



## Item No. 5d Town of Atherton

### **PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE – REGULAR AGENDA**

**TO: PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**FROM: SALLY BENTZ-DALTON – PARK MANAGER**

**DATE: MAY 5TH, 2021**

**SUBJECT: Park Tree Walk project and brochure information and feedback**

#### **Background**

Betsy Colby an Atherton resident and a Tree Committee member came up with the idea and recruited Julie Robertson, Atherton resident and Park & Rec Committee member as well as Dorothy Hunter President of the Atherton Arts Foundation to work on this project with staff.

The idea is an official tree ID walk around the park that includes a brochure that highlights the history of the park as well as gives information on the 24 trees with a map in the middle of the brochure.

Betsy walked around the park on multiple occasions and compiled a list of trees to highlight. Staff and the brochure committee went through the list and edited it a few times before it ended up with the final draft list of 24 specimen trees attached. Dorothy Hunter and the Art Foundation members have started drawing the 24 trees to be in the brochure.

The cost of the project will include the printing of the brochure, updating the plastic green tree ID signs, adding/fixing a few of the 4x4 posts and if decided signage and or a brochure holder. It was found that 10- 4x4 posts are needed as well as 24 new tree ID plaques. A discussion was had about the paper brochure. The brochure committee would like to have a paper copy available at the Town Center and or Art Foundation as well as the website if a brochure holder is chosen not to be installed at the park as the start of the walk. The Town has concerns about the vandalism of the brochures, the weather issues of having them outside as well as ongoing cost of printing. One of the ideas was only put copies of the brochures on good weather weekends in the holder and during the week, a copy could be picked up.

The estimated cost for this project is:

Acrylic green ID plaques-24 = \$400

Copies of the brochure – 500 copies = \$705.00

Pressure treated wood 4x4x10' - \$24 each -4 = \$100

Signage stating the walk and where to get the electronic or paper brochure- Varies – Estimated \$500

Brochure holder- Varies – estimated \$500

The brochure committee has reserved COVID pending an event August 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. The event would be the Art Foundations art show that would include the original tree artwork that is in the brochure located in the Jennings Pavilion. On Saturday, the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>n</sup> and on Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> the idea is to have staff, or another arborist conduct the tree walk with the community. There would be kids' activities and a master gardener table etc. to kick off the brochure and official HPP tree walk.

### **Discussion**

Staff is looking for feedback from the Committee on the project. Feedback on the cost or the project, if this is something the park can accommodate as well as paper printing vs. electronic version. Any feedback on a brochure holder and costs of printing expense.

### **Examples of signage and brochure holders**



Attachments: Example draft of the brochure, List of trees on walk

**Benefits of trees –**

*Grow some more!*

- Clean the air
- Store water in the soil
- Cool buildings
- Provide habitat for wildlife
- Store carbon
- Enhance mental and social well being
- Create beauty

**Trees of**

**Holbrook-Palmer Park**

150 Watkins Ave

Atherton, CA

2021

## The History of Holbrook-Palmer Park

### Nothing beats a sunny day in the park.

The 22-acre park was established in 1883. Originally called *Elmwood*, the estate was used by the Holbrook family for weekend visits. Charles Holbrook's daughter Olive inherited the estate and used it as her summer home with her husband Silas H. Palmer. When Olive died in 1958, she gifted the estate to the town of Atherton. The park has hosted live concerts, holiday events and art exhibits. The park is home to an arboretum, historic buildings, tennis courts, children's playground, parcouse and playing fields for baseball, soccer and lacrosse.

### Architecture:

- The main house was built in 1875 in the Second Empire style but was replaced in 1959.
- The carriage house was built in 1897 in a Colonial Revival style.
- The water tower was built in 1883 and is a rare example of a 19<sup>th</sup> century tank house.
- Both the water tower and carriage house were listed on the National Register of Historic Places on September 26, 2016.

Learn more at

[www.athertonhistory.com](http://www.athertonhistory.com)

[www.ci.atherton.ca.us/180/Holbrook---Palmer-Park](http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/180/Holbrook---Palmer-Park)

## To learn more about trees

Canopy website – excellent resource to learn about city trees

<https://canopy.org/>

Master Gardeners – can answer questions about growing trees

<http://smsf-mastergardeners.ucanr.edu/>

Books about trees:

A Californian's Guide to the Trees Among Us by Matt Ritter

Thanks to our local artists who provided the drawings

Atherton Art foundation

[www.athertonarts.org](http://www.athertonarts.org)

**Tree 24 (F,A) Ornamental Pomegranate**

*Punica granatum*

Origin: eastern Mediterranean

Pomegranate comes from Latin words for 'many seeded apple'

deciduous

Grows to 20 ft

Bright orange flowers come in spring

Small orange fruits are ornamental, but not edible

Drought tolerant

Good small landscape tree

Consider this:  
Thank you for coming on the tree walk.  
Consider planting a tree and enjoying it for many years.

**Welcome the Holbrook-Palmer Park Tree Walk**

The walk starts at the North Meadow parking lot and proceeds clockwise along the paved path around the outer edge of the park with a turn around the Main House in the center.

The distance is about 1 mile.

A map of the featured trees is on the centerfold of this brochure

What is a tree?  
A woody plant at least 15 feet tall, usually with a single trunk and a spreading crown of leaves

When enjoying the trees, you can pick up fallen leaves and seeds, but do not pick things directly off trees – flowers, leaves or bark.

For more information contact:  
[arborist@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:arborist@ci.atherton.ca.us)

Tree 1 (D,A) Shumard Red Oak

Quercus shumardii

<p>Origin: Southeastern US Named for Benjamin Franklin Shumard (1820-69), state geologist of Texas Deciduous Grows to 50 ft</p> <p>Large 6 inch, lobed leaves with pointed tips red fall foliage color</p> <p>Produces few acorns in our habitat.</p> <p>Large trunk needs at least 5 foot radius of clearance.</p> <p>Strong wood often used for furniture making</p>	
<p>Consider this: Welcome to the tree walk! Walk around slowly and enjoy the park</p> <p>Notice the green watering bags used to help newly planted trees get established. These bags release water slowly to help new plants through our dry summers.</p>	

Tree 23 (H,2) Olive

Olea europaea

<p>Origin: eastern Mediterranean Evergreen Grows to 30 ft</p> <p>Cultivated by people for millennia for valuable fruit and wood.</p> <p>Long lived species Some Missions still have the original olive trees planted in 1700s</p> <p>Narrow, grey-green leaves</p> <p>Drought tolerant, like full sun Plant fruiting varieties away from driveways and patios since the fruit can stain</p>	
<p>Consider this: Excellent California Olive oil can be produced with varieties like Leccino and Picual. Try out some California Olive oil at home.</p>	

Tree 22 (I,6) **Monkey Puzzle Tree**

*Araucaria arucana*

<p>Origin: Chile</p> <p><i>Araucaria</i> name is derived from the Chilean native Araucanians</p> <p>Common name became popular after an Englishman remarked 'it would puzzle a monkey to climb that.'</p> <p>evergreen</p> <p>Grows to 100 ft</p> <p>Thick, tough leaves that are very pointy</p> <p>Seeds are edible, like large pine nuts.</p> <p>Large seed pod which is very heavy and can harm anything that it falls on</p>
<p>Consider this:</p> <p>If you were a monkey, would you climb this tree?</p>

Tree 2 (B,4) **Norway Maple**

*Acer platanoides*

<p>Origin: Norway</p> <p>Deciduous</p> <p>Grows to 80 ft</p> <p>Palmate leaves with 5 main veins</p> <p>lobed with pointed tips</p> <p>golden fall color</p> <p>yellow spring flower clusters</p> <p>pair of spread Winged seeds are about 4 inches long</p> <p>they spin like a helicopter blade when falling from the tree in the winter</p> <p>roots can be invasive and cause infrastructure damage</p>
<p>Consider this:</p> <p>Find a leaf on the ground and compare the veins to the fingers on your hand</p>

Tree 3 (A,7) Coast Live Oak

*Quercus agrifolia*

<p>Origin: California Agrifolia = rough leaves Evergreen Grows to 70 ft</p> <p>Cupped leaves with pointed edge Underside of leaves have fuzzy hairs along the veins Thick leaf with waxy coating to prevent evaporation during hot dry summers</p> <p>Acorns are narrow with a pointed end, about 1.5 inches long Bowl like cap has scales</p> <p>Dense foliage Drought tolerant – does not like any summer watering, so keep away from lawns</p>
<p>Consider this: Find a leaf and count the points See if you can find an acorn that the squirrels missed – and draw it</p>

Tree 21 (J,6) Japanese Maple

*Acer palmatum*

<p>Origin: Japan Deciduous Grows to 30 ft</p> <p>There are many different cultivars with various leaf shapes and colors Palmate leaves with veins coming from base point Prefers partial shade and consistent water Nice small landscape tree</p>
<p>Consider this: Compare this leaf to the Norway maple leaf at the beginning of the walk. How are they different?</p>

Tree 19 (K,6) **Southern Magnolia** *Magnolia grandiflora*

<p>Origin: south eastern US evergreen Grows to 80 Ft Showy large white flowers Leaves have fuzzy brown underside</p>

Tree 20 (J,6) **Saucer Magnolia** *Magnolia soulangeana*

<p>Origin: Hybrid developed in France from species that originated in China A hybrid developed by Etienne Soulange-Bodin in France in 1820. deciduous Grows to 20 Ft</p>
<p>Beautiful big blooms in the spring before the leaves come out Flowers can be white, pink or purple Very nice landscape tree</p>

Tree 4 (A,9) **Redwood grove**

<p><i>Sequoia sempervirens</i></p>
<p>Origin: California Sequoia – named after a Cherokee Indian chief <i>Sempervirens</i> = Latin for 'always green' Evergreen In coastal mountains, can grow to 370 feet, in drier flat land can grow to 100 feet</p>
<p>Resinous wood is resistant to insects, making this an excellent wood for construction.</p>
<p>Thick reddish bark is resistant to fires</p>
<p>Redwoods prefer the coastal fog belt where they can absorb water from the air so it doesn't have to travel 300 feet up from the roots.</p>
<p>Give them plenty of room to grow because roots can be invasive as they seek out water</p>
<p>Consider this: This is our California state tree</p>

**Tree 5 (B,9) Blue Atlas Cedar**

*Cedrus atlantica* 'Glauca'

<p>Origin: Himalayas Evergreen Grows to 80 ft</p> <p>Needle like leaves grow in clusters off the branches On this species the needles have a blue – green color</p> <p>Upright cones that break apart when mature to release seeds. The 'cone petals' drop around the tree.</p> <p>Wind pollination</p> <p>Aromatic wood</p> <p>Fine specimen tree</p>	
<p>Consider this: Can you find a cone petal on the ground? Do the needles look bluish to you?</p>	

**Tree 18 (L,5) Chaste Tree**

*Vitex agnus-castus*

<p>Origin: China Deciduous Grows to 15 ft</p> <p>Gorgeous summer purple flower spikes Drought tolerant once established They can die back in a severe frost</p> <p>Nice small landscape tree</p>	
<p>Consider this: If you come in the summer, look for a flower spike, stand back and watch for insects who gather nectar and pollen.</p>	

Tree 16 (J,4) **Cockspur Hawthorn** *Crataegus crus-galli*

<p>Origin: eastern North America 'cock spur' name refers to the thorns on the branches, like a rooster's foot spur deciduous Grows to 30 ft Small lobed leaf Fall color is purplish Good small landscape tree</p>	
---	--

Tree 6 (G,9) **Blue Gum Eucalyptus** *Eucalyptus globulus*

<p>Origin: Australia Evergreen Grows to 150 feet Many species - Blue gum is one of largest Not recommended for residential planting – they produce a lot of leaf and bark litter Roots can be invasive</p>	
--	--

Tree 17 (J,4) **Sweet Gum** *Liquidambar styraciflua*

<p>Origin: south eastern US deciduous Grows to 70 ft Nice shade tree Round hooked seed balls Beautiful Fall color Common street tree in our area</p>	
--	--

Tree 7 (I,9) **Cajeput** *Melaleuca quinquenervia*

<p>Origin: Australia Evergreen Grows to 30 feet Rounded crown creates dense shade underneath Bottle brush type flowers at the ends of branches Tough tree that can tolerate difficult conditions – drought, heat, wind, poor or salty soil</p>	
--	--

Tree 8 (J,9) **Giant Sequoia**

*Sequoiadendron giganteum*

<p>Origin: California Evergreen Grows to 250 ft in native habitat; to 100 ft in urban areas Massive trunks can have a diameter of 30 ft in native habitat Foliage is scale like Bark can be up to 2 feet thick Cones are 3 inches Giant Sequoias grow in open groves among other types of trees Some trees are estimated to be 4000 years old Slow growing, so plan for mature size</p>
<p>Consider this: If this tree had a 30 foot diameter trunk – how far would that spread?</p>

Tree 15 (M,3) **Valley Oak**

*Quercus lobata*

<p>Origin: California Lobata = 'lobed' Deciduous Grows to 100 feet with wide spread Majestic trees with thick trunk covered in scaly bark Rounded canopy with roughly bent branches Leaves are deeply lobed with rounded ends Oak trees produce acorns – and Valley oak produces some of the largest – up to 2 inches long Oaks support a wide variety of animals and are important for habitats. Drought tolerant – avoid any summer watering Plant away from lawns Give these trees plenty of room to spread</p>
<p>Consider this: This tree is on the emblem for the Town of Atherton. Find a leaf and count the lobes</p>

Tree 14 (R,1) **Crepe Myrtle**

*Lagerstroemia indica*

<p>Origin: China, Japan Deciduous Grows to 10-30 feet Colorful frilly, crepe paper type spring flowers in pinks or whites Oval leaf with smooth edge Fall leaf color Interesting cupped seed pods persist on tree through the winter Smooth, layered bark Beautiful ornamental Likes full sun, drought tolerant once established</p>	
<p>Consider this: Look for a seed pod and count the sections</p>	

Tree 9 (M,9) **Douglas Fir**

*Pseudotsuga menziesii*

<p>Origin: western North America Common name honors David Douglas, a Scottish botanist who, in 1827, brought the tree back for cultivation in Scotland. Species name honors Archibald Menzies, a Scottish physician who first documented the tree on Vancouver Island in 1791 Evergreen Grows to 250 ft in native habitat; to 100 ft in urban areas Needle like leaves stick out all around the branches Cones hang down, are 3-4 inches and have 3 pointed tips on the scales Bark is craggy and rutted Grown as a timber tree in the Pacific north west and raised for Christmas trees</p>	
<p>Consider this: Look for other plants named after people</p>	

Tree 10 (P,8) Elm experimental grove

Ulmus varieties

<p>Origin: central Asia Deciduous Grows to 60 ft</p> <p>In the 1980s and 90s Dutch elm disease spread through Atherton and killed many trees. Holbrook Palmer Park had been called Elmwood because of the many elms on site. People were so concerned about preserving this iconic landscaping tree that a study to find disease resistant varieties started in the Park in 1992. The varieties planted were Prospector, Frontier, American Liberty and Valley Forge. A ten year evaluation report was written by Larry Costello.</p> <p>The Frontier variety proved to have the best branch structure and resistance of the varieties grown. It also has an unusual red-purple leaf color in the fall.</p> <p>Holbrook Palmer Park contributed to a national study of Elms!</p>
<p>Consider this: Is there a tree variety you would like to study?</p>

Tree 13 (M,3) Tulip Tree

Liriodendron tulipifera

<p>Origin: eastern North America Deciduous Grows to over 100 ft</p> <p>In its native environment it can grow to 200 ft – taller than any other deciduous tree.</p> <p>Common name comes from spring flowers which are shaped like tulips</p> <p>Leaves have unusual symmetric shape with four pointed tips</p> <p>The seeds have a single wing and float down as spinning blades in the winter</p> <p>Bark is rough with lots of texture</p> <p>Give plenty of room since it can grow very tall and roots can be invasive</p> <p>Plant away from patios since it produces lots of leaf and seed litter, as well as dripping honeydew from aphids</p>
<p>Consider this: Draw a yellow tulip and imagine it growing on a tree!</p>

Tree 12 (V,5) Pin Oak

*Quercus palustris*

<p>Origin: eastern North America</p> <p>Deciduous</p> <p>Grows to 70 ft</p> <p>Fine tall stately tree</p> <p>Leaves about 4 inches long, deeply lobed with pointed tips</p> <p>Underside of leaf has tufts of hair along the veins</p> <p>Some orange Fall leaf color</p> <p>Small Acorns – about half an inch, with a very shallow cap</p>	
<p>Consider this:</p> <p>Find a leaf and count the points</p>	

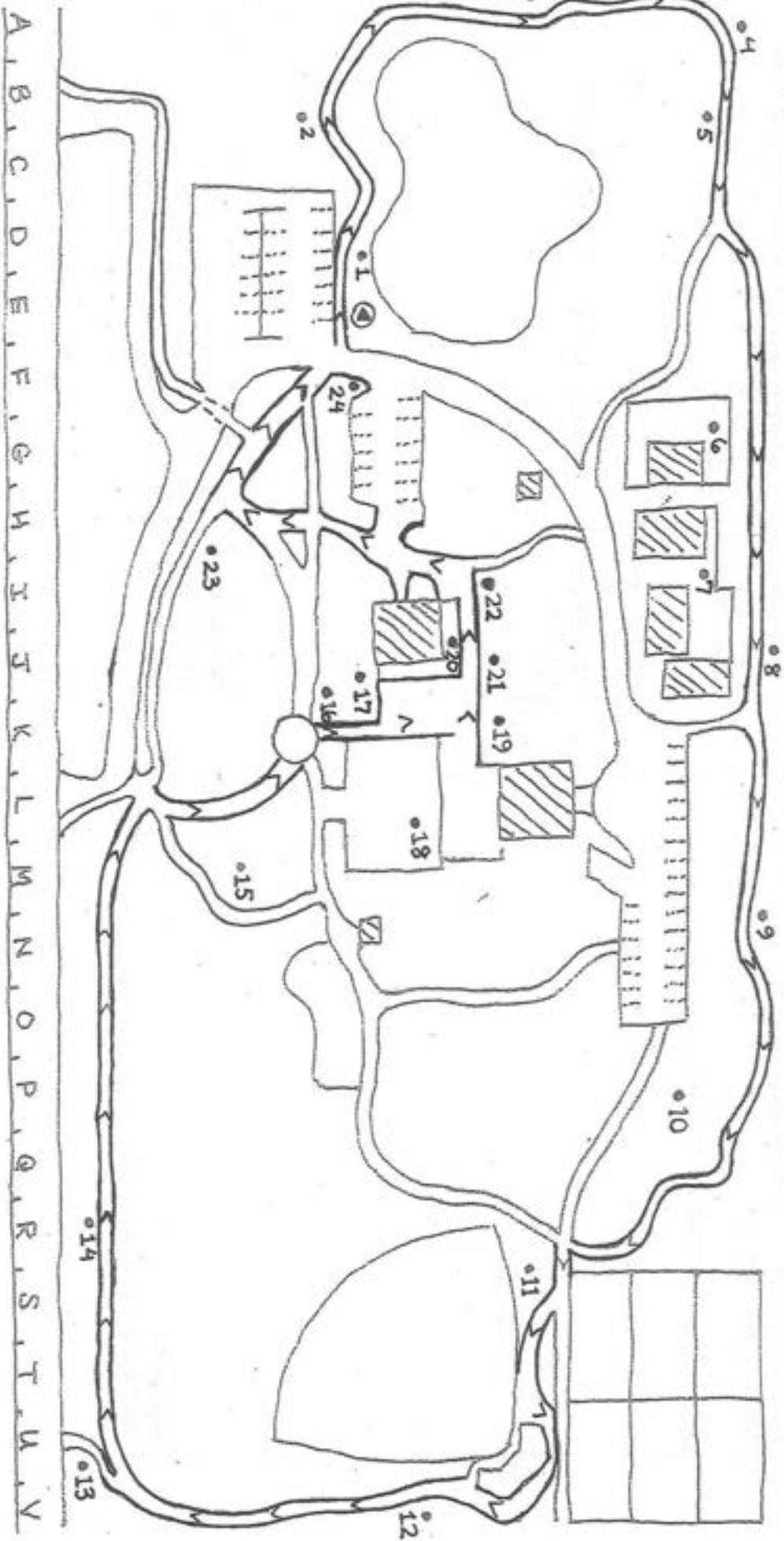
Tree 11 (R,7) Deodar Cedar

*Cedrus deodara*

<p>Origin: Himalayas</p> <p>'deodara' = Hindi for 'tree of the gods'</p> <p>Evergreen</p> <p>Grows to 80 ft</p> <p>Needle like leaves grow in clusters off the branches</p> <p>Upright cones break apart when mature to release seeds. The 'cone petals' drop around the tree.</p> <p>Wind pollination</p> <p>Deodar cedar has drooping branch tips</p> <p>Aromatic wood</p> <p>A fine specimen tree that needs plenty of room to spread lower branches</p>	
<p>Consider this:</p> <p>Can you find a cedar cone petal?</p> <p>Look for more Deodar Cedars along the path near Watkins Ave.</p>	

- 1 (D,4) Shumard Red Oak
- 2 (B,4) Norway Maple
- 3 (A,7) Coast Live Oak
- 4 (A,9) Redwood grove
- 5 (B,9) Blue Atlas Cedar
- 6 (G,9) Blue Gum Eucalyptus
- 7 (I,9) Capeput
- 8 (J,9) Giant Sequoia
- 9 (M,9) Douglas Fir
- 10 (P,8) Elm experimental grove
- 11 (R,7) Deodar Cedar
- 12 (V,5) Pin Oak

- 13 (U,1) Tulip Tree
- 14 (R,1) Crepe Myrtle
- 15 (M,3) Valley Oak
- 16 (J,4) Cockspur Hawthorn
- 17 (I,4) Sweet Gum
- 18 (L,5) Chaste Tree
- 19 (K,6) Southern Magnolia
- 20 (J,6) Saucer Magnolia
- 21 (I,6) Japanese Maple
- 22 (I,6) Monkey Puzzle Tree
- 23 (J,2) Olive
- 24 (F,4) Ornamental Pomegranate



**HPP trees along path & around house - start at parking**

common name	scientific name	column	row	path #	brochure		sign	notes
					pages	post		
Shumardi Red Oak	Quercus shumardii	D	4	1		yes	need new	
Norway Maple	Acer platanoides	B	4	2		yes	replace wo QR	
Coast Live Oak	Quercus agrifolia	A	7	3		need	need new	pick which oak to feature
Redwood Grove	Sequoia sempervirens	A	9	4		need	need new	
Blue Atlas Cedar	Cedrus atlantica 'Glauca'	B	9	5		need	need new	clean dead wood
Blue Gum Eucalyptus	Eucalyptus globulus	G	9	6 6&7		need	need new	maybe put sign on fence
Cajeput	Melaleuca quinquenervia	I	9	7 6&7		need	need new	maybe put sign on fence
Giant Sequoia	Sequoiadendron giganteum	J	9	8		need	need new	
Douglas Fir	Pseudotsuga menziesii	M	9	9		yes	replace wc	clean dead wood
Elm experimental grove	Ulmus varieties	P	8	10		need	need new	put near big VASE shaped tree in center
Deodar Cedar	Cedrus deodara	R	7	11		need	need new	
Pin Oak	Quercus palustris	V	5	12		need	need new	add barriers on path so people don't cut off curve
Tulip Tree	Liriodendron tulipifera	U	1	13		yes	replace wc	maybe put sign on fence
Crepe Myrtle	Lagerstroemia indica	R	1	14		yes	replace wo QR	
Valley Oak	Quercus lobata	M	3	15		need	need new	
Cockspur Hawthorn	Crataegus crus-galli	J	4	16 16 & 17		yes	replace wo QR	
Sweet Gum	Liquidambar styraciflua	J	4	17 16 & 17		yes	replace wc	maybe another sign near path
Chaste Tree	Vitex agnus-castus	L	5	18		yes	replace wo QR	
Southern Magnolia	Magnolia grandiflora	K	6	19 19 & 20		yes	replace wo QR	
Saucer Magnolia	Magnolia soulangeana	J	6	20 19 & 20		yes	replace wo QR	
Japanese Maple	Acer palmatum	J	6	21		yes	replace wo QR	
Monkey Puzzle	Araucaria arucana	I	6	22		yes	replace wo QR	
Olive	Olea europaea	H	2	23		yes	replace wo QR	
Ornamental Pomegranate	Punica granatum	F	4	24		yes	replace wc	trim broken branch, dig out oak