

# **ARLINGTON COUNTY Champion Trees 2007-2008**



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,  
RECREATION AND  
CULTURAL RESOURCES







This brochure lists more than 80 County Champion trees. They are the largest trees identified in Arlington of their species. Several of these are also State Champions - the largest of their species identified anywhere in Virginia. A great example is the Post Oak on N. 11th Street (page 3). This State Champion may date from the late 1700s!

It's exciting to learn that we have so many big trees in Arlington. Some are in parks and others are on private property. Those of us who are fortunate enough to have large shade trees in our yards or along nearby streets derive many benefits from them, of course, even when they are not County or State Champions.

Please look over the list of Champion Trees in this booklet. If you think you know of a larger tree of a particular species, whether in your yard, a park or anywhere else in Arlington, send in the Champion Tree Nomination form on the back of this brochure. We would very much like to find large loblolly pine, honeylocust, bigtooth aspen, common catalpa, chinkapin oak, allegheny chinkapin, hophornbeam and butternut, as we have none in this listing. A tree you nominate may well turn out to be the next County Champion - and possibly the next State Champion - for its species.

Sincerely,



**Paul Ferguson**  
Chairman

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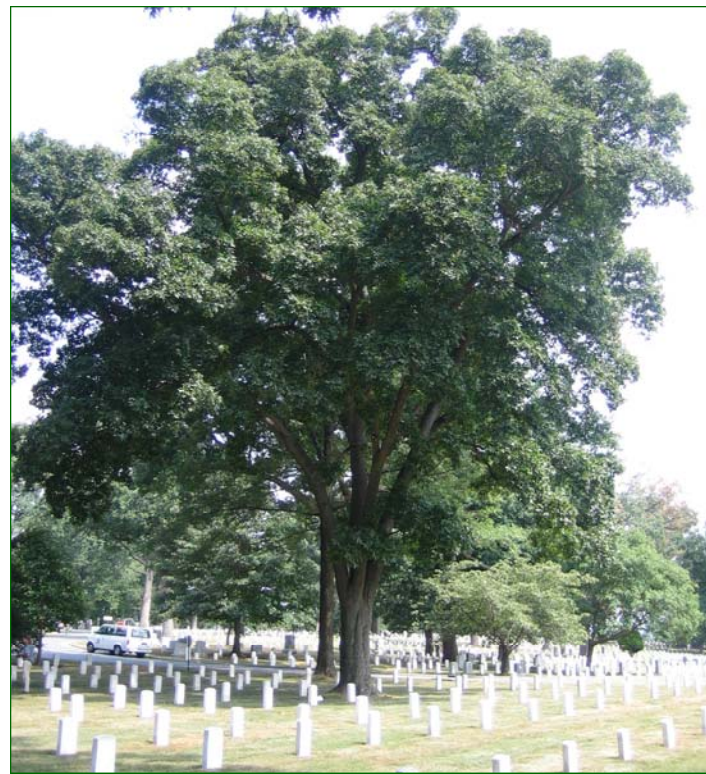
### **Arlington County Champion Tree Program**

Arlington's Champion Tree Program is co-managed by the Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) and the Landscape and Forestry Section of the Arlington County Parks and Natural Resource Management Division. The UFC, a County Board appointed citizen commission, serves to advise the County on issues relating to urban forestry and other tree-related programs.

#### **Urban Forestry Commission Members**

Larry Finch, Chairman  
Dean Amel  
Kerry Britton  
Alisa Cowen  
Mary Ann Lawler  
Ed Hilz  
Marty Nielsen  
Alice Nicolson  
Josephine Thorpe  
Nora Palmatier

Special thanks to John Parish and Rod Simmons (botanists) for their expert identification skills.





# Arlington's Urban Forest and Big Trees



This Post Oak growing on N. 11th St. is the State champion and may date to the latter part of the 1700s.

The face of Arlington has changed dramatically over the past 300 years. Where virgin forests and unfettered streams and wetlands once stood, a bustling urban community of more than 190,000 residents now work, live and recreate.

Arlington's remaining natural forests, while much reduced in size, represent a valuable ecological asset to the community and a touchstone to the past. Located on federal property and local public parkland, these significant forest communities provide sanctuary for documented rare plants and plant communities, and provide valuable natural habitat for wildlife.

Arlington's natural forests are estimated to range in age from 75 to over 200 years old. While many of Arlington's Champion Trees are found in old-age

parkland forest, a surprising number of old trees survive on private property. Many of these trees pre-date the existing homes, and in some cases, the neighborhood. Good places to search for potential champion trees are local parks, church yards and cemeteries, and historical sites.

Arlington County is truly a "Tree City" with an active urban forestry program and wealth of senior trees. Recent transplants to Arlington often remark how pleasantly surprised they are to find so many big trees growing in their neighborhood and throughout the County.

## WHAT MAKES A TREE A CHAMPION?

In simple terms, a Champion Tree is the largest specimen of that species. Individual Champions vary by size, age and growth habitat. As a general rule, forest trees of equal age will be taller, thinner and have a smaller crown compared to counterparts grown in more open environments. A slow-growing White Oak with a girth of 17' and a height of 100' may be over 300 years old, while a faster-growing Black Locust can reach old age and champion size within 100 years.

Since Champion Trees are strictly rated by size, a standard system of measurement and scoring is used. The total score of a tree is determined by adding together three values – the circumference or girth (in inches), the height (in feet) and 25% of the average crown spread (in feet). Add these three values together and high score wins! Circumference (CBH) is normally measured at breast height – 4 ½ ft. above the ground. Basic instruction on how to measure and score a tree may be found on the American Forests web site: [www.americanforests.org/resources/bigtrees/measure.php](http://www.americanforests.org/resources/bigtrees/measure.php).

## Got a Champion?

**Arlington needs Champions  
for the Following Native Species**

|                |                |                     |
|----------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Loblolly Pine  | Honeylocust    | Butternut           |
| Common Catalpa | Chinquapin Oak | Allegheny Chinkapin |
| Hophornbeam    |                |                     |



# Arlington County Champion Trees

Ash, Green *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*  
**Score: 256** 123" Cir. 111' Ht. 81' C.S.  
 CCR Barcroft Park Arlington County

Ash, White *Fraxinus americana*  
**Score: 250** 135" Cir. 93' Ht. 89' C.S.  
 CCC Lyon Park Lyon Park Community Center

Ash, White *Fraxinus americana*  
**Score: 249** 123" Cir. 105' Ht. 83' C.S.  
 CCC Lyon Park Lyon Park Community Center

Azalea, Wild *Rhododendron periclymenoides*  
**Score: 20** 5.5" Cir. 12' Ht. 9' C.S.  
 CC Long Branch Park Arlington County

Basswood *Tilia americana*  
**Score: 208** 127" Cir. 70' Ht. 46' C.S.  
 CC Arlington Cemetery Department of Defense

Beech, American *Fagus grandifolia*  
**Score: 289** 130" Cir. 137' Ht. 92' C.S.  
 CC Gulf Branch Park Arlington County

Birch, River *Betula nigra*  
**Score: 266** 176" Cir. 78' Ht. 48' C.S.  
 SC2 Barcroft Park Arlington County

Boxelder *Acer negundo*  
**Score: 230** 141" Cir. 67' Ht. 90' C.S.  
 CC Donaldson Run Church of the Covenant

Buttonbush *Cephalanthus occidentalis*  
**Score: 44** 24" Cir. 16' Ht. 15' C.S.  
 SC Roaches Run Waterfowl Sanctuary National Park Service

Cedar, Deodar *Cedrus deodara*  
**Score: 215** 155" Cir. 40' Ht. 79' C.S.  
 SC2\*\* Arlington House National Park Service

Cherry, Black *Prunus serotina*  
**Score: 276** 162" Cir. 99' Ht. 62' C.S.  
 CC Arlington Cemetery Department of Defense

Chestnut, American *Castanea dentata*  
**Score: 104** 29" Cir. 70' Ht. 21' C.S.  
 CC Glencarlyn Park Arlington County

Cottonwood, Eastern *Populus deltoides*  
**Score: 307** 168" Cir. 115' Ht. 97' C.S.  
 CCR Shirlington Park Arlington County

Deerberry *Vaccinium stamineum*  
**Score: 29** 20" Cir. 6' Ht. 12' C.S.  
 SC G.W. Parkway National Park Service

Devil's Walking Stick *Aralia spinosa*  
**Score: 41** 10" Cir. 26' Ht. 20' C.S.  
 CC Long Branch Park Arlington County

Dogwood, Flowering *Cornus florida*  
**Score: 107** 73" Cir. 26' Ht. 33' C.S.

## KEY to Champion Trees

**Common Name** *Genus species*  
**Score** **Circumference (inches)** **Height (feet)** **Average Crown Spread (feet)**  
**Recognition Status** **Location /Civic Association** **Owner**

### Recognition Status

SC State Champion CCR County Champion of regional significance  
 SCC State Co-Champion CC County Champion  
 SC2 Second largest in State CCC Co-County Champion  
 SC3 Third largest in State

\* two trees scored within 5 points of each other are considered co-champions

\*\* non-native species



Dogwood, Alternate-leaved *Cornus alternifolia*

**Score: 55** 17" Cir. 30' Ht. 31' C.S.

**SC2** Fort C.F. Smith Park Arlington County

Elm, American *Ulmus americana*

**Score: 325** 216" Cir. 87' Ht. 87' C.S.

**CC** Alcova Heights Chris Maggio

Fringetree *Chionanthus virginicus*

**Score: 34** 14" Cir. 15' Ht. 18' C.S.

**CC** Glencarlyn Park Arlington County

Gum, Black *Nyssa sylvatica*

**Score: 269** 150" Cir. 105' Ht. 57' C.S.

**CCC** Benjamin Banneker Park Arlington County

Gum, Black *Nyssa sylvatica*

**Score: 269** 168" Cir. 84' Ht. 69' C.S.

**CCC** Yorktown Arlington Amoco

Hackberry, Common *Celtis occidentalis*

**Score: 298** 222" Cir. 53' Ht. 105' C.S.

**SC2** Lyon Village Ruth Carter

Hackberry, Dwarf *Celtis tenuifolia*

**Score: 62** 23" Cir. 35' Ht. 17' C.S.

**CC** Fort C.F. Smith Park Arlington County

Hemlock, Eastern *Tsuga canadensis*

**Score: 285** 184" Cir. 88' Ht. 53' C.S.

**SC** Lacey Woods Park Arlington County

Hickory, Bitternut *Carya cordiformis*

**Score: 248** 120" Cir. 112' Ht. 16' C.S.

**SC3** Roaches Run Waterfowl Sanctuary National Park Service

Hickory, Mockernut *Carya tomentosa*

**Score: 224** 103" Cir. 105' Ht. 64' C.S.

**SCC** Arlington House National Park Service

Hickory, Pignut *Carya glabra*

**Score: 245** 124" Cir. 110' Ht. 43' C.S.

**CCR** Arlington Cemetery Department of Defense

Hickory, Red *Carya ovalis*

**Score: 231** 81" Cir. 135' Ht. 59' C.S.

**CCC** Glencarlyn Park Arlington County

Hickory, Red *Carya ovalis*

**Score: 230** 119" Cir. 92' Ht. 75' C.S.

**CCC** Arlington Cemetery Department of Defense

Holly, American *Ilex opaca*

**Score: 223** 154" Cir. 57' Ht. 48' C.S.

**SCC** Rock Spring Ed and Beth McFadden

Hornbeam, American *Carpinus caroliniana*

**Score: 109** 76" Cir. 23' Ht. 41' C.S.

**SC2** Arlington Cemetery Department of Defense

Kentucky Coffeetree *Gymnocladus dioica*

**Score: 216** 115" Cir. 87' Ht. 50' C.S.

**CC** Highland Park-Overlee Knolls Dennis Dineen

## Investing in the Future

When a mature tree is lost, young trees may require fifty years or more to fully replace it. Trees are valuable assets. Here are some tips for taking care of mature trees:

**Watering.** In dry periods, even mature trees need to be watered. *A thorough soaking once a week is much better than frequent but light applications of water.*

**Invasive Plants.** Keep English ivy and other invasive plants away from trees. Like grass, invasive plants compete with trees for water and nutrients.

**Pruning.** Trees need their branches and leaves, and should be pruned only for good reason. When mature trees require pruning, hire a tree care firm with a certified arborist to do the work. *Responsible tree crews use ropes to lift themselves up into a tree; they never use spikes to climb living trees.*

**Topping.** Topping cuts off large branches and leaves stubs. It is an extreme form of pruning that severely damages trees, making them vulnerable to insects and disease. *Trees should not be topped.* When it is necessary to limit the height or spread of a tree because it is close to buildings or utility lines, there are alternatives to topping. Engage an ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) Certified Arborist or a Consulting Arborist (American Society of Consulting Arborists) to help you best support your trees. A list of ISA Certified Arborists can be found at [www.goodtreecare.com](http://www.goodtreecare.com). Consulting arborists can be found at [www.asca-consultants.org](http://www.asca-consultants.org).



# Trees!

## DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ In one year, an acre of trees can absorb as much carbon as is produced by a car driven 8700 miles.
- ◆ The average tree in a metropolitan area survives only about 8 years!
- ◆ Trees are the longest living organisms on earth.
- ◆ The tiny seed of the Cottonwood tree can stay aloft for several days.
- ◆ The General Sherman, a giant redwood sequoia growing in California is about 275' high and has a girth of 25'.
- ◆ The world's tallest tree is a coast redwood growing in California, measuring more than 360'.
- ◆ The world's oldest trees are 4,600 year old Bristlecone pines found in the United States.
- ◆ A mature birch tree can produce up to one million seeds per year.

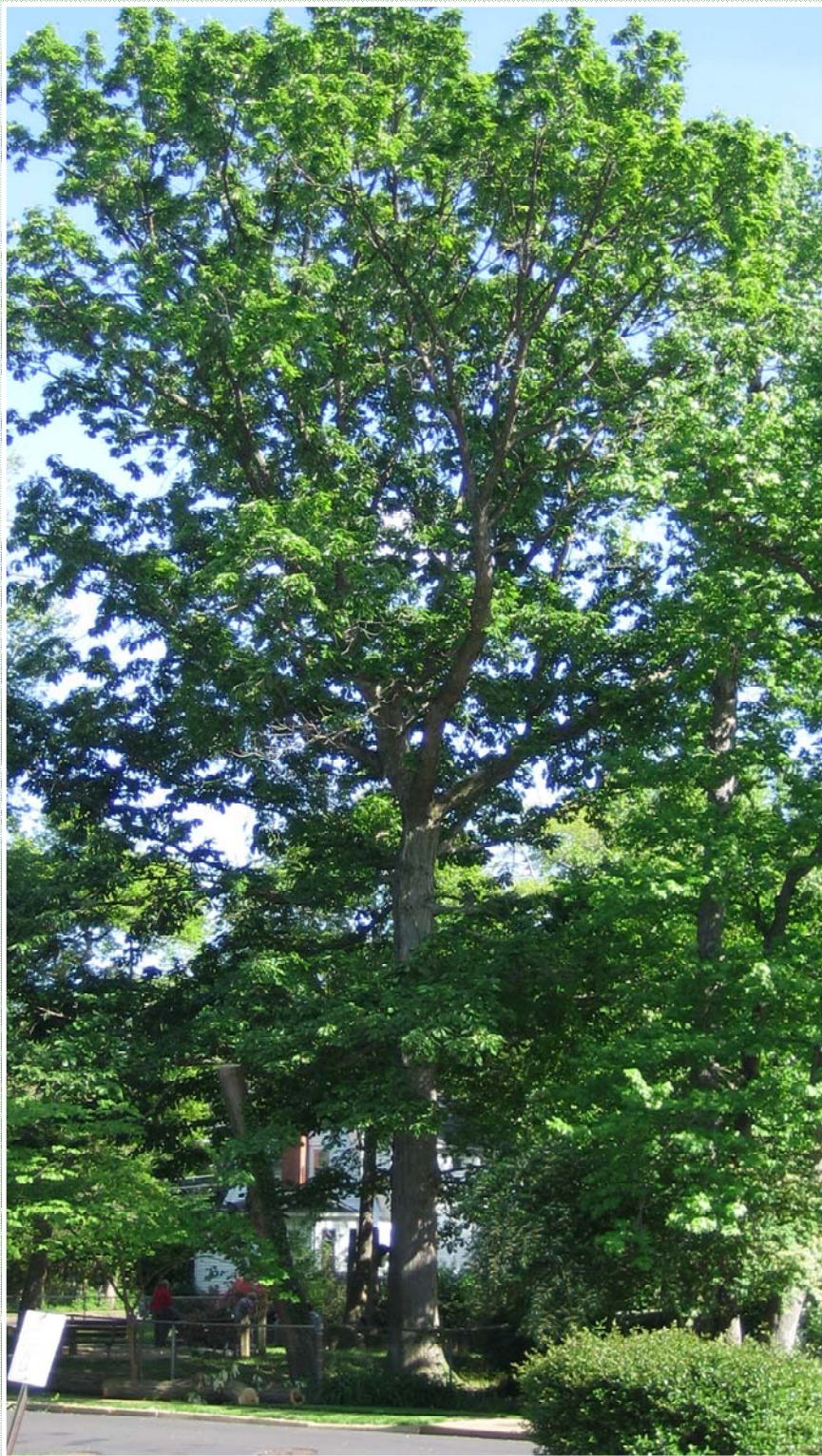
## WHY ARE TREES INDISPENSABLE?

- ◆ Keep air supply fresh by absorbing carbon dioxide and producing oxygen
- ◆ Provide shade and shelter, reducing heating and cooling costs by \$2.1 billion annually.
- ◆ Lower air temperature by evaporating water through their leaves.
- ◆ Reduce noise pollution by acting as sound barriers.
- ◆ Stabilize the soil and prevent erosion.
- ◆ Improve water quality by slowing and filtering rain water and protecting aquifers and watersheds.
- ◆ Provide food and shelter for wildlife.
- ◆ Provide protection from downward fall of rain, sleet and hail and reduce storm runoff and the possibility of flooding.

### More useful tree resources can be found at:

The Virginia Big Tree Program - [www.cnr.vt.edu/4H/bigtree/](http://www.cnr.vt.edu/4H/bigtree/)  
Virginia Tech Dendrology - [www.cnr.vt.edu/dendro/dendrology/main.htm](http://www.cnr.vt.edu/dendro/dendrology/main.htm)  
Virginia Native Plant Society - [www.vnps.org/](http://www.vnps.org/)  
Potomac Conservancy Grow Native - [www.potomac.org/growingnative/](http://www.potomac.org/growingnative/)  
*Tree Care Tips* can be found at - [www.arlingtonva.us/prcr](http://www.arlingtonva.us/prcr), search for link  
"All About Trees"





Swamp Chestnut Oak

Locust, Black *Robinia pseudoacacia*

**Score: 272** 174" Cir. 87' Ht. 45' C.S.

**SC2** Bluemont Bruce Reynolds

Magnolia, Sweetbay *Magnolia virginiana*

**Score: 68** 23" Cir. 39' Ht. 24' C.S.

**CC** Barcroft Park Arlington County

Magnolia, Umbrella *Magnolia tripetala*

**Score: 107** 33" Cir. 65' Ht. 36' C.S.

**SC2** Pimmet Run Park Arlington County

Maple, Red *Acer rubrum*

**Score: 286** 144" Cir. 121' Ht. 85' C.S.

**CC** Upton Hill Park N.Virginia Regional Park Authority

Maple, Silver *Acer saccharinum*

**Score: 335** 214" Cir. 96' Ht. 101' C.S.

**CCC** Parkhurst Park Arlington County

Maple, Silver *Acer saccharinum*

**Score: 336** 201" Cir. 110' Ht. 99' C.S.

**CCC** Donaldson Run C.A. Patty Stimmel

Mulberry, Red *Morus rubra*

**Score: 162** 89" Cir. 60' Ht. 53' C.S.

**CCR** Powhatan Springs Park Arlington

Mulberry, White *Morus alba*

**Score: 212** 144" Cir. 79' Ht. 48' C.S.

**SC3\*\*** Waycroft Woodlawn Capital Hospice

Oak, Black *Quercus velutina*

**Score: 364** 191" Cir. 153' Ht. 83' C.S.

**CCR** Dover Crystal Unknown

Oak, Blackjack *Quercus marilandica*

**Score: 126** 51" Cir. 70' Ht. 27' C.S.

**CC** Pimmit Run Park National Park Service

Oak, Chestnut *Quercus prinus*

**Score: 337** 189" Cir. 125' Ht. 92' C.S.

**SC3** Bluemont Park Arlington County



## Invasive Plants Alert!

What is the greatest current risk to the health and survival of our local forested parklands? The presence and rapid spread of non-native, invasive plants. They can alter the natural process of succession within our natural plant communities. Aggressive invasive plants, such as English Ivy, out-compete and displace native species, and have been identified within all of Arlington's wooded parks. Help Arlington County protect our valuable forest resources; log on to [www.arlingtonva.us](http://www.arlingtonva.us) and search on invasive plants.



Oak, Northern Red *Quercus rubra*  
**Score: 338** 173" Cir. 148' Ht. 70' C.S.  
**SC3** Windy Run Park Arlington County

Oak, Northern Red *Quercus rubra*  
**Score: 341** 171" Cir. 150' Ht. 80' C.S.  
**SC2** Windy Run Park Arlington County

Oak, Overcup *Quercus lyrata*  
**Score: 222** 134" Cir. 72' Ht. 65' C.S.  
**CC** Madison Manor Cathy Jardim and Bill Taylor

Oak, Pin *Quercus palustris*  
**Score: 323** 172" Cir. 125' Ht. 104' C.S.  
**CCR** Arlington Cemetery Department of Defense

Oak, Post *Quercus stellata*  
**Score: 333** 216" Cir. 93' Ht. 102' C.S.  
**SC** N. 11th St. Arlington County

Oak, Saul's *Quercus saulii (alba x prinus)*  
**Score: 326** 167" Cir. 140' Ht. 78' C.S.  
**SC** Zachary Taylor Park Arlington County

Oak, Sawtooth *Quercus acutissima*  
**Score: 222** 134" Cir. 72' Ht. 65' C.S.  
**SC\*\*** Claremont John Garren

Oak, Sawtooth *Quercus acutissima*  
**Score: 212** 145" Cir. 48' Ht. 77' C.S.  
**SC2\*\*** Arlington Cemetery Department of Defense

Oak, Scarlet *Quercus coccinea*  
**Score: 294** 145" Cir. 128' Ht. 90' C.S.  
**SC2** Chestnut Hills Park Arlington County

Oak, Scarlet *Quercus coccinea*  
**Score: 291** 184" Cir. 85' Ht. 87' C.S.  
**CCC** Lee Arts Center Arlington County

Oak, Southern Red *Quercus falcata*  
**Score: 327** 235" Cir. 80' Ht. 79' C.S.  
**CCR** Water Treatment Plant Arlington County

Oak, Swamp White *Quercus bicolor*  
**Score: 286** 147" Cir. 99' Ht. 87' C.S.  
**CC** Bluemont Park Arlington County



This regionally significant Chestnut Oak grows in Bluemont Park, where it dwarfs the trees around it.

Oak, Water *Quercus nigra*  
**Score: 282** 180" Cir. 80' Ht. 87' C.S.  
**SC3** Arlington Cemetery Department of Defense

Oak, White *Quercus alba*  
**Score: 325** 191" Cir. 108' Ht. 103' C.S.  
**CCC** Arlington Cemetery Department of Defense

Oak, White *Quercus alba*  
**Score: 322** 212" Cir. 85' Ht. 99' C.S.  
**CCC** North 16th St. Arlington County

Oak, Willow *Quercus phellos*  
**Score: 392** 258" Cir. 112' Ht. 88' C.S.  
**CC** Arlington Cemetery Department of Defense

Persimmon *Diospyros virginiana*  
**Score: 166** 96" Cir. 60' Ht. 41' C.S.  
**CC** Arlington Cemetery Department of Defense

Pine, Pitch *Pinus rigida*  
**Score: 153** 82" Cir. 60' Ht. 44' C.S.  
**CC** I-66 Bike Trail Arlington County

Pine, Short-Leaf *Pinus echinata*  
**Score: 144** 58" Cir. 77' Ht. 37' C.S.  
**CC** Gulf Branch Park Arlington County



Pine, Virginia *Pinus virginiana*  
**Score: 190** 88" Cir. 91' Ht. 44' C.S.  
**SC** Lacey Woods Park Arlington County

Pine, Virginia *Pinus virginiana*  
**Score: 183** 81" Cir. 91' Ht. 44' C.S.  
**SC2** Lacey Woods Park Arlington County

Pine, White *Pinus strobus*  
**Score: 247** 132" Cir. 100' Ht. 61' C.S.  
**CCR** Waycroft-Woodlawn Nancy Cardwell

Redbud, American *Cercis canadensis*  
**Score: 74** 37" Cir. 30' Ht. 28' C.S.  
**CC** Thrifton Hills Park Arlington County

Redcedar, Eastern *Juniperus virginiana*  
**Score: 143** 85" Cir. 52' Ht. 23' C.S.  
**CCC** Arlington Cemetery Department of Defense

Redcedar, Eastern *Juniperus virginiana*  
**Score: 142** 83" Cir. 52' Ht. 27' C.S.  
**CCC** Fort C.F. Smith Park Arlington County

Royal Paulownia *Paulownia tomentosa*  
**Score: 271** 201" Cir. 54' Ht. 65' C.S.  
**SCC\*\*** Arlington Cemetery Department of Defense

Sassafras *Sassafras albidum*  
**Score: 192** 77" Cir. 103' Ht. 47' C.S.  
**CC** Pimmet Run Park Arlington County

Shadbush, American *Amelanchier arborea*  
**Score: 78** 25" Cir. 45' Ht. 33' C.S.  
**CC** Gulf Branch Park Arlington County

Sourwood *Oxydendrum arboreum*  
**Score: 106** 63" Cir. 44' Ht. 35' C.S.  
**CC** (Not listed) John and Mary Linda Norman

Spicebush, American *Lindera benzoin*  
**Score: 40** 11" Cir. 23' Ht. 25' C.S.  
**CC** Fort C.F. Smith Park Arlington County

Sumac, Shining *Rhus copallina*  
**Score: 54** 20" Cir. 35' Ht. 13' C.S.  
**SCC** Upton Hill Park NVRPA

Sweetgum *Liquidambar styraciflua*  
**Score: 242** 150" Cir. 70' Ht. 88' C.S.  
**CC** Dover Crystal Christina Biebesheimer

Sycamore, American *Platanus occidentalis*  
**Score: 386** 226" Cir. 135' Ht. 100' C.S.  
**CC** Waycroft-Woodlawn Rod Johnson & Kim Finan

Tulip Poplar *Liriodendron tulipifera*  
**Score: 437** 251" Cir. 140' Ht. 83' C.S.  
**CCR** Fort C.F. Smith Park Arlington County

Viburnum, Blackhaw *Viburnum prunifolium*  
**Score: 62** 39" Cir. 18' Ht. 22' C.S.  
**CCC** Arlington Cemetery Department of Defense

Viburnum, Blackhaw *Viburnum prunifolium*  
**Score: 60** 39" Cir. 16' Ht. 22' C.S.  
**CCC** Arlington Cemetery Department of Defense

Walnut, Black *Juglans nigra*  
**Score: 260** 148" Cir. 90' Ht. 88' C.S.  
**CC** North Harrison St. Arlington County

Willow, Black *Salix nigra*  
**Score: 118** 66" Cir. 40' Ht. 47' C.S.  
**CC** Bluemont Park Arlington County

Witchhazel *Hamamelis virginiana*  
**Score: 39** 12" Cir. 21' Ht. 24' C.S.  
**CCR** Glencarlyn Park Arlington County

Yellowwood *Cladrastis kentukea*  
**Score: 214** 153" Cir. 48' Ht. 53' C.S.  
**SC2** Arlington Cemetery Department of Defense

**To report fallen or  
dangerous trees in Arlington,  
call 703-228-6525.**



# Celebrate Arlington's Trees!

## Arlington County Notable Trees

Size isn't the only thing that matters in Arlington. Our Notable Tree Program recognizes trees for their size, species, known historical connection or significance to a neighborhood. This voluntary program is sponsored by the Beautification Committee, a citizen volunteer group. Created in 1987, the Notable Tree Program has registered over 400 trees and recognizes and thanks residents who own, maintain and preserve exceptionally significant neighborhood trees. Currently, there are over 150 trees on the active register. Trees must be officially nominated. Accepted trees are honored with either a certificate or displayable plaque. For more information go to [www.arlingtonva.us/prcr](http://www.arlingtonva.us/prcr) or email [Pwegeng@arlingtonva.us](mailto:Pwegeng@arlingtonva.us).



This impressive County Champion Sweetgum is also an Arlington Notable Tree

## Arlington County Specimen Trees Pass on Legacy

Have you ever worried about what will happen to that giant White Oak in your front yard when you move or can no longer care for it? This ordinance-based tree program provides the opportunity for residents to pass on the legacy of their own special tree to future generations.

Article 3 of the Tree Preservation Ordinance (adopted November 16, 2002), created a mechanism for the County Board to legally protect designated trees on public or private land from future damage or removal. Violation of the ordinance may incur a civil penalty. Designation of County Specimen trees growing on properties with single-family dwellings, **requires the express consent of the homeowner.**

Trees are nominated in three categories. *Heritage* trees are those identified as being of notable historic or cultural value. *Memorial* trees are designated as having special commemorative value to the community. *Specimen* trees are required to be of outstanding size and quality for its species.

Prospective trees may be nominated by letter to an Arlington County urban forester, who will evalu-



This Tulip Poplar is the largest tree in the County. It is located at Fort C.F. Smith Park. At 140' in height and 20' 11" in girth, it is truly a giant.

ate the nomination, inspect the tree, and make recommendations to the County Board. If recommended, the County Board will hold a public hearing to consider the nomination.

Go to [www.arlingtonva.us/prcr](http://www.arlingtonva.us/prcr) and click on All About Trees, to view the complete Tree Preservation Ordinance (Chapter 67 of the Arlington County Code). For nomination procedures email [Jbartalon@arlingtonva.us](mailto:Jbartalon@arlingtonva.us).





## Fall Colors Shine Through

Few fail to appreciate the brilliant display of color produced each autumn by the native hardwood forests of the eastern United States. In fact, this annual display of color is estimated to support a billion-dollar industry up and down the Appalachian Mountains as tourists follow the wave of change from high to low altitude and latitude.

In the fall, many species of trees and shrubs can be identified from a distance by color alone. The most common leaf colors are yellow, orange and red. Some trees have been named for their fall colors, such as Red Maple, Yellow Poplar and Scarlet Oak. Arlington's most colorful fall trees are the uncommon Sourwood, which turns a deep red, and the common Red Maple, which progresses in stages from yellow to orange to bright red. At times all three colors are visible on a single leaf. White Oaks, rich in tannin, appear mostly brown and offer a contrast to the brighter trees around them. The most colorful fall forest displays occur in years when there are predominately dry, sunny days and dry, cool nights.

**Why do leaves change color?** Growing leaves appear green due to an abundance of the pigment chlorophyll. In the fall, as temperatures drop and the amount of daylight decreases, trees prepare for the winter by ending the process of photosynthesis. To shut off the production of food and chlorophyll, each leaf produces a membrane at the base of the leaf-stalk called an abscission layer. This layer serves as a barrier to the movement of water and nutrients to the leaf. As the remaining chlorophyll is broken down by sunlight, the true colors of each leaf (that were masked by the green pigment) are revealed.

## No Dumping ... PLEASE!

That wonderful park, open space or vacant lot near your house is not a place for yard waste.

Dumping leaves, sticks, grass clippings and other yard waste onto park property is not only illegal, but environmentally destructive.

Deep piles of raked leaves and brush on the forest floor will not decompose or recycle naturally. Instead, native plant seedlings are smothered. Invasive plant seeds are often introduced into the forest from residential back yards.

All yard waste will be picked up at the street if it is placed in proper containers or raked to the curb within designated seasons. During spring and fall seasons, free biodegradable leaf bags are available from designated locations.

Leaves collected by Arlington County are recycled and available to the public as free compost. For more information on the leaf pick-up program, call the Leaf Collection Information Line at 703-228-6565 or consult the County's web site for the current collection schedule in your neighborhood.

### Did You Know?

**Mulch helps gardens maintain moisture, but don't put it tightly around the base of a tree. Leave space for air and water.**



# Nominate a Champion Tree!

Nominate a new County Champion trees any time. Just review the current list of Champions, and if you think you have found a tree that is equal to or greater in score than the current champion, complete this form and mail to the address below. (Include a photo if possible!) If the nominated tree appears to be competitive with the current Champion, County staff or a trained volunteer will officially measure and identify the tree. Champion trees within five points of each other will be listed as Co-Champions.

Arlington's Champion Tree Program is designed to celebrate trees and shrubs native to Virginia. The only non-native species included will be those that also qualify for state champion status – one of the top three largest in Virginia. Unlisted native species will be considered for inclusion with nominations accepted so long as the specimen is at least 50% as large as the current State Champion.

Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Phone E-mail

\*Tree Owner: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Phone E-mail

\* The tree owner must be notified prior to nominating a tree.

Type of Tree (Species) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of tree \_\_\_\_\_

Size of Tree: Circumference (in.) \_\_\_\_\_ height (ft.) \_\_\_\_\_

Crown Spread (ft.) \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_

\*Information marked with asterisk is required.

**Champion Tree Program – Urban Forestry Commission**  
Natural Resource Management Division  
Arlington County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources  
2700 South Taylor Street  
Arlington, Va. 22206

The Arlington County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources is vital to the enrichment of Arlington as a vibrant and enjoyable community. It's mission is to provide dynamic programs and attractive public spaces that cultivate wellness and vitality throughout the community; offer healthy and fun recreation, sport and leisure choices; develop and protect natural and cultural resources; and provide opportunities for creative expression and intellectual growth. For more information email [prcr@arlingtonva.us](mailto:prcr@arlingtonva.us) or go to [www.arlingtonva.us/prcr](http://www.arlingtonva.us/prcr).

