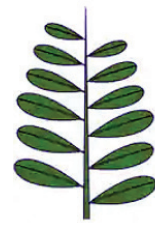


Baisley Pond Park Tree Guide

A selection of some of the most common tree species found at the park.

An important key to tree identification is leaf arrangement. The two most common types are *alternate*, where each leaf is staggered along the twig; and *opposite*, where each leaf has another one mirroring it on the opposite side. Leaf arrangement has been indicated in the tree species shown below.



Alternate



Opposite



Callery Pear

(*Pyrus calleryana*) Alternate, oval, finely-toothed leaves with a sharply pointed tip; fruits are small and ripen from green to brown, may persist on tree through winter; gray-brown bark is ridged and furrowed; clusters of white flowers appear in early spring; a very popular non-native tree now considered invasive.



Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*) Alternate, simple leaves with many fine teeth; fruit ripens to dark purple in summer and is an important food source for wildlife; irregular crown; mature bark is dark gray and flakes off in scales revealing orange beneath.



Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) Short, needle-like leaves, arranged alternately; a deciduous conifer that loses its leaves (goes bald) in the fall; long, straight trunk with furrows and flaky reddish green bark; mature trees growing in wet areas may show woody growths known as “knees” protruding from its roots above the soil. These may serve to act as stabilizers in wet soil.

White Willow (*Salix alba*) Alternate, 3-5 inch long lance-shaped, finely toothed leaves; yellowish flexible twigs often descend toward the ground; male flower is a short, conical catkin; bark is cracked and deeply fissured with age.



Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) Alternate, wide, wedge-shaped leaves with 7-11 bristle-tipped lobes; large acorns have pointed tips and wide saucer-like caps; handsome gray to reddish-brown bark broken into wavy flat ridges.

Sawtooth Oak (*Quercus acutissima*) Alternate, lance-shaped leaves with many bristle-tipped teeth; acorn with a shaggy cap; gray bark is rough and deeply fissured.



American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*)

Alternate, oval leaves with sharply pointed tip; double saw-toothed teeth along edge; fruit is a leafy green bract holding a single nutlet; also known as musclewood, the gray bark is sinuous as if stretched over bone and muscle; often short-trunked with many branches.



Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)

Opposite, pointed, elliptical leaves; red fruits mature in early fall; coarse bark; very showy white or pink spring flowers that feature notched bracts (often mistaken as flower petals).



Redbud

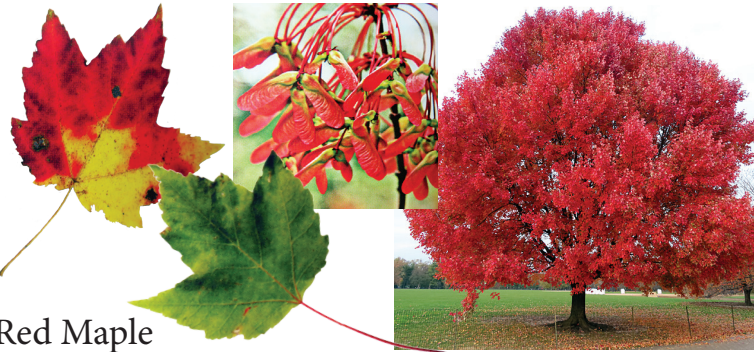
(*Cercis canadensis*) Alternate, heart-shaped leaves with smooth edges; fruit is a 2-3 inch legume; extravagant rosy-pink flowers that emerge from the trunk as well as branches in April; small native tree.



Sweetgum

(*Liquidambar styraciflua*)

Alternate, star-shaped leaves, with 5 to 7 lobes; brilliant fall foliage of yellow, orange and red; fruit is a spiky seed ball containing many seed chambers; bark is grayish-brown and deeply furrowed. Mature trees can reach to 100 feet.



Red Maple

(*Acer rubrum*) Opposite, simple, 3 to 5-lobed green leaves turning bright red and yellow in fall; fruit is a samara with wings angled downward; young bark is smooth and light gray turning dark and scaly in maturity.



Norway Maple

(*Acer platanoides*) Opposite, simple, sharply pointed leaves with 5 to 7 lobes, turning bright yellow in fall; fruit is a samara with horizontally spreading wings; gray bark has long, shallow furrows.



Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*)

Opposite, simple leaves with long lobes separated by deep notches; irregular teeth; green above, silvery white below; small flower clusters are greenish yellow; fall fruit is a sharply angled, winged samara; flaky bark is broken into long narrow gray scales.



Black Locust

(*Robinia pseudoacacia*) Alternate, compound leaves with 7 to 19 leaflets; fruit is a flat, 3 to 5-inch brown seed pod; May flowers appear in fragrant white clusters; rough, deeply-furrowed bark.