Idlewild Park Trees

Self-Guided Walking Tours of Reno’s Arboretum

Suggested Donation $200
Idlewild Park

The 49 acres for the City of Reno's Idlewild Park were purchased from James Newlands, the nephew of former U.S. Senator Francis Newlands, around 1920. In 1907, James had acted for his uncle in the purchase of this land, which had been the Bennett, Murray, and Ferris ranches.

The park was given its name by a vote of the citizens of Reno through a newspaper contest. The name was inspired by the new aerodrome in New York City, which is now known as John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK). San Francisco landscape engineer, Donald McLaren, designed the grounds for the park in preparation for an exposition to celebrate the completion of the Trans-continental Highway - the Lincoln Highway - in 1927. Work on the grounds began in the spring of 1925 and finished that October. The exposition ran from June 25 - August 1, 1927.

The State of California constructed the California Building to house displays from many of the state's departments and counties for the exposition, and the California Legislature passed a resolution dedicating the California Building to WWI veterans. When the exposition was over, California gave the building to the American Legion, which held meetings in the building for many years. In 1983, the American Legion gifted it to the City of Reno, and it remains in use now, 75 years later.

The tree on the cover is a Giant Sequoia.

The 2005 Reno Urban Forestry Commission Members:

- Bennett Kottler, Commission Chair
- Peter Bluemle
- Royce Barbera
- Janet Drozd, Commission Vice-Chair
- Anne Simone

Suzanne Adams
Rod Haulenbeek
Brett Kandt
Steve Klukkert

City of Reno Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department Staff

- Cathy Humphries, Secretary
- Steve Churchillo, Urban Forester and Staff Liaison
- Jeff Mann, Parks Manager

Thank you to the following:

The booklet committee members:

- Anne Simone, Photographer and Committee Chair
- Ann Dixon, Map Designer

Suzanne Cody Adams, Artist
Marian LaVoy

Other advisors:

- Mick Collins, Technical Consultant
- Julie Martinson, Photographer

Scott Imus, Technical Consultant
Doris Weber, Past Commission Chair

Information in this booklet is current as of 2005 and subject to change.

Tree descriptions are often based on observations of that tree in this area and do not necessarily represent how that tree would fare in another part of the country.

When walking in the park, please watch out for traffic!
SELECTED TREES of IDLEWILD PARK - Walk #A

All walks begin at the Peace Officers Memorial parking lot. Please note that only these selected trees are represented on the map.

- The general shape of the tree’s leaf is indicated by “GLS:” or “GLS: needles”.
- Nine leaf shapes are found on the back cover of this booklet. Note that these are general leaf shapes, not the exact shape for that tree.
- “PL” denotes the approximate year planted.
- An * before a tree’s name on these pages denotes an unusual tree for this area or special in some way and is shown on the map as a “fuzzy oval” and in light green.
- “State Champion Tree” is the largest tree of its kind located within the state.
- In the center of the booklet is a map to help identify the locations of trees.
- A list and description of the trees mentioned in this booklet are found after Walk C. The list is in alphabetical order, by common name.

Regarding markers found next to some trees:
P = a plaque with tree’s and sponsor’s names
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Turn right onto Cowan Drive as you exit the Peace Officers Memorial parking lot.

The first 13 trees on the right were planted around 1985 unless otherwise noted.

5. Flowering Crab Apple - variety unknown.  GLS: 2.
10. Valley Oak - started from an acorn in 1980 and is probably a hybrid, not a true Valley Oak.  GLS: 3.  P
13. **European Beech** - across the small parking lot driveway. There are five of various sizes. The largest was planted in the 1950’s, the smaller beeches around 1990. GLS: 5. P

   Turn around, walk back on Cowan, looking at the trees on your right.


15. **Pin Oak** - (large). GLS: 3. PL: in the 1950’s. P


   Turn right onto Mastroianni Drive, where you’ll be looking at trees on both sides of the drive.

17. **Western Hackberry** - on your right, next to the spruces. GLS: 5. PL: 1985. P


22. **Liquidambar (Sweet Gum)** - on your right. GLS: 1. PL: 1950’s.


29. **American Elm** - on your right and opposite the Chinkapin Oak. **Gls**: 5. This elm has been here since the 1930's.


32. **White Fir** - (tall) on your right, near the pond. **Gls**: needles. **Pl**: early 1960's.

33. **Fremont Cottonwood (Western Cottonwood)** - (2). **Gls**: 9. **Pl**: 1900's.

34. **Black Locust** - **Gls**: 6. This is probably a wild tree and could have been here since the early 1950's.

35. **London Planetree (London Plane Tree)**. **Gls**: 1. **Pl**: 1950's.


**Mastroianni ends; continue east on the path ahead.**


40. **London Planetree (London Plane Tree)** - at the mouth of the pond's outlet. **Gls**: 1. **Pl**: 1950's.


44. **Chinkapin Oak (Muehlienberg's Oak)**. **Gls**: 3. **Pl**: 2001.

45. **Northern Red Oak** - **Gls**: 3. **Pl**: 1985.

**At this point, cross the lawn towards the low wall (south).**

Between the wall and Idlewild Drive is a xeriscape planting. This area was originally planted in the 1940's with native junipers, which are gradually being killed by borers. The newer trees were all planted in 1999.
46. Utah Juniper - (several). GLS: needles.
47. Blue Oak - opposite the N. Red Oak. GLS: 3.
48. Singleleaf Pinon Pine - (4). This is one of Nevada's two State Trees (the other is a Bristle Cone Pine). GLS: needles.
49. 2-needle Pinon Pine - GLS: needles.
51. Digger Pine - (22). One is behind the pistache, and one is to the right. Their needles are longer than those of other pines found here. GLS: needles.

Continue west in the xeriscape area.

52. Canyon Live Oak - west of another Blue Oak. GLS: 3 PL: 1999.

Now walk back to the path and go north past the fitness cluster; veer right onto the Crooked Mile Path. Unless otherwise stated, trees #53 through #64 are on your left.


56. * Osage Orange (Hedge Apple) - bushy, upright. It was grown from a seed brought from Benton County, Indiana and planted here in 1990. GLS: 2.


60. Valley Oak - GLS: 3. PL: early 1990's. S


On the right along the riverbank are several wild trees (listed below) which have grown here over the years. They are featured elsewhere on the walks.


64. Fruitless Mulberry - (2). This side of the power pole. GLS: 2. PL: 1970.
At this point, walk across the small lawn area to the odd-shaped parking lot.


71. **London Plane Tree** (London Plane Tree) - (3) on your right. GLS: 1. PL: 1950's.


74. **Common Hackberry** - next to parking lot. GLS: 5. This tree was gowned from a seed brought from Miami County, Indiana and planted in 1998.


As you walk to the intersection of Mastroianni and Cowan, you will be better able to see trees #76, 77, and #78.

78. * **Cedar of Lebanon**. This is the large evergreen tree to the left of the Littleleaf Linden. GLS: needles. PL: probably 1950's.

As you walk back to the parking lot, you see green ash trees lining the lawn area on your right. GLS: 6. PL: 1950's.
SELECTED TREES of IDLEWILD PARK - Walk #B

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Turn left as you exit the parking lot, onto Cowan Drive. As everywhere else, watch out for traffic.

   PL: 1960’s. P

2. Border Pine (Southwestern White Pine) -


   PL: in 1960’s. P

5. *Dawn Redwood - (2). The taller one is more typical of this species. GLS: needles. PL: 1985. P

6. Sour Gum (Pepperidge or Tupelo Tree) - GLS: 2.
   PL: 1990. P


8. Purple Leaf Plum - There are several smaller ones and a large one. GLS: 2. PL: 1970’s.


10. Western Juniper - GLS: needles. PL: in the 1930’s or 1940’s.

    GLS: needles. PL: 1960’s.

12. Fremont Cottonwood - In the planter area. GLS: 9.
    PL: early 1900’s.
13. Liquidambar (Sweet Gum) - (large). GLS: 1. PL: 1960’s. P


Now walk west along Whitmore Drive.


At the intersection of Whitmore and Latimore Drives, turn right and walk east on the path.


26. Incense Cedar - (2) at corner of building. GLS: needles. PL: 1940’s.

27. Black Cottonwood - Several are growing along the riverbank and probably grew here naturally before Reno was settled. GLS: 9. Note: just one dot represents these Cottonwoods.

28. White Alder - GLS: 2. Among the Cottonwoods are several White Alders, which also grew here naturally. Note: just one dot represents these White Alders.

The next few trees are on your left.


30. Pecan - (2). At the time of this writing, one is faring much better than the other. GLS: 6. PL: 2001.

32. Giant Sequoia - Farther along the path are four Giant Sequoias, 3 of them on your right. They were gifts from Tulare County, California after the 1927 Exposition. GLS: needles. 1st Sequoia on right - P

33. * Bristlecone Pine - on your right, just before the fourth Sequoia. GLS: needles. It is one of Nevada's two State Trees (the other is a Singleleaf Pinon Pine). 1995 Arbor Day tree. P

34. Swamp White Oak - At the Bristlecone Pine, if you look towards the pond, you'll see a small, upright Swamp White Oak. GLS: 3. 1996 Arbor Day Tree P


Turn and retrace your steps, looking at trees on your left.

36. Common Hackberry - next tree adjacent to the path. GLS: 5. This tree was grown from a seed brought from Miami County, Indiana and planted in 1985. P


38. Sour Gum (Pepperidge or Tupelo) - to the left of the light pole. GLS: 2. PL: 1997.


47. Silver Maple - just this side of the tracks. GLS: 1. PL: 1950's.


Continue on the path and turn left when you've passed the play/picnic area, onto the cement walkway.


As you now walk along Cowan toward the parking lot where you began, you have a good view of the Trident and Armstrong maples from across the playground.


There are several of these along Cowan.


**SELECTED TREES of IDLEWILD PARK - Walk #C**

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Leaving the SW corner of parking lot to the Peace Officers Memorial, take the path up and past the swimming pool.

1. Siberian Elm - You'll be walking through a grove of these elms, which probably grew wild. GLS: 5 PL: mid-1940's.

In the picnic area on the right is a grove of nine young trees, all planted in 2000:

3. Northern Red Oaks - (1) GLS: 3.
4. London Planetree (London Plane Tree) - (4) GLS: 1.
5. Flowering Crabapple - variety unknown. GLS: 2.

Go to Spoon Drive. As you walk west, trees #6 - 22 are on the right.

Those trees planted farther from the street were planted in 1985; those closer to the curb were planted in 1990.

6. Northern Red Oak - (medium). GLS: 3. P

7. Chinkapin Oak (Muehlenberg's Oak) - near the curb. GLS: 3.

8. Northern Red Oak - GLS: 3.


10. Northern Red Oak - GLS: 3.

11. Chinkapin Oak (Muehlenberg's Oak) - GLS: 3.


13. Bur Oak - Another Bur Oak is in line with the Hackberry. GLS: 3.

14. Chinkapin Oak (Muehlenberg's Oak) - at curb. GLS: 3.


At this point you can see the back of the California Building, a short history of which is found on the inside back cover of this booklet.

16. Bur Oak - near the curb. GLS: 3.


18. Chinkapin Oak (Muehlenberg's Oak) - GLS: 3.


22. Chinkapin Oak (Muehlenberg's Oak) - GLS: 3. P

From the Spoon and Latimore intersection, to the right, are American, Siberian, and European elms. All have GLS: 3. Pl: 1940's.
In the small grass area towards the river -


25. Ponderosa Pine - GLS: needles. There are seven large Ponderosa Pines growing among the other trees along the right side of Latimore Drive. PL: 1950's.


31. Fruitless Mulberry - (5) on the left, where the planter area begins. GLS: 1. PL: 1960's.

32. Rose of Sharon - (5 or 6) - also in the planter area. GLS: 1. PL: 1950.

33. Smoke Tree - 3 to 5 of these small trees in that planter area. GLS: 6. PL: 1960's.

The rest of these trees are on your right.

34. American Elm - (next to a pole). PL: 1930's or 1940's. GLS: 5.


38. * Tuliptree (Tulip Tree) - next to the cherry. GLS: 1. PL: 1950's.


Idlewild Park
Tree Walk Routes
Key
Walk A
Walk B
Walk C

Trees Shown on Walks

Unusual Species (Uncommon for Reno) and State Champion Trees

Map shows only those trees described in the tree walks.

Continue on Whitmore toward Cowan and then on to the parking lot where the walk began. Several trees can be seen that are part of the beginning of Walk B and they are listed here by Walk B’s tree number.


b21. Two False Cypresses flank a **Western White Pine** near the front door of the California Building. GLS: needles. PL: 1950’s


b17. **Northern Red Oak** - GLS: 3. PL: 1982. P


b13. **Liquidambar (Sweet Gum)** - GLS: 1. PL: 1960’s. P


b10. **Western Juniper** - GLS: needles. PL: in the 1930’s or 1940’s.

b55. **Giant Sequoia** - across the street from the Juniper and near train track. GLS: needles. PL: mid-1980’s. S


b8. **Purple Leaf Plum** - There is one large, one medium and several smaller ones. GLS: 2. PL: early 1970’s.

Definitions and Botanical Information

Legend

F  Fall foliage color
G  Growth rate
GLS General Leaf Shape: needles or one of the nine general shapes shown on the back cover
MS  Mature Size: Expressed as height X width in feet
N  Native area
W  Water needs: Riparian (high water needs), Xeriscape (has low water needs), low, moderate, or other. Note: R Indicates riparian and X Indicates xeric.

Definitions

Common Name The local name used by the average person.
Botanical Name The Latin name of the tree, composed of the Genus, species and Family. For example, Red Oak (common name) is also known as Quercus rubra Fagaceae (botanical name). The botanical name of a tree is the same worldwide.
Family The Family name includes trees of different Genera (plural of Genus) that are related. For instance: Oak and Beech belong to the Fagaceae Family; Elm and Hackberry belong to the Ulmaceae Family; Spruce and Fir belong to the Pinaceae Family. Family names usually end in 'aceae'.
Genus The Genus name describes the general type of tree. For instance: Oak or Elm or Spruce. Some families contain a single genus; some may contain several hundred genera.
Species The species name identifies the specific kind of tree. For instance: Red Oak or American Elm or Blue Spruce.
Cultivar A variety of a species which may be a naturally occurring hybrid or a botanically cultivated variety which has stable characteristics that persist through reproduction.
Alliatus - Simaroubaceae (Quezqza) Family

Alliatus (Tree of Heaven) - Alliatus altissima
The Alliatus is often considered a weed because of prolific seed production and the seeds germinate easily. It has few insect or disease problems and is resistant to air pollution. It is often multi-trunked or shrubby, but can grow as a single trunk tree.
Tree numbers: b4 b51 c26

Alder - Betulaceae (Birch) Family

White Alder - Alnus rubra
The White Alder is able to absorb nitrogen from the air and grows well in wet areas.
Tree numbers: b28 b48

Arborvitaes - Cupressaceae (Cypress) Family

American Arborvitae - Thuja occidentalis
This is a type of white cedar that grows in a columnar form up to 30 feet.
Tree number: b11

Ash - Oleaceae (Olive) Family

Blue Ash - Fraxinus quadrangulata
Four ridges along the twigs is a key identifying characteristic of the Blue Ash. It may be plagued by aphids in Reno.
Tree number: c31

Flowering Ash - Fraxinus ornus
In the spring the Flowering Ash has white flowers which resemble the seed heads of Pampas Grass.
Tree numbers: a62 c56

Green Ash - Fraxinus pennsylvanica
This tree is good in northern Nevada, but is subject to aphids. Some varieties produce lots of unwanted seeds.
Tree numbers: a24 b54

Beech - Fagaceae (Beech) Family

European Beech - Fagus sylvatica
This species prefers a cool moist forest site with acid soil. Its hard wood is used for barrel making and its smooth gray bark attracts vandalism by ‘name carving’.
Tree number: a13

Box Elder - Aceraceae (Maple) Family

Sensation Box Elder - Acer negundo ‘Sensation’
Female trees produce large numbers of seeds and attract Box Elder bugs, so only male trees should be selected for planting in residential landscapes.
Tree number: b24

Catalpa - Bignoniaceae (Bignonia) Family

Western Catalpa - Catalpa speciosa
The Western Catalpa has large, heart-shaped leaves. In the late spring, it has white flowers which turn into long slender seed pods (“Indian cigars”). It is usually free of insects and diseases in the Reno area.
Tree numbers: a67 b36 c41

Cedar - Pinaceae (Pine) Family

Blue Atlas - Cedrus atlantica ‘Glauca’
The needles of the Blue Atlas are arranged in tufted clusters. This species is a good alternative to the Blue Spruce when the blue color is desired because it is more drought tolerant. At this time it has been insect and disease free in Reno.
Tree number: b1
Cedar of Lebanon - Cedrus libani
The Cedar of Lebanon is pyramid-shaped and its cones are upright. It is not as drought resistant or as cold hardy as the Blue Atlas Cedar.
Tree number: a78
Cherry - Rosaceae (Rose) Family

'Snow Fountains' Flowering Cherry - Prunus serrulata 'Snow Fountains'
This is a grafted, man-made tree, used in formal landscaping for its weeping form and white/pink flowers in springtime.
Tree number: b25

Pruning Cherry Tree - Prunus species (cultivar unknown)
This tree has white flowers in the spring.
Tree number: c37

Wild Black Cherry - Prunus serotina
This is the famous Pennsylvania species that produces beautiful furniture wood. Its fruit consists of a black pea-sized cherry that is mostly skin over the pit and edible only by wildlife. It prefers moist acid soil. When mature, its bark resembles black corn flakes pasted to the trunk.
Tree number: b31

Pistachio - Anacardiaceae (Cashew) Family

Chinese Pistachio - Pistacia chinensis
This tree is very heat and drought resistant; however, it may not be reliably cold hardy at elevations higher than Reno. There are a few examples of this tree in the Reno area that are more than 50 years old.
Tree numbers: a20 a50

Chitalpa - Bignoniaceae (Bignonia) Family

Chitalpa - Chitalpa tashkentensis
This tree is a man-made cross between the Catalpa and Desert Willow (Chilopsis linearis). It produces several sets of light pink flowers during the course of the growing season. Because it is sterile, no seeds are produced. It may not be reliably cold hardy and may be killed to the ground in severe winters, regrowing as a multi-trunked tree or large shrub.
Tree number: c40

Cottonwood - Salicaceae (Willow) Family

Black Cottonwood - Populus nigra
The Black Cottonwood requires lots of water, is fast growing, short lived, weak wooded, and subject to many insect and disease problems.
Tree number: b27

Fremont Cottonwood (Western Cottonwood) - Populus fremontii
This very large growing tree requires lots of water and has been known to transpire up to 100 gallons per hour on a hot day. It is weak wooded and subject to many insect and disease problems. Because of its tendency to decay, it is not considered a safe tree for urban planting.
Tree numbers: a33 a58 b12

Cranberry - Rosaceae (Rose) Family

Bechtel Cranberry - Malus ioensis 'Bechtel'
Once established, this cranberry will tolerate some drought. Its spring flowers are double, pink and fragrant. Its fruit is golf ball size and yellow. This cultivar is very susceptible to disease problems in areas with a humid climate, but is relatively disease free in Reno.
Tree number: b9

Flowering Cranberry - Malus species (cultivar unknown)
The genus Malus is large and complex with many different species which hybridize freely. Where many different kinds occur naturally, it is often extremely difficult to identify individual species.
Tree numbers: a5 c5

Bald Cypress - Taxodiaceae (Cypress) Family

Bald Cypress - Taxodium distichum
This is the famous tree of the cypress swamps of the Southeast U.S. This tree is a deciduous conifer. It is cold hardy enough for Reno. It will grow rapidly in wet clay soil or in standing water as long as the pH is acid and there are no salt hazards. The wood is very decay resistant.
Tree number: b39

Dawn Redwood - Taxodiaceae (Cypress) Family

Dawn Redwood - Metasequoia glyptostroboides
This very ancient tree, once thought to be extinct, was found growing in Chinese gardens in the early 1900's. It is a deciduous conifer.
Tree number: b35 b37
Eim - Ulmaceae (Eim) Family

American Eim - Ulmus americana
The American Eim was most famous as a street tree in the Eastern and Midwestern U.S. until Dutch Elm Disease killed them by the millions. This species is also susceptible to elm leaf beetles and European elm scale insects in Reno. It produces large numbers of seeds each spring. Due to its insect and disease problems and its seed production, it is illegal to plant this species in Reno. American Elms are easily recognized by the corky wings found on their twigs.
Tree numbers: a59 c04

Siberian Eim - Ulmus pumila
Siberian Elms will grow on almost any site and possess remarkable tolerances to heat, cold and drought. However, its undesirable traits include production of large numbers of seeds each spring, its attractiveness to elm leaf beetles, and its tendency to continually shed twigs, branches and limbs. It is more resistant to Dutch Elm Disease than American Elms. Because of its many undesirable traits, it is illegal to plant this tree in Reno.
Tree number: a5 c1

False Cypress - Cupressaceae (Cypress) Family

False Cypress (Alaska Cedar) - Chamaecyparis nootkatensis
This tree needs protection from wind and likes moisture. It is used as a timber tree to build boats and ships.
Tree numbers: b20

Fir - Pinaceae (Pine) Family

Spanish Fir - Abies pinsapo
This tree is not often seen in the Reno area. It has very short needles and is very slow growing.
Tree number: a25

White Fir - Abies concolor
White Firs are often planted as ornamentals and are sometimes sold for use as Christmas trees. The White Fir prefers to grow above 6,000 feet elevation in the Sierras where it attains a large size. It is subject to drought injury and when stressed is often attacked by insects.
Tree number: a32

Ginkgo - Ginkgoaceae (Ginkgo) Family

Ginkgo (Maidenhair Tree) - Ginkgo biloba
This tree was thought to be extinct until the early 1900's when it was discovered growing in Chinese gardens. From a botanical standpoint, it is a very unusual tree because it looks like it might be related to an oak or a maple, but it is more closely related to grasses or pine trees. It is a living fossil and it is the only member of its family. There are male and female trees. The female trees begin producing foul smelling fruit at about 15 years of age, therefore, it is advisable to purchase and plant only male trees.
Tree number: b18

Goldenrain Tree - Sapindaceae (Soapberry) Family

Goldenrain Tree - Koelreuteria paniculata
This tree needs regular watering and training to become an attractive single-stem tree. It produces bright yellow flowers in late June. The fruit is a dry pyramidal pod containing a few pea-sized hard seeds that rattle inside the pod and persist on the tree through winter. It tolerates drought once established and will tolerate alkaline soils.
Tree numbers: a4 a7 a36

Hackberry - Ulmaceae (Elm) Family

Chinese Hackberry (Yunan Hackberry) - Celtis sinensis
All hackberries are related to the Elms, but lack many of the Elms' negative traits. Hackberries are often slow to grow after being transplanted, but once established they grow vigorously and tolerate drought and alkaline soils better than many other species. It is not subject to Dutch Elm Disease and does not produce large numbers of seeds, nor do the seeds produce a litter problem when they drop in the fall. This tree is smaller than the Common Hackberry and not often seen in Reno. Its fruit is small and pea-sized.
Tree number: a26

Common Hackberry - Celtis occidentalis
Common Hackberry grows larger than Chinese Hackberry, but has similar traits.
Tree numbers: a74 b36 c18 c17 c18

Western Hackberry - Celtis reticulata
This tree may become wider than its height, which rarely exceeds 30 feet. It is mostly insect and disease free, but may occasionally be host to tent caterpillars in the spring. This tree is a good choice for hot, dry, windy sites with alkaline soils and will survive where many other species will not.
Tree number: a17 a36 a57
Hawthorn - Rosaceae (Rose) Family

'Paul's Scarlet' Hawthorn (English Hawthorn) - Crataegus laevigata 'Paul's Scarlet'
This hawthorn will tolerate some drought once established. It may be subject to aphids and fire blight. Its spring flowers are double pink to red.
Tree numbers: 83839

Washington Hawthorn - Crataegus pheenoporum
It has white spring flowers which are followed by bright red berries. This tree is useful in xeriscapes, but is subject to aphids and diseases. It is also quite thorny.
Tree number: 443

Hawthorn - Crataegus species (unknown cultivar)
The genus Crataegus is large and complex with many different species which hybridize freely. Where many different kinds occur naturally, it is often extremely difficult to identify individual species.
Tree number: 473

Hickory - Juglandaceae (Walnut) Family

Shellbark Hickory - Carya laciniosa
This tree has a well developed tap root which makes transplanting difficult. Its fruit is tennis ball sized with thick husks covering 1.5 to 2 inch nuts. The nut meat is sweet, but difficult to extract. The bark forms long plates which separate from the trunk to provide an unusual appearance. It is subject to aphids.
Tree numbers: 44 46

Hophornbeam - Betulaceae (Birch) Family

Eastern Hophornbeam (ironwood) - Ostrya virginiana
This tree is known as Ironwood because its wood is extremely hard. The mature bark appears to shred and the fruit is similar in appearance to hops, hence the Hophornbeam.
Tree number: 423

Horsechestnut - Hippocastanaceae (Horsechestnut) Family

Common Horsechestnut - Aesculus hippocastanum
It is a close relative of the Ohio Buckeye. It is one of the first trees to leaf out in the spring and among the first to drop its leaves in the fall. It needs summer water and it prefers a moist site. Its leaves will scorch if the tree is planted in a hot windy location. The spring flowers are large, white and showy. The seeds are reported to be poisonous to humans.
Tree numbers: 41 46

Red Horsechestnut - Aesculus x carnea
This tree is very similar to the Common Horsechestnut, except the flowers are pink and the tree doesn't grow as large. This is a man-made hybrid.
Tree number: 49

Incense Cedar - Cupressaceae (Cypress) Family

Incense Cedar - Calocedrus decurrens (Libocedrus decurrens)
This species prefers a moist site, but will tolerate some drought once established. Its wood is used to produce wooden pencils and for construction.
Tree numbers: 80 81

Juniper - Cupressaceae (Cypress) Family

Utah Juniper - Juniperus osteosperma
This tree is native to Nevada; well adapted to heat, cold, wind, drought, and poor soils. It may develop root rot if planted in wet areas. It prefers a dry site, but needs regular water until established. It is subject to mistletoe and is frequently attacked by boring insects when stressed. It may also become infested with spider mites.
Tree number: 446

Western Juniper - Juniperus occidentalis
This is one of the largest growing Junipers and its wood is used for construction and is often sold as 'aromatic cedar' lumber.
Tree numbers: 48 410

Kentucky Coffee Tree - Fabaceae - formerly Leguminosae - (Pea) Family

Kentucky Coffee Tree (Kentucky Coffee Tree) - Gymnocladus dioicus
The twigs of this tree are coarse and thick, the mature bark is rough and flaky. The pith in the twigs is salmon colored. Its fruit is a dark brown bean pod shorter and thicker than the pods of the Honey Locust.
Tree numbers: 442 425
Linden - Tiliaceae (Linden) Family
Little Leaf Linden - *Tilia cordata*
The Little Leaf Linden is sometimes called Basswood. The tree is very susceptible to damage from wind and ice storms. Its leaves will scorch on hot, dry, windy sites. It is subject to infestation by aphids and scale insects. In the summer it produces numerous small yellowish flowers which attract bees.
Tree number: a77

Liquidambar - Hamamelidaceae (Witch Hazel) Family
Liquidambar (American Sweet Gum) - *Liquidambar sphyraena*
The Liquidambar prefers a rich moist site with acidic soil and it develops chlorosis when planted in alkaline soils. The fruit is golf ball size and spiny.
Tree numbers: a22 b15

Locust - Fabaceae - formerly Leguminosae - (Pea) Family
Black Locust - *Robinia pseudoacacia*
This tree is adapted to dry sites and is very drought resistant. The twigs and small branches are armed with short thorns. Its fragrant white spring flowers are followed by flat brown pods that are about three inches long. Its wood is very tough and durable. Its roots are able to fix nitrogen in the soil. It easily grows in poor soil, but grows too large for parking strips and most home gardens.
Tree numbers: a34 a66

Honey Locust - *Gleditsia triacanthos*
The Honey Locust may be drought tolerant once established, but it prefers to grow on sites with rich, moist, acidic soils. It is subject to attack by tent caterpillars and webworms, but its greatest enemy in Reno is the pod gall midge. The fruit of this tree is a reddish brown pod about a foot long. There are many cultivars of this species.
Tree numbers: a59 a75 b22

London Planetree (London Plane Tree) - Platanus (Sycamore) Family
London Planetree (London Plane Tree) - *Platanus x acerifolia*
This tree is a man-made hybrid from Europe. It can attain great size and should be planted where it has lots of room to grow without interfering with buildings, overhead wires, or pavement. In Reno, it is subject to leaf scale insects and powdery mildew and it may develop frost cracks during extremely cold winters.
Tree numbers: a31 e40 e49 e54 e69 a71 b53 c4 c50

Maple - Aceraceae (Maple) Family
Amur Maple - *Acer ginnala*
It has low to medium water needs and will tolerate some drought once established.
Tree number: c64

Norway Maple - *Acer platanoides*
It prefers a cool moist site. It is subject to aphids and scale insects. It is susceptible to Verticillium Wilt (a soil borne disease) and should not be planted in soil where potatoes have been grown. Many cultivars of this species are available.
Tree number: b44

Red Maple - *Acer rubrum*
Prized for its red fall color, the wood of the Red Maple is weak and prone to decay. The tree usually forms croches close to the ground and its roots are shallow and aggressive. It needs regular water and does not grow well in hot dry areas. It needs acidic soil to keep from becoming chlorotic.
Tree numbers: b39 b43

'Armstrong' Red Maple - *Acer rubrum 'Armstrong'*
This is a columnar form of the Red Maple and has the same requirements and limitations.
Tree number: b50

Silver Maple - *Acer saccharinum*
This is a prolific seed producer and its trunk and limbs are very prone to decay. It forms major croches close to the ground and has an aggressive shallow root system. It prefers a wet site, but may become drought tolerant once established. Its leaves will scorch and tatter if it is planted on a hot windy site. Its leaf is medium to dark green on the upper surface and silvery gray on the lower surface.
Tree number: b47

Sugar Maple - *Acer saccharum*
This maple is famous for its fine furniture wood and for its sap from which maple syrup is made. It is not well adapted to Reno and prefers a site with rich, moist and well-drained soil. It has very little, if any, drought resistance.
Tree number: b46
Trident Maple - *Acer buergerianum*
The Trident Maple exhibits good drought resistance once established.
Tree number: b49

**Mountain Ash - Rosaceae (Rose) Family**

**European Mountain Ash - Sorbus aucuparia**
In nature, the European Mountain Ash grows along streams and in wet areas. It is not drought resistant and needs protection from afternoon sun and winds.
In the spring, it bears white flowers and produces orange-red marble sized fruit.
Tree numbers: a11 a41

**Fruitless Mulberry - Moraceae (Mulberry) Family**

**Fruitless Mulberry (White or Silkworm Mulberry) - Morus alba**
The Fruitless Mulberry was introduced to the U.S. during colonial times as a food source for silk worms. The same tree may have leaves that are both lobed and unlobed. Annual pruning is required to eliminate sucker sprouts. Its root system is aggressive and shallow and the tree is often damaged by late spring frost when planted above 4500 foot elevations.
Tree numbers: a64 c2 c31

**Oak - Fagaceae (Beech) Family**

**Blue Oak - Quercus douglasii**
The leaves of the Blue Oak have a bluish hue and are variable in shape on the same tree; some resemble Holly leaves, others typical oak leaves. The fruit is an acorn. It is a very drought resistant species and is easily killed by over watering.
Tree number: a47

**Bur Oak - Quercus macrocarpa**
The Bur Oak is very drought tolerant once established and will tolerate soil pH as high as 8.2. Its acorn has a fringed cap and its twigs often have corky wings. It may sometimes have a few aphids or scale insects, but is generally considered an excellent shade tree for Reno.
Tree numbers: a50 a53 a55 c9 c13 c16 c19

Canyon Live Oak - Quercus chrysolepis
The leaves of this shrubby evergreen oak are shiny and holly-like. If planted in the landscape, it belongs in a xeriscape where it will not be over-watered.
Tree number: a52

Chinkapin Oak (Muhslenberg's Oak) - Quercus muehlenbergii
Unlike most oaks, the acorns of this species are sweet and edible. The leaves resemble Beech leaves more than traditional oak leaves. This species needs regular watering, but will grow well in soils having a pH as high as 8.2 as long as salt levels are low.
Tree numbers: a28 a44 b14 c7 c11 c14 c16 c22 c89

**English Oak - Quercus robur**
The English Oak is the Oak of England's Sherwood Forest. Its leaves turn brown in the fall and stay on the tree most of the winter. It is subject to aphids and scale insects.
Tree numbers: a21 c15

Columnar English Oak - Quercus robur 'Fastigata'
This is a columnar form of English Oak, which grows 40-50 feet high and only 10-15 feet wide.
Tree number: a12

**Northern Red Oak - Quercus rubra (Quercus borealis)**
The Northern Red Oak needs fertile soil and regular moisture. It becomes chlorotic when planted in alkaline soil.
Tree numbers: a45 b17 c5 c6 c8 c10 c27

**Pin Oak - Quercus palustris**
The Pin Oak has drooping lower branches and will not tolerate high soil pH or drought conditions. Early settlers cut its branches into 'pins' for use in construction before nails made of metal were available.
Tree number: a15

Shingle Oak - Quercus imbricaria
The Shingle Oak has the same environmental requirements as a Pin Oak. Notice how different its leaves are from other oaks. Its long, low branches indicate that it should be planted away from walks and driveways. The pioneers used this wood for shingles on their houses, hence its name. It will not tolerate high soil pH or drought.
Tree number: b35
Swamp White Oak - *Quercus bicolor*
The leaves of the Swamp White Oak are similar to Bur Oak leaves except the undersides are gray and velvety. Acorns are produced on a stalk like those of the English Oak. It requires a moist acidic soil.
Tree number: b34

Valley Oak (California White Oak) - *Quercus lobata*
This is the massive Oak seen in California's Central Valley. The Valley Oak is fast growing and straight when young. It becomes more spreading with age and its limbs can become long and droop to the ground. This species is tolerant of heat and drought and moderate alkaliinity.
Tree numbers: a10 a27 a60 c55

**Russian Olive - Oleaceae (Oleaster) Family**

Russian Olive - *Elaeagnus angustifolia*
This thorny gray tree often grows as a large shrub or a multi-stemmed small tree and is very drought resistant. It reproduces easily from prolific seeds, sends up many suckers, and is often considered a weed tree. Its fruit consists of small gray-green olives which are eaten by birds.
Tree number: a76

Osage Orange - Moraceae (Mulberry) Family

Osage Orange (Hedgeapple) - *Maclura pomifera*
The Osage Indians made their bows from the wood of this tree and farmers used the tough durable wood for fence posts. The fruit is softball-sized, pale green in color, and is not edible. Young trees are very thorny. This tree is well adapted to heat and drought, but the branch tips often die back in winter in the Reno area.
Tree number: a56

Pear - Rosaceae (Rose) Family

'Aristocrat' Pear - *Pyrus calleryana 'Aristocrat'*
This pear has white spring flowers and red fall color. The fruit, if any, is hard and peanut-sized. Most cultivars of the callery pear are heat and drought resistant and are well adapted to Reno. 'Aristocrat' has wide branch attachment angles and is less prone to splitting than some other cultivars. Pear trees are subject to many of the same insect and disease problems found in other members of the Rose family.
Tree number: a70

'Bradford' Pear - *Pyrus calleryana 'Bradford'*
'Bradford' was one of the first cultivars of the callery pear. It has narrow branch attachment angles and is very prone to splitting. It is similar to 'Aristocrat' in most other respects.
Tree number: a57

Pecan - Jujubaceae (Walnut) Family

Pecan - *Carya illinoinensis*
Pecan trees grown from northern seed sources are cold hardy in Reno, but the frost-free period here is too short for their nuts to ripen successfully. Pecan trees need well-drained soil and will not tolerate salinity.
Tree numbers: a69 b30 c23

Pine - Pinaceae (Pine) Family

Border Pine (Southwestern White Pine) - *Pinus strobus*
This is a five-needled evergreen tree that is difficult to find in commercial nurseries, but it grows very successfully in Reno and is drought tolerant.
Tree number: b2b

Bristlecone Pine - *Pinus aristata*
This tree has the longest life span of any living plant in the world; one specimen is known to be 4,500 years old. The Bristlecone Pine is one of Nevada's two state trees (the other is the Singleleaf Pinon Pine) and is easily identified by white pitch dots on its needles. It is a slow-growing five-needled evergreen which is very drought resistant; if given moderate water, the tree will grow faster.
Tree number: b33

Digger Pine - *Pinus sabineana*
This drought resistant tree grows well in Reno. Its 3-needled foliage is gray-green and the heavy pineapple-sized cones contain edible nuts.
Tree number: a51

Eastern White Pine (White Pine) - *Pinus strobus*
The Eastern White Pine is a 5-needled pine, whose needles are almost blue-green in color. This tree prefers a cool moist location with acidic soil. It was prized by early ship builders for its tall, straight trunk which was used for ship masts.
Tree numbers: b5 b45
Japanese Black Pine - *Pinus thunbergiana* (Pinus thunbergii)
This 2-needled tree rarely exceeds 25 feet in Reno and is usually slow-growing.
Tree number: b40

Japanese Red Pine - *Pinus densiflora* 'Umbraeformis'
This typically multi-stemmed cultivar seldom exceeds 15 feet in Reno and has needles in pairs. It is prized for its umbrella or vase shaped form and its orange bark.
Tree number: a14

Ponderosa Pine (Western Yellow Pine) - *Pinus ponderosa*
This 3-needled pine is native in the Sierras and seems to grow best with low to moderate watering.
Tree numbers: 19b 205

Singleleaf Pinyon Pine - *Pinus monophylla*
This is one of Nevada's two state trees (the other is the Bristlecone Pine). It is an unusual tree because of its single needle arrangement. It is very slow growing and prefers dry sites. It is an excellent plant to use in a xeriscape, but is rarely found in commercial nurseries. As a young tree it is often pyramidal, but it changes to a more rounded form as it ages. The cones contain edible nuts.
Tree number: a48

2-needle Pinyon Pine (Nut Pine) - *Pinus edulis*
The nuts from this tree are edible and are available in grocery stores. This 2-needled pine prefers a dry site, so it is a natural for a xeriscape garden.
Tree number: a49

Western White Pine - *Pinus monticola*
This 5-needled pine is not drought resistant and grows much better in the Sierras at higher elevations than in the Reno area.
Tree number: b21

Plum - *Rosaceae (Rose) Family*

Purple Leaf Plum (Cherry Plum) - *Prunus cerasifera*
There are many cultivars of this species; most have pink spring flowers and purple leaves. These trees are heat and drought resistant, relatively problem-free, and well adapted to the Reno area.
Tree numbers: a68  b8

Rose of Sharon - *Malvaceae (Mallow) Family*

Rose of Sharon - *Hibiscus syriacus*
The Rose of Sharon is usually a large woody shrub, but with pruning can be grown as a small tree. It flowers in mid-late summer and there are many cultivars available. The flowers may be single or double and the available colors include red, white and blue.
Tree numbers: b48  c52

Sequoia - *Taxodiaceae (Yew) Family*

Giant Sequoia - *Sequoiadendron giganteum*
The Giant Sequoia is related to the Coast Redwood, but is more cold hardy. It attains the largest trunk diameter of any tree in the world. Its mature size is extremely large and massive. It is not drought resistant, but grows well if watered regularly.
Tree numbers: b32  b55

Smoke Tree - *Anacardiaceae (Cashew) Family*

Smoke Tree (Smoke Bush) - *Cotinus coggyria*
Cultivars of this plant are available with either green or purple leaves. The plant's common name comes from its large billowy flowers which appear smoke-like. It does not grow well on poorly drained sites.
Tree numbers: c35

Sour Gum - *Nyssaceae (Tupelo) Family*

Sour Gum (Tupelo, Pepperidge) - *Nyssa sylvatica*
The Sour Gum prefers a riparian site with acid soil. It does not tolerate alkaline soils or drought. It is slow growing and develops long lower limbs similar to Pin Oak.
Tree numbers: b6  b38
Spruce - Pinaceae (Pine) Family

Blue Spruce (Colorado Blue Spruce) - Picea pungens
This tree is prized for its blue color; however, some individuals may be more green than blue. It has a shallow root system and is subject to wind throw once it attains large size. It is not recommended for xeriscapes, but does display some degree of drought resistance once established. It is subject to infestation by aphids and spider mites, particularly when planted in hot, dry or windy locations.
Tree numbers: a16  a72  b7  b52

Norway Spruce - Picea abies
The Norway Spruce prefers a cool moist site with acid soil. It has a shallow root system and is subject to infestation by spider mites when planted in a hot, dry or windy location.
Tree number: a6

Tulip Tree (Tuliptree) - Magnoliaceae (Magnolia) Family

Tulip Tree (Tuliptree) - Liriodendron tulipifera
This tree requires a site with moist, rich, well drained acid soil. Its spring flowers are like tulips in both size and shape and the petals are pale green with an orange base. It is subject to aphids and scale insects. It is the state tree of Indiana.
Tree numbers: c58

English Walnut - Juglandaceae (Walnut) Family

Walnut - Juglandaceae (Walnut) Family

English Walnut - Juglans regia
This tree is usually grown for its nuts, but the wood is also prized for furniture and gunstocks. It is not reliably cold hardy in the Reno area. Walnuts and their relatives, Pecans and Hickories, are difficult to transplant successfully. Walnut trees are subject to aphids and grow best on sites with rich, moist, acid soils.
Tree number: c60

Willow - Salicaceae (Willow) Family

Willow - Salicaceae (Willow) Family

Weeping Willow - Salix alba 'tristis'
The Weeping Willow will grow on any site having lots of water except those with high salt levels or where the pH is much higher than 7.0. It is fast growing, weak-wooded and prone to insect and disease problems and has an invasive root system. Still, it is prized for its classic weeping form and its soft, feathery foliage. It is illegal to plant the Weeping Willow on public property or along roads or walks in Reno.
Tree number: a18

Zelkova - Ulmaceae (Elm) Family

Japanese Zelkova (Sawleaf Zelkova) - Zelkova serrata
This member of the Elm family does not suffer from all of the insect and disease problems that generally plague Elms, nor do its seeds create a litter problem. It is valued in the landscape for its upright vase shaped form, its short stout trunk, and its red fall color.
Tree number: a61

A drawing of an Eastern Hop hornbeam (Ironwood)
Other Interesting Information About Idlewild Park

The five drives in the park were named for:
- Cowan - Charles Cowan was a Reno City Council Member.
- Latimore - Joe Latimore was a Reno City Manager.
- Mastroianni - Joe Mastroianni was an early building inspector in the years after WWI, when the city's building department was in its formative years.
- Spoon - Ed Spoon was a Reno City Council Member in the mid-1960s and again in the late 1970's. The street was also named in his honor because he played softball in the old city league, on the diamonds on Spoon Drive.
- Whitmore - Dan Whitmore was a Director of the Regional Planning Commission.

The James D. Hoff Peace Officers Memorial is dedicated to the memory of those state peace officers killed in the line of duty.

The Reno Municipal Rose Garden was begun in the mid-1950's, under the direction of founder Fred Galloway, to whom the garden has been dedicated. There are approximately 2500 roses growing in the garden, including some of the original roses that were planted as early as 1958, such as "Blaze" and "New Dawn".

Plants native to foreign countries began to be introduced to the park in 1933.

The statue Wa-Pai-Shone, by sculptor Peter Wolf Toth, was dedicated in June, 1986 as a tribute to the tribes of the Washoe, Paiute, and Shoshone Indians. This statue is titled "The 53rd Whispering Giant".

In May, 1926, a memorial was dedicated to veterans of foreign wars. It was redone in 1997 and moved to the front area of the California Building. There is now a bronze tablet on the memorial, with the names of 40 Reno men who died in WWI and the Spanish-American War. The red-orange memorial on the other side of the entranceway was dedicated to the memory of the Nevada Spanish American War Volunteers by the American Red Cross and the W.C.T.U. (Women's Christian Temperance Union).

A public swimming pool was opened in Idlewild Park in 1937. It was closed in 1981, and a new pool was opened in 1984 and is still in use today.

The Municipal Zoo was built in the late 1920's and included, over the years, such animals as bison, monkeys, bears, coyotes and pheasants. In 1939 it became a children's "petting zoo" but was abandoned entirely in 1949.

Plans for a Children's Train were first put forth in 1954, when formal approval for such a train was given to Mr. and Mrs. Leon Bayless. In 1961, Joe and John Chitra, of Colorado, moved to Reno and began to work with several groups to put a coal and steam engine train in the park. Joe ran the train for years, and later a gas-powered engine was featured. The Churas did much of the work on the tracks, and the rail bed material was from the Virginia City area. The nearby Giant Sequoia was planted in 1987 in memory of Joe, and across the street, the Blue Spruce was memorialized for his wife, Harriet.

Most of the information found on this page and on the inside front cover was taken from articles in the Nevada State Journal and the Reno Gazette-Journal and from personal interviews with local historians.

When walking in the park, please watch out for the traffic!