

# Petronius Jones Tree Walk

Begin the tree walk near the Lombardy Street entrance and follow the gravel path along Idlewood Ave. toward S. Allen St. As you walk, notice the variety of leaf shapes and distinctive bark. You will see Common Honey Locust, Ginkgo and American Holly. The mature trees along Idlewood Ave. form an allée that provides shade and visual interest in all four seasons. Once you see a labeled tree, you may find additional examples of the same species by matching the leaf shape, bark or shape of the tree crown. There are a number of examples of Japanese Zelkova, Green Ash, Red Maple and Sugar Maple, among others, in the park.

Some of the young trees on the tree walk include London Plane, Horse Chestnut, Red Oak and Hickory planted in the park in 2013 and 2014 with generous support from a grant from a private family foundation. Richmond Tree Stewards and student volunteers from Virginia Commonwealth University planted these trees.

The gravel path leads you toward the Tot Lot at the corner of Idlewood and S. Allen St. There are mature Crape Myrtles and young Japanese Snowbells in this area. Turn the corner along S. Allen St. and the large tree ahead of you is a Hackberry that has unusual and interesting bark, so take a close look! There is also a planting of young Eastern Red Cedar, River Birch and Black Gum trees on your right in this area.

Turning along Grayland Ave., the mature trees create another allée looking toward the tennis courts. You'll find mature Hedge Maple, Green Ash, Willow Oak, Water Oak and several young American Beech trees. The last labeled trees on this portion of the walk before you reach the tennis courts, are a mature London Plane and a young Saucer Magnolia.

You can continue the tree walk by moving past the tennis courts and then to the right toward the Gazebo. Labeled trees in this area offer Dogwood and Redbud, our regional native spring flowering staples, intermixed with Japanese Cherry trees and mature Eastern Red Cedars. For your final stop walk past the Gazebo and bear left walking along Idlewood Ave. past the swimming pool. Adjacent to the small playground just past the pool are several young American Sycamore trees.

Go around again another day, another season. There's always something new to notice.