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Idaho Panhandle Kiwanis



Coeur d'Alene Parks Department

Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
phone: (208) 769-2266

HISTORICAL
UNUSUAL & BIG
TREES

of Coeur d'Alene



Coeur d'Alene has been recognized as a "Tree City USA" since 1985. This national honor is given by the National Arbor Day Foundation in recognition of outstanding care of community trees.

Coeur d'Alene's Urban Forestry Committee is an eight-member citizen group that advises the city regarding tree care and policy. The membership includes people with experience and expertise in forestry, entomology, pathology and horticulture. Urban Forestry Committee members are:

Anneke Connaway
Linda Ely
Craig Foss
Jane Houghton
Ladd Livingston
Tom Lyons
Chris Schnepf
John Schwandt

Graphic design and illustration: Janet Hess Graphic Design

We wish to thank all of those who helped us with this guide. We extend our appreciation first to all the people who nominated trees, including those whose trees were not selected.

Many thanks to the Idaho Panhandle Kiwanis Club for sponsoring the printing of this publication.

Many thanks also to Janet Hess Graphic Design, who supplied graphic assistance, and Gerry Petersen who helped us determine some tree ages.

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Finally, "a tree-mendous" thank you to Jill Blake, whose measuring, writing, editing and coordinating skills brought this project to completion.

Coeur d'Alene Urban Forestry Committee
&
The Coeur d'Alene Parks Department



Idaho Panhandle Kiwanis

HISTORICAL UNUSUAL & BIG TREES

of Coeur d'Alene

People have long valued trees as a part of their communities. Not only do they provide useful benefits — such as shade, fruit and visual screening—they also give less visible values—such as beauty and a sense of continuity or “roots.”

This is a guide to some of the special trees within Coeur d'Alene's city limits – those that have historic significance, are unusual to our area, or are the biggest of their species. Nominations came from interested citizens, tree care workers and the city's street tree inventory. All trees included here can be viewed from public areas. They have been reviewed and measured by members of Coeur d'Alene's Urban Forestry Committee.

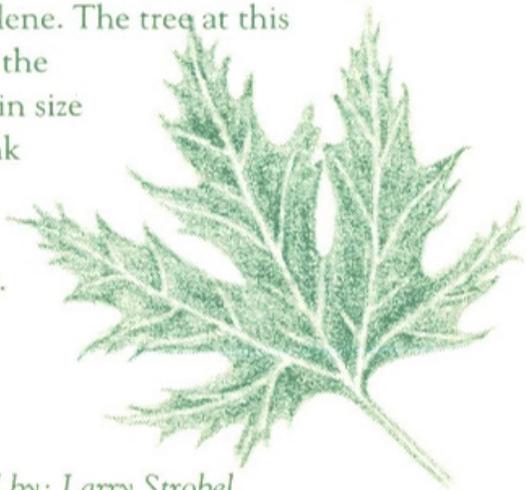
Silver Maple

Acer saccharinum

The other names for this tree — water maple, river maple, creek maple and swamp maple — reflect its preference for wet places. The name “silver” is in recognition of the silvery-white undersides of its leaves. Because the leaves are long-stemmed, they twirl easily in a breeze and a gusty wind can suddenly turn a green crown to shimmering silver.

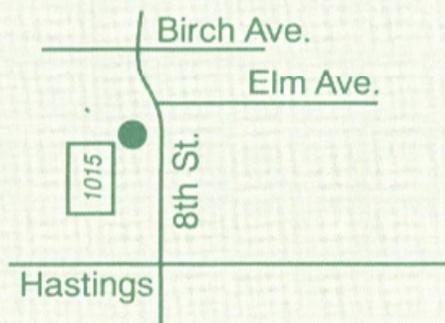
The short columnar trunk of the silver maple quickly separates into low, spreading branches that gracefully sweep down, then up again. It is the fastest growing of all the maples. Unfortunately, this fast growth often results in weak, brittle wood.

Silver maples are found throughout Coeur d’Alene. The tree at this location is the champion in size with a trunk circumference of 178 inches.



Nominated by: Larry Strobel

1015 N. 8th St.



Colorado Blue Spruce

Picea pungens var. *glauca*

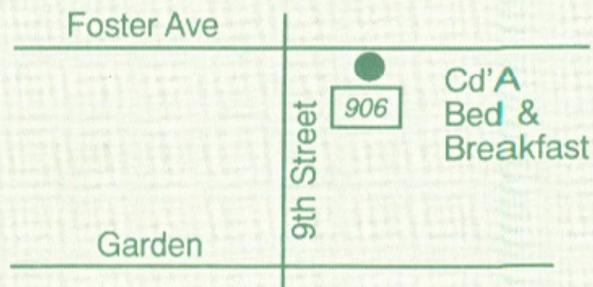
Colorado spruce is native to the Rocky Mountains, from Southern Idaho to New Mexico. Foliage color varies from drab olive-green to bright silvery-bluish. The blue form was first raised from a cutting in 1877, and is now very common in cultivation. The name “pungens” means piercing, for the sharp point of the stiff needles. Cones are 2”-4” long with delicate, crisp, wavy edges.

Spruces are stiff trees in form and usually narrow. They can reach 120 feet tall. This tree measures 98 feet tall with a 20 foot spread.



Nominated: Mary Ann Pattis

906 Foster Ave.



Cherry

Prunus sp.

The species or variety of this sweet-fruited cherry tree is unknown. It was nominated for its size and beauty, and measures 50 feet tall and over 40 feet wide. The fruit are borne high in the canopy making harvest difficult for human consumption. The owners enjoy attracting birds to their garden. With the abundance of available cherries, in addition to the supplied seed and baths, the feathered friends come in flocks.



Nominated by: Chris Schnepf

525 Wallace Ave.



Western Red Cedar

Thuja plicata

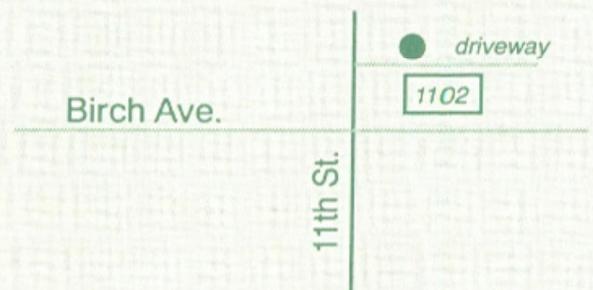
This tree is a native of the coastal and inland west from Alaska to northern California. It grows naturally in areas with cool, moist soil. However it will grow in drier circumstances under cultivation.

Also known as Giant Arborvitae, the western red cedar can attain heights of 200 feet in the moist native forests of the coast. This specimen, located in the center of the driveway, is a modest 63 feet in height. It may have attained a greater height if it had not developed two separate tops. The substantial size of the trunk, 113 inches in circumference, suggests a much larger tree.



Nominated by: Ken Kohli

1102 N. 11th St.



Subalpine Fir

Abies lasiocarpa

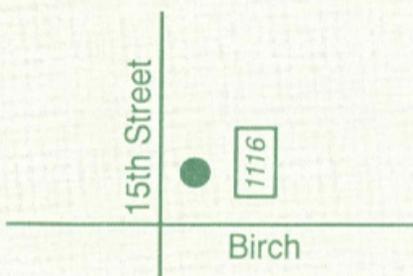
Subalpine fir is a native species in the western mountains of North America. It is the smallest of the western firs, and takes over 100 years to reach maturity at about 125 feet tall, thus it is very slow-growing. Its slow growth and narrow habit make it a fine garden tree. It has luxurious foliage and makes a handsome narrow spire, as a specimen plant or planted in groups.

This subalpine fir is said to be the largest of this species in Coeur d'Alene.



Nominated by: Coeur d'Alene Volkssport Club

1116 N. 15th St.



Red Oak

Quercus rubra

Red oak occurs across central and eastern North America, and is New Jersey's State tree. It is a valuable, fast growing oak for lawns and parks, and is an excellent tree when properly grown. Leaves are pinkish to reddish when unfolding, lustrous dark green in summer changing to russet-red to bright red in fall. The name "red" is a description of the color of wood, which is used for rough lumber, clapboards and barrels.

This particular tree grew from an acorn brought back from Kentucky and planted in 1952. By May 2000 it measured 77 feet tall by 78 feet wide.



Nominated by: Tom Jacobson

616 Indiana Ave.



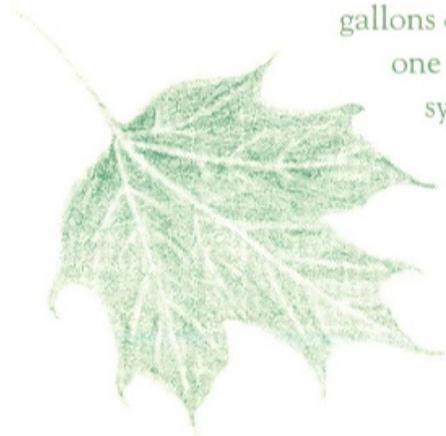
Sugar Maple

Acer saccharum

This sugar maple tree was planted in 1907 as a seed from Wisconsin. At first glance it may appear to be a Norway maple, the most common maple in Coeur d'Alene. A closer look reveals that both the leaves and the winged seeds are smaller. The difference between the two trees is much more evident in the fall. The sugar maple leaves add tints of apricot, burnt orange and scarlet to their clear yellow. In contrast, the Norway maples are a uniform yellow color.

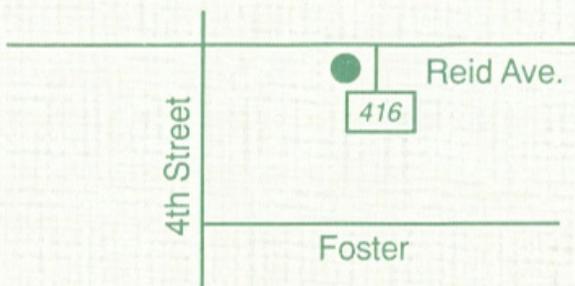
Sugar maple is best known for the sweet syrup and sugar distilled from its sap. The trees are "tapped" in late winter as the sap begins to rise. Since it takes between 30 and 40

gallons of sap to yield one gallon of maple syrup, one tree would hardly satisfy a serious sweet tooth.



Nominated by: Yvonne Bright

416 Reid Ave.



Amur Maple

Acer ginnala

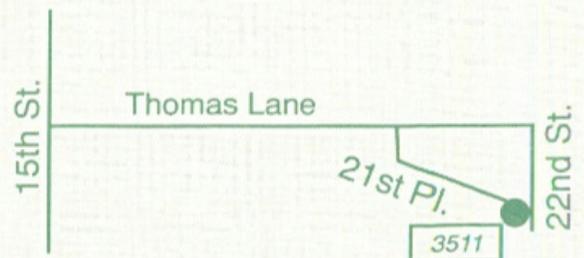
This small maple tree is well suited to our area, but not many have been planted in the past.

Amur maple seldom grows over 20 feet tall and is a good choice for planting underneath power lines. It can have single or multiple trunks and tends to have a spread similar to its height. It seems to be confused as to whether it is a tree or a shrub, but can be easily influenced by pruning.

Amur maple leaves are three-lobed and toothed. In the fall they brighten the landscape when they turn shades of yellow and red. The "samaras", the familiar winged fruit of the maples, also turn a red color and hang on the tree into the fall.



3511 N. 21st Pl.

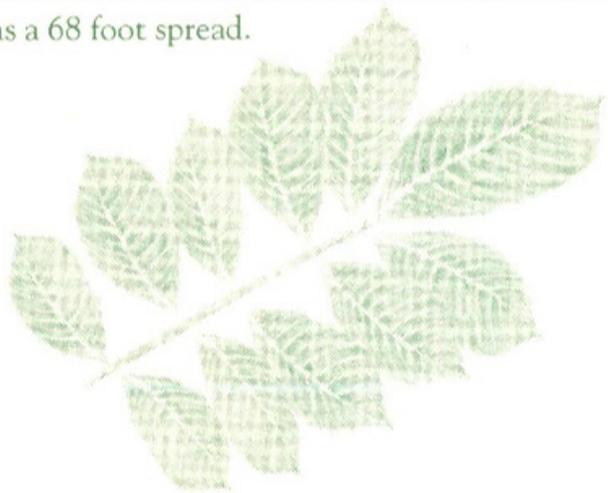


Butternut

Juglans cinerea

The butternut, or white walnut, is a native of Eastern North America. "Cinerea" refers to ashy gray, the bark's color. The husks of the nuts are over 3 inches long, felty and sticky; nuts are up to 2" inches long, very deeply grooved and jagged. Compared to its associate, the Black Walnut (*J. nigra*), this is a weaker, shorter-lived species. Its nuts really do taste buttery, and are the first to ripen of the North American *Juglans*. The inner bark has mild cathartic properties and was used in older times as an orange or yellow dye.

Records show trees growing to 125 feet tall in the wild. This tree measures 60 feet tall and has a 68 foot spread.



Nominated: *Coeur d'Alene Volkssport Club*

712 N. 17th St.



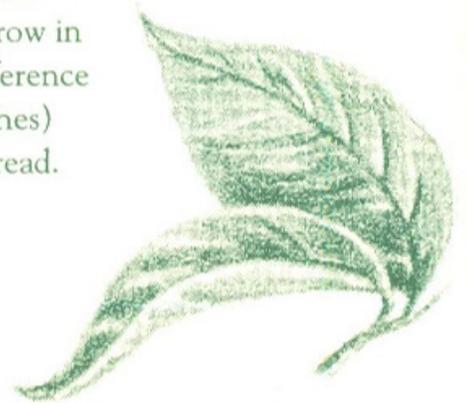
Cucumber Magnolia

Magnolia acuminata

Charlie and Sada Pellum, who built the original home on this property, planted and nurtured a great variety of trees. The cucumber magnolia in front of the house (now Yates Funeral Home) must have been one of the most unusual in their collection. A native of eastern deciduous forests, it is rare in this area.

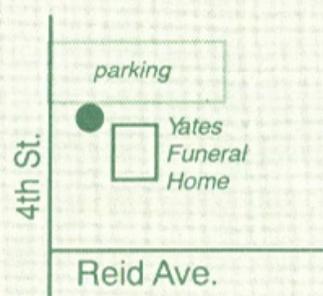
The large magnolia flowers are generally not noticed because they are green and borne high in the tree. After blooming, a green fruit develops, appearing in size and shape to be a cucumber. In October, the seeds on the outside of the fruit turn red.

At 73 feet tall, this tree is probably approaching its maximum height. However, it will continue to grow in trunk circumference (now 109 inches) and crown spread.



Nominated by: *Ken Roberge*

744 N. 4th St.

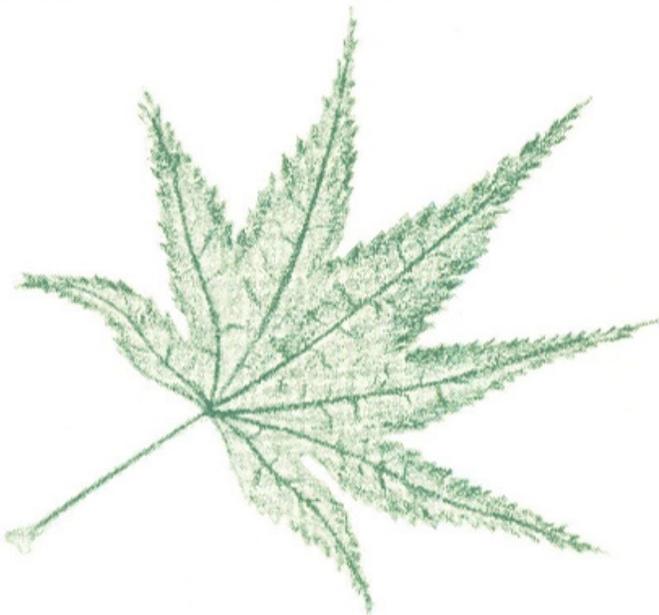


Japanese Maple

Acer palmatum

As the name implies, this small tree is a native to Japan, as well as Korea. It is a slow-growing tree that seldom exceeds 20 feet in height. The branch spread of a Japanese maple is usually as great as its height.

The deeply lobed leaves and layered growth give Japanese maples an airy, artistic look. There are many cultivars of the Japanese maple and most do well in our area.



Nominated by: Ken Roberge

602 Government Way



Red Maple

Acer rubrum

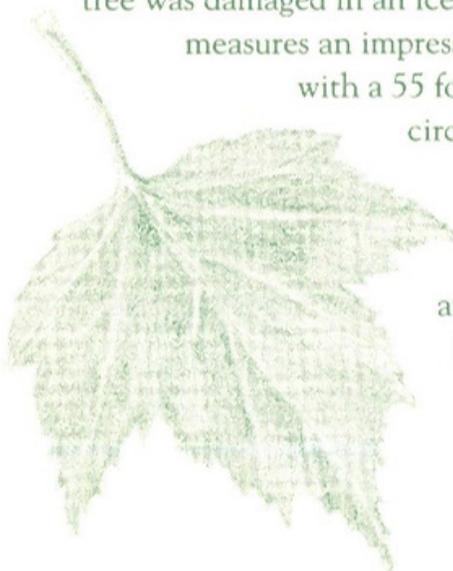
Red maples occur across much of central and eastern North America, often in swampy or low-lying ground. It is an adaptable species, widely planted as a shade tree, and for its spectacular fall color. Red maple fall color is inconsistent from tree to tree; some remain almost green or yellow-green, others bright yellow, others flaming orange or red.

Red maples are excellent specimen trees for lawn, park or street, although they do not tolerate heavy pollution. They don't grow as fast as the silver maple, but are more durable. This

tree was damaged in an ice storm, but still measures an impressive 40 feet tall, with a 55 foot spread, and a

circumference of 106 inches.

The early spring flowers are attractive and forewarn that spring is just "around the corner".



Nominated by: Pearl H. Heineman

611 N.17th St.



Grand Fir

Abies grandis

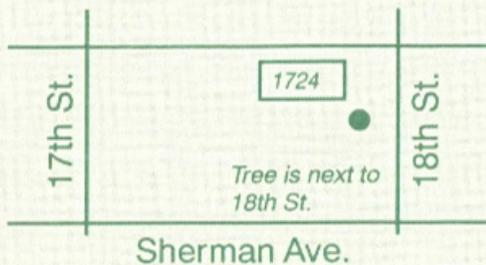
T rue firs can be identified by their needle-like leaves that are singly attached to the stem and leave a round scar when they fall off. Grand fir has deep green leaves 1 to 1 1/2 inches long that fall along the branch stem in two rows.

A native tree of Idaho's forests, grand fir grows in valleys and mountain slopes where there is a cool, humid climate.

The name "grandis" refers to its large size. As impressive as this tree is in circumference (107 inches) and height (93 feet), it is less than half the size of the national grand champion, which is 245 inches in circumference and 257 feet in height, growing in Redwood National Park.



1724 Lakeside Ave.



Cutleaf Weeping Birch

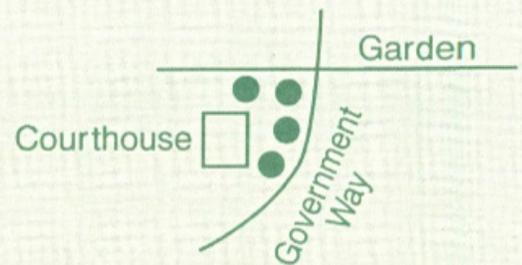
Betula pendula 'Laciniata'

T his form of the European white birch has deeply-cut leaf margins and a "weeping" form. "White" refers to color of the bark.

The five large trees on the court house lawn are the largest local specimens of this type of birch tree. The number of birch trees in Coeur d'Alene have been diminishing over the past two decades due to infestations of the bronze birch borer. These mature trees evidently have become well-established and achieved a level of healthfulness that makes them less attractive to the destructive insects.



Courthouse – 501 Government Way



Western Catalpa

Catalpa speciosa

Native to the midwest, Catalpa was introduced into cultivation in about 1779. It is a hardy tree, with a strong upright habit. The name "speciosa" means beautiful, showy. Flowers are very large and open as early as late April.

Fruit is a long, pendulous capsule, green changing to brown and persisting through the winter. The bark is deeply furrowed, and the wood very durable.

Two other Catalpa trees were nominated for their size and historical significance, and are worth seeing. One is located at Neider Avenue near Kmart, and the other is the southern most tree in the Government Way island near the

courthouse.

This tree is the largest of the three with a circumference of 135 inches, a height of 69 feet, and 60 feet wide.



Nominated by: Larry Strobel

801 A St.



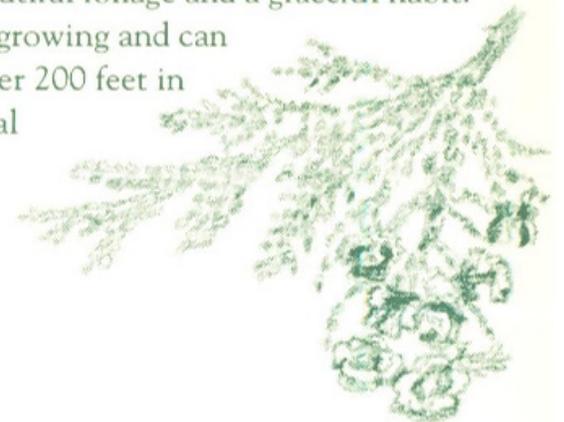
Lawson Cypress

Chamaecyparis lawsoniana

Lawson cypress, or Port Orford cedar, is native of southwestern Oregon to northwestern California. It was introduced to cultivation in 1864. It is commonly grown and easily propagated, and currently more than 50 cultivars are known to exist. Many cultivars lose their distinctive attributes gradually over the years, and become difficult to identify.

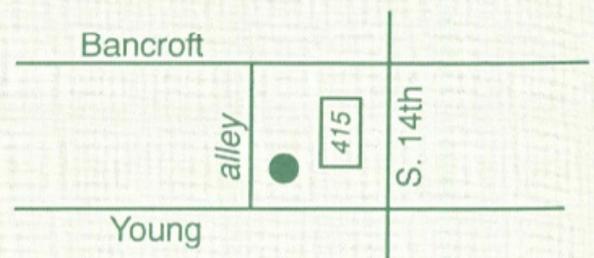
This tree has a natural, pyramidal shape. The lower limbs were removed to expose the many trunks unique to this specimen. The male catkins are crimson red in spring; the female fruits are pea sized, bluish-green at first then turning to reddish-brown.

Lawson cypress are very handsome trees with beautiful foliage and a graceful habit. It is fast growing and can reach over 200 feet in its natural habitat.



Nominated by: Otto Braun

415 14th Street S.



European Purple Beech

Fagus sylvatica 'Purpurea'

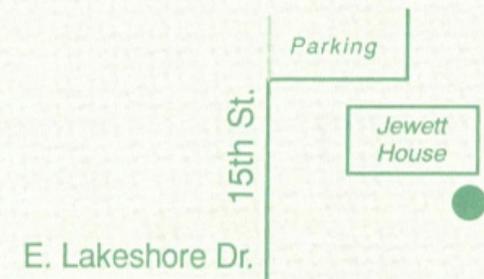
Michael Dirr, author of *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*, states, “there is no finer specimen tree than the beech; so beautiful it overwhelms one at first glance.” It is an excellent tree for public areas, and also makes an excellent hedge for it withstands heavy pruning.

European beech was introduced from Europe and frequently planted for landscape purposes. The leaves of this purple variety are a deep black-red and with time change to purple-green and often almost green. It is an immense tree casting deep shade. It is quite carefree and its few reported problems are not particularly serious.

The beech is identifiable by the gleam of its smooth bark, and fluted base of its trunk, as well as its majestic structure. This appears to be the largest European beech in the area, measuring 108 inches in circumference and 66 feet in height.



Jewett House 1501 E. Lakeshore



14

Black Locust

Robinia pseudoacacia

Black Locust is an “alley-cat” type tree which can survive under the toughest conditions. It is good for strip-mined areas, highway cuts and fills, and sandy, poor soils. It is not recommended for the home landscape but definitely has a place on large properties or difficult areas. The flowers are exceedingly fragrant from which bees produce a delicious honey.

It is an upright tree becoming ragged and scraggly with age, often with great character.



Nominated by: Larry Strobel

Island North of Summit Ave.



31

Western Larch, Tamarack

Larix occidentalis

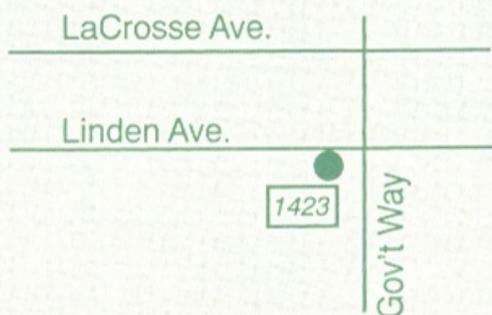
Western Larch, also known as Tamarack, grows in parts of British Columbia, Alberta, Idaho, Montana, and Washington. The species was discovered by Lewis and Clark in 1806. It is not commonly used in landscapes but does appear to be successful. In 1898 C. Sargent wrote of it, "The most remarkable fact, perhaps of this tree is the smallness of leaf surface in comparison with height and thickness of stem, and there is certainly no other instance among the trees of the northern hemisphere where such massive trunks support such small short, branches and sparse foliage".

This tree is likely around 90 years old, since the home was built in 1906. It is 87 feet tall with a 43 foot spread.



Nominated by: Larry Strobel

1423 Government Way



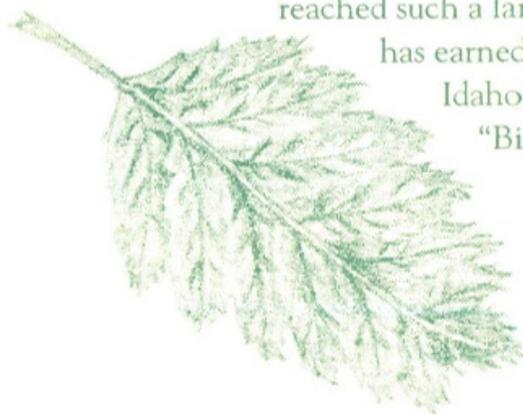
32

Hybrid Mountainash

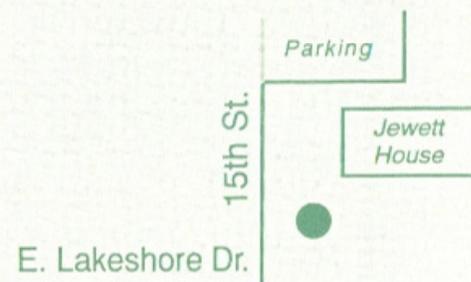
Sorbus hybrida

The large spreading tree on the west front yard is a hybrid mountainash. Originating in Germany, it was probably planted here by an early resident of the house. The house was built by the Edward Rutledge Timber Company in 1915. Rutledge Timber Company later merged with Potlatch Forest Industries. The house was the residence of the Huntington Taylor family until 1928, when George F. Jewett succeeded Taylor as mill manager. The Jewett family lived in the house until 1955. The house was then used as a Potlatch staff house until 1975. In 1978, Potlatch deeded the house to the City of Coeur d'Alene for use as a senior citizens center.

Because this species is so unusual and has reached such a large size, it has earned a place on Idaho's champion "Big Tree" list.



Jewett House 1501 E. Lakeshore



13

English Walnut

Juglans regia

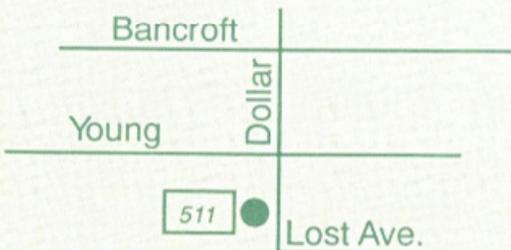
The name “English” walnut is perhaps deceptive, because this tree is actually a native of the Middle East. The fruit of the English walnut, which is used as the commercial walnut, has a thinner shell and a milder taste than the U.S. native black walnut. This tree is said to be very productive. English Walnut wood is also very valuable.

English walnut trees can attain heights of 60 feet. Although this one is only 45 feet in height, it is the largest of its kind in Coeur d’Alene.



Nominated by: *Gwain Oka*

511 Dollar Ave.



12

Yellowwood

Cledrastis kentukea

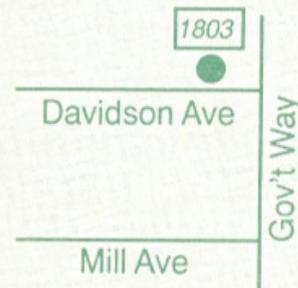
Yellowwood is a native of the southeastern U.S., and is endangered in the wild.

It was called *Cledrastis lutea* until the resurrection in 1971 of the slightly older name, *kentukea*. In Latin “luteus” means yellow and the heartwood is deep yellow, soft, fine-grained, and used for dyeing. Flowers are white and fragrant, blooming in May. Bees frequent the flowers for nectar, and in full flower the tree appears to be dripping with white rain. Leaf color is bright green in summer and is very prominent in the landscape when compared to the dark green of maples and oaks.



Nominated by: *Urban Forestry Committee*

1803 Government Way



33

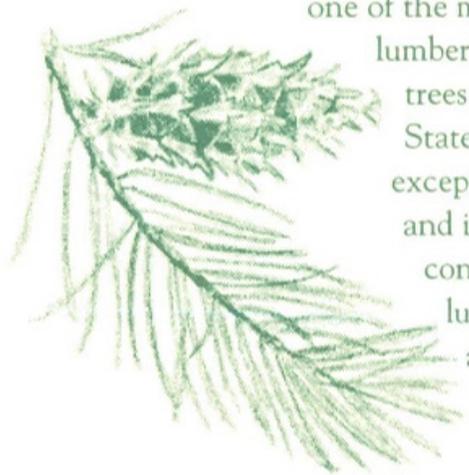
Douglas-fir

Pseudotsuga menziesii

The Douglas-fir is very confusing botanically. Despite its name, it is not a member of the fir family. It is a member of the pine family, but its needles do not occur in groups as other pines do. The genus name "Pseudotsuga" means "false hemlock," because it bears a resemblance to hemlock trees.

One of the ways to accurately identify Douglas-fir is by its cones. They are two to three inches long and a reddish-brown color. Narrow three-pointed bracts protrude from between each of the scales. To those with an imagination, each of these bracts looks like a small mouse which has escaped "half-way" into the cone.

A native of the Northwest, Douglas-fir is one of the most important lumber-producing trees in the United States. Its wood is exceptionally strong and is used for construction lumber, plywood and paper.



Bur Oak/Mossycup Oak

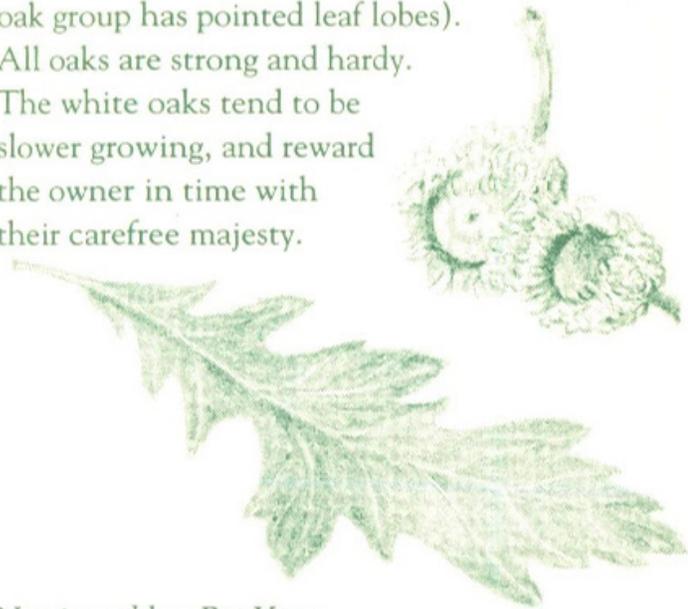
Quercus macrocarpa

The bur oak is native to central and eastern North America, and is the state tree of Tennessee. It is called bur oak because the acorn is rough, shaggily fringed near its rim, and almost envelopes the acorn like a bur. It can grow to over 100 feet and may be too large for the average home landscape, but does make an excellent park or large area tree. It is rugged and imposing, and is very cold- and drought-hardy.

Bur oak is in the white oak group, having rounded lobes on the leaves; (the red oak group has pointed leaf lobes).

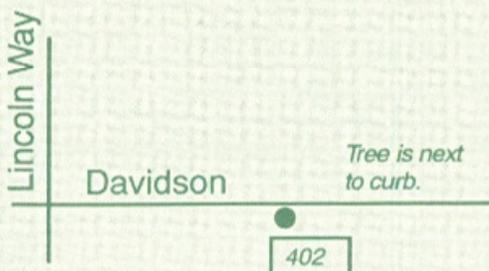
All oaks are strong and hardy.

The white oaks tend to be slower growing, and reward the owner in time with their carefree majesty.



Nominated by: Pat Krug

402 W. Davidson Ave.



418 12th St. S.

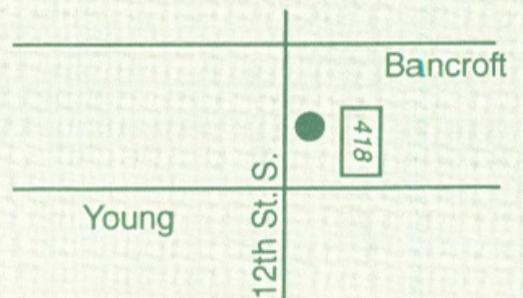
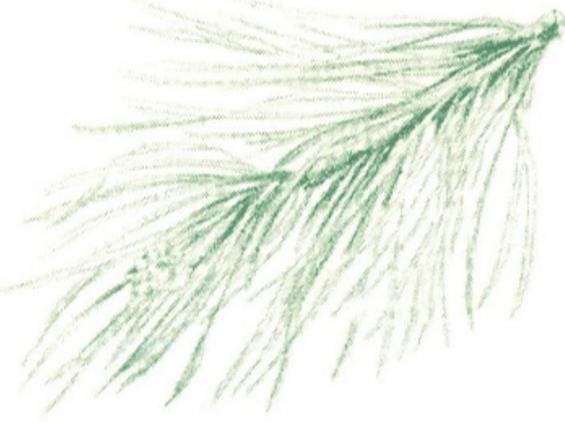
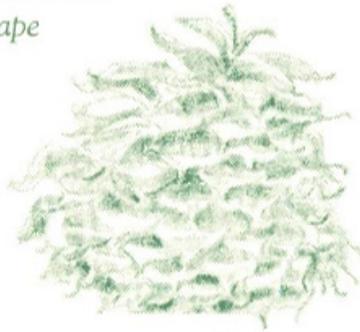


Table Mountain Pine

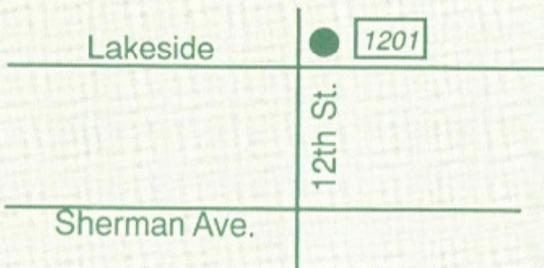
Pinus pungens

Table Mountain pine occurs naturally in the eastern U.S., mainly in the Appalachian region on dry gravelly ridges. It is rare in cultivation, and where and why this specimen is here is unknown. The epithet “pungens” means piercing, sharp pointed, referring to the peculiar, stout hooked cone spines. Arthur Lee Jacobson in *North American Landscape Trees*, describes Table Mountain pine as, “a crab of a pine, of irregular crown and picturesque habit.”



Nominated by: John Schwandt & Karen Haskew

1201 Lakeside Ave.



Tuliptree

Liriodendron tulipifera

Between the curb and the sidewalk, you can see an example of the largest member of the magnolia family. In the native woods of the eastern U.S., tuliptrees can exceed 150 feet in height. This one is 72 feet tall and 160 inches in circumference.

The name tuliptree comes from the tulip-like flowers that bloom in May and June. The large flowers are greenish-yellow with an orange base. They are generally not noticed because they are high in the tree and partially hidden by the leaves.

Tuliptree also goes by the names tulip magnolia and yellow-poplar.

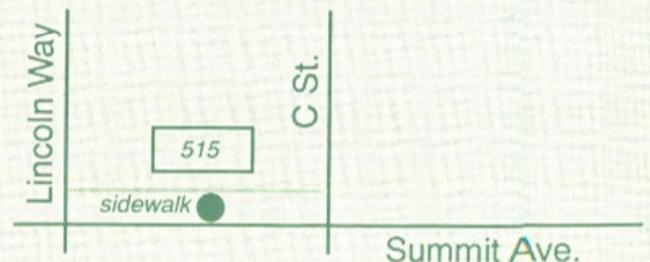
Yellow-poplar is a misnomer since the tree is not a poplar.

Tuliptrees can be identified in the summer by the leaves, which look like the silhouette of a cat face, and in the winter by the flat green “duck bill” buds.



Nominated by: Jim Markley

515 W. Summit Ave.

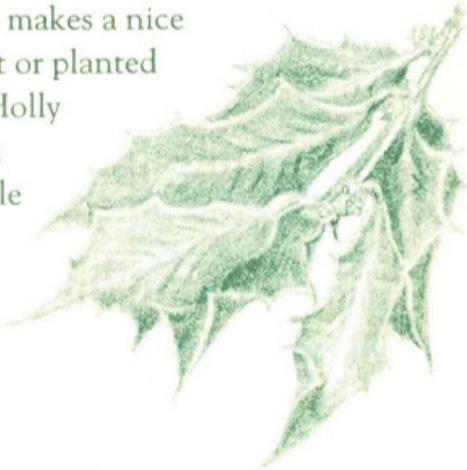


American Holly

Ilex opaca

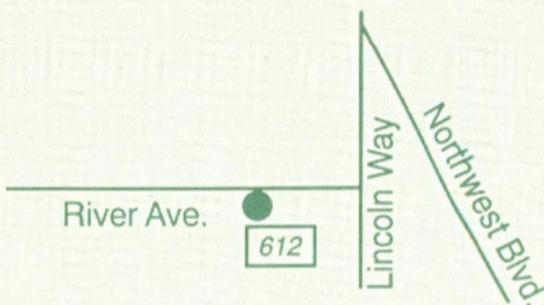
American holly is native to the eastern and southern U.S., mostly along the coast. The heyday of American holly culture was from the 1940s into the 60s, and currently more than a 1000 cultivars exist. American holly can reach 40 to 50 feet in height with a spread of 20 to 40 feet under good conditions. Its shape is densely pyramidal in youth, becoming open, irregular and picturesque in age.

This holly is one of the few evergreen broadleaf trees that are hardy for our area. It does best transplanted in spring into good, moist, loose, acid, well-drained soil, in partial shade or full sun. Avoid extremely dry, windy, unprotected areas. It makes a nice specimen plant or planted in groupings. Holly requires both a male and female plant for fruit to set.



Nominated by: Jill Blake

612 River Dr.



36

Black Walnut

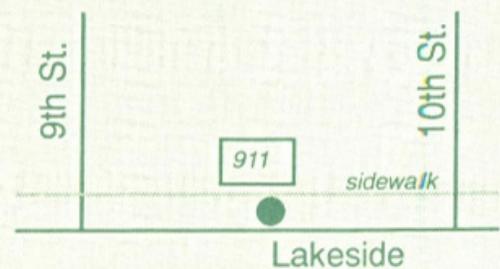
Juglans nigra

Black walnut leaves are between one and two feet long with 15 to 23 leaflets. A native of American hardwood forests, the black walnut produces a large, thick-shelled nut that is sought after by both wildlife and people. However, the leaves, stems and roots of the black walnut contain an acid that can make livestock sick and inhibit the growth of some plants.

The wood of black walnut is our most prized native cabinet wood. Its durability, fine grain and rich colors make it much in demand for fine furniture and gun stocks. Because large black walnut trees have become relatively rare, many of the harvested trees are thinly sliced or "peeled" into veneers to cover furniture constructed of less attractive and less valuable wood.



911 Lakeside Ave.



9

London Planetree

Platanus x acerifolia

Charles Feil, Mayor of Coeur d'Alene in 1912, planted this tree when he built the house in approximately 1907. Feil's granddaughter now lives in the house and a deck addition has put the tree at the "center" of family activities.

The planetree's most outstanding characteristic is its bark, which flakes off in large irregular patches to expose the creamy under-bark. The round, wooly fruit head gives this tree another common name of "button-ball tree."

The London Planetree is a hybrid between Oriental Planetree and American Sycamore. Such hybrids are highly variable. They achieved their fame by easily tolerating adverse urban conditions. Planetrees are mostly planted for shade, and being monumental when mature, they need ample space.



Ginkgo

Ginkgo biloba

Standing sentry at the walkway to the museum is a small ginkgo tree. Its fan-shaped leaves are unique and very distinctive.

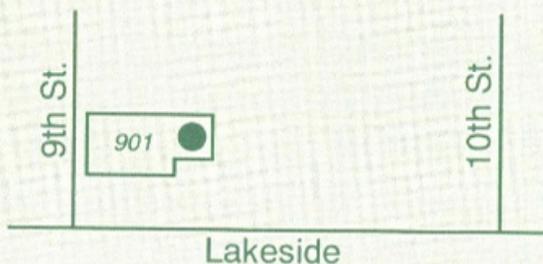
Ginkgo is one of the oldest trees on earth, tracing it's ancestors back for 150 million years. Fossil records show that it was once native to North America, but became extinct. The ginkgo was re-introduced to North America from China, Japan and Korea, where it was cultivated for centuries in temple gardens. It is now commonly planted throughout much of the United States as an ornamental and street tree.

The fleshy covering of the seed on the female ginkgo tree is quite "malodorous." Therefore only male trees should be planted.



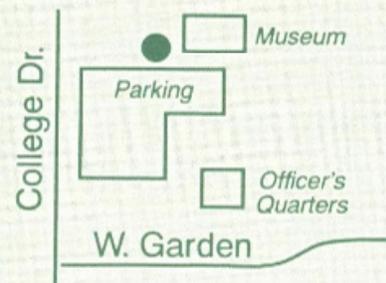
Nominated by: Frank & Mary Jo Crowder

901 Lakeside Ave.



Nominated by: Theresa Foster

N.I.C. Campus



Redbud

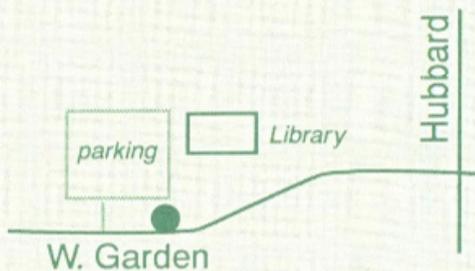
Cercis canadensis

Because its leaves are shaped like hearts, the genus of this tree is named after "Cercis", the Greek goddess of love. Redbuds are most noticeable in early spring when purplish-pink flowers appear on the naked zig-zag branches. Not until this striking display is over do the leaves begin to unfurl. A native of the eastern United States, redbud is a small spreading tree with the trunk often dividing.

This mature specimen, west of the N.I.C. library entrance, has already lost several of its major trunks. It used to be an impressive 23 feet in height and 37 feet at its greatest width. Although no longer this size, it is still the largest redbud tree in the area.



N.I.C. Campus

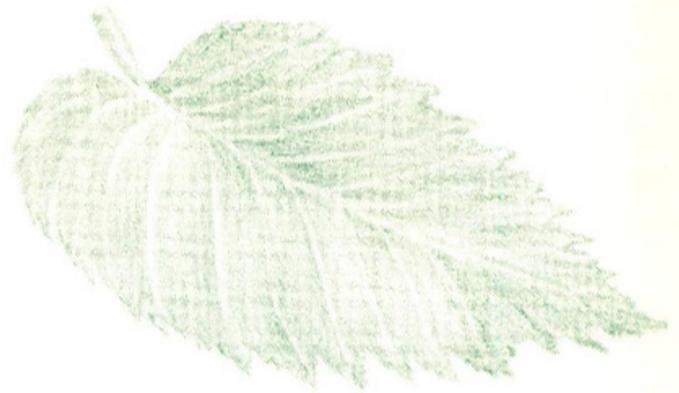


American Elm

Ulmus americana

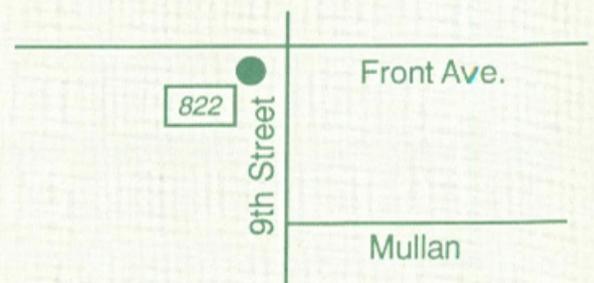
This elm species is native from central and eastern North America. It is also called water elm due to its preference for moist sites. Elms have the distinct habit of being vase-shaped, the trunk dividing into several erect limbs, the whole tree a picture of great beauty and symmetry.

At one time, the elms were extensively used as a street tree all across America, but Dutch Elm disease has killed many of them. Fortunately this lovely tree lives on to continue the elm legacy.



Nominated by: Delores Neustel

822 Front Ave.



Norway Spruce

Picea abies

A group of interested citizens planted this spruce tree in 1957 on undeveloped property owned by the city. Thus it became the first improvement in a public area that now includes a paved public parking lot, Tubbs Hill, McEuen Field and the Third Street boat ramp.

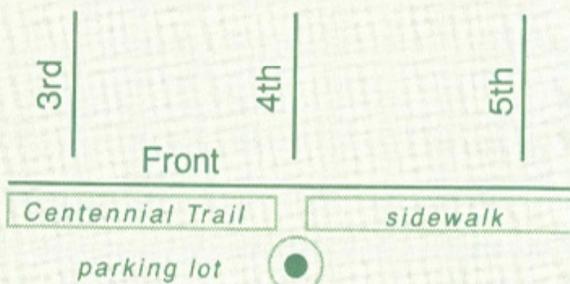
After the Vietnam War, the desire to honor those missing in action led to the placement of the plaque at its base, dedicated to Captain Fred McMurray. It was with great joy that the safe return of Captain McMurray was later celebrated.

Known as the "Freedom Tree," it has become a focal point for the community. It is decorated with lights for a month every Christmas. During the Gulf War it was a natural place to tie yellow ribbons.



Nominated by: Scott Reed

City Parking Lot



6

Ponderosa Pine

Pinus ponderosa

The ponderosa pine is one of the largest trees native to this area. This one is 150 feet tall with a trunk circumference of more than 14 feet. In 1998 "Big Bertha" was aged at 235 years old.

Ponderosa pine is the most widely distributed and common pine in North America. Its natural range extends from southern British Columbia south as far as northern Mexico.

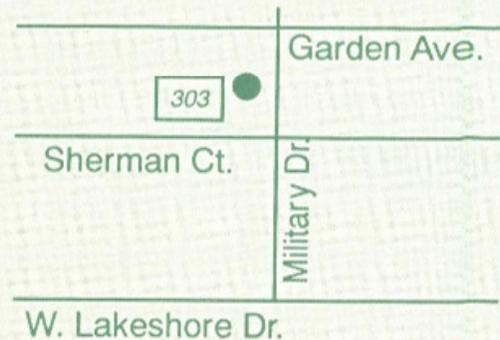
Its needles are four to eight inches long and usually three to a cluster. They are gathered near the end of the branches, giving a "bottle-brush" appearance. With age, the dark, rough bark of young trees becomes a lighter yellowish or reddish brown with large, flat scaly plates. Other names for this tree are bull pine and yellow pine.

Ponderosa pine is an important lumber tree and its wood is used in dimension lumber, moldings and other millwork.



Nominated by: Jim & Bonnie Warwick

303 Military Dr.



39

American Beech

Fagus grandifolia

The large tree with the smooth gray bark is an American beech tree. It is a native of eastern hardwood forests. Although it is easy to identify it by the bark, tree identification students should also take note of the dark green leaves with saw-toothed edges, and the cigar-shaped buds evident in the winter.

Beech nuts are edible and a favorite of pigs, birds, squirrels and other wildlife. The extinct passenger pigeon was especially associated with beech nuts.

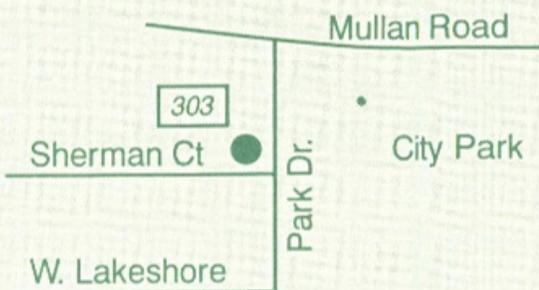
The American beech has European relatives, which have the same smooth bark. It was on such smooth surfaces that much early writing was said to be done. In *A Natural History of Trees*, Donald Peattie says that "our word book comes from the Anglo-Saxon 'boc,'" meaning a letter or character, which in turn

derives from the Anglo-Saxon "beece," for beech.



Nominated by: Chris Schnepf

303 Park Dr.



Historical, Unusual & Big Trees of Coeur d'Alene



Trees are listed by the page number on which you will find them.

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| 8 London Planetree | 26 Sugar Maple |
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| 10 Table Mountain Pine | 28 Japanese Maple |
| 11 Bur Oak | 29 Cutleaf Weeping Birch |
| 12 English Walnut | 30 Western Catalpa |
| 13 Hybrid Mountainash | 31 Black Locust |
| 14 European Purple Beech | 32 Western Larch |
| 15 Lawson Cypress | 33 Yellowwood |
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| 17 Red Maple | 35 Tuliptree |
| 18 Butternut | 36 American Holly |
| 19 Amur Maple | 37 Ginkgo |
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| 21 Western Red Cedar | 39 Ponderosa Pine |
| 22 Silver Maple | 40 American Beech |
| 23 Colorado Blue Spruce | 41 American Chestnut |



“Big” trees refers to those that are the largest of their species, determined by a formula that includes the trunk circumference, height and crown spread. Although we did our best to locate the “biggest,” we acknowledge that there may be larger trees yet to be discovered. There may also be more trees with historic value or that are “unusual” species within the city. We therefore welcome additional nominations and hope to publish future editions of this guide.



With this guide, we hope you will enjoy viewing and learning more about Coeur d’Alene’s historic, unusual and big trees.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Parks Department at the address and telephone number on the back cover.



American Chestnut

Castanea dentata

The American chestnut tree was once the king of eastern forests. Its hard, durable wood was used for everything from split-rail fences to furniture. Its sweet nuts were prized by both wildlife and people.

The American chestnut is missing from eastern forests now. A fungus deadly to the trees was brought to the United States on Asian chestnut trees around 1904. Spread by the wind, the chestnut blight forever changed eastern forests. Even persistent chestnut sprouts, springing from roots of long-dead giants, become infected and die before they can bear fruit. Large American chestnut trees are now found only in mid-west or west coast states where they are isolated from the blight spores.



The western-most tree is the largest of the three American chestnuts in City Park, even though it lost a major limb to a falling ponderosa pine tree in 1990. In 1991 it was declared the Idaho state champion. In 2000 it measured 139 inches in circumference and 117 feet in height.

