

The Allentown Street Tree Tour – 2018

This tour takes you to one of every type of street tree in Allentown with the exception of 5 species that are too far from Main St. to make it worthwhile. A street tree is a tree that grows between the sidewalk and curb or equivalent if there is no sidewalk or curb. Only one tree of each species is listed on this tour (usually the best example). If you are reading this guide online you can click on the species name for a photo of the tree. Outside of this guide, if you want to know what type of street tree is at a given location you can go to <http://allentownboronj.net/tindex.php> and click on the "Allentown Trees" Menu item. This displays a list of maps of Allentown with all street trees represented by colored circles. Clicking on a circle opens up a description of the selected tree with a link to a picture of it.

The tour starts across from Allen Dr. on north North Main St. and continues south down North Main and South Main ending on South Main across from High St. It is just over half a mile long. This is just a suggested route. You can jump in at any location and travel in any direction as the trees are identified by street address.

Part of the plant descriptions are condensed from the Missouri Botanical Garden plant finder at <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderSearch.aspx> where you can find full descriptions and pictures. If you are reading this online you can go directly to this tree description by clicking on the scientific name which is in parenthesis.

Our plan is to expand this street tree tour guide and to also create one for Heritage Park. If you have a tree that you would like to add to the tour, or have some more information about a tree and its history please email us at ShadeTree@AllentownBoroNJ.com.

81 North Main St. – Silver Maple 1 & 2 ([Acer saccharinum](#)) IDs# 129 & 127

There are 2 Silver maples at this address, both fairly young.

Silver maple gets its name from the silvery undersides of its leaves. Typically growing to 50-80' (less frequently to 100') tall with a rounded open spreading crown. It is native to eastern and central North America. It is a fast-growing, somewhat graceful tree that formerly was a very popular urban landscape selection for lawns and streets, but has more recently fallen somewhat out of favor because of the proclivity of its weak-wooded limbs to split when stressed by high winds or ice/snow. Shallow roots may damage nearby sidewalks. Fall color is usually unremarkable. Tree sap is sweet, hence the species name which comes from the Latin word for sugar, but syrups made therefrom are greatly inferior to those made from sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*).

65 North Main St. - [Sawtooth oak](#) ([Quercus acutissima](#)) ID# 120

The only Sawtooth oak street tree in the borough. The diameter is 3 inches.

Sawtooth oak is a medium sized deciduous oak which has traits that are somewhat intermediate between the red and white oaks. It typically grows 40-60' tall with a broad-spreading, rounded crown. Gray to black bark develops corky ridging with age. It is native to China, Korea and Japan. Fall color is variable, ranging from an attractive golden brown to undistinguished pale brown.

62 North Main St. - [Red Maple](#) ([Acer rubrum](#)) ID# 118

This Red maple is one of 2 in the borough with a diameter of 12 inches.

Red maple is a medium-sized, deciduous tree that is native to Eastern North America. It typically grows 40-60' tall with a rounded to oval crown. It grows faster than Norway and sugar maples, but slower than silver maple. Emerging new growth leaves, leafstalks, twigs, flowers, fruit and fall color are red or tinged with red. Quality of red

fall color on species plants is variable. Red maple has a shallow, flattened root system that may buckle nearby sidewalks or driveways if planted too close.

60 North Main St. - Black tupelo [1](#) & [2](#) (*Nyssa sylvatica*) IDs# 235 & 236

There are 2 Black tupelo trees at this address, one 5 inches and the other 2 inches in diameter.

Nyssa sylvatica, commonly called sour gum or black gum, is a slow-growing, deciduous native. It is primarily a lowland tree found in low wet woods, bottomlands and pond peripheries, but also can be found on dry rocky wooded slopes and ravines. A stately tree with a straight trunk and rounded crown (more pyramidal when young) that typically grows 30-50' tall, but occasionally to 90'. Although flowers are not showy, they are an excellent nectar source for bees. Flowers give way to oval, 1/2" long fruits which are technically edible but quite sour (hence the common name). Fruits mature to a dark blue and are attractive to birds and wildlife. Spectacular scarlet fall color.

55 North Main St. - [Norway maple](#) (*Acer platanoides*) ID# 115

Norway maple, one of 4 here and at 55 North Main St. This is the largest at 24 inches diameter. Norway maple has fallen out of favor. It is invasive, crowding out our native plants. It is very shallow-rooted, starving other plants of moisture and sunlight, so nothing can grow under its wide canopy (especially lawn grass and most ground covers); the roots also heave sidewalks and streets. It is fast growing and thereby brittle, causing extensive damage from breakage. Norway maple has been banned in New Hampshire, Maine, and New York.

Norway maple is native to Europe. It has been widely planted in urban areas throughout much of the U.S. It is a medium-sized deciduous shade tree typically growing 40-50' tall with a dense, symmetrical, rounded crown. Fall color is usually an unremarkable yellow. Small yellow flowers in erect clusters (corymbs) appear in spring before the foliage.

43 North Main St. - [Littleleaf linden](#) (*Tilia cordata*) ID# 106

Littleleaf linden with a diameter of 16 inches is one of 4 in the borough.

Littleleaf linden, is native to Europe. It has been widely planted in the U.S. as an ornamental shade tree because of its attractive foliage, dense, low-branched, pyramidal to ovate form and tolerance for urban conditions. Ornamental features include fragrant pale yellow flowers in late spring, small nutlets with attached leafy wing and shiny dark green leaves. This is a medium to large deciduous tree, typically growing to 50-70' (less frequently to 100') tall. Fragrant, creamy yellow flowers appear in June. When a tree is in full bloom, bees often visit in such abundant numbers that humming can be heard many feet from the tree. Flowers give way to nutlets that ripen in late summer. Fall color is an undistinguished pale green to pale yellow.

40 North Main St. (on Broad St. side) - [Honeylocust](#) (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) ID# 99

This Honeylocust is the largest of 7 in the borough with a diameter of 25 inches. All are the thornless (*inermis*) form.

Honeylocust typically grows 60-80' (less frequently to 120') tall with a rounded spreading crown. Trunk and branches have stout thorns (to 3" long) that are solitary or three-branched. Inconspicuous, greenish yellow to greenish white flowers appear in racemes in late spring (May-June in St. Louis). Seedpods contain, in addition to seeds, a sweet gummy substance that gives honey locust its common name. Species plants are generally not sold in commerce today because the thorns and seedpods are considered to be significant liabilities.

Forma *inermis* is a thornless variety (*inermis* from Latin means unarmed) that occurs naturally in the wild. It grows to the same height as the thorny species plants. Cultivars of *G. triacanthos* which are sold in commerce today are

all cultivars of *inermis* (no thorns and in many cases no seedpods make them preferred landscape plants). Pinnate to bipinnate dark green leaves with ovate leaflets (1/2" to 1 1/2" long) cast a sun-dappled shade. Leaves turn an attractive yellow in fall.

36 North Main St. - [Flowering dogwood \(*Cornus florida*\)](#) ID# 92

One of 4 Flowering dogwoods in the borough, this one has a diameter of 8 inches. None of these trees are doing well. Dogwoods are not a good choice for a street tree where the street lawn is less than 6 feet in width.

Flowering dogwood, is a small deciduous tree that typically grows 15-30' tall with a low-branching, broadly-pyramidal but somewhat flat-topped habit. It arguably may be the most beautiful of the native American flowering trees. It blooms in early spring (April). The true dogwood flowers are actually tiny, yellowish green and insignificant, being compacted into button-like clusters. However, each flower cluster is surrounded by four showy, white, petal-like bracts which open flat, giving the appearance of a single, large, 3-4" diameter, 4-petaled, white flower. Oval, dark green leaves (3-6" long) turn attractive shades of red in fall. Bright red fruits are bitter and inedible to humans but are loved by birds. Fruits mature in late summer to early fall and may persist until late in the year.

36 North Main St. - [Pin oak \(*Quercus palustris*\)](#) ID# 93

This Pin oak is the largest on this tour at 37 inches in diameter. It is one of 41 Pin oak street trees in the borough making up 23% of our street tree stock.

Pin oak is a medium sized deciduous oak of the red oak group that typically grows 50-70' (less frequently to 100') tall with a broad pyramidal crown. Upper branches are ascending, middle branches are somewhat horizontal and lower branches are descending. In the wild, the lower branches of this tree are often shaded by other trees, eventually dying and breaking off leaving persistent pin-like stubs, hence the common name. Leaves turn deep red in fall. Pin oak is perhaps the most popular commercial oak of eastern North America, having been widely planted as both a street and a landscape tree.

17 North Main St. - [Kwanzan cherry \(*Prunus serrulata*\)](#) ID# 76

Kwanzan cherry is one of 15 in the borough. It has a diameter of 12 inches.

Prunus serrulata, commonly called Japanese flowering cherry or oriental cherry, is a medium sized tree growing to 50-75' tall in its native habitat. This species is rarely sold in commerce, however. What is commonly sold in commerce under the name of Japanese flowering cherry are a very large number of non-fruiting, often grafted cultivars ('Kwanzan' or 'Kanzan' being perhaps the most popular), that generally grow in the 15-25' range with vase-shaped to rounded crowns. These cultivars are primarily grown for their profuse and showy spring bloom. Cultivar flowers primarily come in various shades of white and pink and bloom with or just before the foliage in spring. Flowers come in single, semi-double or double form and may be fragrant or non-fragrant. New leaves may be tinged with bronze. Fall color varies from interesting shades of bronze and red to undistinguished drab yellows.

16 North Main St. - [American elm \(*Ulmus americana*\)](#) ID# 75

This American elm has a diameter of 29 inches. Although once widely planted as a street and lawn tree, American elm populations had been so decimated by Dutch elm disease that this tree was no longer considered to be a viable selection for landscape uses. That is changing as there are some varieties of American elm that are more resistant to Dutch elm disease, such as Valley Forge and Princeton. The borough has recently planted 8 of the resistant varieties. Hopefully American elm will be making a comeback.

American elm, is a medium to large deciduous tree, typically growing to 60-80' (less frequently to 130') tall with a vase-shaped, broad-rounded crown. It is native to eastern and central North America.

1 North Main St. - European hornbeam [1 & 2](#) ([Carpinus betulus](#)) IDs# 66 & 67

There are 2 European hornbeams at this address, both newly planted as part of the street scape work.

European hornbeam is a medium-sized, deciduous tree that grows 40-60' (less frequently to 80') tall with a pyramidal to oval-rounded crown. The dark green leaves (to 5" long) are clean and attractive throughout the growing season with little susceptibility to foliar diseases. Foliage turns an undistinguished yellow to orange in fall. Trunks have smooth gray bark and distinctive muscle-like fluting.

The common name comes from the extremely hard wood of this tree that will take a horn-like polish and was once used in Europe to make yokes for oxen (the beam between the ox horns).

6 South Main St. – Amur Maackia ([Maackia amurensis](#)) ID# 249

This Amur Maackia has a diameter of 3 inches. This is the only Amur Maackia street tree in the borough and was newly planted as part of the street scape work.

Amur Maackia is a small, deciduous tree with a broad, rounded habit. This member of the pea family typically grows in cultivation at a slow-to-moderate rate to a height of 20-30' (to 60' in the wild). Features erect, narrow, spike-like clusters (4-6" long) of fragrant, dull white, pea-like flowers which appear in late spring. Flowers are followed by flat seed pods (2-3" long). Dark olive green leaves are attractive in summer but produce no fall color. Coppery-bronze bark exfoliates on mature trees. Karlovich Maack, a 19th century Siberian explorer, discovered the tree growing in the region of the Amur River which serves as the border between Siberia and China. This member of the pea family is both closely related and similar in appearance to the slightly larger yellowwood (*Cladrastis*). Yellowwood has more attractive flowers and excellent fall color.

16 South Main St. - [Ginkgo](#) ([Ginkgo biloba](#)) ID# 157

This Ginkgo is 8 inches in diameter and is one of three nearby. When the leaves turn brilliant yellow and drop in the fall, it looks like a golden carpet in front of the library.

Ginkgo is a deciduous conifer that matures to 100' tall. It is the only surviving member of a group of ancient plants believed to have inhabited the earth up to 150 million years ago. It features distinctive two-lobed rich green leaves. Ginkgo trees are commonly called maidenhair trees in reference to the resemblance of their fan-shaped leaves to maidenhair fern leaflets. Ginkgos are dioecious (separate male and female trees). Nurseries typically sell only male trees (fruitless), because female trees produce seeds encased in fleshy, fruit-like coverings which, at maturity in autumn, are messy and emit a noxious, foul odor upon falling to the ground and splitting open.

22 South Main St. - [Eastern redbud](#) ([Cercis canadensis](#)) ID# 161

This is the only Eastern redbud street tree in the borough and was newly planted as part of the street scape work.

Eastern redbud, is a deciduous, often multi-trunked understory tree with a rounded crown that typically matures to 20-30' tall with a slightly larger spread. It is particularly noted for its stunning pea-like rose-purple flowers which bloom profusely on bare branches in early spring (March-April) before the foliage emerges. Flowers are followed by flattened leguminous bean-like dry seedpods (to 2-4" long) that mature to brown in summer. Each pod has 6-12 seeds. Pods may remain on the tree into winter. Leaves turn pale yellow to greenish-yellow in fall.

Lakeview Dr. – Green Ash ([Fraxinus pennsylvanica](#)) ID# 248

The Green ash is a short walk up Lakeview Dr. which is across the street from the Imlay House at 28 South Main. It is the second large tree on the left by the small cemetery. It has a diameter of 48 inches making it the largest, and probably oldest, street tree in the borough.

Green ash is a medium sized tree, typically growing 50-70' tall. Young trees are pyramidal in shape, gradually maturing to a more rounded but usually irregular crown. Foliage turns yellow in fall, with the quality of the fall color often varying considerably from year to year. Gray-brown bark develops distinctive diamond-shaped ridging on mature trees. The wood of green ash is commercially used for a variety of products including tool handles, oars, garden furniture and sports equipment.

This tree is being treated for the Emerald ash borer, native to Asia. It was first discovered in the U.S. in Michigan in 2002. It is now fairly widespread in New Jersey. Emerald ash borer will typically kill an ash tree within 3-5 years after infestation. Once infestation occurs, it is very difficult to eradicate this pest which feeds under the bark and bores into wood. This borer now constitutes a serious threat to all species of ash in North America.

28 South Main St. - [American sycamore \(Platanus occidentalis\)](#) ID# 165

One of 2 Sycamores that are borough street trees. The second, smaller, can be seen at 60 North Main St.

This Sycamore is the third largest street tree in the borough with a diameter of 39 inches.

American sycamore, eastern sycamore, buttonwood or buttonball tree, is generally regarded to be the most massive tree indigenous to eastern North America. It is a deciduous, usually single-trunk tree that typically grows to 75-100' (less frequently to 150') tall with horizontal branching and a rounded habit. Trunk diameter typically ranges from 3-8', with some records up to 16'. The signature ornamental feature of this huge tree is its brown bark which exfoliates in irregular pieces to reveal creamy white inner bark. Mature trees typically display mottled white bark that facilitates identification from great distances. Female flowers give way to fuzzy, long-stalked, spherical fruiting balls (to 1 3/8" diameter) that ripen to brown in October and persist into early winter. The wood has been commercially used for a variety of products including furniture, cabinets, barrels, crates and butcher blocks. Native Americans hollowed out trunk sections for dugout canoes.

There are 3 species of Sycamore that grow in our area. The London Plane tree (*Platanus x acerifolia*) was discovered in London in 1663, apparently a hybrid of the American Sycamore and the Asian Sycamore (*Platanus orientalis*). The three species can be identified by the number of seed balls hanging in a group from the branches. The American Sycamore seed balls hang singly, the Asian Sycamore seed balls hang in groups of five or six and the London Plane tree seed balls hang together in pairs.

36 South Main St. - [Northern red oak \(Quercus rubra\)](#) IDs# 172

Northern red oak, one of 2. The other one is in front of 34 South Main St. This one is the larger at 25 inches in diameter.

Northern red oak or red oak, is a medium sized, deciduous tree with a rounded to broad-spreading, often irregular crown. Typically grows at a moderate-to-fast rate to a height of 50-75' (often larger in the wild). Leaves turn brownish-red in autumn. Insignificant flowers in separate male and female catkins appear in spring. Fruits are acorns (with flat, saucer-shaped cups) which mature in early fall. An abundant crop of acorns may not occur before this tree reaches 40 years old.

43 South Main St. - [Callery pear \(Pyrus calleryana\)](#) ID# 176

This Callery pear is one of the largest in the borough with a diameter of 16 inches. It is one of 37 Callery pears which is 20% of all our street trees. Callery pears have tight V shaped branching, which is a weak spot causing limbs to split off making it a questionable choice for street trees. There are 16 Callery pears on Church St., 8 of which had good sized limbs break off during the heavy, wet snow of March 7th, 2018.

Callery pear is native to China and Taiwan. It is an upright-branched ornamental tree. It grows pyramidal to columnar in youth, but tends to become oval to spreading with age. It is noted for its early profuse spring bloom, quality glossy green foliage and often excellent fall color.

In the 1950s, Callery pear emerged in U.S. commerce as a promising new ornamental tree, leading to massive landscape plantings. By the 1980s, concerns about both overplanting and structural weakness (limb breakage from wind, ice and snow) began to surface. Today, there are additional concerns about invasiveness (non-sterile forms are escaping cultivation and naturalizing in some areas).

Do Callery pears smell bad? Yes, yes they do! The tree does look pretty in the spring when the blossoms are in full bloom but they are extremely odoriferous. Some have likened the smell to cat urine, but others say it doesn't smell that good.

Sensi's Park just past 43 South Main St. One the left side by the parking lot there is a grove of 9 mature trees.

Eastern White Pine – ([Pinus Strobus](#))

There are 5 Eastern white pines all about 16 inches in diameter.

Eastern white pine is a rapid-growing, long-lived, needled evergreen tree that is native to the northeastern United States and Canada (State tree of Maine and Michigan). Although pyramidal in its early years, it matures to a broad oval habit with an irregular crown. Typically grows 50-80' in cultivation, but will grow to 100' tall in the wild, with records existing to over 200'. Landscape size and shape can be controlled through pruning, however, to the extent that white pine may be sheared and grown as a hedge. Bluish green needles (to 5" long) are soft to the touch and appear in bundles of five. Cylindrical, brown cones (4-8" long) are usually not produced until after 5-10 years. An important timber tree (perhaps more so in the 18th and 19th centuries than now) which was and is valued for its lightweight, straight-grained wood (orange heartwood and white sapwood).

Pin Oak – ([Quercus palustris](#))

There are 3 Pin oaks all about 16 inches in diameter. See 36 North Main St. above for description.

American Holly ([Ilex Opaca](#))

There is one American holly behind the pines and oaks.

American holly, is an upright, pyramidal, evergreen tree that slowly matures to 15-30' in cultivation, but may reach 50' tall in the wild. It is native to the eastern and central U.S., most frequently found in moist woods, forest bottomlands and swamp peripheries plus some coastal dunes (e.g., Cape Cod down the Atlantic Coast). This species is easily identified because it is the only native U.S. holly with spiny green leaves and bright red berries. This is the Christmas holly whose berry-laden boughs are typically collected at Christmas time each year for ornamentation. Thick, leathery, deep green leaves (2-4" long) have spiny marginal teeth. Species is dioecious (male and female flowers are on separate trees). Greenish-white flowers bloom May-June. Bright red or orange fruits ripen in fall on pollinated female trees, and persist on the tree through winter. Birds love the fruit.

86 South Main St. - [Sugar maple \(Acer saccharum\)](#) ID# 188

One of 8 Sugar maple street trees. It has a diameter of 12 inches.

Sugar maple is a deciduous native tree which will typically grow 40' to 80' tall (sometimes to 100') with a dense, rounded crown. This tree is a main component of the Eastern U.S. hardwood forest and is one of the trees which is

most responsible for giving New England its reputation for spectacular fall color. Medium green leaves (3-6" wide with 3-5 lobes) turn yellow-orange in autumn, sometimes with considerable color variations. Sugar maples are long-lived trees which grow relatively slowly (somewhat faster in the first 35 years). Native Americans taught the early colonists how to tap these trees to make maple syrup which has now become a multi-billion dollar industry in the U.S. and Canada. Excellent shade tree. The sugar maple leaf is the national symbol of Canada.