



JEFFREY FONTANA PARK TREE TOUR

Meridian Ave, San José, CA 95120



Thank you to Jun Zhao and William Chen, our fellow Tree Amigos who helped with the creation of this tree tour.

This tree tour was made possible by



Administered by California Volunteers, Office of the Governor and sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service

And by donations from people like you.

Thank you!



646 N King Rd
San Jose, CA 95133
ourcityforest.org

Instructions:

- **Start from the park entrance on Meridian Ave and Oakglen Way**



Startpoint in Jeffrey Fontana Park

- **Stay on the dirt road on the left and walk east**
- **This tree tour only shows the common species within this park and there are multiple trees of the listed species here.**

Quercus agrifolia

Common name(s): Coast Live Oak, California live oak, Encina

HEIGHT: 25-82 feet. **WIDTH:** 15-35 feet.



Family:

- Fagacea

Origin:

- California, US

Flower/Foliage:

- Evergreen tree and flowers from April to May.
- Leaves are oblong to oval.

Habitat:

- Open groves in valleys, also found in coastal sand dunes, woodland garden canopy

Uses:

- Used in bird and butterfly gardens and stabilizes banks.
- Acorns are food source for birds small animals and deer.
- Wood was used for charcoal by European colonists.

Fun Fact:

- One of the few native trees that thrive on the coast.
- Native Americans used to use the acorns as a food staple and made bread with it.
- Adapted to fire and can occasionally continue to grow after being moderately burned.

Cercis candensis

COMMON NAME(S): Eastern Redbud

HEIGHT: 20-30 feet. **WIDTH:** 30 feet.



Family:

- Fabaceae or Leguminosae

Origin:

- Canada

Flower/Foliage:

- Showy small flowers that are bright red-purple flowers that bloom in the spring; come in varieties with light pink or even white flowers.
- Fruits are long flat legumes that come in the fall
- Leaves are alternate, simple, broadly heart-shaped

Habitat:

- Ravines and borders of streams
- Understory of the woodlands

Uses:

- The flowers and seed pods are edible.
- The flowers can be used in salads and the buds can be used to substitute for capers.

Fun Fact:

- In 1937, it was selected as the state tree of Oklahoma. George Washington is said to have been fond of these trees and had several in his garden.
- Denton, Texas is known as "Redbud Capital of Texas" and hold the Redbud Festival every April.

Lagerstroemia indica

COMMON NAME(S): Crape Myrtle, Indian crape myrtle

HEIGHT: 20-30 feet. **WIDTH:** 10-15 feet.



*Dog park on the left

Family:

- Lythraceae

Origin:

- China and Korea

Flower/Foliage:

- Deciduous
- Clustered flowers that come in a variety of colors depending on the varieties:
 - white, pink, red, lavender and bluish

Habitat:

- Can grow in many different areas

Uses:

- Provides a habitat for bees and birds.
- Commonly used for landscaping due to the many varieties.

Fun Fact:

- Depending on how you grow this tree, it can have multiple trunks instead of just one.
- They are favored for their Summer to Fall blooming season, which is long compared to other trees.
- Known as the "lilac of the South".

Malus fusca

COMMON NAMES(S):

Oregon Crabapple, Western Crabapple, Pacific Crabapple

HEIGHT: 15-40 feet. **WIDTH:** 2 feet.



Family:

- Rosaceae

Origin:

- Alaska to California, US

Flower/Foliage:

- Deciduous
- Small upright clusters of flowers that are white or rarely pink

Habitat:

- Moist open places
- Light woodland
- Woodland garden

Uses:

- Fruits are edible and can be used to make jam or jellies.
- Bark can be used as medicine.
- A habitat for butterflies and is grown in parks and gardens.

Fun Fact:

- Fruit is rich in pectin, which is said to protect the body against radiation.

Chilopsis linearis

COMMON NAME(S): Desert Willow

HEIGHT: 15-40 feet. **WIDTH:** 15-25 feet.



Family:

- Bignoniaceae

Origin:

- US/Mexico

Flower/Foliage:

- Deciduous
- Linear leaves
- Showy clusters of pink flowers that develop into slender fruits.
- Flowers attract hummingbirds and desert birds will use this tree for their nests.

Habitat:

- Found in dry washes and by riverbanks, flood plains and ravines
- Does well in arid climates

Uses:

- Planted in arid regions to control erosions, windbreaks and wildlife cover
- Provides a habitat for many different kinds of bird species
- Flowers, leaves and bark were used in hot poultices and soothing tea for coughs
- Bark was used to make fabrics

Fun Fact:

- Drought tolerant
- Although it looks like a willow, is not actually related to the willow tree.
- Multiple trunks and many branches.

Prunus cerasifera 'Nigra'

COMMON NAME(S): Purple Leaf Plum, Cherry Plum, Myrobalan plum

HEIGHT: 15-30 feet. **WIDTH:** 15-25 feet.



*Playground on the left

Family:

- Rosaceae

Origin:

- Western Asia and the Caucasus

Flower/Foliage:

- White or pink flowers that bloom around February or March.
- Solid purple-ruby leaves

Habitat:

- Open woodlands

Uses:

- Grows fruits that are red or yellow in color that have medicinal properties.
- Fruits resemble cherries are slightly sweet.
- Leaves and fruit can also be made into a dye.

Fun Fact:

- Although the fruit is edible, eating too much is supposedly causes health issues.
- Genus name, *Cerasifera*, consists of two latin words meaning "to bear" and "cherry tree".

Quercus chrysolepis

COMMON NAME(S): Canyon live oak, Golden-Cup Oak

HEIGHT: 30-90 feet. **WIDTH:** 30-60 feet.



Family:

- Fagaceae

Origin:

- Southwestern US, commonly found in California Coast Ranges

Flower/Foliage:

- Evergreen
- Yellow, cream or green flowers bloom between March and May
- Fruits become ripe between August and October

Habitat:

- Near creeks and drainage swales
- Dry open habitats
- Foothills and canyons

Uses:

- The wood of the Canyon Live Oak is hard and was used by pioneers to make their wagon wheels
- Once roasted, the seeds of this tree can be used as a substitute for coffee.

Fun Fact:

- After forest fires, the Canyon live oak can regenerate through basal sprouting.

Koelreuteria paniculata

COMMON NAME(S): Golden raintree

HEIGHT: 30–40 feet. **WIDTH:** 35 feet.



Family:

- Sapindaceae

Origin:

- China, Japan, Korea

Flower/Foliage:

- Deciduous
- Yellow flowers that bloom between June and July
- Leaves turn yellow in the fall

Habitat:

- Dry rocky areas

Uses:

- Due to its ability to survive in various soils and harsh environments, it is able to thrive in urban areas, making this tree ideal for cities.
- Flowers are used to treat conjunctivitis and epiphora

Fun Fact:

- The species are a hermaphrodite (having both male and female organs)
- Tolerate atmospheric pollution
- The fruit are capsules that resemble lanterns and change from green to yellow to a fleshy pink/orange color

Quercus douglasii

COMMON NAME(S): Blue oak, Mountain oak, Iron oak

HEIGHT: 50-82 feet. **WIDTH:** 30 feet.



Family:

- Fagaceae

Origin:

- California, US

Flower/Foliage:

- Deciduous
- As its name implies, the leaves of the Blue Oak tree have a subtle blue tint. Typically bluer compared to other oaks.

Habitat:

- Foothills of California

Uses:

- Like several other trees, the Blue Oak's acorns were used by Native Americans as a staple food source.
- The wood of the Blue Oak can be used to make dyes, utensils, building and for fuel.

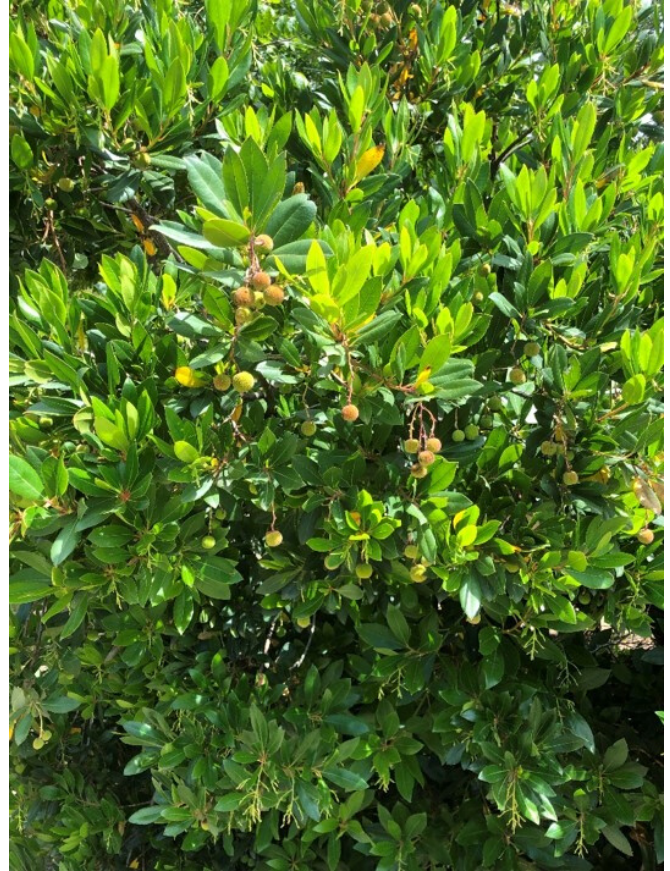
Fun Fact:

- The acorn used to make food in Native American communities were especially used in their gatherings, ceremonies, festivals and dances.
- Endemic in California
- Often have galls, known as "oak apples" which are grayish-red and turn grayish-black when they are dead. The galls are caused by young wasps being put inside the tree from their mother.

Arbutus unedo

COMMON NAME(S): Strawberry tree

HEIGHT: 15–30 feet. **WIDTH:** 15–30 feet.



Family:

- Ericales

Origin:

- Mediterranean (Portugal, Spain, Italy)
- France
- Albania
- Bulgaria
- Ireland

Flower/Foliage:

- Evergreen
- White bell-shaped flowers that droop in clusters from fall to midwinter
- Fruit is sweet but usually bland

Habitat:

- Woodlands
- Scrub and rocky hillsides

Uses:

- The fruit it produces is edible and can be used in wines and liqueurs.

Fun Fact:

- This tree can have either multiple or a single trunk depending on how it's grown.
- The fruits, which look almost like lychee, appear in winter and can ripen from yellow to red in color over the course of the entire year.

Malus pumila

COMMON NAMES(S): Paradise apple tree

HEIGHT: 15-50 feet. **WIDTH:** 2 feet.



Family:

- Rosaceae

Origin:

- Eurasia

Flower/Foliage:

- Deciduous, leaves turn yellow during the fall.
- Flowers are white and bloom in April and last for about 2 weeks.
- Usually pollinated by bees.

Habitat:

- Woodland borders
- Disturbed meadows
- Abandoned orchards
- Old homesteads

Uses:

- The fruits can be used in pies, cakes, and cider.
- The bark of this tree can also be used to make dyes.

Fun Fact:

- Like with other apples, the seeds contain hydrogen cyanide, but not in doses large enough to typically cause concern.
- Several different birds and insects will eat the leaves



About Our City Forest

Our City Forest is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission to cultivate a green and healthy Silicon Valley.

Since 1994, we have planted 25,000 trees in parks, schools, and public facilities; distributed and/or planted 70,000 shade trees in San José neighborhoods; engaged 160,000 volunteers in urban greening projects; achieved a 92% 3-year tree survival rate; and spread awareness and appreciation of trees to thousands of children and adults.

To learn more about our programs: ourcityforest.org

Sources:

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Eastern Redbud

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Canyon Live Oak

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Paradise Apple

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