

## Looking to plant a tree?

Here are selected trees for urban areas of Sonoma County.

**Chinese Hackberry** *Celtis sinensis* - 30', fast, street tree, round headed, drought tolerant, grows in poor soil

**Chinese Tallow Tree** *Sapinum sebiferum* - 30'-40', fast, moderate, graceful, ornamental, pyramidal, fall color, good in lawns

**Chinese Pistache** *Pistia chinensis* - 30'-50' slow, brilliant fall color, pest-free, grows in poor alkaline soils

**Cork Oak** *Quercus suber* - 40'-60', moderate, hardy, evergreen oak, good shade tree, drought tolerant

**Deodar cedar** *Cedrus deodar* - 80', fast, conifer, graceful, hardy, pendulous, ok in lawns, evergreen

**Flowering pear** *Pyrus callevara* - 40', moderate, attractive, small landscape tree, flowers, grows in poor alkaline soils, good in lawns, non-invasive roots

**Golden Rain Tree** *Koelreutheria paniculata* - 25'-35', slow to moderate, ornamental flowers, fall color, fire blight resistant, good in poor, alkaline soil

**Hedge Maple** *Acer campestre* - 35' slow, drought tolerant, good in poor soils, very hardy, good in alkaline soil

**Scarlet Oak** *Quercus coccinca* - 50'-80', fast, fall color, hardy, lawn tree, fine to garden under

**Trident Maple** *Acer buergeranum* - 35'-45', ornamental, striking fall color, hardy, lawn tree

**Tupelo** *Nyssa sylvatica* - 30'-40', moderate, lawn tree, striking fall color, good for naturalized areas, moderate drought tolerance

Trees good for undisturbed natural areas. No irrigation.

**Black Oak** *Quercus kelloggi* - 30'-80' moderate, hardy, deeply lobed leaves, fall color

**Coast Live Oak** *Quercus agrifolia* - 30'-60', fast, hardy, evergreen

**Madrone** *Arbutus menziesii* - 30'-50', slow, beautiful, evergreen, distinctive, flowers, fruit

**Valley Oak** *Quercus lobata* - 60'-75', moderate, best in deep soils, deeply lobed leaves



### 1. Dawn Redwood - *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*.

The Plaza Walk begins at the S.E. corner of Matheson and Center Streets as you enter the Park. This unique deciduous conifer is native to China and is the only living member of the genus, which before 1944 was only known from fossils and was thought to be extinct. An American botanist in China rediscovered a population of the species and introduced it to the United States. Originally donated to the City as a potted plant, this tree was planted here in 1953.

### 2. Coast Redwood - *Sequoia sempervirens*.

This tree, a youthful giant planted in 1924, illustrates that size and age have little correlation. Coast Redwoods are the tallest known trees. The scientific name is named after Sequoyah, a Cherokee Indian scholar who created an alphabet for his people. The redwood thrives in the fog of the north coast.

### 3. Bradford Pear - *Pyrus calleryana* "bradfordi."

Across Matheson Street is a row of Bradford Pears. This tree delights us with an array of colors. In the spring white flowers can be found on its branches. In the summer, dark green foliage is prominent. In the fall, the leaves turn an impressive wine red color. It remains one of the most popular street trees in America.

### 4. Southern Magnolia - *Magnolia grandiflora*.

A little farther down Matheson Street stands the Southern Magnolia. This is the only evergreen magnolia. This tree is planted around the world for its ornamental beauty. It is characterized by very large creamy, white flowers that emerge in summer and low branches that trap moisture in the soil. The leaves are thick and leathery, making them unpopular with the insects that like to munch on trees. In late summer, the pinkish-red fruit hangs off the tree and is loved by wildlife. When the seeds ripen they are expelled from the fruit after hanging from a silky strand for a few days.

**5. Canary Island Date Palm - *Phoenix canariensis*.**

Located in the stone planters around the center of the park. These four trees were planted here in 1897 as part of a campaign to promote Healdsburg as a tropical paradise. It is often called the pineapple palm due to the trunk resembling the fruit. This palm is native to the Canary Islands although it is now common in many nearly frost-free areas such as Healdsburg.

**6. Formosa Gum - *Liquidambar formosana*.**

On either side of the palm stands a Formosa Gum. This tree comes to us from Taiwan but is often mistaken for the American Sweet Gum. The resin found in the tree bark can be used in making perfumes, soaps, and incense. In the fall this tree will be a brilliant myriad of colors and in the winter spiny-balled fruits ornament the tree.

**7. American Holly - *Ilex opaca*.**

Across the path is American Holly, a small tree with random spines on the leaves. This tree is probably familiar to you due to its association with Christmas. When early settlers came to America in 1620, a week before Christmas, they were greeted by the American Holly that reminded them of their own English Holly. Native up and down the east coast, this tree has since been cultivated throughout the country.

**8. London Plane Tree - *Platanus acerifolia*.**

In the middle of the park, stands a tree with an unusual bark pattern. This sycamore is a cross between the American Sycamore and the Oriental Plane Tree. This species is known for its hardiness in city habitats and its shady canopy. One third of the street trees in Paris are sycamores because of their resilience. They are known to be messy trees dropping leaves, bark, and fruiting structures all season long. They are also one of the only trees that can grow in select locations in all fifty states.

**9. Deodar cedar - *Cedrus deodara*.**

You will find this small cedar growing at slight lean along Matheson Street. The Hindu name *deodar* means “timber of the gods.” This graceful tree comes to us from the Himalayas where they grow much larger than they do in the United States. The catkins, or flowers, produce massive amounts of pollen and can cover you in yellow dust.

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Tree Walk of Healdsburg, first edition



**39. Port Orford Cedar - *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*.**

This tree sits behind the tall fence at 315 Second Street. A native to Oregon, the wood is used to make high quality boats, venetian blinds, broom handles, wet cell battery dividers, chests, aircraft plywood, veneer, stringed instrument soundboards, and arrow shafts. This wood was used to build the Hawaiian Presidential Palace and Japanese Buddhist temples. It is in great demand in China and Japan to make coffins because of its close relationship to the Hinoki Cypress which is believed to have spiritual value.

**Thank you** for participating and we hope that you have enjoyed the Tree Walk. If you do not wish to keep this booklet please return it, so that others can enjoy this walk. Thank you.

**10. Incense Cedar - *Calocedrus decurrens*.**

At the corner of Matheson Street and Healdsburg Avenue stands a large cedar. This cedar is used commercially for aromatic cedar chests and is the leading tree used to make pencils. It is well known for covering the forest floor of Yosemite Valley but also does very well in cultivation. The deeply furrowed red bark helps mature trees resist the fires of their west coast home.



**11. Pin Oak - *Quercus palustris*.**

In front of the cedar and a row of redwoods stand three Pin Oaks. The Pin Oak can be found all over the U.S. in parks due to its fast growth rate when young. Its name derives from the bristly appearance of the tree. The russet leaves of fall will hang until spring. Unlike most oaks, this species thrives in moist soils and is a fine tree for lawns.

**12. Ginkgo - *Ginkgo biloba*.**

In front of the last redwood along Healdsburg Avenue is the beloved Ginkgo tree. The Ginkgo has a male and a female tree; the female of the species produces putrid fruits. Female trees are rarely planted due to the unappealing smell of the fruit when crushed. The Ginkgo tree has been grown on earth for 150 million years, making it one of the oldest species still surviving. Native to China, the Ginkgo tree no longer lives in the wild, but is regarded as a very good tree under cultivation. The tree has leathery light green leaves in spring which turn a blazing yellow in fall.

**13. Tulip Tree - *Liriodendron tulipifera*.**

Walking towards the middle of the park the next tree you come to is a Tulip Tree, also known as Yellow Poplar. This tree is often confused with the deciduous Saucer Magnolia (tree #38), which is erroneously also referred to as Tulip Tree. These majestic trees are among the tallest deciduous trees growing in the wild; however, due to urban stress they grow much smaller in landscaped areas. In late May their flowers bloom and attract hummingbirds, honeybees and butterfly larvae; however, their nectar also attracts aphids and honeydew, and promotes unsightly sooty mold.

**14. Colorado Blue Spruce - *Picea pungens*.**

The smaller tree growing along Plaza Street is a Colorado Blue Spruce. This tree is at home in the mountains of the west but is planted elsewhere because it tolerates cold, drought, and poor soil conditions. They are widely planted because of their striking silvery-blue needles; however, spider mites often attack this species giving it an unsightly appearance.

**15. Orange** - *Citrus sp.*

Lining the path towards the bus shelter stands a distinctive row of trees that can be found all over the Plaza. Tasty ripe fruit can be found here in the late winter months. They were planted here as part of the tropical paradise image around the same time as the palm trees. They were most likely bred by our own Luther Burbank.

**16. Crepe Myrtle** - *Lagerstroemia indica*.

Adjacent to the fountain stand four trees that are planted between the walkways. The late summer flowers provide an appealing look to this small tree. They are often used in yards and gardens. More suitable to the south, this tree has been bred into several types that can withstand a mild winter in the north. They are tolerant of drought, are easily transplanted, and require little care.

**This concludes the Plaza Walk. If you wish to continue to the Badger Walk then you will need to travel to the Badger Park parking lot.**



"A fool sees not the same tree that a wise man sees." -William Blake

**33. Southern Magnolia** - *Magnolia grandiflora*.

At the north east corner of East and Plaza Streets stands a Southern Magnolia (see tree #4). This tree clearly shows the low branching that is characteristic of the species.

**34. Coast Redwood** - *Sequoia sempervirens*.

In the enlarged planter strip stands an impressive Coast Redwood (see tree #2). This tree was scheduled to be removed many years ago, but the City of Healdsburg Heritage Tree Ordinance saved it from the axe.

**35. American Sweetgum** - *Liquidambar styraciflua*.

Most impressive in the fall, these two trees have guarded the entrance to the museum since the early fifties. In their native state, these trees would be found along stream banks and lakes.

**36. Japanese Flowering Cherry** - *Prunus serullata* "Akebono."

Planted all along Matheson Street between Fitch and University Streets are a row of Japanese Flowering Cherry trees. The most famous Japanese Flowering Cherry trees are located around West Potomac Park in Washington, they were a gift to the U.S. from the City of Tokyo as a symbol of friendship. The profusion of the pink blossoms in April and brilliant leaf coloring in the fall, make this a Healdsburg favorite.

**37. Cedar of Lebanon** - *Cedrus libani subsp. atlantica* "Glauca Pendula."

Just west of the walkway at the entrance of 527 Matheson Street. The botanical name of this tree becomes a mouthful and means a "pendulous blue tree." It is of uncommon origin. The tree can be seen blossoming in September or October. The cones take three years to mature before they will drop seeds.

**38. Saucer Magnolia** - *Magnolia soulangiana*

Planted in the turfgrass at the southwest corner of Second and North Streets, this species is a cross between two Chinese species, Yulan Magnolia and Lily Magnolia, which produced a seedling in 1820 in the garden of a French nurseryman. It grows as a small tree with several trunks and a spreading crown of coarse foliage; the showy flowers appear before the leaves in spring. This specimen is possibly Healdsburg's finest example of a Saucer Magnolia.

**27. Douglas Fir** - *Pseudotsuga menzeisii*. This impressive tree stands just east of the porch at 428 Haydon Street, and is also called Oregon Pine. It grows to 300 feet tall and may live to be 1,000 years old. It ranks first in the U.S. in total volume of lumber production.



**28. Grapefruit** - *Citrus sp.* The grapefruit trees in the planter strip in front of 316 Haydon Street are a pleasant reminder of the wonderful climate we enjoy. These trees produce a bountiful crop of grapefruits in early spring.

**29. English Walnut** - *Juglans regia*. Behind the fence at the corner of Center and Mill Streets stands this old walnut. The tree comes from the Near East and Europe, and it is commonly grown for commercial nut production. The nuts are thinner and easier to shell than other walnut species and the taste is also sweeter than the Black Walnut.

**30. California Fan Palm** - *Washingtonia filifera*. In the front yard of 204 Center Street stand two palms. The Fan Palm is the one on the south side. The Fan Palm is named for its fan shaped leaves and was an important source of food to the indigenous peoples. It is the only palm native to western North America.

**31. Canary Island Date Palm** - *Phoenix canariensis*. The palm on the north side is the Date Palm. This planting was the inspiration for the palm trees found in Plaza Park (see tree #5).



**32. Chaste Tree** - *Vitex agnuscastus*. Between the property lines of 214 and 218 Center Street is this beautiful specimen. This tree became a Christian sign of purity due to a mistranslation. The Greek name for the tree *hagus* was confused for the word *agus* that translates to "lamb." This tree is most impressive during the summer and early fall when you can find spires of purple flowers coloring the branches.



To begin the Badger Park Walk start at the parking lot of Badger Park, located at 750 Heron Drive. From Plaza Park go east on Matheson Street, turn right on Heron Drive, then turn right into the second driveway into the parking lot.

**17. Valley Oak** - *Quercus lobata*. The large tree in the playground area is a Valley Oak. The Valley Oak grows native only in California. It is the largest of the all the oak trees in the United States. They often have a twisted and gnarled appearance, almost like they were shaped by the wind. The massive roots system allows this tree to avoid, not simply endure the drought season. Although it often grows in wet conditions, it is very susceptible to root rot from summer irrigation. This tree produces large amounts of acorns that has made it a bit of a legend in California. It is also known as the California White Oak.

**18. Big Leaf Maple** - *Acer macrophyllum*. Along the fence on the path side are several Big Leaf Maples. As you may guess, this tree gets its name from the large leaves. They can be over a foot wide. It is for this reason that the Big Leaf Maple is widely regarded as one of the best shade trees for residential areas. Wildlife enjoys the maple as well. The seeds are food for birds and small mammals, twigs are food for deer, branches provide a good place for birds to nest, and bees use the nectar from the fragrant yellow flowers. Truly this tree is a delight to both man and beast.



**19. Boxelder - *Acer negundo*.**

Walk the gravel road on the south side of the play area. Stay to the right at the fork in the road, then take the first dirt path that cuts to the right towards the river. On the left side of this trail is a small Boxelder. This black sheep of the maple family has a compound leaf. The tree grows rapidly and makes an

excellent tree for kids to climb. Because of the fast growth and large amount of seeds the tree often takes over fields and ditches.

**20. California Black Walnut - *Juglans hindsii*.**

On the right side of the path is the California Black Walnut. The range of this tree is uncertain but it is often found associated with villages of indigenous people in Northern California. Some people think that the walnuts are a mess on the lawn, but of course they hold great commercial value. Continue down the developing trail along the Russian River until it meets back up with the walking path to see impressive walnuts, boxelders, cottonwoods, and other riparian species.

**21. Coast Live Oak - *Quercus agrifolia*.**

On both sides of the bridge are small Live Oaks. The Live Oak gets its name because it is an evergreen. In northern climates it is semi-deciduous. They are at home in sandy or compact soil. This tree has adapted well to our Mediterranean climate. They will put up with some shade but would much rather bask in the sun. The dried wood weighs about 55 lbs. per cubic foot, so it is among the heaviest wood in North America. During the 19th century, the U.S. Navy purchased large amounts of Live Oak for shipbuilding.

**22. Norway Spruce - *Picea abies*.**

Just south of the arched entrance at 215 Second Street this commonly planted ornamental looks good young, but does not age gracefully, at times appearing unkempt. This specimen is still in its youth. The straight grain lumber of this tree makes it a source of wood for violin makers. A Deodar Cedar stands adjacent in the front yard.

**23. Tilley Grove**

At the northwest corner of Tucker and Second Streets, this enchanting grove of Coast Live Oak and Pacific Madrone was a gift to the City by Cleone Tilley. Her generosity and foresight in establishing such a place in perpetuity is remarkable.

**24. American Chestnut -**

*Castanea dentate.*

Located across the street from 552 Tucker stands the American Chestnut. This deciduous tree bears large nuts inside a prickly burr. It is nearly extinct throughout North America due to a parasitic bark disease known as Chestnut Blight.



**25. Madrone - *Arbutus menziesii*.**

Located at the dead end of Tucker Street at number 522, is another of the red-wooded trees of California. This member of the heather family has panicles of honey-filled white flowers in spring. Its year-round rich green foliage and smooth red bark on gracefully curving and forked trunk and limbs make this one of our most beautiful native trees. Large stands of 80-foot tall trees are found on nearby Fitch Mountain.

**26. Arizona Cypress - *Cupressus arizonica*.**

Located in the planter at 112 University is this Cypress. This tree is native to Arizona, but is often found in the landscape as a planted Christmas tree.

" I like Trees because they seem more resigned to the way they have to live than other things do." -Willa Cather