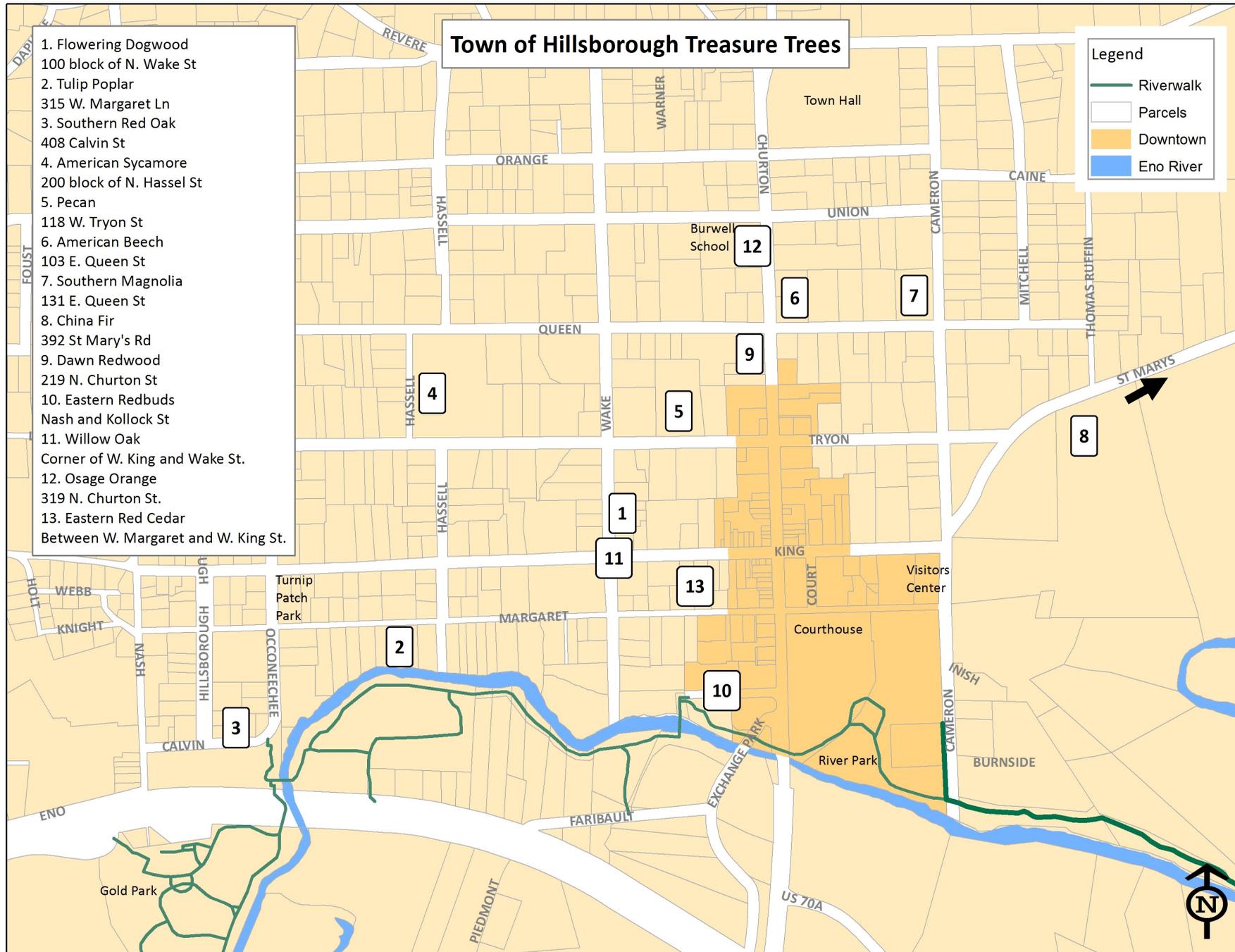


Treasure Trees Self-Guided Walk



Hillsborough loves its trees! The town was one of the first in North Carolina to be named a USA Tree City and to receive 10 such citations. The Hillsborough Tree Board has been active for more than three decades. Each year the town celebrates Arbor Day and recognizes outstanding trees through the Treasure Trees Program.

Inside is a map of Hillsborough's Treasure Trees and information about each species. Along the self-guided walk, discover a town with a beautiful tree canopy, friendly people and a downtown district architecturally diverse and nationally recognized for its historic significance.

To nominate a Treasure Tree, contact the Tree Board's staff support at 919-732-1270, ext. 74 or through the town's website: www.hillsboroughnc.gov.

To schedule a guided walk with a volunteer Tree Board member, contact the board's staff support at 919-732-1270, ext. 74 or through the town website: www.hillsboroughnc.gov.

1. Flowering Dogwood

One of between 30 and 60 species of the *Cornus* family, these trees are found throughout temperate zones and are known for their showy flowers, our state flower. The flowers are modified leaves called “bracts.” Because the four paired bracts are cross-shaped, the tree became known as the tree on which Christ was crucified.

2. Tulip Poplar

Liriodendron tulipifera (Greek for “lily tree carrying tulips”) is related to the magnolia and not the lily, poplar or tulip. It is called fiddle tree for its leaf shape, tulip tree for the leaf’s silhouette and poplar or yellow poplar due to its fluttering leaf motion. The fast-growing tree reaches 70 to 100 feet, often without limbs for much of its height, making it desired for timber. Its range extends from southern New England to Louisiana and northern Florida.

3. Southern Red Oak

Quercus falcata also is known as Spanish oak. The drought-resistant tree ranges from New York to Florida. It typically reaches 82 to 98 feet, but some can reach 115 to 125 feet. Its species name *falcata* means “sickle-shaped,” and its leaves have three to five strongly pointed lobes. Mature trees frequently produce five to seven lobes. The center lobe is longer, resembling a turkey foot and allowing the oak to be distinguished from other red oaks. Its acorn is short, with the cap a bright orange-brown and a third to half of the seed’s length.

4. American Sycamore

Found from Canada to Florida, *Platanus occidentalis* (“western plane tree”) is readily

recognized by its mottled exfoliating bark. The splitting of the bark as the trunk grows is more visible in the green, white and brown bark.

Sycamores grow 98 to 130 feet tall and often have multiple trunks, which typically become hollow animal dens. The leaves are “palmate” — shaped like a hand.

5. Pecan

The nut tree *Carya illinoensis*, native to America, originally grew in south-central United States, from Illinois and Iowa to Texas and Louisiana. Planting has extended this range, particularly to the southeast. The deciduous tree of the hickory family grows between 60 and 130 feet. Its 39- to 75-foot canopy makes it excellent for shade. Specimens live over 300 years. Like the beech tree, it is monoecious, with male and female parts on the same tree.

6. American Beech

Fagus grandiflora (“beech tree with big foliage”) is known as the grey or silver beech also. It grows from Nova Scotia and Wisconsin to northern Florida and the Caribbean. This slow-growing deciduous tree grows 66 to 110 feet and is monoecious, with flowers of both sexes. Its dark green leaves turn gold and brown in the fall, with many remaining until spring. A short stem attaches the leaves to the twig, which is distinctive in winter, with overlapping scales in two rows on the buds.

7. Southern Magnolia

This distinctive tree can be found throughout the southeastern states from Virginia to central Florida and west to eastern Texas, although varieties have been planted widely. Typical large specimens can reach 90 and occasionally 114 feet. Imported to the Americas in 1726, many varieties are found throughout the world.

The striking pyramidal-shaped evergreen tree is

characterized by its large, dark green leaves (up to 12 inches long and 8 inches wide) and its large white, citron-scented flowers, which give its scientific species name (*grandiflora* — “big flower”).

8. China Fir

Often known as the China cedar, the *Cunninghamia lanceolata* (“tree named for an English botanist, with lance-shaped leaf”) is an evergreen conifer of the cypress family. It is a non-native species brought to America in the early 1800s. Originally, it was from Southeast Asia and China, where it grows up to 165 feet.

9. Dawn Redwood

Long known only from fossils, the tree was discovered and hailed as a living fossil in the 1940s in China. *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* (“like a sequoia and resembling a swamp cypress”) is related to the famous redwoods and sequoias of California. It is the shortest of the three but quickly can grow over 130 feet. It recently was transferred from the cypress to the sequoia family on the basis of its DNA. Hillsborough has a stand of three.

10. Eastern Redbuds

The Eastern redbud, *Cercis canadensis*, is a strikingly conspicuous tree in early spring because it flowers before the tree leaves form. The pink to reddish purple flowers grow on old twigs, branches and trunks. After the bloom, leaves begin to grow and gradually turn dark green.

With the exception of New England, the redbud is a native of the United States’ eastern half. This ornamental tree grows rapidly but is short-lived. It is usually multi-trunked in the wild, with a vase shape and a rounded crown that reaches about 20 feet tall and 20 feet wide at maturity when found in the open.

11. Willow Oak

Quercus phellos or willow oak is a fast-growing native tree common in river flood plains or rich, upland soil. It is hardy in zones 5-9 and ranges from the New Jersey coast south to Northwest Florida and west to East Texas and Southern Illinois. The tree usually grows 60 to 80 feet with a 3- to 4-foot-diameter trunk.

Its leaves turn a pale yellow to orange-brown before dropping in the fall, and the tree produces many small acorns that are relished by wildlife.

12. Osage Orange

Normally, *Maclura pomifera* can grow 50 - 60 feet tall. Its native range was probably SW Arkansas to E. Oklahoma and Texas. It was planted and has “naturalized” here.

Because of its straight trunk and stout spines, it was frequently planted as a living fence before the advent of barbed wire. They have simple, straight, stout spines at the base of the leaves and their fruit is a 3 to 5 inch hard and fleshy yellow-green ball. This is the only thorny tree with milky sap.

13. Eastern Red Cedar

The Eastern Red Cedar, *juniperus virginiana* L., is a coniferous evergreen found throughout the state but most common in the Piedmont. Not a cedar but a juniper, this tree usually grows to 40 to 50 feet but may be larger. The needles are pointed and prickly. On the female tree the fruit is a bluish color, globular shaped, about 1/4 inch in diameter and a favorite food source for birds. On the male tree are found small cones up to 1/3 inch. The bark is reddish-brown and peels into long fibrous strips.