



About Riverside Park...

Riverside Park, one of Grand Rapids largest and most popular parks lies between the Grand River and Monroe Avenue and extends from Knapp Street to North Park Street, an area of 180.95 acres. Most of the land was secured through purchase from the Comstock family in the 1930's, while 40 of those acres were donated. The park has many attractions and amenities for users to enjoy, including boat launches and dock, picnic shelters, playgrounds, bike trails, regulation baseball and softball diamonds and soccer fields.

Today, Riverside Park offers visitors more than 2.2 miles of hiking trails, waterside paths, vista points, and expansive natural areas, making it the perfect place for families wanting to plan a Saturday afternoon picnic. In addition, Riverside is a popular place for Frisbee golf, dog walking and fishing. It also hosts a variety of special events including walks, runs, concerts, and Native American Pow Wows as well as regattas for high school rowing teams.



Tree Identification Tour

Fifty trees have been tagged in the park. The tags are blue in color and are nailed to the tree at about head height. Each tag has a number that corresponds to information in this document.

Did you know?

You can find out the annual benefits of trees from www.treebenefits.org a web site that calculates values based on the region of the country, the tree species, and its diameter. You may be surprised to learn how much trees are benefiting you!

Special thanks goes to **Vic Foerster** of the West Michigan Tree Services for compiling the tree identification information for this publication!

1. Horsechestnut

- Leaves are light green as they unfold, emerging dark green at maturity
- Produces Nut like seeds called conkers, known as the buckeye
- White flowers with a small white spot in the spring



2. Zelcova

- Native to Southern Europe
- Leaves are alternate, with serrated margins
- Fruit is a dry, nut-like drupe



3, 36. American Elm

- Hardy tree, can withstand extremely cold temperatures
- Small purple-brown flowers in the spring



4, 5. Black Willow

- #5 together w/Cottonwood
- Long, thin, dark and shiny leaves
- Found along streams and swamps
- Ojibwa tribe used its branches and twigs to make baskets



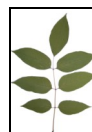
6, 12, 33, 49, 50. Cottonwood

- Diamond or triangle shaped leaves
- Seeds have cotton-like structures that are blown about in the air
- Wood is soft and easy to carve, ideal medium for artisans
- Tree #33 and its twin have been hit by lightning—notice the split trunk



7, 13, 19, 45, 48. Ash

- Beware! Poison Ivy is growing on tree #13
- Threatened by emerald ash borer
- Strong and elastic wood used to make bows, tool handles and baseball bats



8, 18, 23, 24. Silver Maple

- Tree #18 is an apartment complex for squirrels
- Native to North America
- Slender stalks of silver and green leaves, creating a unique effect when blown by the wind
- Pale yellow fall color



9. Thornless Honeylocust

- Bright green leaflets, turn yellow in the fall
- Produces a flat seed-pod fruit
- Tolerant of urban conditions



10. Weeping Willow- In Water

- Spirally arranged, narrow, light green leaves with serrated edges
- Gold-yellow fall color
- Popular ornamental tree



11. Dawn Redwood

- Bright green leaves, turning red-brown in the fall
- Pollen cones produced on long spikes



16. Shagbark Hickory

- Mature trees have shaggy bark
- Produces an edible, sweet-tasting nut
- Wood is used for smoking meat



15, 22, 27. Hackberry

- Long, oval shaped leaves, tapering to a long point
- Produces green and fuzzy flowers



17, 30. Red Oak

- Large, alternate, 7-9 lobed leaves, with bristle-pointed teeth
- Dark green leaves
- Rich red or brown autumn color
- Used for timber



14. American Beech

- Native to North America
- Dark green leaves with small teeth
- Highly shade-tolerant
- Wood harvested for flooring and furniture



20. Hawthorn

- Shrub or small tree
- Deeply lobed, dark green leaves
- White flowers produced in spring
- Edible fruit, called haws, used for jellies, jams, and syrups



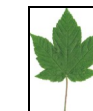
21, 25, 26. Swamp White Oak

- Egg shaped leaves
- Yellow-brown fall color
- Yields acorns



28, 37. Sycamore

- Mottled, exfoliating bark
- Leaves grow sticky, green buds
- Green, 3 to 5 lobed leaves. Brown fall color.



29, 47. Sugar Maple

- Spectacular range of fall color: bright yellow to deep red
- Used to make maple syrup, as well as bowling pins and alleys



31. Red Maple

- Vibrant Red fall color
- Used in maple syrup production



32. Yellow Poplar

- Pale green or yellow flowers
- Four lobed, heart shaped leaves
- Light green in color, turns yellow in the fall



34. Little Leaf Linden

- Heart shaped leaves
- Small yellow-green flowers
- National tree of the Czech Republic and the Republic of Slovakia



35., 38. Redbud

- Simple rounded leaves
- Pinkish-red flowers in the spring



39. Schwedler Maple

- Also known as Norway Maple
- 5 lobed leaves with sharp points
- Dark green leaves in summer, yellow fall color



40, 44. Flowering Crab

- 400 to 600 varieties that freely hybridize
- Yields small fruit, ranging from green to red in color
- Grows small white, red or pink flowers in spring



41. Mulberry

- Yields dark purple to black fruit
- Fruit is edible, commonly used in pies and tarts



42. American Elm

- Hardy tree that can live over 250 years
- Mostly used for ornamental and shade



43. Norway Spruce

- Needle-like, dark green leaves
- Commonly used as Christmas trees



46. Crimson Maple

- Red and purple leaves
- Yellow fall color
- Provides heavy shade



