

NORTH

# Tree Walk of Historic Leesburg

## HISTORIC LEESBURG, VIRGINIA

In 1757, the intersection of Carolina Road (U.S. Route 15) and Potomac Ridge Road (Virginia Route 7) was selected as the new Loudoun County seat. Leesburg was founded a year later and the earlier streets laid out more than 250 years ago exist today include King, Market, Loudoun, and Cornwall.

Today many of those same historic streets are lined with a wide variety of mature and unique native and exotic tree specimens.

### THE VALUE OF TREES

Have you ever thought about the many real values of trees?

Trees share their fruits, nuts and seeds with wildlife and humanity. We enjoy their shade as do the birds and animals who build their homes in the canopy. Trees are useful to humans that build almost anything with wood. They act as living landscape barriers and screens. Their blossoms feed bees and butterflies who in turn pollinate flowers and food crops. Trees clean the air, providing the very oxygen we breathe. They prevent soil erosion, disperse rainfall, and absorb flooding storm water runoff. This helps to filter and clean our water.

Trees are indeed one of our most valuable natural resources as they are both beautiful and bountiful.

### ENJOY THE TREE WALK OF HISTORIC LEESBURG!



**TREE CITY USA®**  
SINCE 1989

**PLEASE RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY AT ALL TIMES WHEN VIEWING THESE TREES.**

Special thanks to the Loudoun County Master Gardeners Tree Stewards for their assistance to the Town of Leesburg Tree Commission in preparing the Tree Walk of Historic Leesburg.

[www.leesburgva.gov](http://www.leesburgva.gov)



MAP OF DOWNTOWN LEESBURG, VIRGINIA



# TREE DESCRIPTIONS AND LOCATIONS

THE "TOURLEESBURG" IPHONE AND ANDROID SMARTPHONE APP FEATURES SEVERAL SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOURS OF DOWNTOWN LEESBURG—INCLUDING THE TREE WALK OF HISTORIC LEESBURG. THIS FREE APP IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT THE APP STORE AND GOOGLE PLAY.

## 1. AMERICAN SYCAMORE (*Platanus occidentalis*)

This fast-growing and popular shade tree can be recognized by its conspicuous multi-colored (grey, white, olive, brown) bark and rather large leaves. It is a long-lived tree of lowlands and old fields, but often planted in parks and along streets.

Located: Loudoun County Circuit Court complex; Courtyard next to the Virginia historical sign (Corner of East Market and North King Streets, NE).

## 2. WILLOW OAK (*Quercus phellos*)

A popular street and shade tree, its wood is used for general construction. The foliage resembles that of willow leaves but bears an oak acorn crop almost every year and is a major supplier of wildlife food.

Located: Loudoun County Circuit Court complex; Two trees at courtyard west entrance, opposite sides of the brick walkway leading to the old courthouse – Circa 1760/Rebuilt 1895 (10 North King Street, NE).

## 3. BIG LEAF LINDEN (*Tilia platyphyllos*)

This tree originates from Europe. Its flowers, leaves, wood, and charcoal are commonly used to soothe inflammation and for other medicinal purposes.

Located: Loudoun County Circuit Court complex; Courtyard on the hill immediately behind the Loudoun County Revolutionary War Memorial statue; Next to the northwestern corner of the Second Courthouse, originally the Leesburg Boys' Academy building—Circa 1844 (16 East Market Street, NE).

## 4. PECAN (*Carya illinoensis*)

This native tree can grow to heights of 120 feet and produces edible pecan nuts. The use of this tree dates back to Native American civilizations and our founding fathers. Both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson planted them at their Virginia plantations.

Located: Loudoun County Circuit Court complex; Two trees on left and right of gated brick walkway, right of the Loudoun County Vietnam War Memorial and in front of the Second Courthouse (18 East Market St., NE).

## 5. SOUTHERN MAGNOLIA (*Magnolia grandiflora*)

Used largely as an ornamental, it has leathery evergreen leaves with large, fragrant flowers and bears reddish brown fruit. Named after the French botanist Pierre Magnol, this tree is one of about 200 flowering varieties.

Located: Private property; Corner of Cornwall and Church Streets; House built on a site initially owned by Nicholas Minor and surveyed by John Hough in 1758 (22 Cornwall Street, NE).

## 6. OHIO BUCKEYE (*Aesculus glabra*)

Notable with its unique five-leaf pattern, this tree was named by Native Americans who believed the conspicuous gray spot on the dark brown nut resembled a deer's eye. One tree (left side of front yard) was designated a Loudoun County "Big Tree" in 1981.

Located: Private property; Two trees on opposite front yard corners of former house of John Janney, president 1861 Virginia Secession Convention – Circa 1780 (10 Cornwall Street, NE).

## 7. SLIPPERY ELM (*Ulmus rubra*)

Also known as Red Elm, it has a crown of spreading branches with large, rough-textured leaves and a fragrant slippery inner bark. Its wood is resistant to splitting and is frequently used to construct wagon wheels, chair seats, and coffins.

Located: Private property; Tree to the left side backyard of the house that was originally a log home – Circa 1767 (Vacant lot between 102 and 106 North King Street North Street, NE).

## 8. AMERICAN DOGWOOD (*Cornus florida*)

Also known as Flowering Dogwood, this very common understory tree is both the state tree and state flower for the Commonwealth of Virginia. During the Civil War, Confederate soldiers used the bark from the tree to treat pain and cover wounds. This tree fronts what some consider Leesburg's "most haunted house."

Located: Private property; Tree is between the curb and sidewalk in front of the house – Circa 1811 (210 North King Street, NE).

## 9. NORWAY SPRUCE (*Picea abies*)

This large cone bearing evergreen with a pyramid-shaped crown of dark green spreading branches, is fast-growing and a popular choice for Christmas trees. This tree grows dense, making it a good option for a privacy barrier or wind screen.

Located: Private property; Inside front metal fence to the left side of house (220 North King Street, NE).

## 10. DAWN REDWOOD (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*)

Long thought extinct, it was discovered thriving in China. It is a fast-growing, towering tree with a defined, sculpted trunk. Uncommon in the Eastern United States, this is a very unique tree specimen found in Leesburg.

Located: Private property; Inside front metal fence to the left side of house (220 North King Street, NE)

## 11. EASTERN HEMLOCK (*Tsuga Canadensis*)

Once an important timber tree, many are desired for landscaping. This evergreen tree, with small coin-sized cones, grows naturally in cool, moist forest areas and well in shade. It is also long lived, with the oldest recorded specimen found in north central Pennsylvania at over 550 years old.

Located: Private property; Behind concrete wall in large open grounds of the Roman Catholic church clergy house – Circa 1850. Walk seven pillars north of corner boundary of 226 North King Street, or look across street from 229 North King Street. (302 North King Street, NE) \*

## 12. SUGAR MAPLE (*Acer saccharum*)

This tree is the most abundant in the northern hardwood mature forest. Its sap is the main source of maple syrup and maple sugar. Its fall color is an outstanding combination of oranges and reds.

Located: Private property; Two trees in front yard (223 North King St., NW).

## 13. AMERICAN BASSWOOD (*Tilia americana*)

Also known as the American Linden, is a native tree has distinct, large heart-shaped leaves and its fine-grained wood is preferred by wood carvers.

Located: Private property; Right front yard of Glenfiddich House/Harrison Hall, site of where General Robert E. Lee planned the 1862 invasion of Maryland – Circa 1780 (205 North King Street, NW).

## 14. NORWAY MAPLE (*Acer platanoides*)

This dense canopy tree often grows to two feet in diameter and is very tolerant to urban conditions. It makes for a great shade tree in parks, yards, or along streets and is best known for its bright yellow autumn leaves.

Located: Private property; Left front yard of Glenfiddich House/Harrison Hall, close to the Civil War Trail information sign (205 North King St., NW).

## 15. JAPANESE MAPLE (*Acer palmatum*)

This smaller, ornamental tree from Asia is known for its wide variety of attractive forms, delicate leaf shapes, and spectacular colors and is the choice of landscapers.

Located: Private property; Front yard left of brick sidewalk stairway (203 North King Street, NW).

## 16. KENTUCKY YELLOWWOOD (*Cladrastis kentukea*)

Also known as the American Yellowwood, is a medium-sized shade tree with smooth grayish bark, multi-stemmed, wide-spreading crown and graceful, fragrant flowers. Early settlers in the Appalachians used the roots to make yellow dye.

Located: Private property; (Between 201 and 203 North King St., NW).

## 17. WHITE ASH (*Fraxinus americana*)

This large, beautiful shade tree, is especially attractive in the fall, and grows well in most locations. Sadly, ash trees have been subjected to the Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive insect from Asia that is killing out the species nationwide.

Located: St. James Episcopal Church; Rear parking lot of church – Circa 1895 (Off North Street, NW). \*\*

## 18. SOURWOOD (*Oxydendrum arboreum*)

This native tree gets its name for its sour tasting leaves. It is often planted in landscapes for its brilliant crimson and purple fall foliage. Pollinators are very attracted to the highly fragrant, mid-summer flowers.

Located: North side of old Methodist Cemetery and site of Old Stone Church – Circa 1766; to right of double wrought iron gate. (Inside corner of North and Liberty Streets, NW).

## 19. MIMOSA (*Albizia julibrissin*)

Also called the Persian Silk Tree, it is a native to eastern and southwestern Asia. This fast-growing ornamental tree has leaves that are separated like those of a fern and fold up at night and during rainstorms. The flowers are pale to deep pink and form in clusters that look like fine silk threads.

Located: Center interior of old Methodist Cemetery; Walking about 25 paces from double wrought iron gate to the only covered tombstone of Captain Wright Brickell; Cemetery's Oldest memorial stone dated 1777. (Adjacent to North, Liberty, and Cornwall Streets, NW).

## 20. COMMON HACKBERRY (*Celtis occidentalis*)

Easy to identify with its cork-like bark and raised wart-like protuberances (upper trunk), it is commonly found in moist woodlands, along farm fencerows and roadsides. The small black fruit is good for songbirds and small wildlife.

Located: Center interior of old Methodist Cemetery; Continue walking about another 25 paces in the direction of the historical information kiosk and along fence line and to left of the Anna and John Rose tombstones (Adjacent to North, Liberty, and Cornwall Streets, NW).

## 21. GINKGO (*Ginkgo biloba*)

Also called the Maidenhair Tree. Imported from China, it is the oldest living tree species in the world with discovered fossils dating back 270 million years. This is a female tree that produces no pollen, but bears stinky fruit in the fall.

Located: South side of the Old Methodist Cemetery interior; Continue to the gate and before exiting cemetery, the tree is to the right of the gate (Off 100 block Cornwall Street, NW).

## 22. GINKGO (*Ginkgo biloba*)

Its distinct fan-like leaves, make this male, non-native tree stand out. It has highly allergenic pollen, but unlike the female Ginkgo tree, this tree does not bear stinky fruit.

Located: Private property; Left front yard McCabe House – Circa 1895 (15 North Wirt Street, NW).

## 23. NORTHERN CATALPA (*Catalpa speciosa*)

Also known as the Indian Cigar Tree. This native of the United States is often planted as an ornamental, and is best recognized for its irregular rounded crown, large heart-shaped leaves, delicate white flowers and long, drooping bean pods.

Located: Private property; Center front of St. James Episcopal Church (20 Cornwall Street, NW).

## OTHER TOUR AND NOTABLE TREES OF LEESBURG

The Leesburg Garden Club Centennial Project "Native Tree Walk at Ida Lee Park" features 25 planted and identified native species.

Located: Ida Lee Park Recreation Center; Walking path runs from Fairview Street park entrance parking lot along Old Waterford Road (60 Ida Lee Drive, NW).

The "Leesburg Heritage Tree" is a fine specimen of a White Oak (*Quercus alba*) that is well over 260 years old and grew from a seed before the Town of Leesburg was founded in 1758.

Located: Ida Lee Park Recreation Center; Next to Rust Farm House – Circa 1859 (50 Ida Lee Drive, NW).

## PEDESTRIAN WARNINGS

\*Please use caution when crossing North King Street.

\*\*Please use sidewalks along North Street, then cross Wirt Street, then continue towards the corner of Liberty Street. Use caution when crossing North Street and enter cemetery through double wrought iron gate.