



Mission Oaks Recreation & Park District
Memorial Tree Program



Memorial Tree Selection Options

Tree Number	Common Name	Scientific Name
1	Strawberry tree	<i>Arbutus unedo</i>
2	Eastern redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>
3	Desert willow	<i>Chilopsis linearis</i> 'Bubba'
4	Chinese fringe tree	<i>Chionanthus retusus</i>
5	Pink dawn chitalpa	<i>Chitalpa tashkentensis</i> 'Pink Dawn'
6	Maidenhair tree	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>
7	Crape myrtle	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>
8	Sweet bay	<i>Laurus nobilis</i>
9	Tulip tree	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>
10	Chinese pistache	<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>
11	Valley oak	<i>Quercus lobata</i>
12	Japanese snowbell	<i>Styrax japonicus</i>
13	Japanese lilac	<i>Syringa reticulata</i>
14	Little leaf linden	<i>Tilia cordata</i>



Attractive to pollinators



California native

The Mission Oaks Recreation and Parks District is proud to offer the Memorial Tree Program as an option to honor the memory of your loved one or commemorate a special life event.

The Memorial Tree Program is a multi-benefit program that serves as a living honorarium, provides the benefits of trees to the community, and attracts and supports local wildlife while reducing tree-infrastructure conflict through careful planning with an ISA Certified Arborist.

Information for each tree offered by the program are included on the following pages to help you make your tree selection.

Thank you for your interest in the Memorial Tree Program.

Tree #1

Source: SelectTree



Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus unedo*)



- Height: 20–30 feet
- Crown Diameter: 20–30 feet
- Growth Rate: Slow to Moderate
- Evergreen
- Light: Full sun
- Water needs: Low

The strawberry tree is often associated with resiliency and love due to its durability and strength.

Bird Use

- ✓ Hummingbirds
- ✓ Cedar waxwing
- ✓ Hermit thrush
- ✓ American robin



The white, showy flowers and red/orange berries are attractive to wildlife. The tree bark is a striking red-brown that exfoliates and becomes smooth with time.

As a slow to moderate-growing tree, the wood is strong and resilient once the tree is established. Strawberry trees are fairly drought resistant with low water needs.

Strawberry trees have deep ties to historical art and culture. Originally from southern Europe, strawberry trees have been featured in pieces of art from around the world, from music and poetry to classical paintings. The Italian scholar Giovanni Pascoli associated the tree with the Italian flag due to its vibrant colors in his poetry.

Around 4,000 years ago, the tree was introduced to Ireland during widespread immigration in Europe.¹ An Ireland ancient folk ballad refers to the strawberry tree as an ultimate symbol of enduring and true love in: “My Love’s an Arbutus.”

The strawberry tree provides an abundant seed crop for wildlife, including a variety of bird species, throughout fall and winter. The flowers are pollen-rich and attractive to many insects, including bees and butterflies.

Tree #2

Source: SelecTree



Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)



- Height: 20–30 feet
- Crown Diameter: 20–30 feet
- Growth Rate: Slow to Moderate
- Deciduous
- Light: Full sun
- Water needs: Moderate

The eastern redbud tree is often referred to as the tree of love due to its beautiful magenta, heart-shaped leaves.

The vibrant, showy flowers are a symbol of healing and a sign of the arrival of spring—the tree flowers before the leaves emerge.

The tree is well known for its array of vibrant and colorful leaves throughout the year. The tree is a member of the pea family. The fruit is a legume that ripens during the fall. In autumn, the leaves of the eastern redbud tree turn from a bronzy green to a lemon-yellow color.

Bird Use

- ✓ Ruby-throated hummingbird
- ✓ Bobwhite quail
- ✓ Rose-breasted grosbeak
- ✓ Northern cardinal



Source: Stephen Fischer

The eastern redbud tree is unique due to a phenomenon referred to as cauliflory, in which flowers and fruit emerge straight from the main stems and trunks of the tree, rather than from new growth and sprouts. The wood of the tree trunk can become scaly with age and ranges from red to brown in color.

Eastern redbuds were first introduced into cultivation in the United States in 1641. George Washington was said to be a fan of the tree and transplanted many that he found growing in the woods to his gardens at Mount Vernon, Virginia.²

The tree's seed pods are highly valuable to wildlife, including many species of birds. The pollen-rich flowers also attract many insect species, including bees and butterflies.

Tree #3

Source: SelecTree



Desert Willow

(*Chilopsis linearis*
'Bubba')



- Height: 15-25 feet
- Crown Diameter: 15-20 feet
- Growth Rate: Slow to Moderate
- Deciduous
- Light: Full sun
- Water needs: Low

The desert willow tree serves as a sign of hope and strength in times of difficulty and hardship.

The desert willow tree is native to areas throughout the southwestern United States, including California and northern Mexico. The species thrives in sunny, hot climates that may experience periods of drought.

The showy, burgundy flowers are fragrant and long-blooming, attracting pollinator species from springtime through the fall.

Bird Use

- ☞ Hummingbird
- ☞ Mourning dove
- ☞ American robin
- ☞ Western kingbird
- ☞ Yellow-billed magpie



Source: Stephen Fischer

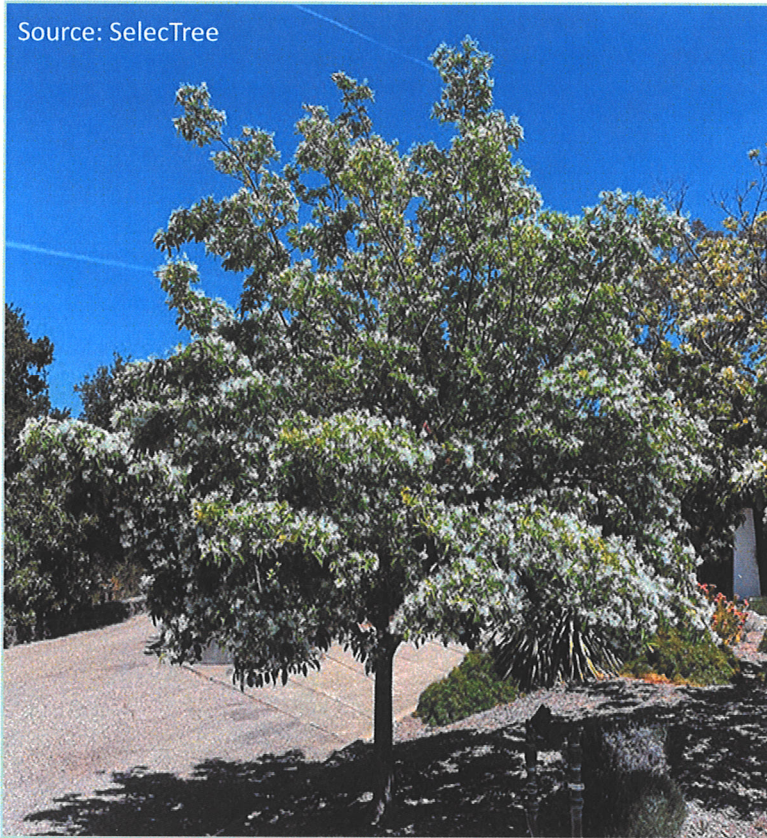
During periods of rain, the desert willow tree can have several growth spurts of new flower clusters on its branches.

As a slow to moderate-growing tree, the wood is strong. The tree is a symbol of endurance and resilience. The light green to gray trunk is smooth when young and may develop rough fissures as the tree ages. The desert willow tree is very drought tolerant after it is established.

The desert willow tree has large, brown seed capsules that form during fall and attract many species of birds. This species is ideal for attracting wildlife, including birds and pollinators, and providing them with food and habitat.

Tree #4

Source: SelecTree



Chinese Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus retusus*)



- Height: 15-25 feet
- Crown Diameter: 15-20 feet
- Growth Rate: Slow to Moderate
- Deciduous
- Light: Full sun
- Water needs: Moderate/Low

The Chinese fringe tree is known for its white fragrant, showy flowers and purple fruit in the fall.

The soft, white flowers represent beauty and can symbolize innocence and sympathy during hardship.

The genus name *Chionanthus* is formed from the Greek words chion, which means snow, and anthos, which means flower. The Chinese fringe tree may be referred to as the “snow flower” tree.

The Chinese fringe tree serves as a representation of beauty as the seasons change. In the summer the white flowers bloom. The flowers grow in clusters that will cover the entire tree in petals. From September to October, purple berries form and can be seen among the yellow leaves of the fall color display. The bark can range from dark brown, gray, to green and may be striated, or striped.

The Chinese fringe tree was first introduced into cultivation in the United States in 1845 and originated in China, Korea, and Japan.⁴

The Chinese fringe tree is beneficial for wildlife and will attract many pollinators and species of birds to enjoy its fruit.

Bird Use

- 👉 American robin
- 👉 Eastern bluebird
- 👉 Wood thrush
- 👉 Northern mockingbird
- 👉 Gray catbird



Source: Stephen Fischer



Pink Dawn Chitalpa
(*Chitalpa tashkentensis*
'Pink Dawn')



- Height: 15-25 feet
- Crown Diameter: 15-20 feet
- Growth Rate: Slow to Moderate
- Deciduous
- Light: Full sun
- Water needs: Low

The pink dawn chitalpa tree is known for its delicate, pink, and trumpet-shaped flowers.

The flowers of the pink dawn chitalpa tree represent gentility and happiness and can serve as a symbol of both remembrance and love.

The pink dawn chitalpa tree has clusters of pink flowers, containing around 15 to 40 flowers in each

cluster. The tree is long-blooming and flowers from spring into late fall. This means the pink dawn chitalpa tree is ideal for pollinators who are attracted to its pollen-rich flowers.

In autumn, the leaves turn from a gray-green to a beautiful bronzy gold. The trunk has a light green color and scaly bark. The tree has low water needs and is drought-resistant.

The pink dawn chitalpa tree is a smaller hybrid of the desert willow tree and the Southern catalpa tree. It was first introduced to the United States by botanist Robert Hebb in 1977, who was a member of the New York Botanic Garden. The species was originally created in Uzbekistan in 1964.³

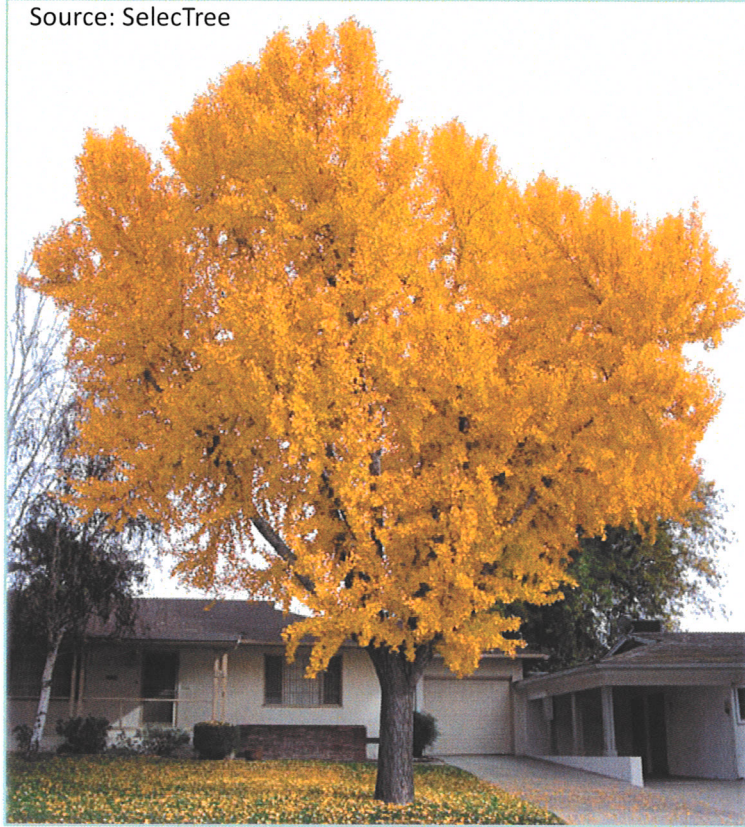
The pink dawn chitalpa tree is a pollinator plant and attracts hummingbirds, bumblebees, and butterflies. The pink dawn chitalpa tree generally does not produce fruit or seed pods. It is, therefore, not heavily utilized by songbirds.

Bird Use

 Hummingbirds



Source: SelecTree



Maidenhair Tree

(Ginkgo biloba)

- Height: 50-75 feet
- Crown Diameter: 40-60 feet
- Growth Rate: Slow to Moderate
- Deciduous
- Light: Full sun
- Water needs: Moderate

The maidenhair tree has served as a symbol of hope and peace throughout time. The tree is a sign of good luck and prosperity in many cultures.

The maidenhair tree, also known as to as the ginkgo tree, is well known for its beautiful autumn color. In the fall, the fan-shaped, green leaves turn into a vibrant array of gold and orange. In Chinese, the word ginkgo translates to “silver apricot.”

In the spring, the maidenhair tree produces small fragrant flowers that differ depending on the sex of the tree. The male trees do not produce fruit, but the female maidenhair tree does produce an orange to yellow-color fruit. Male trees are selected for planting in urban parks.

The maidenhair tree is unique due to its longevity and ancient Chinese origins. Botanists believe the tree species has no living ancestors, and the maidenhair tree is often called a “living fossil.” The species is estimated to be hundreds of millions of years old.⁵ The maidenhair tree also has strong ties to traditional Chinese medicine.

The maidenhair tree has strong, durable branches. The bark is light green and fissured. The tree may attract squirrels and provide them with foraging habitat.

One contributing factor to the maidenhair tree’s longevity is its ability to survive through drought, heat, and other harsh environmental conditions. The maidenhair tree is highly resistant to air pollution in cities and crowded spaces and does not require large amounts of water.



Crape Myrtle
(Lagerstroemia indica)

- Height: 20–25 feet
- Crown Diameter: 20–25 feet
- Growth Rate: Slow to Moderate
- Deciduous
- Light: Full sun
- Water needs: Low

The crape myrtle tree is often associated with beauty, strength, and endurance.

The vibrant, showy, crepe-like flowers symbolize the beauty of life. The tree trunk is smooth and exfoliates with age to reveal a unique mottled pattern of colors.

Bird Use

- ✓ Goldfinch
- ✓ Dark-eyed junco
- ✓ House finch
- ✓ House sparrow
- ✓ White-throated sparrow



Source: Stephen Fischer

As a slow to moderate-growing tree, the wood is strong, and the tree represents endurance and resilience. The tree is drought tolerant after it is established.

Crape myrtles were first planted in the United States in Charleston, South Carolina, between 1787 and 1796. The crape myrtle tree was planted at George Washington's Mount Vernon estate. They have been widely planted and naturalized across the Gulf Coast states since the 19th century.

Crape myrtle is a generous tree, providing an abundant seed crop that attracts birds from December through February. Crape myrtle trees produce brown, ovoid capsules with six cavities, each containing four-winged seeds. There are approximately 250,000 individual seeds in 1 pound of crape myrtle seed.⁶

Tree #8

Source: SelecTree



Sweet Bay

(Laurus nobilis)



- Height: 20-40 feet
- Crown Diameter: 20-40 feet
- Growth Rate: Slow to Moderate
- Evergreen
- Light: Full sun
- Water needs: Low

The sweet bay laurel tree is often associated with positive attributes, such as accomplishment, honor, and bravery.

Fragrant clusters of delicate, yellow flowers bloom in the spring. In the fall, small black or purple berries form on the tree.

The tree trunk of the sweet bay tree is typically gray and smooth. The branches of the tree are strong. The slow to moderate-growing tree is drought tolerant with low water needs.

Throughout history, the sweet bay leaves have been a representation of both victory and honor. Ancient poets, athletes, soldiers, and Roman emperors wore wreaths made of laurel leaves to signify accomplishment. In Ancient Greece, laurel wreaths were worn by the winners of grand sporting events. The Greek god Apollo, the god of sun and light, is often depicted in historic paintings wearing a laurel wreath on his head. Accomplished and revered leaders, including Julius Caesar and Napoleon Bonaparte, often wore laurel regalia to symbolize their victories.

The sweet bay tree is the source of bay leaves and is often used in cooking and seasoning.

The sweet bay tree is a pollinator plant and will attract bumblebees and butterflies. Birds nest in the sweet bay tree and are attracted to the small berries produced by the tree in fall.

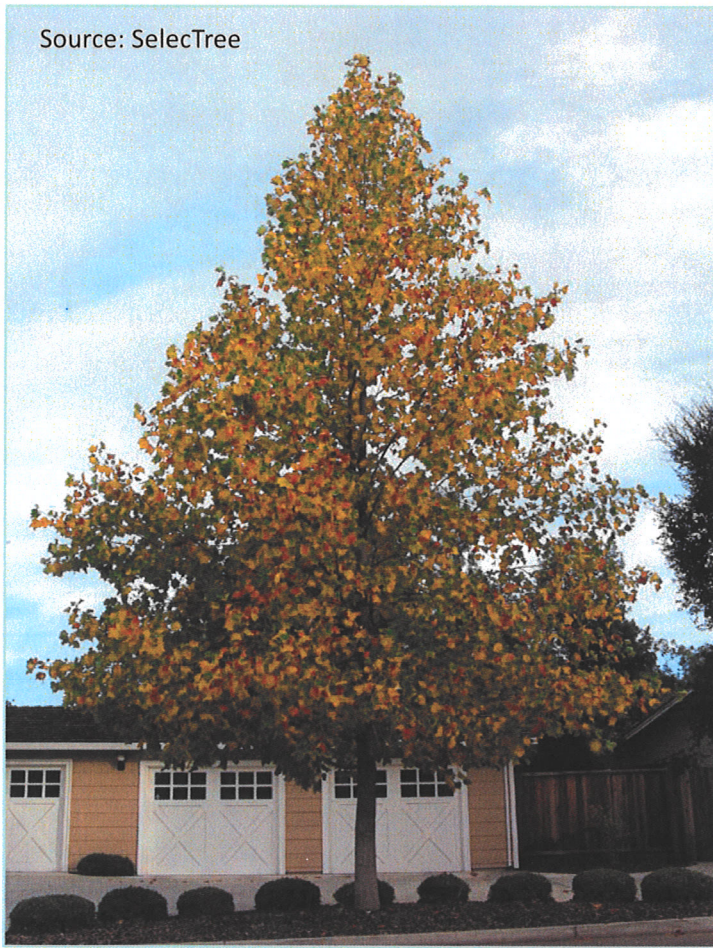
Bird Use

- 🐦 Stellar's jay
- 🐦 Many songbirds



Source: Stephen Fishcher

Source: SelecTree



Tulip Tree

(Liriodendron tulipifera)

- Height: 60-85 feet
- Crown Diameter: 35-50 feet
- Growth Rate: Slow to Moderate
- Deciduous
- Light: Full sun
- Water needs: Moderate to High

The tulip tree has strong connections to American history and literature.

The showy, fragrant flowers of the tulip tree bloom during May and June. In the fall, seed cones are produced on the trees and attract wildlife, including many species of birds.

The tulip tree has a slow to moderate growth rate. The branches are strong. The trunk is often dark gray or light green in color and fissured.

Bird Use

- ✓ Hermit thrush
- ✓ Cedar waxwing
- ✓ Wood warbler
- ✓ Finches
- ✓ Northern cardinal



Source: Stephen Fischer

The tulip tree has been a symbol of hope, renewal, and comfort in many historical literature sources. The famous poet T.S. Eliot refers to the “tulip trees in bloom” as a sign of life after a dark, barren winter in his poem “The Wasteland.” In the novel *Little Women*, a tulip tree is a source of comfort for one protagonist of the story, Jo, as she faces many hardships. Today, the tulip tree continues to serve as a symbol of hope and perseverance through difficult times.

The tulip tree has also been an integral part of American history and is often associated with the values of liberty and democracy. George Washington planted a tulip tree in his garden at Mount Vernon. Tulip trees were also planted as part of the patriotic “liberty trees.”⁷

The tulip tree’s seeds will attract many species of birds and wildlife.

Source: SelectTree



Chinese Pistache

(*Pistacia chinensis*)

- Height: 20-50 feet
- Crown Diameter: 30-50 feet
- Growth Rate: Slow to Moderate
- Deciduous
- Light: Full sun
- Water needs: Low

The Chinese pistache tree is often associated with both generosity and balance. The tree is a cultural symbol of health, happiness, and good fortune.

The Chinese pistache tree is known for its beautiful foliage and striking colors. In the fall, the leaves display red, orange, and yellow colors.

The tree produces inconspicuous, fragrant, dense clusters of flowers in the spring. In the summer, female trees produce red berries that turn blue over fall and attract wildlife.

Bird Use

- 🐦 Cedar waxwing
- 🐦 Yellow-rumped warbler
- 🐦 American robin



Source: Stephen Fischer

The furrowed, scaly bark of the Chinese pistache tree is strong. The species is resistant to drought, heat, and pollution. The tree is a symbol of durability.

The Chinese pistache tree does not produce the pistachio nut, but is related to the tree that does, *Pistacia vera*. The Chinese pistache tree originates in China, Taiwan, and the Philippines but became popular in California approximately 100 years ago. Today, the species is beloved and can be seen throughout the state. A notable Chinese pistache tree grows in Sacramento's Capitol Park and is registered #113 as a California Big Tree. The impressive tree stands 64 feet high, with a trunk circumference of 79 inches.⁸

The Chinese pistache tree is an ideal species for attracting birds and providing them with both foraging and nesting habitat.

Source: SelectTree



Valley Oak
(Quercus lobata)



- Height: 40-90 feet
- Crown Diameter: 50-90 feet
- Growth Rate: Slow to Moderate
- Deciduous
- Light: Full sun
- Water needs: Low

The valley oak tree serves as a representation of strength, longevity, and fortitude.

The valley oak species is the world's largest oak and is well renowned for its size, age, and beauty.

The species is endemic to the state of California, meaning it is native to the state. The valley oak tree serves as a symbol of wisdom due to its ability to thrive for hundreds of years.⁹

Bird Use

- 🦉 Acorn woodpecker
- 🦉 Western scrub jay
- 🦉 Yellow-billed magpie
- 🦉 Spotted owl
- 🦉 Red-tailed hawk
- 🦉 Red-shouldered hawk



In the springtime, the valley oak produces inconspicuous flowers. The tree has lobed, green leaves and produces acorns as fruit in the fall and winter months.

Valley oak trees are an important keystone species. The valley oak tree provides foraging and nesting habitat for many endangered bird species, and migratory birds utilize these trees heavily. The valley oak trees are utilized as nesting sites due to their strong, mature branches and provide raptors and songbirds with nest sites. Valley oaks are durable, resilient trees that become magnificent, large mature trees with time.

Valley oak trees provide a plethora of benefits, including habitat and food for birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates. Many species of butterflies utilize the valley oak tree as their host plant.



Japanese Snowbell (*Styrax japonicus*)



- Height: 20-30 feet
- Crown Diameter: 15-25 feet
- Growth Rate: Slow to Moderate
- Deciduous
- Light: Full sun
- Water needs: Moderate

The Japanese snowbell tree is a symbol of beauty, grace, and innocence.

The Japanese snowbell tree is known for its fragrant white flowers that bloom in late spring and summer. The showy, sweet flowers form a delicate hanging thimble or bell shape.

The leaves of the Japanese snowbell tree are small and have a medium green color. The bark of the tree is a striking

Bird Use

- 🐦 Hummingbird
- 🐦 Many songbirds



dark brown or light green color. As the tree matures, the bark may fissure or peel off to reveal a beautiful orange color.

In the fall and winter, green fruit forms on the Japanese snowbell tree. The fruit attracts many species of birds for foraging. The leaves turn a beautiful yellow in fall. As a slow to moderate-growing tree, the branches of this tree are strong.

The Japanese snowbell tree is native to Japan, China, and Korea. It was introduced to the United States around the time of the Civil War.¹⁰ The flowers are sacred in Japanese folklore and are associated with the goddess of music and dance. The flowers of the Japanese snowbell tree are considered to bring good luck and fortune. Historically, the wood was also used to make toys and the ribbing of umbrellas and is used for structural support in Japanese teahouses.

The fragrant flowers of the Japanese snowbell attract many pollinators, including bees and butterflies.

Source: SelectTree



Japanese Lilac

*(Syringa reticulata
'Ivory Silk')*



- Height: 20-30 feet
- Crown Diameter: 15-25 feet
- Growth Rate: Slow to Moderate
- Deciduous
- Light: Full sun
- Water needs: Moderate

The Japanese lilac tree symbolizes renewal and growth. Large clusters of fragrant, cream-colored flowers bloom in the spring and summer.

The sweet fragrance of the lilac flowers can create a sense of tranquility and peace. The white lilac flower represents beauty, youth, and innocence.

In the fall, large medium brown capsules containing seeds are formed on the tree.

Bird Use

- 🐦 Hummingbirds
- 🐦 Many songbirds



Source: Stephen Fischer

The slow to moderate-growing Japanese lilac is a resilient tree. The bark of the trunk will peel with age. The trunk will transform from a beautiful reddish-brown cherry color in youth to gray with age. The Japanese lilac tree tolerates both urban environments and drought conditions.

The Japanese lilac tree is native to northern Japan and was first introduced to cultivation in the United States in 1876.¹¹

The Japanese lilac tree attracts pollinators including butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds to its fragrant flowers. The dense foliage of the tree also provides nesting locations for songbirds.



Source: SelectTree

Little Leaf Linden

(Tilia cordata)



- Height: 30-50 feet
- Crown Diameter: 15-30 feet
- Growth Rate: Slow to Moderate
- Deciduous
- Light: Full sun
- Water needs: Moderate/High

The little leaf linden tree is a symbol of love and tenderness with historic ties to many European cultures.

The showy, fragrant yellow flowers of the little leaf linden tree bloom from early summer into June and July. The sweet fragrance of the flowers of the little leaf linden is often compared to the scents of honey and lemon.

Bird Use

- ✓ American goldfinch
- ✓ Ruby-throated hummingbird



Source: Stephen Fischer

In the fall, small, green capsule fruit attract birds to the tree. The leaves turn a striking lemon-yellow color. The little leaf linden tree's flowers attract pollinators, including bees and butterflies.

As a slow to moderate growing tree, the little leaf linden tree is tolerant of drought and urban conditions. The trunk of the tree is light gray and the bark is fissured. The medium-strength branches provide nesting locations for birds. The little leaf linden tree may form cavities. These are attractive to cavity-dwelling and nesting bird species.

The little leaf linden tree is native to Europe and Asia. The tree has been a sacred symbol of love throughout history. The first evidence of the species on record in Europe dates to 760 AD.¹² In European folklore, the little leaf linden tree was said to be favored by the goddesses of love and hearth, Freya and Frigga. The tree's leaves were often utilized in spiritual ceremonies as a source of joy and celebration.



Cassidy™

Slatted Metal Bench

- Powder-coated steel frame
- Seat length 6 feet
- Seat Dimensions 74" L X 25" W X 18" H

Add a plaque to the Cassidy™ Bench



Bench Bronze Plaques

Plaque Size Options

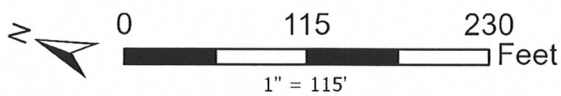
- 8" W x 2" H plaque has up to 3 lines of text & 20 characters/spaces maximum per line
- 10.5" W x 3" H plaque has up to 4 lines of text & 28 characters/spaces maximum per line

- Material: Heavy cast bronze
- Plaques are 3/8" thick
- Helvetica font
- Heavy cast bronze plaques last forever
- Attractive raised letters & single-line beveled edge border
- Bronze mounting back plate
- Character heights determined by the amount of text

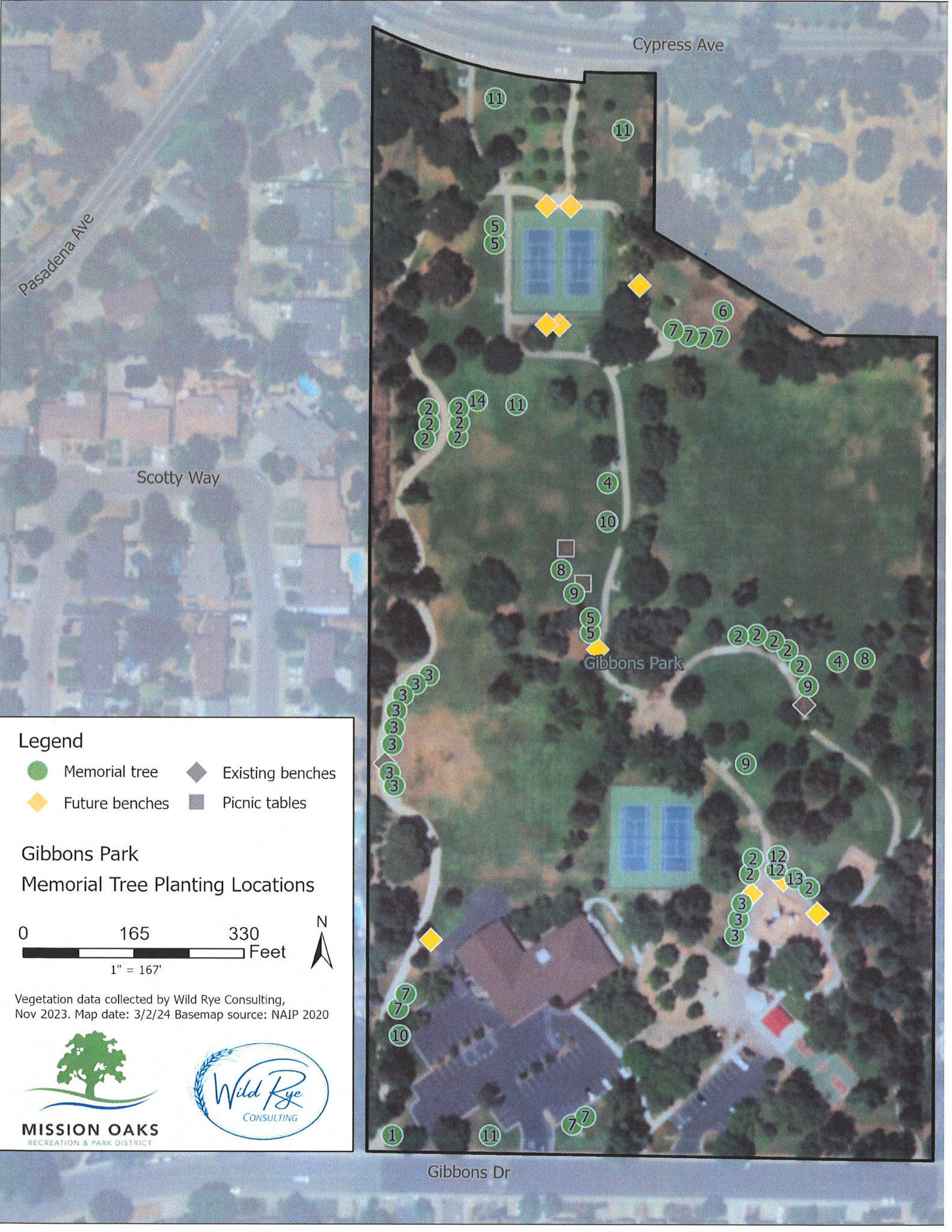


- Legend**
- Memorial tree
 - ◆ Future benches
 - ◆ Existing benches
 - Picnic tables

Ashton Park
Memorial Tree Planting Locations



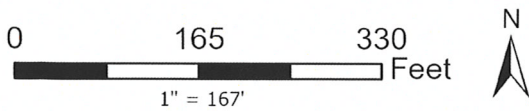
Vegetation data collected by Wild Rye Consulting, November 2023. Map date: 3/2/24 Basemap source: NAIP 2020



Legend

- Memorial tree
- ◆ Future benches
- ◆ Existing benches
- Picnic tables

**Gibbons Park
Memorial Tree Planting Locations**



Vegetation data collected by Wild Rye Consulting,
Nov 2023. Map date: 3/2/24 Basemap source: NAIP 2020

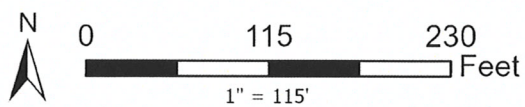




Legend

- Memorial tree
- ◆ Future benches
- ◆ Existing benches
- Picnic tables

**Mission North Park
Memorial Tree Planting Locations**



Vegetation data collected by Wild Rye Consulting,
November 2023. Map date: 3/2/24 Basemap source: NAIP 2020

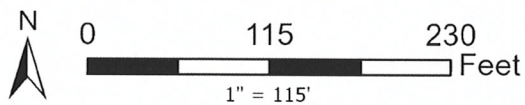
Northrop Ave



Legend

- Memorial tree
- ◆ Future benches
- ◆ Existing benches
- Picnic tables

Swanston Park
Memorial Tree Planting Locations



Vegetation data collected by Wild Rye Consulting,
November 2023. Map date: 3/2/24 Basemap source: NAIP 2020