

Our 100 Trees for 100 Years Project

Madison is a beautiful town, with lovely trees providing shade, protecting our aquifer and helping to clean the air. Having more trees in the town's "tree canopy" is a good thing. However, trees can reach the end of their natural life span or get diseased and need to be replaced. Recently ash trees have been lost at an alarming rate as a result of infestation by an invasive beetle. As a result, Madison needs to replenish and expand its tree population. The Rotary decided to commemorate its 100 years of community service by taking the lead on providing 100 new trees to replace and replenish Madison's trees. Under the guidance and supervision of Madison's Shade Tree Management Board, Rotary has executed a multi-year project to plant new trees at several locations throughout the town.

PHASE ONE (2023)

The first phase of the project included a total of 54 new trees to be planted at the Lucy D Anthony athletic fields, the Madison Public Library and the Water Tower on Madison Avenue. Here are the trees at each location in this phase:

At The Lucy D Fields

Honey Locust:



Honey Locust Leaves:



The Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) is a deciduous tree native to central North America where it is mostly found in the moist soil of river valleys. Honey locust is highly adaptable to different environments, has been introduced worldwide. The honey locust can reach a height of 65–100 ft. They exhibit fast growth, and live an average of about 120 years. The leaves are $\frac{1}{2}$ –1 inches and bright green. They turn yellow in the autumn. Honey locusts leaf out relatively late in spring. The strongly scented, cream-colored flowers appear in late spring, in clusters emerging from the base of the leaf.

American Yellowwood:



American Yellowwood Leaves:



The *American Yellowwood* (*Cladrastis kentukea*) is a species native to the Southeastern United States. The Yellowwood is a small to medium-sized deciduous tree typically growing 33–49 feet tall, sometimes as tall as 89 feet, with a broad, rounded crown and smooth gray bark. The leaves are typically 8-9 inches long, with alternately arranged leaflets. In the fall, the leaves turn a mix of yellow, gold, and orange. The flowers are fragrant, white, produced in Wisteria-like stalks 10-12 inches long. White flowers bloom in early summer, and are variable from year to year, with heavy flowering every second or third year.

At the Madison Public Library

Canadian Serviceberry:



Canadian Serviceberry Flower:



The Canadian Serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*) is native to eastern North America in Canada and in the United States from Maine south to Alabama. It is largely restricted to wet sites, particularly on the Atlantic coastal plain. It is a deciduous shrub or small tree growing to 1½ –26 feet tall with one to many stems and a narrow crown. The leaves are simple ½ to 1 inch in size and with a serrated edge. The flowers are produced in early spring; each flower has five white petals. Fruits, which are edible, become ripe in June and July in its native range.

Red Maple:



Red Maple Leaves:



Red maple leaf in the autumn, top, compared to striped maple, which turns yellow and sugar maple, which turns to orange.

The Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) is one of the most common and widespread deciduous trees of eastern and central North America. The U.S. Forest Service recognizes it as the most abundant native tree in eastern North America. Over most of its range, red maple is adaptable to a very wide range of site conditions, perhaps more so than any other tree in eastern North America. It can be found growing in swamps, on poor, dry soils, and almost anywhere in between. Many of its features, especially its leaves, are quite variable in form. At maturity, it often attains a height around 100 feet. Its flowers, twigs, and seeds are all red to varying degrees. Among these features, however, it is best known for its brilliant deep scarlet foliage in autumn.

American Sweetgum:

Liquidambar styraciflua, commonly known as the American sweetgum among other names, is a deciduous tree native to warm temperate areas of eastern North America and tropical regions of Mexico and Central America. Sweetgum is one of the main valuable forest trees in the southeastern United States, and is a popular ornamental tree in temperate climates. It is recognizable by the combination of its five-pointed star-shaped leaves (similar to maple leaves) and its hard, spiked fruits.

The bark attaches itself to the Sweetgum branches in plates edgewise instead of laterally, and a piece of the leafless branch with the aid of a little imagination readily takes on a reptilian form; indeed, the tree is sometimes called "alligatorwood". The bark is a light brown tinged with red and sometimes gray with dark streaks. It is deeply fissured with scaly ridges.

While the starry five-pointed leaves of *Liquidambar* resemble those of some maples, the Sweetgum is easily distinguished from *Acer* by its glossy, leathery leaves that grow in an alternate pattern, and not in pairs on the stems.

The Sweetgum is a medium-sized to large tree, growing anywhere from 15–20 m (50–70 ft) in cultivation and up to 45 m (150 ft) in the wild, with a trunk up 60–90 cm (2–3 ft) in diameter on average. Trees may live to 400 years.^[17] The tree is a symmetrical shape and crowns into an egg shape when the branches get too heavy after its first two years of cultivation.

Mature Sweetgum:



Sweetgum Leaf:



At the Water Tower (Danforth Road)

Red Oak :



Red Oak Leaves:



The Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*), is a native of North America. It prefers good soil that is slightly acidic. Often simply called red oak, northern red oak is so named to distinguish it from southern red oak, also known as the Spanish oak. Northern red oak is sometimes called champion oak. In many forests, the northern red oak grows straight and tall, to 92 feet, sometimes as tall as 141 feet, with a trunk of up to 20–39 inches in diameter. Under optimal conditions and full sun, northern red oak is fast growing and a 10-year-old tree can be 16–20 feet tall. Trees may live up to 400 years; a living example of 326 years was noted in 2001. Northern red oak is easy to recognize by its bark, which features ridges that appear to have shiny stripes down the center. A few other oaks have bark with this kind of appearance in the upper tree, but the northern red oak is the only tree with the striping all the way down the trunk.

American Tulip:



American Tulip Leaf:



The American Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) is the tallest eastern hardwood. It is native to eastern North America. It can grow to more than 160 feet, often with no limbs until it reaches 80–100 feet in height, making it a very valuable timber tree. These heights are comparable to the very tallest known eastern white pines, another species often described as the tallest in eastern North America. The trunk on large examples is typically 4–6 feet in diameter, though it can grow much broader. Its ordinary height is 80–150 feet and it tends to have a pyramidal crown. It prefers deep, rich, and rather moist soil; it is common throughout the Southern United States. Growth is fairly rapid. The bark is brown, furrowed, aromatic and bitter. The wood is light yellow to brown, and the sapwood creamy white; light, soft, brittle, close, straight-grained. The tree flowers in May, with greenish yellow flowers 1½–2 inches long, white turn a bright yellow in the autumn.

Southern Magnolia:



Southern Magnolia Flower and Foliage:



The Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) is native to the Southeastern United States. Reaching 90 feet or more in height, it is a large, striking evergreen tree, with large, dark-green leaves up to 7 inches long and 4 inches wide, and large, white, fragrant flowers up to 12 inches in diameter. The large, showy, lemon citronella-scented flowers are white, up to 11 inches across and fragrant, with six to 12 petals with a waxy texture, emerging from the tips of twigs on mature trees in late spring. Although endemic to the evergreen lowland subtropical forests on the Gulf and South Atlantic coastal plain, the magnolia is widely cultivated in warmer areas around the world. The timber is hard and heavy, and has been used commercially to make furniture, pallets, and veneer.

PHASE TWO (2024)

Phase Two involved planting 33 trees at the Madison Recreation Center (MRC) entryway and playing fields. These trees included Tulips, Red Oaks and Serviceberries (described in Phase One), plus:

Sweet Bay Magnolia:



Sweet Bay Magnolia Flower:



The Sweet Bay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*) is an evergreen or deciduous tree to 100 feet tall, native to the lowlands and swamps of the Atlantic coastal plain of the eastern United States, from Florida to Long Island, New York . Whether it is deciduous or evergreen depends on climate; it is evergreen in areas with milder winters in the south of its range and is semi-evergreen or deciduous further north. The leaves are 2-5 inches long, and 1-2 inches wide. The bark is smooth and gray, with the inner bark mildly scented, the scent reminiscent of the bay laurel spice.

The flowers, which appear in late spring or early summer, are creamy white, 3-5 inches in diameter, with 6-15 petal-like structures. The flowers carry a very strong vanilla scent that can sometimes be noticed several hundred yards away.

Flowering Dogwood:



Flowers:



The American Dogwood (*Cornus florida*) or the flowering dogwood is a species of flowering tree native to eastern North America and northern Mexico. An endemic population once spanned from southernmost coastal Maine south to northern Florida and west to the Mississippi River. The tree is commonly planted as an ornamental in residential and public areas because of its showy flowers and interesting bark structure.

Flowering dogwood is a small deciduous tree growing to 33 feet in height, often wider than it is tall when mature, with a trunk diameter of up to 1 foot. A 10-year-old tree will stand about 16 feet tall. The leaves are 2.4–5.1 inches long and 1.6–2.4 inches broad; they turn a rich red-brown in fall.

Flowering dogwoods attains their greatest size and growth potential in the Upper South, sometimes up to 40 feet in height. At the northern end of its range, heights of 30–33 feet are more typical. Hot, humid summer weather is necessary for new growth to harden off in the fall.

Black Gum in autumn:



Black Gum Leaves:



The Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) tree grows to 66–82 feet tall, rarely to 115 feet, with a trunk diameter of 20–39 inches, rarely up to 67 inches. These trees typically have a straight trunk with the branches extending outward at right angles. The bark is dark gray and flaky when young, but it becomes furrowed with age, resembling alligator hide on very old stems. The twigs of this tree are reddish-brown, usually hidden by a greyish skin. The pith is chambered with greenish partitions.

The leaves vary in size and shape. They can be oval, elliptical, or obovate, and 2–4.5 inches long. They have lustrous upper surfaces, with entire, often wavy margins. The foliage turns purple in autumn, eventually becoming an intense bright scarlet. Deer are extremely fond of the leaves on seedlings and saplings, to the point where large populations of them can make establishment of the tree almost impossible. For comparison, mature trees are largely left alone.

PHASE THREE (2025)

Phase Three included Honey Locusts (described above) at the MRC, plus, at James Park:

Willow Oak:



Willow Oak Leaves:



The Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*) is a North American species of a deciduous tree in the red oak group of oaks. It is native to the south-central and eastern United States. It is a medium-sized tree growing to 65–100 feet tall, with a trunk up to 3–5 feet in diameter. Willow oak bark on young stems is smooth, gray, and tight, becoming dark and furrowed as it ages

It is distinguished from most other oaks by its leaves, which are shaped like willow leaves. The leaves of the willow oak are 2-5 inches long, alternate, simple, linear in shape (resembling those of a Willow, from which it bears its name), with a bristle tip. In the fall, the color will be yellow, orange-brown, to red-brown.

Madison Rotary is pleased to have completed this project and hopes that for decades to come, the people of Madison will enjoy the benefits these trees provide.