unusual.

- ***The Munson Family***

7. Red Buckeye – *Aesculus pavia*

Red buckeye is a short understory tree with dark, lustrous green leaves. A popular ornamental, in May, it displays beautiful clusters of red flowers. Its large, brown seeds are poisonous, which is typical of the various *Aesculus* species.

8. Red Oak – *Quercus rubra*

Red oak is a Missouri native shade tree that can grow 50 to 70 feet. The foliage turns red and purple in the fall and is tolerant of dry- to medium-moist soil.

9. Rubber Tree – *Eucommia ulmoides*

Rubber trees produce latex, which was once used to manufacture rubber. When tropical sources of latex were disrupted during World War II, the government planted orchards of these trees in Missouri to ensure a domestic supply. Synthetic materials were developed, however, and the industry was abandoned.

10. Kentucky Coffee Tree – *Gymnocladus dioica*

Kentucky coffee tree is a large tree with huge compound leaves and small leaflets that, during the summer, give the tree a lacy appearance. In winter, without its leaves, the tree's thick twigs produce a coarse silhouette. Its seeds are sometimes used as a coffee substitute; it is believed roasting them neutralizes toxins they contain.

11. Bur Oak – *Quercus macrocarpa*

Bur oak has a slow growth rate, typically less than one foot per year during its 30-year juvenile stage. In 300 years, it may reach 80 feet. Bur oak wood is hard, heavy and useful for furniture, flooring and boat docks.

• ***“The favorite of J.D. Baldrige”***

12. Overcup Oak – *Quercus lyrata*

Overcup oak is a medium-sized tree closely related to bur oak. It gets its common name from the acorn cap which almost completely encloses the acorn. It transplants easily, grows fast and tolerates poor soil conditions, especially wet areas.

13. Cherrybark Oak – *Quercus pagoda*

Cherrybark is a southern oak whose native range includes the Bootheel of Missouri. It is very fast growing and can reach a height of 80 feet or more. Its bark looks similar to that of a cherry tree, hence its common name.

14. Green Giant Arborvitae – *Thuja plicata x standishii* ‘Green Giant’

Green Giant is a very tall and narrow evergreen with fan-shaped sprays of leaves. It is a fast-growing columnar tree and makes a formal statement in the garden.

15. Emerald Sunshine® Elm – *Ulmus propinqua* ‘Emerald Sunshine’

This elm is a vigorous grower with an upright habit and dark green leaves. It grows to 35 feet with a 25-foot spread and is suitable for tough environments.

16. Hackberry – *Celtis occidentalis*

Hackberry is a large tree and is a good choice where growing conditions are harsh. It produces small purple berries that are a valuable food for game birds, squirrels and raccoons.

17. Basswood – *Tilia americana*

Basswood is a fast-growing, large tree that grows readily in most soil types and is native to the northeastern quadrant of the United States. Also known as American linden, it is an important timber species used for many products including musical instruments. Native Americans made rope and thread from its inner bark.

18. Yellowwood – *Cladrastis kentukea*

Yellowwood has white flowers in June, a soft-green leaf color and sculptured branching that forms a vase shape. Its wood is valued for gunstocks and cabinetry.

19. Persimmon – *Diospyros virginiana*

Persimmon is a native tree frequently found along roadsides and fence lines. It produces large, fleshy fruit that is edible after a fall frost sweetens its otherwise bitter pulp. Persimmons are difficult to transplant and seldom survive outside their natural habitat.

20. Jefferson American Elm – *Ulmus americana* 'Jefferson'

This American elm is a clone from a tree that grows along the National Mall in Washington D.C. Planted in the 1930s, it remains unscathed by Dutch elm disease.

21. London Plane Tree – *Platanus x acerifolia* 'Old Bones'

This selection of London plane tree boasts creamy-white bark from top to bottom unlike the olive, brown and cream mottled bark of the other Plane trees. It is a large, fast-growing tree suitable for parks, golf courses, campuses and other large greenspaces.

22. Scholar Tree – *Sophora japonica*

Scholar tree is a good tree for city conditions as it tolerates poor soils and air pollution. Creamy white flowers appear in mid-summer and are followed by small yellow seed pods that add fall interest.

23. Bald Cypress – *Taxodium distichum* 'Green Whisper'

This bald cypress is a cultivar of our native bald cypress and like the native variety, it is fast-growing and can grow to 55 feet and 30 feet wide. It is distinguished by its soft, bright green leaves that yield a fluffy appearance.

24. Seven-son Flower – *Heptacodium micinioides*

Seven-son flower is small, multi-stem tree from China that develops exfoliating bark revealing a lighter inner bark. The fragrant, creamy white flowers are an exercise in patience as they begin to develop in early summer but do not bloom until August. Seven-son flower's attractive bark, long-developing flower and pleasant fragrance make for a unique addition to the garden.

25. Pond Cypress – *Taxodium distichum* var. *imbricarium*

Pond cypress has a stately form and can grow to 80 feet with a 20 foot width. It is best suited to parks and large greenspaces. As its name suggests, it grows well next to ponds but also performs well in upland situations. It is related to our native bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and is found on the coastal plain from Virginia to Florida to Louisiana. It develops an attractive orangish-brown color in fall.

26. Trident Maple – *Acer buergerianum*

Trident maple is a medium size tree whose bark peels away in patches creating gray, brown and orange mottling. Its glossy, three-lobed leaves turn yellow, orange and red in the fall. Even though it is a handsome patio or lawn tree, its abundant seedlings can be a nuisance. It is native to Japan.

• ***Adopted by Ruth, Ed, Jessica and Jonathan Brent***

27. Norway Spruce – *Picea abies*

Norway spruce is a large, pyramidal evergreen whose drooping branches and six-inch-long cones give it a stately appearance when mature. It requires moist soil and spider mites can be a problem if planted in hot, dry sites. It is used as a Christmas tree in many cities around the world, and its new leafy shoots can be used for brewing spruce beer.

28. Purple Beech – *Fagus sylvatica* (Atropurpurea Group)

This European Beech is a large, slow-growing shade or specimen tree. Though over 15 years old, its small size is attributed more to the numerous construction projects that have disrupted it rather than its inherent growth rate. The leaves of this cultivar are very dark purple in the spring and get lighter as they age. Its fruit is a true nut.

29. China Snow Pekin Lilac – *Syringa reticulata* subsp. *pekinensis* ‘China Snow’

This Pekin lilac is closely related to Summer Charm Pekin lilac on the Lowry Mall Loop. While Summer Charm lilac reportedly has more attractive summer foliage, China Snow lilac is thought to have more attractive bark. Both cultivars have bark that exfoliates in copper-colored curls. This tree grows 15 to 20 feet and is native to northern China.

30. Butterflies Magnolia – *Magnolia* ‘Butterflies’

Butterflies magnolia is a yellow flowered form of magnolia, the result of a cross between *M. acuminata* and *M. denudata*. It grows to 20 feet and has a deeper yellow bloom than many other yellow flowered magnolias. When in bloom, it is a true show-stopper.

31. Hedge Maple – *Acer campestre*

Hedge maple is a slow-growing maple valued for its small size, resistance to pests and ability to grow in dry, alkaline soils. It is a good choice for the home lawn or where utility lines limit overhead growing space. It is frequently used as a hedge in Europe.

32. American Holly – *Ilex opaca*

American holly is a slow-growing, pyramidal evergreen that can reach 50 feet. Its glossy, green leaves and red berries make it a standout on the winter landscape. As only female trees produce berries, a male tree must be planted nearby to ensure pollination.

• ***To honor my father, Tom Fairlie. With love, Kristen.***

33. Flowering Dogwood – *Cornus florida*

Flowering dogwood is Missouri’s State Tree. It is a small ornamental with year-round appeal: large white bracts in spring (often mistaken for flowers), red fruit, reddish-purple fall color and distinct horizontal branching, which is particularly evident in winter.

• ***Adopted by Xena***

34. Rising Sun Redbud – *Cercis Canadensis* ‘Rising Sun’

This small ornamental redbud tree has rosy-lavender flowers like our native redbud tree. Its unique appeal is its orange, gold and yellow colored leaves. The coloring is most prominent in the spring but is evident on new leaves throughout the growing season. Mature size is approximately 12 feet with a 12-foot-width.

- ***Adopted by Michael and Paula Nolan***

35. Giant Dogwood – *Cornus controversa*

Giant dogwood's most notable features are its size and form. It can reach 45 feet with a very horizontal branching structure that makes for a strong architectural statement. The white flowers are one-half inch wide and fruits are blue-black.

- ***Wally Pfeffer – MU***