

MEADOWTHORPE TREE WALK

(TREES IDENTIFIED MAY – JULY 2015)

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Technical assistance provided by: LFUCG Urban Forester Tim Queary

Meadowthorpe's own champion Post Oak tree (Hillsboro Avenue), newly listed in the Fayette County Champion Tree Program



MEADOWTHORPE TREE WALK – INTRODUCTION

Meadowthorpe would not be the appealing, pedestrian-friendly neighborhood it is without our trees. They shield us from the sun's heat and glare, help to keep our houses cool, reduce air pollution, and substantially improve our property values. We appreciate the shade our tree canopy provides. We know our neighborhood would not be a desirable place to live without them. But how closely do we observe them? How clearly do we see them?

There's an old saying about not being able to see the forest for the trees. In some cases, we may not see the trees for the forest, especially in an established neighborhood like ours, with a considerable number of mature trees, in which individual trees tend to blend together to form a canopy—great for walking on a warm summer day, not so great for seeing our neighborhood's trees as individual specimens. That's a large part of why we decided to create a Meadowthorpe Tree Walk, a listing of some of our neighborhood's most distinctive trees.

With the able assistance of Tim Queary, Lexington's Urban Forester, we identified trees that stand out because of one or more prominent features—age, rarity, beauty, condition, size. We also included a number of city government's approved street trees, so that if you're thinking of replacing or adding a tree to the utility strip, you can check out examples of various species before making a selection for your particular site.

So that you can start your tree walk from any point in the neighborhood, the list is organized street by street. Each tree is identified by common name, located by address and whether it is situated in the utility strip or in front or back yard. A brief comment and the tree's estimated age accompany each citation.

To learn more about a tree that captures your interest, consult *The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Trees: Eastern Region* or go online to <http://www.arborday.org/trees/treeGuide/browseTrees.cfm> or <http://www.arborday.org/trees/benefits/cfm>. For information on Lexington's approved street trees and related guidelines: <http://www.lexingtonky.gov/index.aspx?page=2883>.

We hope this initial edition of the Meadowthorpe Tree Walk helps you to better see and appreciate the number of distinctive trees throughout our neighborhood. As you walk, take note also of the gaps in our street tree canopy, the many locations where street trees have been removed and not replaced. You might notice as well the many ash trees succumbing to the onslaught of the emerald ash borer and the number of pin oaks, a relatively short-lived tree, now dying of advanced age. Given all they do for us, our trees deserve our care and respect. What can and should we do to restore and rebuild this critical environmental, economic, and aesthetic resource? That's a question for further discussion and possible action. Stay tuned.

We hope the Meadowthorpe Tree Walk can be maintained as a work in progress, keeping pace, slow though it might be, with changes in our tree portfolio through time. We invite you to participate in the process. Do you have a correction, a suggestion, a tree you think should be added to the next edition of the list? Send your comments to colemanbush@twc.com or tblues@twc.com.

CHOOSING, PLANTING, MAINTAINING YOUR TREE: URBAN FORESTER'S BEST PRACTICES

Tim Queary's list of do's and don'ts.

Selecting/Purchasing

1. Select a good quality tree with a single straight trunk, no forks or multiple trunks.
2. Give preference to a tree species native to Kentucky.
3. Choose a slow growing, long-lived tree over short-lived, vulnerable "quick shade" or "abundance of flowers." The faster a tree grows, the shorter its life span.
4. Right tree for the right place: Plant only small ornamental trees near overhead power lines.
5. If replacing and/or selecting for a utility strip site: First call 311 or go online to Lexingtonky.gov/Forestry. Click on "Street Tree Guidelines/Approved Trees" and "Permit to Remove or Replace a Street Tree."
6. Purchase your tree with a one year guarantee from a reputable nursery.

Planting

1. Before you dig a hole, call 811 to have underground utilities on your property located and marked. That's the law and will take only a few minutes of your time.
2. Remove all impediments to root growth around root ball: burlap, wire basket, twine, etc.
3. Do not plant your tree too deep, a common mistake. The trunk flare should be visible at or slightly above grade.
4. Do not pile or stack mulch against the tree's trunk. Apply mulch to a maximum depth of 2-3 inches, spread evenly and away from the trunk.
5. Water your new tree thoroughly after planting.
6. Don't stake your tree. It's unnecessary.

Maintaining

1. Water your tree at least once a week throughout the first and second growing seasons, until it is well established.

2. Apply fertilizer only after your tree is well established—two years.
3. Your tree requires annual maintenance. As it matures, prune the lowest branches from the ground up and remove any low-hanging branches.
4. Make clean pruning cuts with a good, sharp hand saw. Before cutting, identify the branch bark collar and ridge; then cut along that line. Do not leave stubs and do not cut a branch flush with the trunk.
5. If you do not know how to prune, consult a website, such as www.tree-pruning.com, or an instructional book like *The Pruning Book*, by Lee Reich (Taunton Press).
6. If you do not want or are unable to prune your tree, hire only a professional arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture to do the work. Make sure the company is registered with LFUCG and is fully insured. Checking with the Better Business Bureau in advance of hiring is a good precaution.
7. Do not top or allow vines to grow up and into your tree. Both practices will disfigure and kill your tree.

Safety and Courtesy

1. Do not use ladders to climb trees, especially around overhead power lines. If you need a ladder to prune a tree, it is probably safer to hire an arborist.
2. Remove or have removed dead and/or hazardous trees with potential to fall and to cause property damage or an accident, especially during severe weather.
3. Prune your street tree according to city ordinance: 7 feet over sidewalk for pedestrian clearance; 12 feet over street for emergency vehicles, buses, trucks. Make sure your tree does not block any road signs, street lights, or traffic signals.
4. Talk with your neighbor before removing branches overhanging your property line.
5. Be aware of how the trees on your property affect your neighbors and the community.

More Information: Selecting, Planting, Caring for Trees

1. <http://www.lexingtonky.gov/forestry>
2. <http://www.treesaregood.com/>
3. <http://www.arborday.org>

MEADOWTHORPE TREE WALK

(Trees identified May through July, 2015)					
#	Street	Tree	Location	Comments	Approx. Age
205	Boiling Springs Dr.	Silver Maple	Utility strip on Meadowthorpe Ave.	The Silver Maple is one of the most common trees in the central US and is one of the fastest growing maples.	60+
205	Boiling Springs Dr.	Northern Red Oak	Utility strip	An approved street tree, the Northern Red Oak is one of the most widespread and commercially important of the oaks.	30-40
300	Boiling Springs Dr.	Japanese Zelkova	Front yard	The Japanese Zelkova is a wonderful alternative to some of the elm tree species, especially the American elm.	50+
309	Boiling Springs Dr.	Willow Oak	Utility strip	An approved street tree, this medium to large southern oak with willow-like foliage is known for its rapid growth and long life.	5
251	Burke Rd.	Northern Red Oak (2)	Front yard	See above for comment.	65+
275	Burke Rd.	Red Maple	Front yard	An approved street tree, over most of its range, the Red Maple is adaptable to a very wide range of site conditions, perhaps more so than any other tree in eastern North America	40
288	Burke Rd.	Blue Ash	Back yard	This tree is rare due to its apparent age; while still a target of the Emerald Ash Borer, the blue ash is slower to be infested with this destructive insect than either the white or green ash.	100+
216	Glendale Ave.	Red Maple	Left front yard	See above for comment.	60+
245	Glendale Ave.	Northern Red Oak	Utility strip	See above for comment.	20-25
248	Glendale Ave.	White Ash	Utility strip	This White Ash tree appears quite healthy and likely has been subject to EAB treatment.	10
268	Glendale Ave.	Red Maple (2)	Utility strip	Note that the homeowner has been maintaining these trees through annual pruning. See above for further comment.	5

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#	Street	Tree	Location	Comments	Approx. Age
313	Glendale Ave.	American Holly	Front yard	American Holly is prized as an easy-care tree for the home landscape.	60
317	Glendale Ave.	Katsura Tree	Utility strip	A rare tree for our tree walk, the Katsura Tree , native to Japan, makes an excellent specimen or shade tree in landscapes. Its foliage offers an array of color throughout the year. In spring, heart-shaped leaves emerge reddish-purple, changing to blue-green as they mature. In autumn the color display changes again as leaves turn clear yellow or apricot color.	25
325	Glendale Ave.	Northern Red Oak	Utility strip	See above for comment.	25
257	Hillsboro Ave.	Post Oak	Utility strip	The Post Oak is a native tree to Kentucky but is uncommon to the Bluegrass Region. This Post Oak is listed as a champion in the Fayette County Champion Tree Program. We are not aware of another Post Oak in Fayette County.	60+
215	Larch Ln.	Kentucky Yellowwood (3)	Utility strip on Meadowthorpe Ave.	An approved street tree, the Yellowwood is native to Kentucky; the bright yellow-colored wood gives the tree its name.	3-5
224	Larch Ln.	Honey Locust	Utility strip	An approved street tree, cultivated thornless varieties of Honey Locust are popular in landscaping and along city streets—in autumn, the small leaflets and midveins make little mess.	20
227	Larch Ln.	White Ash	Utility strip	This tree appears quite healthy and has been subject to EAB treatment.	65+
263	Larch Ln.	Saucer Magnolia	Front yard	Saucer Magnolia is a widely planted and showy flowering tree and an especially popular spring bloomer in the urban landscape.	30+

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268	Larch Ln.	Black Gum	Utility strip	An approved street tree, a showy tree in autumn, the Black Gum's dark green foliage changes to oranges, reds, and purples.	15
279	Larch Ln.	Japanese Maple	Front yard	Japanese Maples add grace and beauty through the seasons.	15-20
288	Larch Ln.	Japanese Maple	Front yard	See above for comment.	15-20
292	Larch Ln.	River Birch	Front yard	River Birches are highly adaptable to various soils and climates, and are extremely easy to grow.	30
310	Leona Dr.	Pin Oak	Front yard	A well-maintained and relatively healthy Pin Oak for its age.	60+
321	Leona Dr.	American Basswood	Front yard	A much younger cousin to the American Basswood beside the Henry Clay monument at Lexington Cemetery, which is the largest of its species in the country.	60+
331	Leona Dr.	Sugar Maple	Back yard	A massive specimen.	60+
331	Leona Dr.	Southern Magnolia	Front yard	Few trees have more ornamental uses than the Southern Magnolia . The species is a prime candidate as a specimen tree, grown alone or as a backdrop for other trees.	40+
1520	Meadowthorpe Ave.	Pin Oak	Side yard	This tree is in excellent condition for the species.	35-40
1554	Meadowthorpe Ave.	Ginkgo	Front yard	This tree is a male; Due to the fruit dropped by the female, male trees are much preferred. Ginkgo Biloba trees are the oldest type on earth and commonly called living fossils. They provide a medicinal extract and fine fall foliage.	65
1602	Meadowthorpe Ave.	Sweet Gum	Front yard	A magnificent specimen of the species; perhaps the largest in Meadowthorpe.	60-70

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1602	Meadowthorpe Ave.	Bald Cypress	Front yard	This tree and the following tree are excellent examples of the species; the Kentucky champion tree is in Fulton County and is 130 feet tall.	60+
1457	N Forbes Rd.	Bald Cypress	Front yard	See above for comment.	60+
1457	N Forbes Rd.	American Beech	Front yard	We are not aware of any other American Beech in Meadowthorpe; American Beech is the only member of the genus <i>Fagus</i> native to North America.	60+
1459	N Forbes Rd.	Japanese Cherry	Utility strip	An approved street tree, the Japanese Cherry tree belongs to the rose family and is known for its masses of white and pink spring blossoms.	4-5
1491	N Forbes Rd.	Southern Magnolia	Front yard	See above for comment.	60+
1499	N Forbes Rd.	Butternut	Utility strip	This tree is also known as a White Walnut Tree.	30+
1499	N Forbes Rd.	Pecan	Utility strip	Likely the only Pecan trees in Meadowthorpe.	30+
1501	N Forbes Rd.	Colorado Blue Spruce	Front yard	Colorado Blue Spruce trees are deer-resistant and used as specimens or windbreaks. One of the authors did spy a deer in his back yard on one occasion.	40+
1507	N Forbes Rd.	Blue Ash	Front yard	Tree is on R property line and is near N Forbes Rd. just behind sidewalk on west side of Pelican Lane; a rare tree that grows on limestone only. This is the tree on the right of the companion tree below.	45-50
1507	N Forbes Rd.	Bitternut Hickory	Front yard	Tree is on R property line and is near N Forbes Rd. just behind sidewalk on west side of Pelican Lane; a common Hickory that has bitter nuts usually too ill-fit for human consumption, as its name implies.	45-50
1507	N Forbes Rd.	Hackberry	Front yard	A large tree of the species that grew in what was once a fence row before this lot was developed in the 60s.	80+

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#	Street	Tree	Location	Comments	Approx. Age
1507	N Forbes Rd.	Wild Cherry	Front yard	Another large tree that got its start in what was once a fence row before this lot was developed in the 60s.	80+
1511	N Forbes Rd.	Bur Oak	Front yard	The Bur Oak is one of the most massive oaks; some may live to 400 years	200+
1601	Old Leestown Rd.	Pin Oak (2)	Front yard and side yard	Massive trees which were likely well underway when Meadowthorpe was developed as a subdivision.	100+
1637	Old Leestown Rd.	Cucumber Magnolia	Front yard	The average lifespan of a Cucumber Magnolia is 100 to 120 years, but the national champion in North Canton, Ohio is estimated to be 432 years old, making it the oldest known Cucumber Magnolia in the world.	50+
1641	Old Leestown Rd.	Sugar Maple	Front yard	A well maintained specimen; beauty, charm and strength — the Sugar Maple is a hardwood that embodies it all.	70
N/A	Old Leestown Rd.	American Sycamore (2)	Median between Old Leestown Road and Leestown Road and between Boiling Springs Dr. and Taylor Dr.	American Sycamore trees make great shade trees because of their dense foliage and great fall color.	100+
N/A	Old Leestown Rd.	White Pine (numerous)	Median between Old Leestown Road and Leestown Road and between Boiling Springs Dr. and Taylor Dr.	These trees are excellent for screening.	30-40
317	Pelican Ln.	Shumard Red Oak	Front yard	Shumard Red Oak , or swamp red oak, is one of the largest of the oak species in the red oak group.	80-100
324	Pelican Ln.	Common Pawpaw (2)	Front yard	Kentucky State University has the only full-time Pawpaw research program in the world as part of the KSU Land Grant Program.	10-15

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215	Pepper Dr.	Southern Magnolia	Front yard	See above for comment.	40+
251	Pepper Dr.	Willow Oak	Utility strip	See above for comment.	13+
267	Pepper Dr.	Bur Oak	Front yard	See above for comment.	200+
293	Taylor Dr.	Eastern Redbud	Front yard	Growing everywhere from Canada to Florida, Eastern Redbud is a perfect tree for home landscaping.	30+
297	Taylor Dr.	White Oak (2)	Side utility strip	An approved street tree, the White Oak is one of the pre-eminent hardwoods of eastern North America.	10+
314	Taylor Dr.	Norway Spruce	Front yard	The Norway Spruce is the most widespread, fastest growing, largest and most disease resistant spruce in the northern hemisphere.	50+
1462	Townley Dr.	Golden Raintree	Front yard	Golden Raintree is an excellent small lawn and street tree that is adaptable to most soil conditions. With yellow flowers, good golden fall color, and seeds that change from green to yellow to tan, Golden Rain Trees are known for their fast-growing nature.	20
1490	Townley Dr.	Honey Locust	Utility strip	See above for comment.	7-8
1499	Townley Dr.	Foster's Holly	Front yard	This holly is a female cultivar, but there's no need to plant a male specimen to ensure berry production. It is parthenocarpic, meaning it can produce fruit without pollination.	25-30