

THE MAGNIFICENT TREES OF

AMERICAN RIVER COLLEGE

American River College Tree Tour

American River College was dedicated in 1958 on this 153-acre site then known as the Cameron Ranch, among “the magnificent oaks native to this area.” (See No.6) Other than the oaks, which are now the official college symbol, many of the trees we see on the Tree Tour were probably planted at that time. Today, American River College is among the 10 largest community colleges in California. An abundance of native and ornamental trees are growing here. This tour covers only a portion of the campus.

Visitor Parking is located along College Oak Drive north of Orange Grove, where meters are available. Parking in other lots is \$1 on weekdays and free on weekends and non-school days.

Symbol Legend

-  Evergreen tree
-  Tree offered through the SMUD/Tree Foundation Shade Tree Program
-  Native Tree

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The Sacramento Tree Foundation encourages you to step out and explore the urban forest in your own neighborhood. There are many opportunities to get involved with education and volunteer events. Additional Tree Tours and tree tips are available on the Sacramento Tree Foundation website.



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8 Shore Pine (*Pinus contorta*)  On the right you can find the first of four species of pine we include in our tour. Notice the irregular shape. A medium size tree, it can reach 20 - 35 ft. Needles two to a bundle, small cones. The larger mountain form is named Lodgepole Pine, which grows 50 - 80 ft tall. Also known as the Beach Pine.

9 Zelkova (*Zelkova serrata*)  Across from Student Services are two young Zelkovas. Zelkovas can grow to 60' tall and as wide, with many branches originating at the same place. A magnificent mature specimen is keyed on your map between the Bookstore and Technical Education. The fall color ranges from yellow to muted shades of orange and red. Native to Asia, it is in the elm family but is resistant to Dutch Elm Disease.

10 Deodar Cedar (*Cedrus deodara*)  Take a sharp left toward the Theatre and Arts Buildings. This cedar is native to the western Himalayas where it can reach 200 ft. tall and is almost extinct. Here it grows rapidly to 80 ft. with a 40 ft. spread. The ends of the cones resemble roses and are often used in crafts. It is called the “tree of the gods” by Hindus in India. This tree does well in Sacramento and many are planted on this campus.

11 Modesto Ash (*Fraxinus velutina Modesto*)  Grows to about 50' with a 30' spread with good soil conditions. Heavily planted along Sacramento area streets during the 50's and 60's, it is prone to mistletoe and ash anthracnose, which causes the leaves to fall off in the spring. It is no longer planted because of these disease issues and shallow rooting.

12 Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*)  Here is another maple, which you can compare to No. 4, and 5. The leaves are deep green, pale beneath, turning yellow in the fall. Native to Europe, it is a densely foliated tree growing 40-60' tall. There are forms with purplish red to dark bronze green leaves. It is not frequently planted because it is prone to invasive roots and aphids.

13 Golden Rain Tree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*)  Retrace your steps back to Student Services to see this hardy, deciduous, small tree 20 to 40 ft. in height and 10 to 20 ft. in width. In China, only the highest government officials could have this tree planted on their graves. Good seasonal interest with clusters of yellow flowers in spring and showy bronze seed capsules in fall.

14 Washington Hawthorn (*Crataegus phaenopyrum*)  Continue left toward the Science Building. On the right is a group of Washington Hawthorns and a Strawberry Tree. The Hawthorns are shrublike, but are trained to make a good, small street or lawn tree, with white flowers in spring and red berries which come in fall and persist to brighten winter days. Native to southeastern U.S.

1 Mayten (*Maytenus boaria*)  The Tree Tour begins at the entrance to the Administration Building, In the raised bed directly in front of the door is a beautiful, graceful, evergreen tree with hanging branches native to Chile. Slow growing, reaching a height of 30 to 40 ft, and a width of 10 to 30 ft, it needs excellent drainage. Unfortunately, this tree has been trimmed like a skirt.

2 Chinese Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*)  Proceeding to the north on your left you see two Chinese Elms, with their characteristic patchy bark. The first one is 10 years old; the next was planted in 1984. They retain their leaves in warmer winters. Fast growing to 40-60' tall, they may spread to 50-70' feet wide with long arching or weeping branches, which are prone to breakage. Resistant to Dutch Elm Disease.

3 Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)  Continuing north, notice the Eastern Redbud in the bed on the right. This small tree grows 25 - 35 ft. tall and wide and is an eastern relative of the shrub, Western Redbud, (Cercis occidentalis) native to the Sierra Foothills. It features four season interest with bright pink flowers in spring, heart-shaped leaves and yellow fall color. Bean-like pods persist into winter.

4 Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*)  Going to the right around the Administration Building we find a grand row of Silver Maple. These trees are fast growing to 40' or more, with branches susceptible to breakage and an invasive root system. The leaves are characteristically 5 lobed, light green above and silvery underneath, turning yellow in our area in autumn.

5 Paperbark Maple (*Acer griseum*)  Between the path and the Administration building is a young Paperbark Maple. Notice the characteristic bark for which it is named. It is a small tree native to China, growing 25 ft high and wide.

6 Blue Oak (*Quercus douglasii*)   The path leads past the Administration Building to the Oak Court with its magnificent old oaks, Native tree of the foothills of the Central Valley. Named for the bluish-green color of its shallowly lobed leaves, it is very drought tolerant. Frequent watering in the summer is deadly for mature native oaks. Here the grove of oaks is well maintained in a court that is not irrigated in the summer.

7 Interior Live Oak (*Quercus wislizenii*)  Slow growing native to the Sierra foothills and hot interior valleys, this evergreen oak is often broader than tall when given enough space to grow. The leaves are leathery, flat, and elliptical with smooth, toothed, or spiny edges. It produces conical shaped acorns half enclosed in their caps which take two years to mature.

15 Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus unedo*)

A relative of the elegant madrone native to the Sierras and Pacific Coast. A charming shrub or small tree with white flowers and red strawberry-like fruit appearing at the same time in the late fall and winter. Native to Ireland, Spain, Portugal and the Mediterranean.

16 Evergreen Pear (*Pyrus kawakamii*)

Turn south toward the Library, and notice the row of Evergreen Pear, which usually loses most of its leaves during our winters. One of the earliest trees to bloom in the late winter with white flowers, followed by glossy leaves and small inedible fruits. Grows 15 - 30 ft high as a shrub and needs to be trained to develop into a tree form.

17 Chinese Pistache (*Pistacia chinensis*)

In front of the Library is a planting of Chinese Pistache which provides shade in the summer. The female bears dry pink berries which turn blue black when ripe. Has dramatic fall color. Often lopsided or awkward looking in youth, it can become a symmetrical round-headed tree to 50' tall. Needs well drained soil and infrequent watering when established.

18 London Plane (*Platanus x acerifolia*)

Pass in front of the Library and continue straight past the Cafeteria. In the lawn on the left stands a London Plane. A Sycamore hybrid, it can tolerate difficult conditions, but is healthier with better care. The patchy peeling bark lends winter interest as do the soft brown seed balls which hang from branches. A very common street tree, it grows quickly to 40-80' with a spread of 30-40' or more.

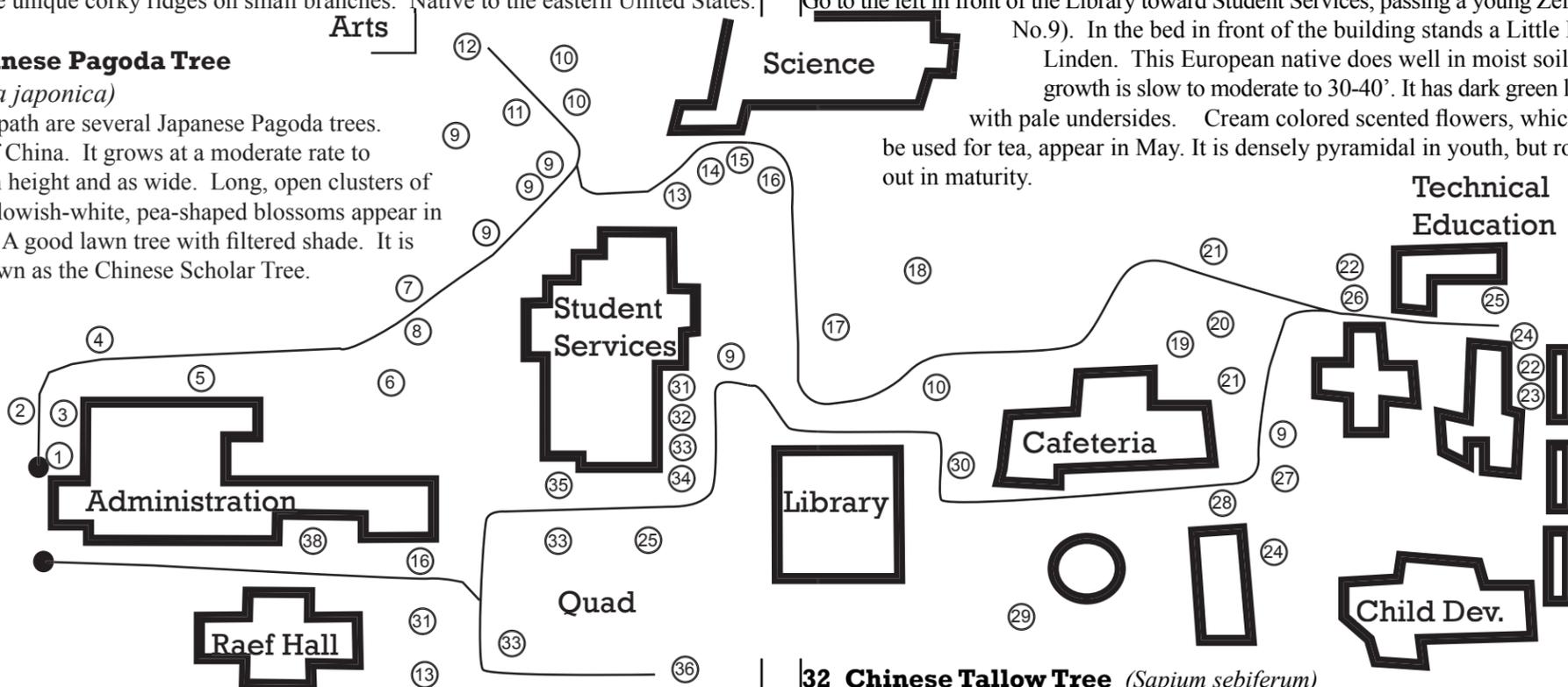
19 American Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)

On the right is a large tree often mistaken for a maple because of its maple shaped leaves. This tree is highly valued for its brilliant fall color. The spiky seed balls, suckers, large surface roots and falling limbs can be problems in older trees. Some trees have unique corky ridges on small branches. Native to the eastern United States.

20 Japanese Pagoda Tree

(*Sophora japonica*)
Near the path are several Japanese Pagoda trees. Native of China. It grows at a moderate rate to 50 -70' in height and as wide. Long, open clusters of small yellowish-white, pea-shaped blossoms appear in summer. A good lawn tree with filtered shade. It is also known as the Chinese Scholar Tree.

College Oak Drive / Visitor Parking



21 Bradford Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*) 'Bradford'

Before the intersection on both sides of the path. Compare this flowering pear to No.16. Like No. 16, it blooms early with white flowers, followed by small marble-sized fruits. Glossy dark green oval leaves turn rich purplish red in fall. Can grow to 50' tall and 30' wide. Without corrective pruning when young, its narrow branch angles may split when the tree is 12-15 years old. Chinese native.

22 Chinese Hackberry (*Celtis chinensis*)

Go directly into the Courtyard of the Technical Education Building, where you will find two Hackberries, which are in the Elm Family. This one, the Chinese Hackberry, is fast growing to 50' tall and wide. Note the rough bark, toothed shiny leaves. The small dry berrylike fruit turns scarlet in the Fall. Hackberries are deep rooted, and make good street or lawn trees in good soils with deep infrequent watering.

23 European Hackberry (*Celtis australis*)

Native to the Mediterranean, the European Hackberry is similar to the Chinese Hackberry, but has smooth bark and larger leaves. It can reach 40 - 80 ft high and 30 - 35 ft. wide. It is resistant to the woolly Asian hackberry aphid.

24 European White Birch (*Betula pendula*)

The most commonly planted birch in Sacramento, it may be short lived and susceptible to birch borers. Supply ample moisture and avoid pruning unnecessarily.

25 Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

Displays chartreuse and orange tulip-shaped flowers in late April and May, followed by pointed seeds cones which eventually open up and shatter when dry. The lyre-shaped yellow green leaves turn bright yellow in fall. The tree grows fast to 60-80' with a 30-40' spread. Native to the southeastern US, it is related to the magnolia which leads to some confusion of the common names.

26 Japanese Black Pine (*Pinus thunbergii*)

Retrace your steps out of the courtyard. Just at the entrance is a Japanese Black Pine. Note that this pine has needles in bundles of two. It can grow to 100 ft, although in our area it usually grows to about 30. It takes a spreading irregular shape.

27 Ghost Pine, Gray Pine (*Pinus sabiniana*)

Cross behind the Cafeteria, walking between the magnificent Zelkova (No.9) and the Cafeteria. On the island with the Zelkova is a native Ghost Pine, also called a Gray Pine. This sparse, open pine is the only native pine in the Sacramento area; it can tolerate the hot dry conditions. It grows to 50 ft or more with long gray green needles that are in bundles of three. It has some of the largest pine cones - up to 10 inches around and very heavy.

28 River Birch (*Betula nigra*)

Behind the bookstore are two birches: the European White Birch (No.24), and the River Birch. River Birches have peeling bark which may reveal shades of salmon, tan to cinnamon brown and grow quickly to 50' or more. It is native to the eastern United States as far south as Florida and is borer resistant (unlike the European White Birch).

29 Coast Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*)

On a berm behind the dining pit is a row of the world's tallest trees. The Coast Redwood shares the status of the California state tree with its close relative the Giant Sequoia. "Tall Tree" in Redwood National Park is 368 feet tall. It is native to California's Coast Ranges and needs regular deep watering. The Coast Redwood has thicker reddish bark, a smaller cone and a spray of parallel needle-like leaves compared to the short prickly overlapping scales of the Giant Sequoia.

30 Scotch Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*)

Between the Library and the Cafeteria, you find several Scotch Pines. Compare to the Japanese Black Pine (No. 26) which also has needles in clusters of two. This pine has orange bark and an upright trunk. In youth it is pyramidal and grows fast, but in age can take an irregular, open shape. Cones are small, around two inches.

31 Little Leaf Linden (*Tilia cordata*)

Go to the left in front of the Library toward Student Services, passing a young Zelkova (No.9). In the bed in front of the building stands a Little Leaf Linden. This European native does well in moist soil, but growth is slow to moderate to 30-40'. It has dark green leaves with pale undersides. Cream colored scented flowers, which can be used for tea, appear in May. It is densely pyramidal in youth, but rounds out in maturity.

32 Chinese Tallow Tree (*Sapium sebiferum*)

Named for the white clusters of seeds which hang on after the leaves fall, this tree can grow quickly to 30-40 feet tall and 25-30 feet wide. In China the seed's waxy coat is used to obtain vegetable tallow for candles and soaps. It spreads along waterways, and has naturalized in the Southeastern US and along the American River Parkway.

33 Tupelo, Sour Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)

Native to the eastern US, with slow to moderate growth to 30-50', 15-25' wide. Glossy green leaves provide reliable fall color that ranges from red to yellow. Small fruit on female trees are bluish black. The Tupelo is tolerant of poor drainage. The word 'tupelo' comes from Creek Indian words meaning tree and swamps.

34 Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*)

California's mightiest oak, often reaching 70 ft or taller. Best in deep soils where it can tap groundwater. This is the tree that gives much of the Central Valley the look of a giant park. What will happen to this tree as it grows? Does this look like the right tree in the right place?

35 'Glauca' Blue Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*)

On the right is the Blue Atlas Cedar. This is a silvery blue hybrid of a North African native. It often reaches 40-60 ft. in height and 30 ft. in width. It is a true cedar, bearing its leaves in tufted clusters. Here it has room to reach its mature form.

36 Italian Alder (*Alnus cordata*)

Grows to about 40', spreading to 25'. The heart-shaped leaves are glossy green above, paler beneath. Before leafing out, the tree displays yellowish male catkins. Small woody cones develop from the female flowers.

37 Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*)

Often trained to a single trunk, it blooms in summer. Different cultivars come in a wide range of colors from pink to red, white, lavender and purple. The species thrives in full hot sun and is drought tolerant once established. Size varies from two ft dwarfs to more than 20ft tall. Native to China, Korea and Far East Asia.

38 Canary Island Pine (*Pinus canariensis*)

The fourth pine tree on the tour, the Canary Island Pine has needles in threes, 9 - 12 in. long. A tall, handsome tree with drooping foliage. It reaches 60 to 80 ft high with a spread of 25 to 35 ft. Fast growing and drought tolerant.