

The University of Dayton Tree Trail Project

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The Goals of the Project:

- Mark trees on campus with placards and produce a Tree Trail brochure
- Encourage students, faculty, community members, and visitors to be more aware of their surroundings
- Educate the public about the natural beauty of the University of Dayton.
- Create a positive legacy on the University of Dayton campus
- Identify trees as an essential entity of our campus and world



The Process:

- The College of Arts and Sciences granted \$2500 in the form of a Learn, Lead, Serve Grant
- The campus was surveyed
- Trees were identified
- Selection was narrowed to 20 trees of interest
- Placards were designed, ordered, and manufactured (in Illinois)
- Placards were installed
- Brochure was designed
- Brochures are currently being printed at UD Printing and Design
- Inaugural tour of campus will take place on April 24th, National Arbor Day

The Trail:

- The trees are identified by placards that look like this:



- The placards are numbered and correspond with a brochure (currently in production)
- The trail begins at Albert Emanuel, curves through campus to Serenity Pines, and returns to the Library near College Park
- Nearly every student has taken a college tour that highlights the buildings on campus. However, this trail is a campus tour that highlights campus' natural beauty .



The Trees (well, some of them) :

- Red Oak (picture on the right)

- Ginkgo: This is an odd tree with peculiar fan-like leaves that resemble the shape of a river delta.

Legend has it that its round fruits were roasted and eaten in China. The fruits may cause hazards to pedestrians and prevent female specimens from being planted in cities.

Kentucky Coffeetree: This tree doesn't bear coffee beans, so why is it called the Coffeetree? Early settlers in Kentucky used the fruits as a substitute for coffee beans. The Kentucky Coffeetree is related to the Honey Locust, evident in its enormous compound leaves that can contain more than 100 leaflets! It has much shorter and thicker fruit pods than the Honey Locust. Unisexual: each tree produces either pollen-bearing or seed-bearing flowers, but not both.

- Bur Oak

- Winter King Hawthorn

- Redbud: Oklahoma's state tree. It is sometimes called the Judas Tree as a reference to its European species that "blushed" (with its pink flowers) for having been the tree upon which Judas hanged himself. An understory tree that thrives in the shade of forest canopies and rarely grows more than 40 feet high, the Redbud delivers spectacular magenta beauty during its early spring bloom. Do you see any of its seed pods hanging near the heart-shaped leaves?

Sycamore (picture on the left): Also known as the American Plane Tree, the sycamore is a water-loving tree that grows along creek and riversides. Look up into the tree and notice the smooth and splotchy, white bark. Poet William Cullen Bryant wrote:

"Clear are the depths where its eddies play,
And dimples deepen and whirl away;
And the plane tree's speckled arms o'er-shoot
The swifter current that mines its root."

