Green Ridge House

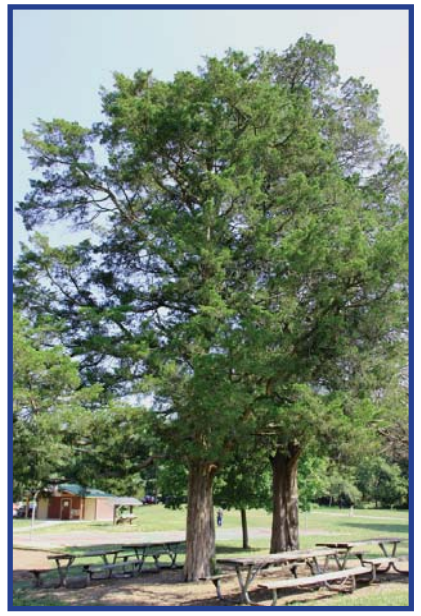
9. Southern Red Oak
(Quercus falcata)

This oak is native to upland areas of the South. It can reach heights of 70 to 80' and live up to 150 years. It is easily identified by its distinctive leaf shape and silhouette with strong horizontal branching.

10. Chinese Fringe Tree
(Chionanthus retusus)

A small multi-stem tree that reaches 15 to 25' in cultivation and 30 to 40' in the wild. Known for its handsome, lustrous, dark green foliage and snow white flowers in early summer. The female of the species produces 1/2" long fruits resembling olives, not surprising since it is a member of the olive family. The native Virginia Fringe Tree (many around Greenbelt Lake) is very similar in appearance but has larger leaves.

Buddy Attick Park



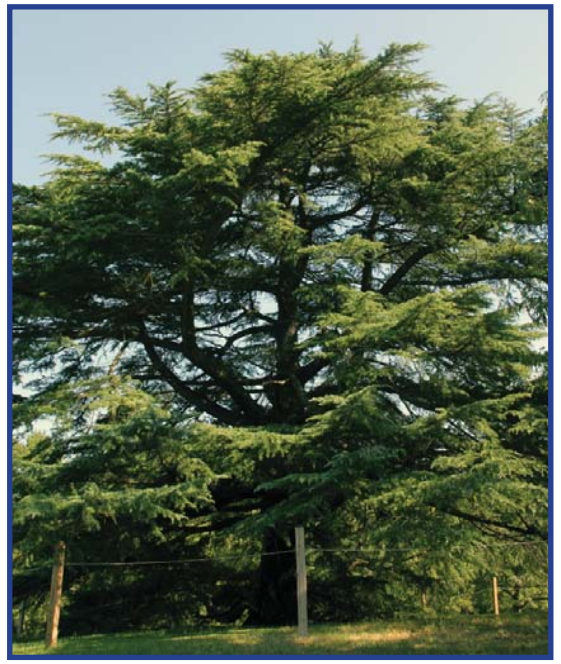
11. Eastern Red Cedar
(Juniperus virginiana)

This rugged native tree grows to 50' or more with time. In youth, it is a straight green column, with age it becomes more weathered and rugged in appearance. It is very valuable to birds for nesting sites and its small blue cones are a valuable food source as well. It is one of the first native trees to reappear in disturbed sites.

12. White Mulberry
(Morus alba)

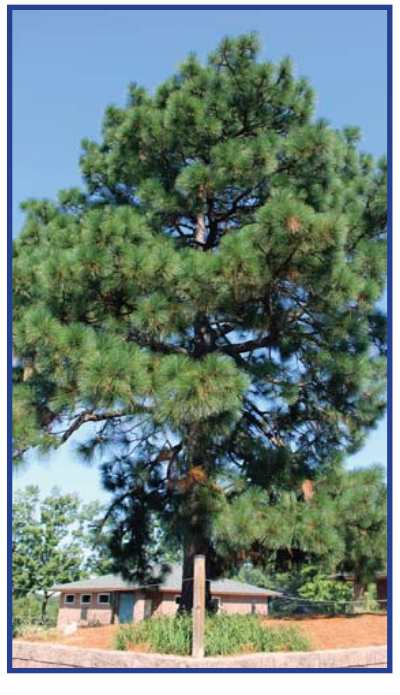
A low, wide spreading tree, commonly no higher than 30 to 50'. The fruit is only present on female trees, this is a male we believe. Fruit resembles blackberries and is readily eaten by birds. Trees spread through bird droppings. It is well adapted to urban conditions and pollution. Its wood has some uses as it resists rotting.

Schrom Hills Park



13. Deodar Cedar (Cedrus deodora)

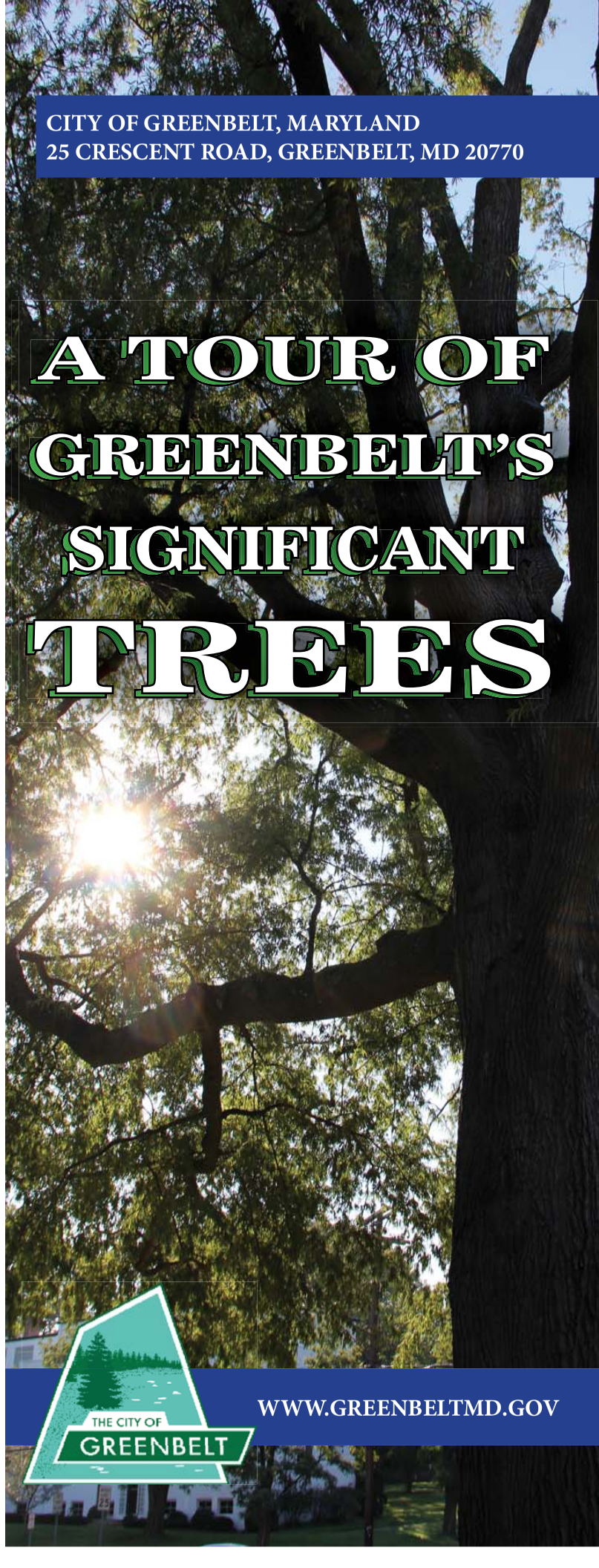
County Champion - Typically 40 to 70' tall but is reported to grow to 150 to 200'. Native to the Himalaya Mountains.



14. Longleaf Pine
(Pinus palustris)

State Champion - May grow to 120'. Easily identified by its 8 to 20" long needles in groups of three. Matures in 100 years, lives to 300 years. It is highly adaptable in its native range from Virginia to Texas. It is also highly fire resistant. It does not harden off well prior to winter and is on the northern edge of its limits in Greenbelt.

Would you like to nominate your favorite tree for inclusion in a future tree tour? Send us an e-mail with the subject "A Great Greenbelt Tree." Give us your name, Tree Variety (if known), Tree Location, and a number where you can be reached. Send it to btownsend@greenbeltmd.gov



CITY OF GREENBELT, MARYLAND
25 CRESCENT ROAD, GREENBELT, MD 20770

A TOUR OF GREENBELT'S SIGNIFICANT TREES

THE CITY OF GREENBELT

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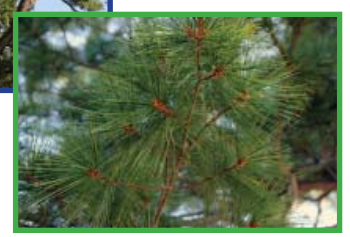
Community Center Lawn

1. White Pine
(Pinus strobes)

This eastern native reaches 50 to 80′ in height and occasionally 150′. Under good conditions, it can live 200 to 350 years. Heat, drought and poorly drained soil make life for this pine difficult in the Greenbelt area. This pine is identified by its long soft needles, in groups of five, and its distinctive 4 to 10″ long cones.



2. American Beech
(Fagus grandifolia)

This native eastern tree reaches heights in the wild up to 100 to 120′. Under cultivation, 50 to 70′ is more common. It is easily recognized by its smooth gray bark that resembles elephant skin. The nuts produced by this tree were the favorite food of Passenger Pigeons, which are now extinct. Native Americans are the origin of the belief that Beeches are the safest tree to stand under during a lightning storm. The Beech typically lives 100 to 150 years. Note the intertwined limbs on this tree.

3. Star Magnolias
Magnolia stellata)

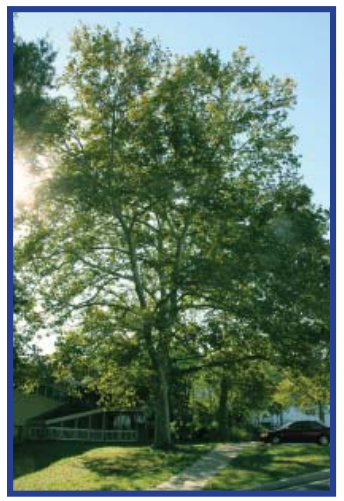
Star Magnolias generally reach no higher than 15′. These two are outstanding specimens and one is the County Champion. Flowers have many narrow cream-colored petals and open in early spring. As such, they are often damaged by cold temperatures.

Centerway Island

4. American Elm (Ulmus americana)

A tree of eastern North America, it can reach 60 to 80′ tall and live up to 200 years. It is famous for its classic vase shape that is useful for shading streets. Large populations of these trees have been decimated in the past 50 years by Dutch Elm Disease (DED). Once a tree contracts the illness, it is very hard to save. Good sanitation is the best defense for a community. The City is trying some newer strains of elm as well as hybrids for their usefulness and resistance to DED.

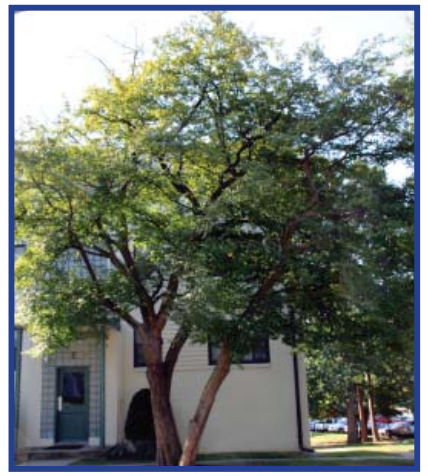
115 Centerway (Doctor's Office)



5. London Plane
(Platanus x acerifolia)

The London Plane tree is a hybrid of the American Sycamore and the Oriental Plane tree. It reaches 75 to 100′ tall and occasionally 120′. This tree is the County Champion. The tree is known for its mottled cream, olive and light-brown bark. Trees do not have good fall color and shed leaves during dry spells as a survival mechanism. Plane trees can live hundreds of years.

7 Parkway



6. English Hawthorne
(Crataegus laevigata)

This small tree reaches 20′ in height. In late spring, after crabapples bloom, it is covered with clusters of small white flowers.

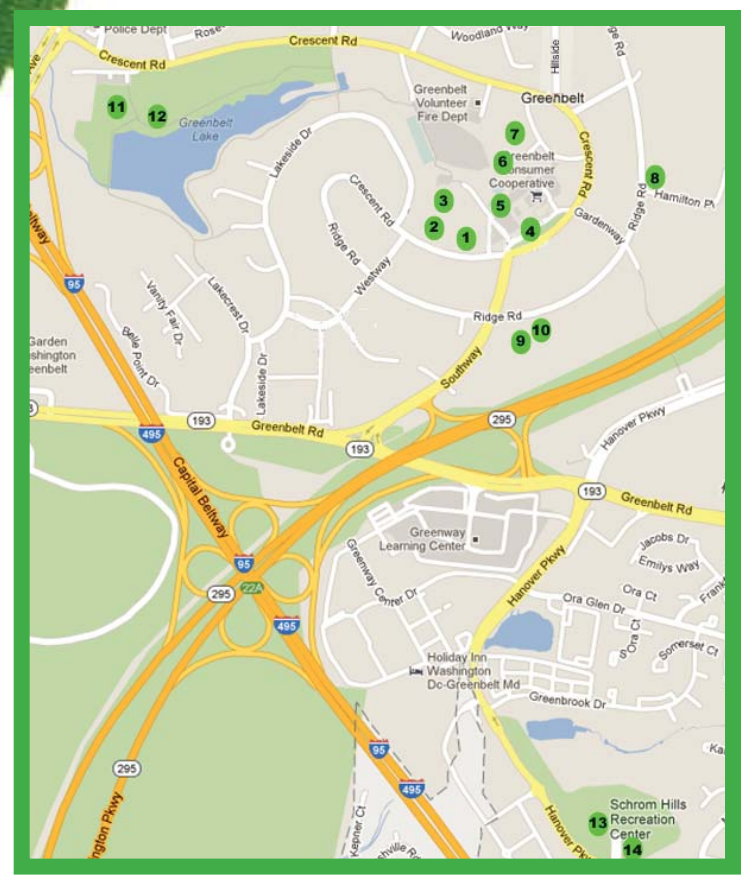
In the winter, the bright red berries remain ornamental for months. This tree is most likely one of the originals planted when the town of Greenbelt was built. It is native to England.

Behind 56 C Crescent

7. White Oaks
(Quercus alba)

The "Wye Oak" was of this type and grew to almost 100′ tall and 165′ wide. White Oaks have been reported to live up to 800 years. It is identified by its lobed leaves that do not have bristles at the end and acorns of 3/4″ to 1″, with the cap extending down 1/4 of the way. It is native from Maine to Florida and west to Minnesota and Texas. The lumber has many uses and is somewhat rot resistant. These are the two largest in Greenbelt

Ridge and Hamilton

8. Willow Oak
(Quercus phellos)

Commonly 40 to 60′ high but can reach 90 to 100′ tall under good conditions. They can live up to 200 years. It is easily identified by its narrow willow-like leaves. It is moderately fast growing for an oak and is one of the finest large street trees in our region.